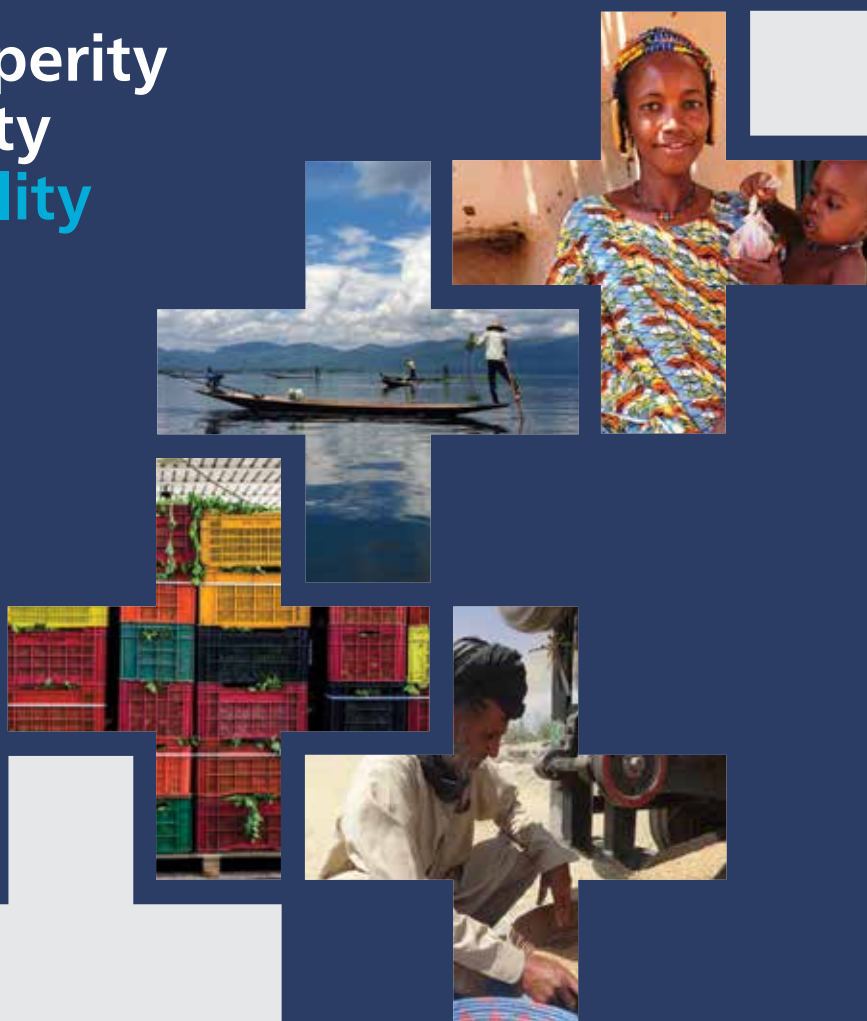




Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

FAO + Australia

Promoting prosperity
Reducing poverty
Enhancing stability



FAO + Australia

Promoting prosperity
Reducing poverty
Enhancing stability

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Rome, 2019

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Abbreviations

AAHL	Australian Animal Health Laboratory
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
APPPC	Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission
AusABBA	Australia Balochistan Agribusiness Programme
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CPM	Commission on Phytosanitary Measures
DAWR	Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMC-AH	Emergency Management Centre – Animal Health
EuFMD	European Foot-and-Mouth Disease Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMD	Foot-and-Mouth Disease
GAP	Global Action Programme
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GFOI	Global Forest Observations Initiative
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPPO	Pacific Plant Protection Organisation
PWG	Physical Working Group
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNREDD	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests
WHO	World Health Organization

Partnership at a glance

For over 70 years, Australia has been an active partner of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supporting the Organization's work through the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Australia's development priorities¹ and FAO's strategic priorities are very much aligned. Agriculture is one of six priority areas of Australia's development policy. In particular, DFAT's "Strategy for Australia's aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water" highlights the importance of increasing market access of smallholders, improving productivity and sustainable resource use, enhancing nutrition, and promoting effective governance to enable trade and private investments. FAO also acknowledges the push for Aid for Trade as part of Australia's strategy for aid investment in private sector development, as well as the prioritization given to gender equality and women's empowerment across Australia's broad development agenda.

Through its ongoing support, Australia has been contributing to setting and implementing international standards that ensure food safety and stable trade flows, protect natural resources, and keep agriculture sustainable in the face of climate change and growing demands on the sector. This not only benefits farmers in Australia, but worldwide and places global food production on a stronger footing to respond to current and future challenges, including the fight against extreme poverty and hunger.

Australia and FAO's partnership also reflects a common goal to build durable solutions for some of the most disaster-prone countries in Asia and the Pacific region. This increasingly requires building communities' resilience to shocks, not just through improving extreme weather preparedness, but by seeing agriculture as an entry point to tackling other development problems that create vulnerabilities, including limited rural development, malnutrition, conflict, a lack of income opportunities and poor market linkages.

Between 2014 and 2018,² Australia generously invested more than AUD 103 million³ (USD 74.2 million) in FAO's capacities, programmes and projects — AUD 75 million (USD 54 million) in assessed contributions and more than AUD 28 million (USD 20.2 million) in voluntary contributions.

Today, the FAO and Australia partnership is well positioned to support countries achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 2 — end hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. The shared views on common priorities — such as agriculture, water and fisheries, building resilience, water-food-energy nexus, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, plant and animal health — are the foundations on which this ongoing collaboration thrives. FAO's commitment in paying strong attention to aid effectiveness and its alignment with other development partners to avoid duplication will further strengthen cooperation and provide the foundations on which to build a better future.

¹ Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability.

² Data for 2018 refers to the preliminary closure of the year.

