



Australian Government
AusAID



Partnership Framework

between

**the Australian Agency for International Development
(AusAID)**

and

the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

2009 - 2013

I. BACKGROUND

Revitalising Australia's engagement with the UN is one of the three pillars of the Australian Government's foreign policy.

UNFPA's core focus is on population and development, reproductive health and rights and gender quality. Australia is committed to assisting countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and recognises UNFPA as a crucial partner in this endeavour. In particular AusAID recognises UNFPA as a critical partner to progress the health and gender MDGs and the key areas of reproductive health, gender, safe motherhood, HIV, gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. In addition, AusAID also has a keen interest in ensuring access by and inclusion of people with disability – as outlined in *Development for All: Towards a Disability-Inclusive Aid Program 2009-2014*.

This Partnership Framework outlines how Australia will engage with UNFPA from 2009-2013 to progress the health and gender MDGs and key areas of interest identified above. The framework also represents a basis for Australia's provision of multi year un-earmarked funding to UNFPA. AusAID supports UNFPA's *Strategic Plan, 2008-2013: Accelerating progress and national ownership of the ICPD Programme of Action*, - this plan will be used to facilitate the tracking of progress of this Partnership Framework.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In entering this Partnership Framework, the parties mutually acknowledge their commitment to:

1. The delivery of effective aid in line with the principles of the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* and the *Accra Agenda for Action*
2. The United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2) and the MDGs
3. Implementing sustainable development and timely humanitarian assistance through the UN development system in a manner that recognises the *Delivering as One* principles including national ownership, coordinated assessments and implementation of coherent systems
4. The *International Conference on Population and Development's Programme of Action*
5. The *Beijing Platform for Action* from the United Nation's Fourth World Conference for Women
6. The *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, and a recognition that improved gender equality is crucial to the achievement of the MDGs
7. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1820 and 1888 on ending sexual violence in armed conflict.
8. The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and recognition that inclusion of people with disability is crucial to the achievement of the MDGs.
9. The *Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – 10 year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action (ESCAP)*
10. A closer, stronger and more transparent partnership based on:
 - a. Mutual respect for the contribution of each party, and recognising that each party has different skills, attributes and strengths
 - b. Open and effective communication, including the sharing of lessons learned to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of joint and separate activities.

III. SHARED OBJECTIVES

Shared Objective 1 - To work together to assist developing countries to achieve the health and gender related Millennium Development Goals

AusAID recognises that the United Nations is at the heart of global efforts to realise the Millennium Development Goals. AusAID acknowledges the role UNFPA has taken to contribute to the achievement of the health MDGs 4 (reduce child mortality), 5 (improve maternal health) and 6 (combat HIV, Malaria and other diseases); in particular the leadership role UNFPA has taken on addressing MDG 5. AusAID and UNFPA will strengthen their collaboration in the following areas, with a strong focus on working in partnership to make progress towards achieving the MDGs in the Asia Pacific region.

Partnership commitments	Indicators / Means of Verification
<p>AusAID and UNFPA will work in partnership to make progress towards achieving the health and gender related MDGs, with an emphasis on Goals 1-3 of UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2008-2013 Development Results Framework, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the systematic use of population dynamics analyses to guide increased investments in gender equality, youth development, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS for improved quality of life and sustainable development and poverty reduction; 2) universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention by 2010 for improved quality of life and; 3) gender equality advanced and women and adolescent girls empowered to exercise their human rights, particularly their reproductive rights, and their right to live free of discrimination and violence <p>AusAID and UNFPA will also work towards improving the ability to monitor the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities in our sexual and reproductive health programs.</p>	<p>AusAID will provide increased, predictable un-earmarked contributions to support UNFPA's mandate, compared to 07/08 baseline.</p> <p>Progress on UNFPA Development Results Framework indicators as reported to the Executive Board each year and discussed at the annual UNFPA-AusAID consultation.</p> <p>Reporting on efforts relating to improved access and inclusion of people with disability at annual consultation.</p>

Shared Objective 2 – To ensure the effective delivery of aid programs at the country level in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

AusAID and UNFPA are both committed to improving the effectiveness of their aid in line with the principles of the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* and the *Accra Agenda for Action*. Both parties also recognise that approaches to aid delivery may need to be modified in fragile and small island states.

