Australian Aid Priorities
Promoting Australia’s national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction

To achieve

Private sector development ↔ Human development

We maximise impact by being innovative and leveraging knowledge and finance

We invest in:
- Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness
- Agriculture, fisheries and water
- Effective governance: policies, institutions and functioning economies
- Education and health
- Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection
- Gender equality and empowering women and girls

For each country, the balance of investments will be tailored to country context and reflect Australia’s national interest
1. Infrastructure, trade facilitations and international competitiveness
Infrastructure

- Infrastructure is critical to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.
- It enables the movement of people and goods and provides access to local and global markets, as well as health, education, water, energy and communications services. It therefore underpins human development.
- Without adequate infrastructure, countries are unable to fulfil their economic potential and the benefits of growth are not spread to poorer and more remote areas.
- Australia is committed to tackling infrastructure in the region to help create the right conditions to expand trade.
Why we give aid

- Infrastructure drives economic growth by facilitating trade and investment, stimulating enterprise opportunities, generating employment and providing poor people with access to basic services.

- The poor also benefit indirectly from the contributions that infrastructure makes to economic growth through reliable energy supply, better roads, improved water supply, access to sanitation, rehabilitated railways and ports and modern telecommunications.
Examples of aid

- The Minister for Foreign Affairs has approved the Strategy for Australia Aid Investments in Economic Infrastructure. This Strategy prioritises investment in transport, energy, large-scale water and sanitation, and ICT infrastructure investments and provides guidance to support the Government’s development, economic diplomacy and trade priorities. The Strategy identifies the following key priorities:
  - mobilise the private sector to finance and deliver infrastructure to meet the needs of the region;
  - improve access to infrastructure services to facilitate private sector and human development and promote women’s participation and empowerment; and
  - promote infrastructure to enhance trade and connectivity throughout the region.
Promoting PPPs in the Philippines

- The Philippine Public, Private Partnerships (PPP) Centre is an example of successful collaboration between government, donors and the private sector.
- Australia has committed $22 million to the centre, which has already helped develop over US$1 billion worth of PPP road, school and health infrastructure projects.
- Australia works with the ADB, World Bank, International Finance Corporation and Canada to support project preparation and monitoring, capacity building, and institutional and regulatory reforms.

Explain how the PPPs initiative promotes global health and sustainable Human Development.
A good example of infrastructure investment is DFAT’s support for telecommunications reform.

In Indonesia, specialist advice was provided on the most transparent and economic way to award radio spectrum for 3G mobile telephony and internet services.

This resulted in an auction from which government secured over $700 million in revenue and one of the fastest roll-outs of 3G services in the world.

Similarly in Vanuatu, Australia helped to introduce private sector competition and independent regulation that expanded mobile coverage from 20 per cent to 85 per cent of the population from 2007 to 2009.

The prices of handsets dropped from $100 to $25 and monthly internet access from $200 to $60.

Explain how the telecommunications reform initiative promotes global health and sustainable Human Development.
Trade facilitations & international competitiveness

- No country has achieved high and lasting growth without participating in international trade.

- Aid for trade supports the aid program’s key objectives of reducing poverty and lifting living standards through sustainable economic growth.

- Aid for trade is about helping developing countries address their internal constraints to trade such as regulations, poor infrastructure and lack of workforce skills.

- This might include training of customs officials to facilitate trade, investing in ports and storage facilities, connecting farmers to overseas buyers, and helping women entrepreneurs to export.

- Aid for trade supports developing countries’ efforts to better integrate into and benefit from the global rules-based trading system, implement domestic reform, and make a real economic impact on the lives of their citizens.

- The Strategy for Australia’s Aid for Trade Investments, establishes a framework for future Australian aid for trade investments to ensure they are well-planned and effective, meet the needs of our developing country partners, and aligned with Australian interests.