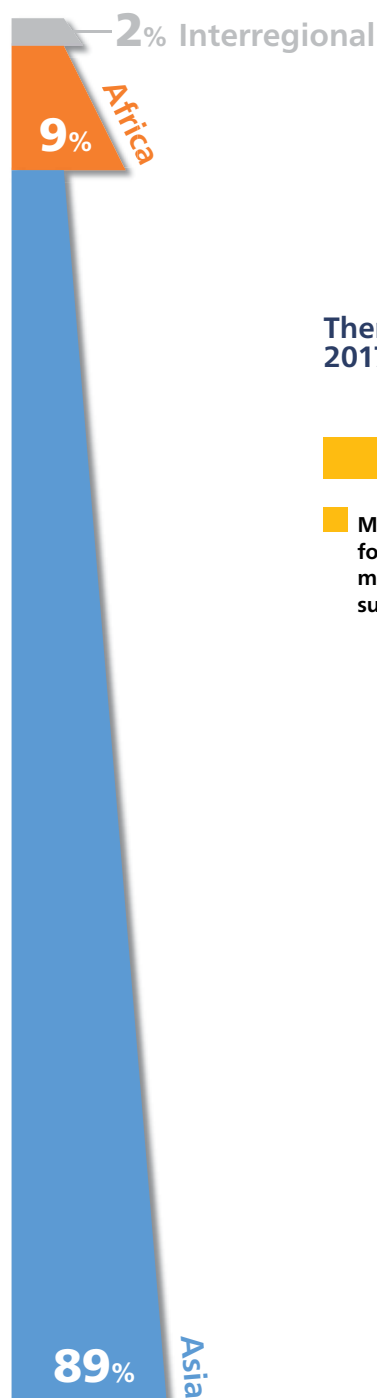
³ Values in Australian dollars (AUD) in this report are based on the exchange rate as of February, 2019 (USD 1= AUD 1.39).

In figures

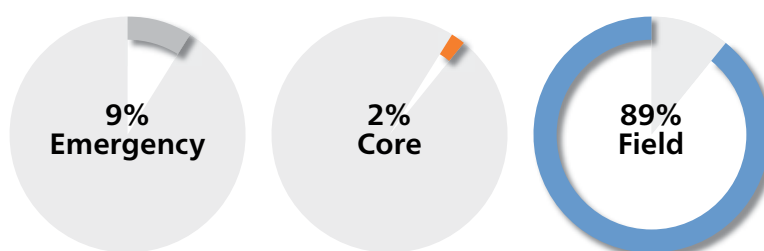
Total contributions of Australia to FAO (assessed and voluntary) 2017–2018

AUS 58 618 806
(USD 42 171 803)

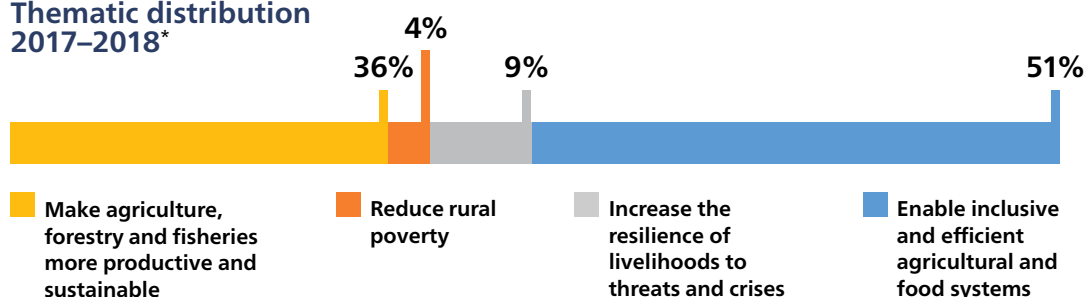
Regional distribution 2017–2018*



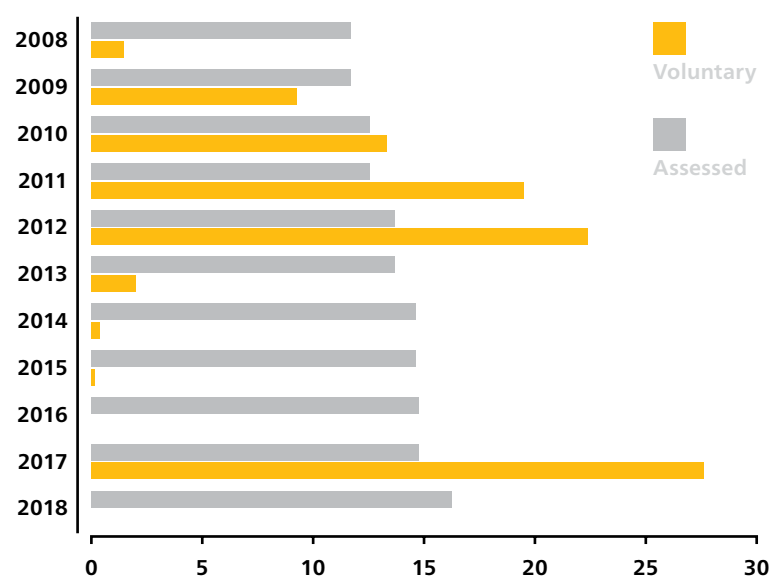
Category distribution 2017–2018*



Thematic distribution 2017–2018*



Trend of assessed and voluntary contributions (AUS million) 2008–2018*



* This only refers to voluntary contributions, based on approvals.



VIET NAM – FAO promotes food safety and best practices along food chains around the world to prevent diseases and trade disruptions
©FAO/TM Dien

Promoting trade and food security

The world's food and agricultural systems are essential to the health and well-being of every woman, man, girl and boy on earth. Ensuring that everyone has access to the nutrients they need is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of human societies, but ensuring that food systems grow and develop in ways that can meet the needs of all people is a task that is best accomplished through well-developed cooperation that includes trade, innovation and investment, as well as shared rules for safety and fairness in all aspects of production, distribution and consumption.