Partnership commitments	Indicators / Means of Verification
<p>UNFPA and AusAID will continue to align activities with national priorities and needs, make greater use of national systems, build national capacity for the execution of programs, monitoring and evaluation and other forms of reporting.</p>	<p>Indicators for UNFPA’s Management Results Framework Outputs 2 and 4.</p> <p>Joint reviews/assessments on AusAID and UNFPA partnership behaviour including <i>The Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)</i> and AusAID’s <i>Annual Review of Development Effectiveness</i>.</p> <p>Evidence of active support for partner government health sector programs/plans and coordination processes and work plans, as gathered by both AusAID and UNFPA.</p> <p>Participation in joint reviews and development partner coordination and sector wide and program approaches at the country level.</p>
<p>To manage aid programs for better development results, both organisations will regularly share information on approaches to results-based management, including with partner governments, this may include joint monitoring and evaluation of programs where appropriate.</p>	<p>Proportion of UNFPA country, regional and global programmes with management plan outputs and annual output targets achieved and initiatives building national capacity, measured in Outputs 1,2 and 9 of UNFPA’s Management Results Framework.</p>
<p>AusAID and UNFPA will pursue means to further reduce transaction costs.</p>	<p>Progress on Output 8 of UNFPA’s Management Results Framework.</p> <p>AusAID provision of increased un-earmarked and predictable funding.</p>

Shared Objective 3 – To actively support reform of the UN development system

AusAID and UNFPA are both committed to reform of the UN development system, recognizing that improved coherence in the delivery of development assistance will increase aid effectiveness. UN reform is a priority issue for Australia, a strong supporter of key recommendations of the High-Level Panel on UN System-Wide Coherence. Improved coherence of UN development efforts at the country-level is a fundamental element of this partnership.

Partnership commitments	Indicators / Means of Verification
<p>AusAID and UNFPA will work to increase coherence, efficiency and effectiveness within UNFPA, and between UNFPA and other UN agencies at headquarters, regional and country level. AusAID will disseminate information on UN reform processes.</p>	<p>UNFPA to provide a general overview on joint programming work with other UN Agencies at the annual consultation.</p> <p>Output 5 indicators of UNFPA’s Management Results Framework.</p>

Shared Objective 4 – To ensure strengthened integration of sexual and reproductive health in emergency response operations

UNFPA and AusAID are committed to alleviating humanitarian suffering and ensuring the dignity of women and children, including those with disabilities, before, during and after humanitarian emergencies and in post-emergency settings, ensuring that responses where possible, increase resilience to future disaster events. AusAID will support UNFPA’s role as global cluster participant.

Partnership commitments	Indicators / Means of Verification
<p>To continue to advocate and support institutionalisation of sexual and reproductive health, including in response to sexual violence, in emergency preparedness, response and during transition and recovery.</p> <p>AusAID to disseminate information to country program areas on UNFPA’s role in crisis situations.</p> <p>AusAID to continue support for building capacity of local, national and regional actors in provisions of basic reproductive health in emergency situations</p>	<p>Increased capacity of humanitarian assistance actors to integrate inclusive SRH into their program, as reported through UNFPA’s Annual Report to the Executive Board as well as country reports for specific programmes funded at country level.</p> <p>AusAID provision of resources to UNFPA in response to humanitarian appeals. UNFPA to provide data annually on Australian contributions for humanitarian support.</p> <p>Outcome 2.1 of UNFPA’s Development Results Framework, proportion of acute emergency in which Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) is provided.</p>

Shared Objective 5 – To build public awareness of the outcomes of the AusAID –UNFPA partnership

AusAID and UNFPA acknowledge the important contribution that effective communication and public diplomacy can make to building public support for the partnership and will capitalise on opportunities which contribute to publicising the outcomes of the collaboration.

Partnership commitments	Indicators/ Means of Verification
<p>AusAID and UNFPA will identify opportunities for building public awareness of the AusAID-UNFPA partnership, including (where appropriate), publicly showcasing contributions to development issues, particularly in relation to the MDGs.</p>	<p>The number of appropriate and jointly agreed public awareness activities identified at the annual consultations and utilised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • globally • in Australia; and • in partner countries

IV. FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

AusAID is committed to the provision of un-earmarked funding to its main partners within the UN system. Un-earmarked funding, or regular resources, enables UNFPA to maintain its global presence and to ensure the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. Regular resources are flexible by nature which means they may be used as, where and when they are needed, including in the case of emergencies. This funding is allocated by UNFPA upon decision of the Executive Board.

In light of the Australian Government's commitment to continue increasing official development assistance (ODA) beyond 2010 so that it reaches the funding target of 0.5 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015, and its commitment to supporting UNFPA, AusAID will provide, subject to annual budgetary appropriations by the Australian Government, un-earmarked funding for UNFPA for 2009 until 2012 as per the table below:

2009	A\$ 6 million
2010	A\$ 8 million
2011	A\$ 10.5 million
2012	A\$ 14 million

These funds will be distributed by UNFPA in accordance with UNFPA's *Strategic Plan, 2008-2013: Accelerating progress and national ownership of the ICPD Programme of Action*, and the Resource Allocation System approved by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board.