- Australia’s priority areas for aid for trade investments include: trade and investment policy and trade facilitation, infrastructure, private sector development, economic empowerment of women, knowledge and skills development, agriculture; and services.
Why we give aid

- No country has achieved high and lasting growth without participating in international trade.
- There is evidence also that trade has an impact on incomes - an increase in the volume of trade of 10 per cent can raise per capita income by over 5 per cent.
- Trade can boost employment, incomes and government revenue, because (among other things) trade translates to: access to larger markets; higher returns on unskilled labour; greater competition, innovation and entrepreneurship; improved savings and capital flows and more discipline on and transparency from governments.
- Trade alone, however, is not sufficient to achieve sustainable economic growth. Trade will need to be complemented by other factors, such as macro-economic stability, rule of law and developed financial systems.
- There is also the additional challenge of ensuring that the benefits from trade are distributed equitably. Developing country governments will need to address inequality directly, including through tax reform and appropriate social policy initiatives.
- Australia’s development policy places greater emphasis on aid as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in developing countries in the Indo-Pacific region. Aid for trade and a new target for aid for trade investments are key elements to give effect to this policy focus.
- are applied.
Aid for trade program

Empowering women through trade—South Pacific

The economic empowerment of women—especially through their involvement in trade—creates opportunities for increased income and jobs, as well as independence. Australia’s partnership with the International Trade Centre will help increase the economic benefits that business-women in the Pacific region derive from their participation in trade. For example, in Papua New Guinea, craftswomen using bilum* are being assisted to form cooperatives and market their products internationally. In Samoa, support is being provided to business-women to better access government-procurement processes, and in Vanuatu, women farmers and their communities are being linked to the tourism value-chain on Espiritu Santo Island, the fastest growing cruise-ship destination in Vanuatu.

*Bilum is a string bag that is made by hand in PNG.

Question - Explain how the Aid for Trade Program “Empowering women through trade in the South Pacific promotes global health and sustainable Human Development.
2. Agriculture, fisheries and water
Agriculture and food security

- Productive, efficient and market-oriented agriculture provides a strong foundation for economic development.
- It provides employment and income, empowering women and lifting people out of poverty.
- Agriculture is also a substantial source of export earnings across much of our region.
- Realising economic opportunities in the agriculture and food sectors, tackling hunger, malnutrition and climate pressures, and ensuring long term global food security are critical international priorities for the coming decades.
- Australia advocates a comprehensive approach to food security that targets the immediate needs of the poorest, while also strengthening the foundations of long-term global food security.
- Australia provides immediate humanitarian food assistance delivered through agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP)
Our overseas development assistance—helps improve agricultural productivity and reduce post-harvest losses.

Aid program initiatives also broaden opportunities for agricultural business growth, trade and market access, and increase the ability of the poor to access food by increasing incomes and driving economic growth.

Millions of farmers around the world, including in developing countries, are unfairly disadvantaged in the world market as a result of trade distortions in agriculture.

Trade and production distorting measures, including, for example, export restrictions, lead to greater price volatility and can create a disincentive for farmers to increase output and productivity.

Distortions such as this also impede the achievement of long term food security.
Why we give aid

- Hunger places serious constraints on economic growth and further entrenches poverty.
- Investing in agriculture is essential to improve food security for the majority of the world’s poor, who rely directly on agriculture for subsistence, income and employment.
- Agriculture is a major source of pro-poor growth in developing countries with large, poor rural populations.
- World Bank analysis shows that growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in lifting people out of poverty than comparable growth in other sectors.
- Increasing farm income benefits nutritional outcomes, allows farmers to invest more in agriculture and supports additional economic activity and employment.
- Australia is committed to investing in agriculture and food security and is making a difference through its aid investments. We will:
  - improve agricultural productivity and distribution channels, and address barriers to market access
  - invest in agricultural research, to increase productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and make supply chains more efficient
  - support small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs—many of whom are women—to meet their livelihood and food security needs.
Examples of aid

- The Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Program (CAVAC)
- Market Development Facility (MDF)
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
- AgResults
- Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program
- The Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Rural Economic Development

Question- Select one of the programs on the MDF fact sheet and explain how the program promotes global health and sustainable Human Development.
Water

- Australia is sharing our water experience and expertise by supporting and funding technology transfer and training, knowledge sharing, and strengthening key institutions to improve water resource management throughout South and South East Asia and the Pacific.