FAO and Australia share a commitment to strive for safe food for all. One of the most tangible ways FAO contributes to the daily lives of people around the world is in developing and promoting international standards around the production and trade of food. From food labeling to the safe flow of plant products, FAO brokers international guidelines and hosts a myriad of commissions and governing bodies that keep our food safe and our food production sustainable into the future. Facilitating trade, keeping plants and animals healthy and ensuring that benefits are shared by all are essential parts of FAO's mission to strengthen national institutions and global food governance.

Setting standards for food

Clear rules and safeguards on food safety are critical for global food trade, an arena in which Australia is not only a major exporter, but an importer too. The **Codex Alimentarius**, also known as Codex, is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice that help protect health and facilitate the international food trade. Codex is recognized as the international standard setting body for food safety in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). Its broad scope, covering areas such as contaminants, nutrition, antimicrobial resistance and biotechnology, makes Codex an essential part of achieving food security and zero hunger.

Australia is a strong proponent of Codex and actively participates in its activities. As host of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, Australia led meetings of the technical committee in Brisbane in February 2016 and in Mexico City in May 2017 (under co-hosting arrangements).



ITALY – FAO's ongoing work to set international standards for food production and trade in agricultural products safeguards national and international trade flows so healthy food is increasingly available for all

©FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

Australians on High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition was established in 2010 as the science-policy interface of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), whose plenary session FAO hosts annually. The Panel aims to improve the robustness of policy making by providing independent, evidence-based analysis and advice at the request of CFS. The steering committee selects leading experts to serve on project team on studies that feed into CFS debates. Australian Professor Martin Cole from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation is a member of the steering committee. In addition, Australian expert Mary Ann Augustin is represented among the 10-member team preparing the study on *Agroecological approaches and other innovations for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*. The study will feed into debates at the 46th session of CFS in 2019.

Controlling the spread of plant pests

The **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)** aims to secure coordinated, effective action to control the introduction of plant products and prevent the spread of plant pests, and is recognized as the international standard setting body for plant health in the SPS Agreement. The convention, which is governed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) covers cultivated plants and natural flora alike. Australia has made significant contributions to FAO in support of the IPPC and its efforts to improve food security by promoting plant health, preventing the loss of ecosystems and species diversity and by facilitating the safe flow of plant products. Additionally, Australia chaired the Commission and the CPM Bureau in 2016–17 and has been a Bureau member since 2015. Australia is also represented on a number of IPPC subsidiary bodies including the Standards Committee, the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee and a number of technical and ad-hoc working groups.

Australia is one of the main financial and technical supporters of the **Asia Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC)** for the improvement of capacity of member countries in the implementation of SPS agreements as well as for the development of regional standards for phytosanitary measures. The country

played a key role in the development of these measures on hot water immersion treatment for fruit flies for mangoes, to facilitate trade by reducing potential risks of the introduction of plant pests. Likewise, Australia proposed, developed and has delivered the APPPC six-year plant pest surveillance programme (2016–2022).

Moreover, in collaboration with New Zealand, Australia is supporting the **Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO)** and the country provided funding to hold its 2018 meetings. In addition, Australia and others are maintaining a strong commitment to ensuring that the PPPO is the regional focal point and interface with the IPPC on plant protection and phytosanitary risk management, to prevent the regional movement of plant pests to safeguard food security, protect the natural and productive environment and facilitate safe trade.

Australia has contributed expertise and funding to the regional trainings; it is also leading the IPPC and the APPPC working groups on ePhyto (electronic phytosanitary certificate), and is providing the technical expertise and financial support in the development of the Generic National ePhyto System to produce, send and receive the electronic certificate in facilitation of electronic trade in the Asia Pacific region. Presently, the projects are being implemented in some pilot countries, including Australia, and will expand to other developing countries in the region once these pilots are completed.



THE PHILIPPINES – FAO's work helps with the management of outbreaks of invasive species to promote safe agricultural trade
©Veejay Villafranca/NOOR for FAO

Enhancing agricultural productivity to strengthen economies and reduce poverty in Pakistan

Sustainable agricultural development is increasingly important for food security and has the potential to not just enhance agricultural productivity, but along the way improve health outcomes, strengthen economies and reduce poverty. In 2017, FAO renewed its partnership with the Australian Government through the second phase of the Australia Balochistan Agribusiness (AusABBA) Programme. AusABBA aims to reduce poverty and economic inequalities for some 175 000 impoverished rural people from six western border districts in Balochistan, Pakistan through sustainable agriculture development.

Livestock is a valuable asset in rural communities in Pakistan, but in particular in Balochistan, where almost every household has sheep and goats, and most of the territory is composed of rangelands. In addition, livestock contributes a sizable portion of Pakistan's gross domestic product.

In recent decades, droughts have taken a heavy toll on the thinly populated and mostly rural province of Balochistan that borders Iran and Afghanistan. The province is characterised by low crop and livestock productivity, underdeveloped markets, and food and nutrition insecurity resulting in impoverished livelihoods. By enhancing crop yields and livestock productivity, during the first phase of the AusABBA programme, the gross value of agricultural produce in the six districts was increased by more than AUD 12.8 million (USD 9.1 million) and farmers increased their household income. Along the way, the programme introduced farmers to new technologies and ways to better manage their farms and increase their production. This included improving community-based water management.

AusABBA Phase I, which ended in June 2017, saw a significant improvement in food and nutrition security and a meaningful increase in income for 30 600 poor households in 340 rural communities in Balochistan. Through the programme, farmers from several adjacent community organizations were supported to form farmers' marketing collectives, which strengthened their linkages to markets, increasing their sales of surplus produce. The project also encouraged farmers to establish small local agribusinesses. A recent study has shown that the farmers' marketing collectives approach can increase farmer profits by up to 34 percent.