Furthermore, AusAID is committed to funding UNFPA's Pacific Multi-Country Programme. This additional support will meet funding gaps and priorities in the programme. UNFPA will provide an annual update on programs for which these funds were utilised. AusAID will provide the following amounts for the Pacific Multi-Country Programme, subject to annual budgetary appropriations by the Australian Government:

2009	A\$ 1 million
2010	A\$ 1 million
2011	A\$ 1 million
2012	A\$ 1 million

AusAID will provide this funding by 30 April each year into the following account:

UNFPA NY Account Number 015-004570 JP Morgan Chase Bank, International Agencies Banking 1166 Avenue of the Americas, 17 th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10036-2708 Swift Code: CHASUS 33 ABA: 021000021
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AusAID may make additional financial contributions to UNFPA in accordance with available resources and policy priorities. Additional earmarked contributions will be provided using the Exchange of Letters at Attachment B for non-emergency activities and the Letter for Emergency Funding at Attachment C. Unless otherwise specified in an Exchange of Letters or a Letter for Emergency Funding, the Terms and Conditions at Attachment A will apply to each Exchange of Letters and each Letter for Emergency Funding. This Partnership Framework applies to all AusAID contributions, both un-earmarked and earmarked funds, unless otherwise indicated by AusAID. Paragraph VIII of the Terms and Conditions will apply in relation to all funding provided by AusAID.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNERSHIP

AusAID and UNFPA will pursue this partnership through engaging in strategic dialogue, sharing policies, processes and lessons learnt to achieve jointly agreed priorities. Both agencies will take a consistent approach to communication and coordination which will include:

- Regular interaction via the Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN in New York. At AusAID headquarters the relationship will be maintained by means of a focal point within AusAID.
- Australia will engage with the Executive Board to take an active and constructive role in tracking the achievement of results by UNFPA. Australia will target its involvement in governance through UNFPA Executive Board meetings, informal consultative meetings and relevant regional, country and thematic briefings.
- Progress under the Partnership Framework will be reviewed through an annual consultation process between AusAID and UNFPA. This will involve reviewing progress and results on shared objectives and setting joint priorities for the coming year. The agenda of the annual consultation will include a discussion/update on the objectives outlined above and opportunities to raise awareness of the contribution of the partnership. Actual timing and location of the annual consultation will be determined by both parties, taking into account existing opportunities such as high level visit by AusAID or by UNFPA to respective headquarters.
- AusAID will continue to identify opportunities for high level visits from Ministers and senior officials to UNFPA HQ and field operations. AusAID looks forward to opportunities for potential visits to Australia by UNFPA representatives.
- AusAID participation in UNFPA led or joint field missions as appropriate. AusAID is particularly interested in multilateral aid effectiveness in the Asia and the Pacific Region and would potentially prioritise related field visits.
- The secondment of AusAID staff or the placement of Australians (such as Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development) in UNFPA offices based on local agreements between UNFPA and AusAID. The procedures for the provision of AusAID staff or placement of Australians will be determined in a separate agreement.

VI. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In respect to measuring the performance of UNFPA and its programs, AusAID will rely principally on UNFPA's own monitoring and evaluation systems, in particular, UNFPA's own annual report, the Executive Director's Annual Report to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board and any reviews of UNFPA's Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

AusAID recognises that managing for better development results involves investment in evaluation of aid activities and programmes, and that funds provided by AusAID to UNFPA can be allocated for this purpose.

The direct impact of UNFPA's field performance will be assessed primarily through UNFPA reporting and may be supplemented by AusAID participation in joint field visits with UNFPA based on the mutual agreement between UNFPA and AusAID.

AusAID and UNFPA will monitor program work from AusAID Canberra and via the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and through dialogue and partnership at the regional and country level. Where appropriate information from these sources will provide material to inform Australia's interventions at the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board.

AusAID will also participate in multi-donor assessment of UNFPA performance via membership of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) and other means, as appropriate. UNFPA will continue to cooperate with such multi-donor evaluation and assessment exercises as agreed between the parties.

AusAID and UNFPA will review this Partnership Framework approximately six months prior to the conclusion of the UNFPA Strategic Plan 2008-2013, and at any other times mutually agreed by both organisations, to determine its value and impact and inform a possible next phase of the partnership.

VII. DURATION

This Partnership Framework will come into operation on the date of the last signature on the two original copies and expires on 30 June 2013 (subject to review outcomes).

VIII. AMENDMENT

This Partnership Framework and its attachments may be modified in writing with the consent of AusAID and UNFPA.

IX. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any disputes arising over the interpretation or application of this Partnership Framework will be resolved through mutual discussion and conciliation.

This Partnership Framework is not an international treaty. It is an administrative arrangement between the Government of Australia and the United Nation's Population Fund, called a Partnership Framework.