- The Australian Government has recently established an Australian Water Partnership (AWP) to share our water management practices with countries in the Indo-Pacific region in order to build capacity and improve sustainable water management.

- The Australian Mekong Water Resources Program supports Mekong Countries (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China and Myanmar) to guide water resource planning and decision-making; strengthen social and environmental standards associated with development activities in the river basin; build civil society’s capacity for involvement in water planning and management; and involve women in all aspects and sectors of this work.

- Australia is well-placed to assist countries in the region by sharing our experience and expertise in managing complex water management challenges, including addressing water scarcity and salinity.
Why we give aid

- UN Water has estimated that by 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries with absolute water scarcity and two-thirds of the world’s population will be under water stress.
  
  (defined as: an area is experiencing water stress when annual water supplies drop below 1,700 cubic metres per person and absolute scarcity once supplies drop below 500 cubic metres per person).

- Improving water resource management is essential for ensuring there is adequate water for drinking, sanitation, agriculture, industry, and electricity generation, as well as protecting the environment and reducing water-related disasters.

- Additionally, improved water management for irrigation and domestic use can reduce labour inputs and increase productivity, particularly for women.

- As the driest inhabited continent on earth, Australia has decades of experience in managing water scarcity. Countries in our region are keen to access our policy expertise and technology in water resource management.
Examples of aid

In the Pacific we maintain a strong commitment to supporting improved water and sanitation service delivery. In Asia, the focus is on support for sustainable water resource management, financing and policy reform, engagement with the private sector, innovation and capacity building.

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**Mekong Water Resources Program** supports Mekong Countries (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, China and Myanmar) to guide water resource planning and decision-making; strengthen social and environmental standards associated with development activities in the river basin; build civil society’s capacity for involvement in water planning and management; and involve women in all aspects and sectors of this work.

In Cambodia Australia is assisting the efficient use of irrigation water by working with government and non-government partners in the Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain program

In Vietnam Australia is working with the government to assess the likely impact on the Mekong delta and floodplains of upstream hydropower development, agricultural intensification, proposed water diversions and climate change.
CDI 2 -WASH Program (Community-based Development Initiative - Water and Sanitation Hygiene Promotion)

- The Civil Society Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (CS WASH Fund) is an Australian Aid program initiative and their objective is to enhance the health and quality of life of the poor and vulnerable by improving sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. The Fund supports 13 Australian and International Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to deliver 29 WASH projects in 19 countries over the years 2013 to 2018.

- CDI 2 -WASH Program (Community-based Development Initiative - Water and Sanitation Hygiene Promotion) in Bangladesh - Building on past successes this project aims to enable vulnerable individuals and communities in targeted areas to address their WASH related needs as part of a broader resilience focused program that includes other components such as shelter, livelihoods, education and disaster risk reduction. WASH activities will be context specific and include hygiene promotion, water testing training, sanitation marketing activities leading to latrine construction, water supply provision and water resources management. To achieve project outcomes the project will work with key government departments, community radio, public schools, madrasahs, student and community leaders and commercial and finance service providers.

Question - Explain how the WASH program promotes global health and sustainable Human Development.
3. Effective governance- policies, institutions and functioning economies
Governance

- Australia will focus on supporting the building of institutions that have a direct role to play in promoting stability, inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and in strengthening gender equality and women’s empowerment.

- We will work with civil society and the private sector to strengthen environments in our partner countries in which citizens and organisations can make legitimate demands of their governments. We will:
  - build institutions that support private sector growth (ensure a more transparent and efficient regulatory framework for business, fight corruption, and provide predictable and credible property rights)
  - support efforts to build a broad and well-balanced tax base in our partner countries
  - improve the transparency and accountability of extractives-related revenues in partner countries
  - reform institutions to strengthen regulation and delivery of public services and deliver more representative and accountable government
  - build effective law and justice systems, drawing on the Australian Federal Police and Attorney-General’s Department, to strengthen policing, increase the safety and security of communities, improve people’s access to justice, and address violence against women
  - contribute to peace-building initiatives in conflict-affected areas to address long-standing grievances and other drivers of conflict.