PAKISTAN – Farmer in Lower Kurram threshing the harvested wheat
©FAO/Malik Bilal

IMPACT

30 600 poor households increased their income and nutrition across 340 rural communities

Increasing the participation and engagement of women in private sector opportunities

Phase II of AusABBA began in July 2017 and will run until 2023. Building on the success of Phase I, the programme focuses on training female and male farmers to help strengthen supply chains and eventually connect them with markets for Balochistan-specific

commodities such as onions, fruit trees, goat and sheep meat, seeds, wood and dates.

Major components of AusABBA II target women's economic empowerment — at least 25 percent of the beneficiaries will be women — thus ensuring that the economic benefits will also improve the nutritional status of the family. Homestead gardens, sheep fattening, vegetables and dates grading and packaging, fruit drying and seedling production are among the culturally suitable activities that women can engage in.

“In these two years, poultry has provided my family with nutritious food, but it also helped me earn an extra 39 500 rupees (about AUD 400) per year from selling eggs and chickens.”

— Murad Bibi, livestock farmer in Balochistan, mother of 12 children

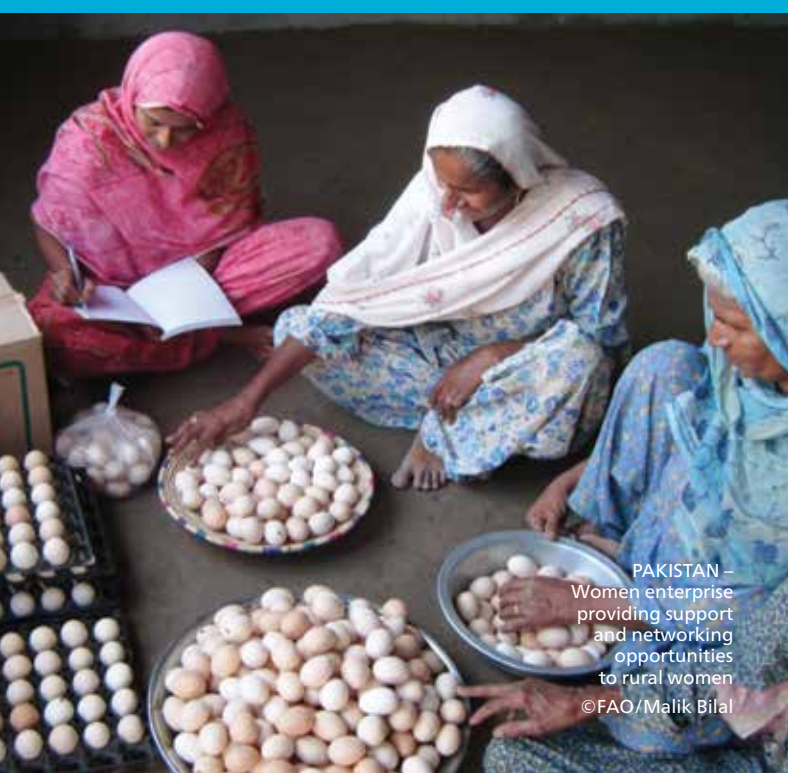
Generating better jobs for women along the wool value chain in Balochistan

Many of the people living in Pakistan's Balochistan Province suffer from high levels of underemployment and poverty. For rural women, opportunities to engage in productive and decent work are even more limited than they are for men.

With support from Australia, the AusABBA programme addressed the social and economic hurdles that were preventing women from engaging in more productive work. Female extension officers were trained, allowing female farmers to access support in a socially acceptable manner. Women engaging in higher value added activities — e.g. prewashing, grading, spooling and dyeing of wool — were trained to use better technologies for wool production and to market their produce.

Furthermore, two Wool Farmers' Marketing Collectives were established and the incomes of the workers along the wool value chain in Balochistan have since increased. These income gains have reached all of the project's 6 720 beneficiaries, whether they rear and shear the sheep, or wash, grade, dye and/or market the wool. About 40 percent of the project beneficiaries were women.

Those women who received and were trained to use foot pedal spinning wheels reported an average tenfold increase in their daily output of processed wool products. Thanks to Australia's continued support of this project until 2023, the total income generated along the value chain will further increase.



PAKISTAN – Women enterprise providing support and networking opportunities to rural women
©FAO/Malik Bilal



MALI – A women beneficiary received the FAO cash transfer in a timely manner, helping her to meet the basic needs of her family
©FAO/Sonia Nguyen

Supporting global stability

Conflict and extreme weather events can quickly spiral into crises and large-scale disasters that can bring food production to a halt and undo valuable development gains. They can also trap communities in a perpetual cycle of poverty and aid dependence. Acting early, before a disaster has happened or reached its peak, not only safeguards assets and livelihoods, but also protects longer-term development gains and contributes to enhancing food security and income generation. This is not only effective but far less costly than a delayed intervention.

Linking early warning to early action is particularly important to agriculture, and for small-scale farmers or pastoralists it can mean the difference between managing a temporary crisis, or losing everything in a full-blown catastrophe. From preparedness to response and on towards development, FAO plays a critical role in increasing resilience of the most vulnerable rural communities, made possible by the Organization's extensive partnership with governments and non-government organizations at local, country and regional levels.

Global trade of food also supports global stability by reducing the risk of food insecurity. By providing trade policy advice, market information and capacity building, FAO helps members understand the important links between trade, food security, and agricultural growth.

With the support of resource partners including Australia, FAO assists people to strengthen their livelihoods so that they can withstand crises. This investment in resilience reduces humanitarian needs (and costs) and allows for a more targeted allocation of limited humanitarian resources, further increasing resilience and ultimately reducing vulnerability and needs.