- Across all aid program investments, Australia will tailor support to the political context. Through high quality political economy analysis, we will identify the constraints to growth, including the underlying blockages and power structures that affect growth and development in each country.

- Such analysis will be particularly important in addressing development challenges in fragile and conflict-affected situations, including unequal access to the benefits of economic growth and employment and a sense of injustice, all of which can lead to conflict.

- Australia’s diplomats will seek to understand the influences, interests and institutions that exist in our partner countries and respond flexibly where there are strong leaders and reform opportunities.
Why we give aid

- Where governance is poor, development outcomes are also poor.
- Ineffective governance lies at the heart of most development challenges in our partner countries. It takes many forms, including barriers to justice and pervasive corruption, and is often a key driver of conflict and state fragility.
- Governance affects virtually all aspects of a country’s prosperity.
- An effective public sector and functioning, predictable institutions provide the foundations for economic growth, private sector investment and trade. Well-functioning institutions generate revenue and redistribute income. They provide stability and maintain law and order by ensuring disputes among citizens are settled peacefully and fairly.
- They deliver and implement appropriate policies in fields such as education and health, and deliver services that are essential for building a skilled, productive and healthy workforce.
Anti corruption and justice

- DFAT supports a range of bilateral justice and anti-corruption efforts. Details about these programs can be found on relevant country program webpages.
- To complement these efforts, DFAT also supports global and regional efforts to:
  - support the effective implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region
  - increase transparency and social accountability in the delivery of basic services and public infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region
  - promote deeper understanding of what drives corrupt practices and what innovative approaches exist to prevent and combat corruption
  - empower poor and marginalised communities in the Indo-Pacific region to resolve disputes effectively through increased access to formal, quasi-formal and informal justice systems, and
  - develop police services that are engaged with and accountable to the communities, and supported by a strong institutional frameworks
Why we give aid

- The Australian Government’s Aid Policy focuses on ‘promoting prosperity, increasing stability, reducing poverty’, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

- Under this priority, the Australian government has committed to several anti-corruption and justice goals, including:
  - fighting corruption
  - building effective law and justice systems
  - strengthening policing
  - increasing the safety and security of communities
  - improving people’s access to justice, and
  - addressing violence against women.

- Australia supports these goals because they are ends in themselves and underpin fundamental human rights.

- These goals also enable broader development outcomes to be achieved in our region. For example, without progress in addressing violence against women, children and marginalised groups, efforts to bring about economic opportunities, healthy communities and better education outcomes will also be constrained.

- Similarly, Australia provides aid for anti-corruption initiatives because corruption lies at the heart of many of the governance and broader development challenges in our region. It can inhibit economic growth by increasing the costs and risks of doing business.

- By undermining efforts to raise and spend public finances effectively, corruption also reduces access to quality public services and reduces the capacity of countries to translate economic growth into improved human development outcomes.
Fragility and conflict

- Addressing conflict and instability is part of the core business of Australian foreign and aid policy.
- Much of Australia’s development assistance is focused in fragile and conflict-affected states.
- We also recognise that aid alone cannot bring an end to violence or address long term drivers of conflict and that political solutions must be pursued in parallel.
- In addressing conflict and instability, the aid program will:
  - improve the capacity of fragile and conflict-affected states to manage and resolve conflict without violence and to meet the needs of citizens.
  - contribute to peace-building processes in conflict-affected areas to address long-standing grievances and other drivers of conflict.
  - shape and apply international best practice including through the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States and engagement with a range of partners.
  - better link Australian foreign policy and aid responses in fragile and conflict-affected situations in recognition that aid alone will not solve the challenges of fragility and conflict.
  - ensure the effective participation of groups including youth, women and ethnic and religious minorities in supporting peace processes, political settlements.
  - contribute to country-led preventative measures countering violent extremism in countries affected by conflict and fragility.
Why we give aid