Emergency drought response to prevent famine in Somalia

In 2017, Australia's support of nearly AUD 2.8 million (USD 2 million) to FAO's emergency drought response programme in Somalia contributed to stave off famine in the Horn of Africa country and bring relief to over 840 000 people, including in hard-to-reach areas. Targeted interventions brought families through a critical time in the country's lean season, which followed months of drought that had devastated harvests and threatened to exhaust people's coping abilities.

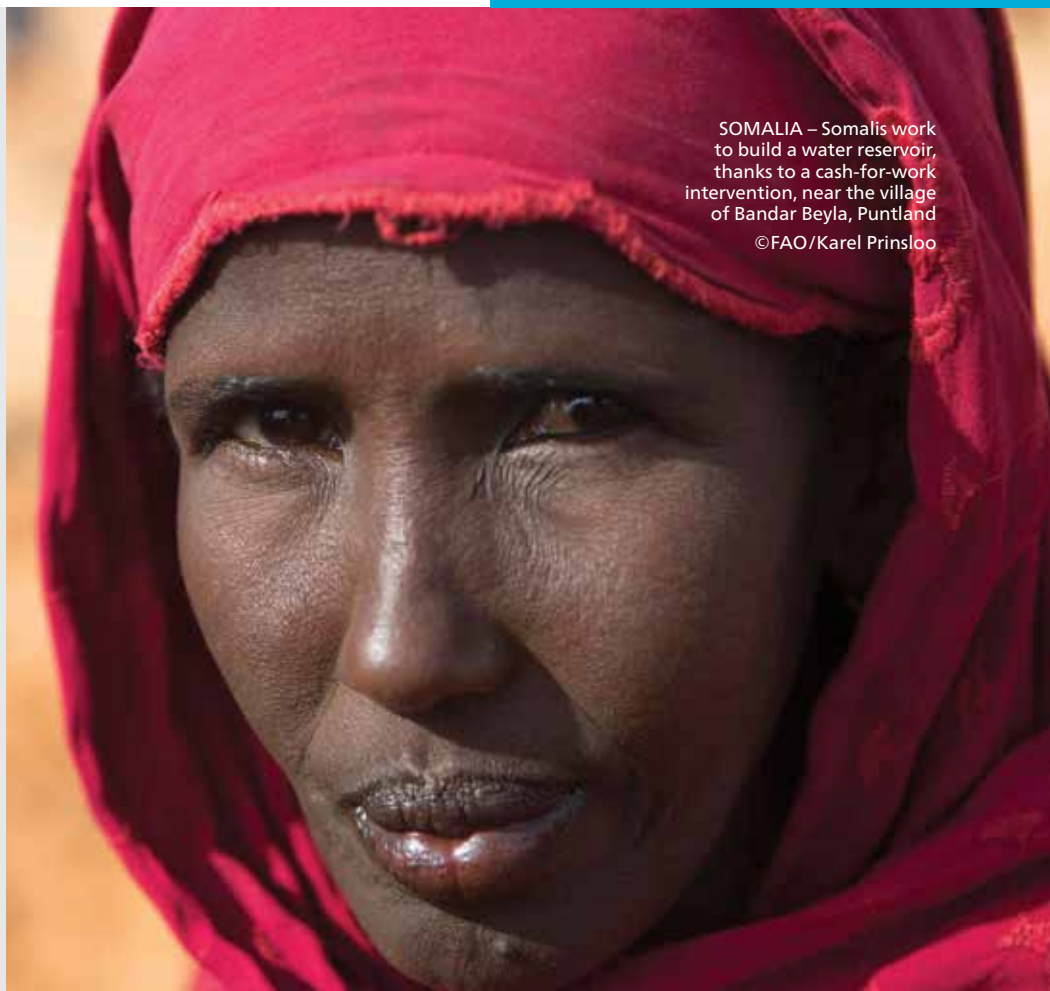
FAO's Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan reached 45 percent of all food insecure people in the rural areas of Somalia with a mix of farming inputs to grow food, emergency animal treatment to protect 20 million heads of livestock, and cash transfers to help families meet their immediate needs, such as food and water, while they awaited the next harvest. One of the most significant components of the project, funded by Australia, contributed to reach around 5 320 drought-affected households in six districts, who received two-weeks upfront unconditional cash transfers and one monthly cash instalment, which enabled them to meet their immediate food needs, while rehabilitating productive infrastructure through cash-for-work schemes.

Key achievements from Australian funding:

- Helped minimize the adoption of negative coping strategies, such as the sale of critical livestock assets.
- Contributed to prevent households from entering into and accumulating debts and helped breaking debt cycles.
- Boosted local economies by enabling affected populations to purchase food and other necessities locally.

Fathuma and her family lost most of their camels and goats to drought and in early 2017 were forced to seek relief at a camp for the displaced in Qardho, Puntland.

Animals are among Somalis' most important livelihood assets, traded for food, or used as collateral for cash to buy food. When a rural family loses key assets, or is forced to sell them off to feed its members, it is in essence losing its primary means of livelihood. FAO cash transfers of around USD 90 per month enabled vulnerable households to meet their most basic needs including food. Through timely support FAO was able to reach Fathuma and her family before they liquidated all their livelihood assets.



SOMALIA – Somalis work to build a water reservoir, thanks to a cash-for-work intervention, near the village of Bandar Beyla, Puntland

©FAO/Karel Prinsloo



TUVALU – As a small island developing state, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk management are important features of cooperation for Tuvalu
©FAO/Rudolf Hahn

Restoring food security to cyclone-affected families in Tuvalu

FAO and Australia joined forces to provide emergency assistance to farmers in Tuvalu who saw major losses to crops and livestock infrastructure at the hand of Cyclone Pam. With an Australian contribution of AUD 181 083 (USD 129 345), this initiative was designed to increase resilience and restore food security of cyclone-affected households in Tuvalu's outer islands of Nui, Nukulaelae and Nanumanga.

The project improved livelihoods and nutrition by reviving households' food gardens with nutritious crops, providing them with new fencing materials for their livestock to secure their access to milk and protein, and rehabilitating community nurseries with diverse seedlings, plant cuttings, fertilizer and equipment. Training was also provided on plant breeding and planting techniques to get the most out of their crops and trees, and better ways to manage their farms and animals. To put Tuvalu on a stronger footing to weather similar shocks in the future, FAO and Australia also supported the Ministry of Agriculture in developing a new emergency preparedness framework and trained local staff on disaster risk management.

By building the capacity of technical and operations staff in Tuvalu, the island is better prepared for, and able to respond to, natural disasters in the future. Households, in turn, grow crops with more climate resistant traits like proven salt and drought-tolerant characteristics. The Tuvalu project not only achieved its emergency relief objectives, but in the process also increased resilience to shocks that can affect agriculture in the face of ongoing climate change.

IMPACT

Improved livelihoods and nutrition through rehabilitating household food gardens with nutritious crops

Boosting rapid response to emergencies and disasters — FAO and RedR Australia

RedR Australia (RedR) seeks to help communities around the world plan, prepare, rebuild and recover before, during and after crises and conflict. RedR supports its UN partners through its training programmes and surge staff, and through the management of the Australian Government's civilian humanitarian deployment programme, Australia Assists. Through its Standby Partnership agreement, RedR deploys highly qualified, experienced and motivated humanitarian specialists in a range of technical areas to organizations such as FAO at short notice, on a needs driven basis. Since August 2014, RedR has funded the deployment of 28 experts across a range of skill profiles to support FAO programmes in 17 different countries.

Through facilitating access to personnel who can be mobilized in rapid timeframes, RedR supports FAO's efforts to prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters. Country offices have consistently recognized RedR's high caliber specialists for their strong technical capacities and professionalism. Their ability to hit-the-ground running, and become operational quickly has further enhanced FAO's effectiveness across field operations, particularly in Level 3 emergencies. What is more, the impact of RedR's deployments extends to the wider humanitarian system, including the food security and livelihoods clusters in countries like Papua New Guinea and Tonga, where RedR specialists worked as cluster coordinators and support officers.

In 2018, RedR deployed 11 specialists to support FAO's programmes in Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. This includes support to Ethiopia, Turkey, Myanmar, Philippines, Fiji, and Samoa. Together, these specialists provided over 45 deployment months' worth of support in technical areas including resilience and disaster risk reduction; food security cluster coordination; and communications and reporting.

**Since 2014, 28 RedR
stand-by partner
experts were deployed
to support FAO
programmes across
17 countries**

Increasing humanitarian response capacity in the Asia Pacific

Kaustubh Devale was deployed by RedR Australia to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in 2017, where he built capacity for resilience programming in the Asia Pacific region and strengthened local understanding of disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation. Kaustubh was responsible for developing a regional database template on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation policy and helped develop the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** regional project on shock-responsive social protection, and the poverty-disaster-climate change nexus study.

To further support member countries in DRR and resilience building, Kaustubh also developed a self-learning course module that focuses on DRR and resilience in the context of managing conflicts around natural resources. His assignment and outputs have significantly improved FAO's DRR and resilience programme development in the region, paving ways for implementation of the new Country Programme Frameworks in the years to come.



MYANMAR – By providing temporary surge capacity support, RedR supports FAO efforts in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, recovery and stabilization activities in disaster-prone countries

©FAO/Hkun Lat



INDONESIA – FAO is committed to building resilience to animal and public health threats and emergencies, improving food security and supporting sustainable agriculture, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

© FAO

Protecting global health

Australia is partnering with FAO to protect people and animals from high-impact diseases. For over a decade the country has been one of the most important and influential contributors to global animal health outcomes and plays a leading role in the Asia and Pacific region in protecting livestock against diseases and preventing disease outbreak.

The most damaging outbreaks of high impact diseases in recent decades have had an animal source, including H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza, H1N1 pandemic influenza, Ebola, severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle East respiratory syndrome . These diseases have either spread rapidly in a particular region (epidemics) or spread widely in many countries across the world (pandemics), leading to massive losses of life and livelihoods, and having a significant economic impact.

The link between humans, animals and the surrounding environment is particularly close in developing regions, where poor farming communities raise animals that provide transport, draught power, fuel and clothing, as well as food. Due to the broad

reliance on animals, zoonotic diseases can have even wider devastating impacts on these communities. When compounded with poverty, inadequate sanitary standards and lack of resilience, they can quickly wipe out much of the development that a country has achieved.

By building capacity to forecast, prevent, detect and respond to disease emergence, FAO is reducing the impact of zoonoses on lives and livelihoods, and helping to stop emergence and spread of potential epidemics and pandemics at source.

60% of pathogens that cause human diseases come from domestic animals or wildlife

75% of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are of animal origin

80% of pathogens that are of concern for bioterrorism originate in animals

Global animal health and biosecurity initiatives — building capacity to prevent, detect and respond to disease threats

Since 2012, the Australian DAWR has supported a number of FAO initiatives under the joint Partnership on Global Animal Health and Biosecurity Initiatives agreement. Through the partnership, Australia has supported FAO's Emergency Management Centre — Animal Health (EMC-AH). The EMC-AH is FAO's primary facility for emergency responses to animal disease.