- Fragility and conflict entrench poverty and are powerful reversers of development gains.
- Many of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people live in fragile and conflict-affected states—more than 1.5 billion people.
- Persisting poverty is increasingly concentrated in countries affected by fragility and conflict.
- Fragile states with weak institutions struggle to deal with emerging challenges, and this can have major cross-border impacts. For example, drug resistant tuberculosis (TB) poses a major threat to countries in our region, but also to Australia’s interests and citizens. TB causes approximately 1.7 million deaths a year worldwide. Through the aid program, Australia is tackling these problems at the source and drawing on Australia’s diplomatic resources to engage and influence countries in our region to solve this problem.
- Poorly governed spaces also create opportunities for terrorism, corruption and transnational crime to flourish.
Example of aid

Transparency International’s Asia-Pacific Program

- Transparency International is a global movement that combats corruption and helps communities to strengthen transparency, accountability and integrity. Australia supports Transparency International’s work in the Indo-Pacific region through their Asia-Pacific Department. The current Australian-funded program focusses on four goals:
  - Enhanced social accountability and the role of civil society
  - Strengthened anti-corruption legislation
  - Strengthened anti-corruption organisations and enforcement of anti-corruption systems; and
  - Demonstrated business integrity.
There is strong evidence to suggest the positive impact which public financial management (PFM) reforms can have on improving governance and reducing corruption. PFM assists with the management of money throughout the budget cycle, and includes a range of reforms such as budget planning and management, procurement, auditing, and monitoring and evaluation. It can also include reforms that strengthen key budgetary accountability institutions such as public accounts committees of the legislature and supreme audit institutions. Budget management is one type of PFM reform that has been found to have a positive impact on curbing corruption. Studies have found that countries with strong budget management systems and greater participation of external stakeholders (through participatory budgeting) in public spending have lower scores in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index.\textsuperscript{27}

**Question** - Explain how the PFM reforms can impact on Global Health and Sustainable Human Development
4. Education and health
Education

Education enables development and is crucial to helping people overcome poverty. Australia and its neighbours benefit from aid program investments in education which support human development, economic growth and stability across the region.

Australia’s approach is outlined in the *Strategy for Australia’s aid investments in education 2015-2020*.

Australia’s investments in education enable children, particularly girls and children with a disability, to gain the skills they need to obtain work or go on to further study and to lead productive lives. Australia’s education investments in the Indo-Pacific include:

- supporting teacher training, curriculum reform and improved learning assessment
- increasing opportunities for girls to learn
- supporting inclusion of children with a disability in education
- supporting technical education, skills development and training aligned with labour market needs
- supporting regional stability through increased access to education in conflict-affected areas
- constructing and improving education infrastructure in disadvantaged regions
- investing in innovative approaches and research with the private sector and civil society to improve access, reach and the quality of education
- strengthening the management and accountability of education policies and systems, to ensure the sustainability of our investments.

In addition, Australia Awards scholarships and fellowships support emerging leaders from developing countries to study in Australia or within their region, build people-to-people links and return home to contribute to economic and social development.
Why we give aid

- Significant progress has been made in universal primary education since 1999. Globally, the number of children out of school has fallen from 108 million to 58 million.

- Education quality is a pressing concern. As many as 250 million children of primary school age could be failing to read or write by the time they reach grade four. Without basic literacy and numeracy, the return on years of schooling to a child is negligible.

- This urgent need for quality education is highlighted by Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- Exclusion from school in the early years impacts upon basic education completion and the transition to technical and vocational education and training, higher education and skilled work. Education inequalities reinforce labour market inequalities in and between countries.

- Formal education during the adolescent years is the most effective base for learning and skills development. Many of Australia’s partner countries have large and growing youth populations, and in an age where skills are increasingly important for employment, job security and a better income, improving education quality is an imperative.