Working in close association with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international, national and local partners, the EMC-AH helps affected governments assess emergency situations and limit disease spread. In 2016 and 2017, Australian funds supported various rapid deployment missions that were critical in helping Vietnam combat outbreaks of *peste des petits ruminants*. Previous missions funded through Australia's support since 2012 — targeted Newcastle disease in Pakistan and foot and mouth disease in Mongolia.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) — training for detection and prevention

Through the FAO-based European Foot-and-Mouth Disease Commission (EuFMD), Australia supports the delivery of real-time FMD training courses in Nepal and three online FMD Emergency preparation courses throughout 2017–2019. An outbreak of FMD would have severe socio-economic consequences for Australia, but because it is not present, many Australian veterinarians and livestock industry workers have no experience with the disease, the ability to investigate cases of the disease first hand and the ability to detect and control an outbreak of the disease. For Nepal, the partnership with EuFMD has provided important capacity building for their veterinary services. These follow on from previous contributions Australia made to the project. To date, the programme has trained over 110 Nepalese and over 200 Australian veterinarians and livestock workers. These people were trained on FMD diagnosis, outbreak investigation and biosecurity. Some 75 percent of the world's FMD-susceptible livestock and most of the world's poor livestock farmers can be found in FMD-endemic regions. This highlights the potential impacts on nutrition and livelihoods and the need for knowledge, awareness, training and partnerships as essential tools to contain the disease.



MONGOLIA – FAO provides training on animal disease outbreak investigations and management, aimed at improving herders' livelihoods by fighting animal diseases

©FAO/Eran Raizman



FAO and Australian Animal Health Laboratory — building diagnostic power to catch high-impact animal diseases

Working together through the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), the collaboration supports countries in the Asia Pacific region to deal with high impact animal diseases that can threaten food and biosecurity. This includes FMD, classical swine fever, rabies virus and highly pathogenic avian influenza. The research partnership standardizes biosafety procedures and techniques that are needed to build and maintain quality assurance systems. AAHL has played an important role in the Asia Pacific region consistent with Australia's International Policy. As a Reference Laboratory for OIE and FAO Collaborating Centre, AAHL has provided diagnostic expertise and training to animal health laboratories across the region. Together with AAHL, FAO works to enhance the region's capacity for disease diagnosis and emergency outbreak response all within the framework of Australian standards of biosafety and biosecurity.

Antimicrobial resistance

Since many antimicrobials used to control bacterial diseases in animals and plants are identical or closely related to those used in humans, there is an urgent need for One Health action across sectors to prevent foodborne antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This includes reducing the unnecessary use of antibiotics in animals, in line with the WHO's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. Antimicrobials not only threaten human and animal health by making standard treatments increasingly ineffective, it also poses a risk for food safety and food security. Beyond that, it threatens the economic wellbeing of millions of farming families. Australia has been actively involved in global efforts to stem AMR and limit its impact on the food chain. Australia co-chaired the Physical Working Group (PWG) on AMR in 2016. Moreover, in 2017, the PWG proposals about the work to be undertaken by the Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR were adopted. This work includes revising the *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* and developing a *Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance*.



Ensuring sustainable use of natural resources

From the largest oceans to the tiniest cell of a cassava leaf, the future of our food security relies on the availability of healthy forests, streams, land and oceans and the genetic diversity found in these ecosystems. This is underpinned by the biodiversity and ecosystem services provided, such as pollination, erosion control, nutrient recycling, climate regulation and soil health. Sustainably managing forest resources is not only important for timber production and non-timber products but also increasingly plays a role in the fight against climate change.

That fight equally includes preserving and using livestock and crop diversity to adapt food production. The blue world, meanwhile, is a vast and vital source of food and biodiversity, but it too is facing growing pressure from climatic and human activity, including illegal, irregular and unreported fishing. The health and sustainability of our food systems are therefore dependent on global efforts in protecting these resources for current and future food production.

Greater access to plant genetic resources for Australian farmers

The **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**, also known as the International Plant Treaty, facilitates the conservation, sustainable use and open exchange of food crops and their genetic materials between countries. Over 95 percent of Australian agriculture is based on plant genetic resources from other countries and Australian farmers and plant breeders rely heavily on access to raw genetic material to develop new crop varieties. These ecological challenges connect Australia to many developing countries in the Pacific. Recognizing this, Australia has contributed AUD 2.2 million (USD 1.6 million) to the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund since 2010, which supports high-impact projects that aim to help farmers in developing countries achieve food security and adapt to climate change. Projects have supported the development, testing and use of climate ready crop varieties, including the conservation and use of important food crops. Australia is active in most intersessional committees of the Treaty and

chaired the Sixth Session of its Governing Body in 2015. During the 2018-19 biennium, a representative from Australia's DAWR will serve as a vice chairperson in the Bureau of the Governing Body, representing the South West Pacific Region.

Promoting agricultural biotechnologies in sustainable food systems and nutrition

Agricultural biotechnologies cover a broad range of technologies used in food and agriculture and benefit smallholders in developing sustainable food systems and improving nutrition in the context of climate change. In 2016, FAO hosted the International Symposium on "the Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition" and has organized four regional meetings to bring the debate to a regional perspective. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research provided support to the Asia Pacific regional meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2017.





SEYCHELLES – Unloading
of frozen tuna fish
©FAO/Horst Wagner

Strengthening cooperation on water and food security in the Asia Pacific

FAO and Australia — through the Australian Water Partnership — are combining their considerable expertise in water management to help countries in the Asia Pacific region improve surface and groundwater governance for agriculture and bring new technologies to governments facing increasing challenges from water scarcity. Asian countries will benefit from the expertise of Australian public and private organizations working in the area of data collection and analysis for water accounting, tools for irrigation modernization, and technologies ranging from remote sensing to geographic information systems. Joint activities will also help countries develop and improve water regulations and policies, build strategies for water allocation and ensure large-scale investments are based on sound information and analysis. Leveraging FAO's network and experience in the region will increase the reach of the Australian Water Partnership's efforts to safeguard against the social, economic, and political consequences of water scarcity and ensure those efforts have maximum impact.