- Conflict robs many children of the opportunity of schooling. Estimates suggest 42 per cent of all out-of-school children are in conflict-affected countries. Of Australia’s 15 top aid partner countries, 11 are considered to be fragile or conflict-affected*. Of these countries, skills development is critical to help young people gain employment and escape economic despair so that they can be productive and contribute to peace-building processes in their country.
In Indonesia, learning outcomes remain well below the level required to drive greater productivity growth. Working alongside district governments, non-government stakeholders, school leaders, teachers, parents and students, Australian expertise will support and encourage targeted reforms at the district, community or school level that address specific challenges to better learning outcomes for all children. Reforms will be carefully monitored, and evidence of effective interventions will be tabled at the district, provincial and national levels to influence more widespread adoption of policy and/or practice changes.

In Laos, Australia is investing in the most disadvantaged districts to increase participation and improve learning outcomes. This 10-year program will include a dedicated fund for innovation that will pilot changes at the local government, school and community levels for improved education services. Pilots are likely to include new approaches to teaching Lao language to non-Lao speaking children and developing local curriculum content. Evidence gathered will be used to make adjustments to Australia’s broader program of support to the sector, and will be used by the Government of Laos to inform policies, plans and budget allocations.

Question - Explain how the Australian aid program in Indonesia or Laos can impact on Global Health and Sustainable Human Development
Health

- DFAT’s investments in health are guided by the [Health for Development Strategy 2015-2020](#).

- The geographic focus of the strategy is Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The region is the global epicentre of emerging infectious diseases and drug-resistance, including widespread resistance to treatments for malaria and tuberculosis.

- The strategy focuses on two high level outcomes:
  - to help build country-level systems and services that are responsive to people’s health needs
  - to strengthen regional preparedness and capacity to respond to emerging health threats.
We prioritise investments in the following five areas:

- **Core public health systems and capacities in key partner countries.** We work with partner governments and the private sector in partner countries to strengthen health systems: service delivery, the health workforce, health information systems, medicines, financing and governance.

- **Combatting health threats that cross national borders.** The highest priority disease threats are those that cross borders and potentially affect whole populations, such as pandemic influenza and drug resistant strains of malaria or tuberculosis. We work with partner countries to mobilise political leadership, technical support and financing to improve regional preparedness and response.

- **A more effective global health response.** We contribute to global initiatives, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which support our regional priorities. We work to improve the country level coordination and effectiveness of these initiatives.

- **Investments in improved access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and nutrition.** Inadequate access to WASH services contribute to the spread of disease and lost productivity through illness. We also invest in better nutrition, as this lays the foundation for healthy and productive lives. Our priority is on improving nutrition during the first 1000 days of life, and for adolescent girls, because the effects of poor nutrition during these periods can last a lifetime.

- **Investments to promote innovations in health.** We invest in new approaches to respond to the complex health challenges in our region. This includes new ways of doing business and developing partnerships with the private sector as well as the use of new technologies, research and learning. We are investing, for example, in the development of new drugs and diagnostic tools for malaria and tuberculosis.
Why we give aid

We invest in health because:

- **It works**- Strategic, well targeted official development assistance in health achieves results. With increased coverage of cost-effective measures such as immunisation programs, the global number of child deaths has almost halved from 12.4 million in 1990 to 6.6 million in 2012.

- **Investment in health gives a high economic return**- Healthier adults are more able to work and children free of disease are better able to learn at school and gain the skills needed to break out of poverty.

- **It prevents communities falling into or staying in poverty**- Many poor and vulnerable people, especially women and children, do not have access to timely, high quality, and affordable health care and good nutrition.

- **It protects our national interest**- protecting us and our region from infectious diseases that pose major threats to economies and trade.
I am pleased to announce that in a first for the Asia-Pacific region, Australia and China are working together in an on-the-ground health project in Papua New Guinea.

The innovative cooperation project brings together the Governments of Australia, China and Papua New Guinea to tackle Malaria. This follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Development Cooperation between Australia and China in 2013 to enable practical collaboration on development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nearly 95 per cent of the PNG population live in areas of high risk for malaria. This often affects the most vulnerable and represents a major health and economic burden which profoundly impacts on the country’s development.

The Australian aid program will contribute $4 million over three years, while China will provide technical expertise as well as an in-kind contribution over three years to fund this ground-breaking project.

The project complements the Australian aid program’s focus on strengthening PNG’s health systems by improving the capacity of key PNG medical institutions to correctly diagnose and treat malaria.

Question - Explain how the Project above can promote Global Health and Sustainable Human Development
5. Building resilience- humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection
The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is responsible for leading the Australian Government’s response to international humanitarian crises.

Disasters are increasing in frequency, scale and impact. Since 2005, disasters have killed more than 700,000 people globally and left nearly 23 million homeless. The impacts have been greatest in the Indo-Pacific region.

Australia’s location in the Indo-Pacific provides us with a unique perspective on humanitarian action.

Australia is committed to helping partner governments manage crisis response themselves. We do this through building the capacity of the national government and civil society to respond to disasters.

We also work with experienced international partners to prepare for and respond to disasters in support of partner governments, including other donors, United Nations agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-government organisations.

Between July 2015 and April 2016, Australia responded to 20 crises, providing $167 million in life-saving assistance.
Why we give aid

Australia supports humanitarian action for three main reasons:

- Humanitarian crises undermine growth
- Humanitarian crises reverse hard-won development gains
- Humanitarian crises increase poverty and can result in long-term instability.
- The international humanitarian system is confronted by unprecedented political, operational and financial challenges. The magnitude and complexity of disasters and crises have changed the humanitarian landscape. Despite record levels of humanitarian support, donors are not able to keep pace with the rising need
- Over the last decade, most humanitarian crises in the Indo-Pacific region have been the result of disasters
Disaster risk reduction, prevention & preparedness

- As economic and urban growth continues in many countries, an increasing number of investments - both human and physical - are being exposed to new and more intense disaster risks.

- Working with partners to build disaster resilience through effective planning, technological innovation, risk management as well as asset protection and enhancement will encourage private sector investment and support a stable and prosperous region.

- Over the last four financial years, Australia has maintained a steady annual investment of over $100 million in disaster risk reduction, through our bilateral and regional programs, to protect development gains in the Indo-Pacific, the world’s most disaster-prone region.
Why we give aid

- Disasters destroy lives, livelihoods and infrastructure; they undermine development, create instability and reverse economic growth.
- The impact of natural disasters in the Indo-Pacific region prevents millions of people from breaking out of poverty.
- Reducing risk and building resilience to disasters is a priority not only to save lives but also for sustainable economic growth.
- Australia is susceptible to disasters and we are recognised globally for our disaster risk management expertise in governance, preparedness, hazard identification and technological innovation. We share this expertise internationally through international forums and our aid program.
- **Disasters are deadly** - In the past decade (2004-2013), almost 980,000 people were reportedly killed and almost two billion affected by natural disasters and more than 1.6 billion people in the East Asian and Pacific region were affected by disasters between 2000 and 2011.
- **Disasters damage infrastructure and economies** - The economic losses from disaster over the past 30 years are estimated at US$3.5 trillion. The 2013 Global Assessment Report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction forecasts that the world can expect losses from disasters to double by 2030.
- **Exposure to disasters in our region is high** - The Asia Pacific region is the most disaster prone region in the world, with a person living in the region almost twice as likely to be affected by a disaster as a person living in Africa, almost six times as likely compared with Latin America and the Caribbean, and 30 times more likely than a person living in North America or Europe.
- **Disasters disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable** - Since 1980, low income countries have accounted for only nine percent of the disaster events but 48 percent of the fatalities. Disasters affect the poor and vulnerable disproportionately, especially women, children, the elderly, and those recovering from the impact of conflicts. Women are more likely than men to die from natural disasters when their socioeconomic status is low.
Social protection

- Social protection is a relatively new space for the Australian aid program, but one which is growing in importance for the Indo-Pacific region.

- Australia’s approach is outlined in the *Strategy for Australia’s Aid Investments in Social Protection*.

- This strategy guides our official aid expenditure in social protection, and supports our program teams to make informed investment choices in this area.

- Australia’s approach predominantly involves leveraging partner governments’ own funding to improve social protection for the poor and vulnerable, contributing to human development and economic growth outcomes.

- We currently work in economic partnership with a number of governments in the Indo-Pacific region (including Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Laos and Timor-Leste) to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reach of their systems.

- Australia has also set up the Social Protection Hub, based in Canberra and Jakarta, which facilitates regional dialogue and generates new knowledge on social protection in the Indo-Pacific.
Leaving no one behind - Social protection

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_4mtDSXnuM

- Question - Select one program from the video that has been implemented to promote social protection and explain how the project can promote Global Health and Sustainable Human Development
6. Gender equality and empowering women and girls
Gender equality and empowering women and girls

- Gender inequality persists in our region, undermining economic growth, human development and poverty reduction.
- Gender equality and empowering women has been shown to contribute to growth, development and stability.
- Violence against women undermines a country’s social fabric and prevents women from achieving social and economic equality.
- Better educated women have fewer, healthier and better educated children, which reduces dependency burdens and increases savings in developing countries.
- Providing female farmers with equal access to resources could reduce hunger for an extra 150 million people.
- In conflict situations, women are often instrumental in brokering ceasefires and can help to deliver more lasting peace.
- The Australian Government has a steadfast and ongoing commitment to be at the forefront of efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The role of Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls, as a key international advocate for gender equality, is integral to this agenda.
The *Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Strategy* makes it clear that gender equality and women’s empowerment are a core part of the foreign policy, economic diplomacy and aid work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Government is committed to strengthening our ability to engage in policy dialogue in the Indo-Pacific region and globally and advancing our international reputation as a global leader on gender equality and women’s empowerment.

This strategy establishes three priorities that guide our work on gender equality:

- Enhancing women’s voice in decision-making, leadership and peace-building;
- Promoting women’s economic empowerment;
- Ending violence against women and girls.

Implementation of this gender strategy is underpinned by four commitments, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will:

- integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into Australia’s foreign policy;
- integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into for trade investment and economic diplomacy;
- invest in gender equality through Australia’s development program;
- commit to promoting gender equality in our corporate and human resource policies and practices.
Why we give aid

- Gender equality is central to economic and human development and a fundamental right. It supports economic growth and helps reduce poverty.

- While gains have been made, gender inequalities are still striking given that:

  - two-thirds of the 774 million people in the world who lack basic literacy skills are female - this proportion has remained unchanged for the last 20 years and spans most regions

  - globally, women hold an average of 22.5 per cent of parliamentary seats and in Pacific Island countries women hold an average of five per cent of seats in national parliaments

  - every day, approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth - 99 per cent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries

  - in every region, women perform the majority of unpaid care work and are paid only 25-50 per cent of the total hours they work

  - globally one in three women and girls experience physical and sexual violence with rates as high as two in three in some Pacific countries.

- Australia’s aid program aims to promote gender equality and empower women in partner countries. Investments in women’s and girls’ education and health yield some of the highest returns of all development investments, including reduced rates of maternal mortality, better educated and healthier children and increased household incomes.
Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development

A major Australian aid initiative is promoting gender equality across the 14 countries that form the Pacific region.

*Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (Pacific Women)* has a 10-year plan in place to improve the political, economic and social opportunities of Pacific women.

Through the initiative, Australia’s High Commissions work with Pacific governments, civil society organisations, private sector organisations, and multilateral and regional organisations to advance the plan’s three priorities:

1. increase the effective representation of women, and women’s interests, through leadership at all levels of decision-making
2. expand women’s economic opportunities to earn an income and accumulate economic assets
3. reduce violence against women and increase access to support services and justice for survivors of violence.

A plan for each country is now in place to support a broad range of activities in the important gender equality arena. Work underway includes building the capacity of Pacific women members of parliament, parliamentary staff and institutions to better address gender inequalities; implementing programs to reduce barriers to women’s economic empowerment; funding services for survivors of domestic violence; improving law enforcement, justice systems and the coordination of service providers; and working with communities to change attitudes and behaviours on violence against women.

*Pacific Women* demonstrates Australia’s commitment to making gender equality an integral part of aid, foreign policy and economic diplomacy in the region.