Protecting regional tuna stocks

Tuna is Australia's most imported fish (by volume), and with a total catch value of almost AUD 8.4 billion in the western and central Pacific alone, tuna plays a major role in the Asia Pacific. Protecting these stocks against overfishing and illegal fishing requires continued international collaboration, including in the Indian Ocean where such activities remain widespread in

some areas. To this end, FAO and Australia have been working together through the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) that brings together members states from around the Indian Ocean and other entities, like the European Union. The Commission monitors stocks, undertakes research and development, adopts conservation measures and tracks the economic and social dimensions of Indian Ocean fisheries. To ensure representatives and scientists from developing states can participate in the Commission's regular meetings and activities, Australia has been a strong supporter of the IOTC's Meeting Participation Fund and made consistent voluntary contributions since the fund's inception in 2010.

Keeping fisheries sustainable through the Port State Measures Agreement

Fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a key area where FAO and Australia share a long partnership. This includes through the IOTC and the milestone international agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing that entered into force in 2016, of which Australia was one of the earliest signatories. This ground-breaking treaty prevents unscrupulous fishers from landing their ill-gotten hauls, making it harder for such catches to enter national and international markets. Compared to most monitoring, control and surveillance schemes, port state measures act as a highly effective — and cost effective — deterrent to IUU fishing activities. FAO brokered the agreement, which was the result of a multi-year negotiation process, with active participation and financial support from Australia.



Fiji – Forest reserves are essential for protecting the cloud forests and thus ensuring the essential ecosystem services for the island and its people

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Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

The Global Forest Observations Initiative

Australia and FAO work closely together under the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI). GFOI is an informal partnership of countries and institutions that together assist developing states in building their capabilities in forest monitoring and associated greenhouse gas accounting. As leading partners of the GFOI, Australia and FAO are providing targeted and streamlined support to help countries accelerate their progress in this area. Australia manages the methods and guidance component of GFOI and FAO jointly manages the capacity-building component of the initiative. FAO also hosts the secretariat, which is run with joint funding from Australia and Norway.

Getting countries ready for REDD+ — a global training scheme at Melbourne University

A key part of countries' efforts to meet their global climate targets is building their capacity to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD). To this end, FAO and Australia, with guidance from GFOI and the UN-REDD programme, have partnered to offer a Master's programme at the University of Melbourne that combines theory and fieldwork to build the skills of technical staff in measurement, reporting and verification and to prepare them to develop REDD+ roadmaps for their home country. Launched in 2016, the first year of the training scheme focused on Pacific island states and trained more than two-dozen students from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Secretariat for Pacific Communities. In 2017, the course was tailored to support Indonesia in meeting their targets under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Some 30 government officials — over one-third of them women — participated in the two-week course in Melbourne. In both cases, the course made use of GFOI's REDD Compass tool, which guides users through core themes, concepts and actions involved in the development of national forest monitoring systems. Participants who have completed the course gain credit that can contribute towards attainment of a graduate degree in Forest Ecosystem Science. Currently in its pilot phase, the training scheme is intended to be global in scope and expand to cover other regions and countries in future years.



Supporting a more inclusive, resilient Pacific

Australia has consistently demonstrated that it believes in a future for the Pacific, through its ongoing commitment to helping its neighbouring countries in the region rise to new and existing challenges. This is a shared vision that FAO supports and recognizes the growing importance of the blue economy to the region, which holds tremendous potential as a driver of prosperity, nutrition, and food security. It is thanks to significant efforts by Australia, as co-chair of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), that more than ten percent of the total GCF is contributing to climate-resilient development in the Pacific.

In the Asia Pacific region, some 60 percent of the population remains undernourished, which not only limits their well-being and opportunities but also jeopardizes regional stability and growth. For this reason, FAO has been strengthening its presence in this region. For example, by acknowledging Papua New Guinea's (PNG) position in the region, FAO is establishing a fully-fledged representation and has been working closely with PNG, including through its Early Warning Early Action response to the El Niño, blue growth projects and efforts to record, protect and better manage its vast forest resources.

Boosting food and nutrition security in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

FAO and Australia share a vision to help SIDS flourish by reducing their vulnerabilities and unleashing their full agricultural and economic potential. FAO has been supporting countries throughout the region to boost food and nutrition security through national action plans, stronger early warning systems, climate-smart production techniques, and to harvest the benefits of the blue economy through better managing marine resources and promoting fish farming initiatives. These actions have been closely associated with, and informed by two key programmes of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research — Pacific Horticulture and Agricultural Market Access and Pacific Agribusiness Research for Development Initiative.

New Regional Framework for Pacific countries addresses nutrition and climate change challenges

During 2015-2016, FAO, in collaboration with UNDESA and UN-OHRLLS,⁵ led the development of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS — a UN system-wide response to the call in paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway for the development of a food security and nutrition action programme. Following its launch at the FAO Conference in 2017, a Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS (aka Pacific Framework) was developed as the key implementation mechanism for the GAP. It focuses on a set of priorities identified by Pacific SIDS and development partners, including DFAT: (i) evidence base strengthened to support multi-sectoral policy action; (ii) enhanced multi-sectoral commitment and action; (iii) improved sustainability, resilience and nutrition sensitivity of Pacific SIDS food systems; and (iv) scaled up actions to improve food security and nutrition among key target groups. The Pacific Framework provides an opportunity for improving coherence and increasing impact of Pacific SIDS and development partner actions in support of improved food security and nutrition.

Pacific Agricultural Week

Australia participated in the inaugural Pacific Week of Agriculture that took place in Port Vila, Vanuatu from 16 to 20 October 2017. The Government of Vanuatu hosted the one-week event in partnership with the Pacific Community and FAO. The meetings were attended by global agricultural leaders. International and regional participants explored innovations, discussed challenges and sought ideas on how to expand agriculture in the Pacific.

⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States.



GHANA – Thanks to FAO's work
towards livelihood empowerment,
some beneficiaries managed to open
little shops in the local markets
©FAO/Heba Khamis



Demonstrating progress through results

FAO puts a premium on transparency, measuring impact, achieving value for money, and partnering with other development actors to achieve common goals. In recent years, FAO embarked on an elaborate process to improve its impact, better manage resources and more aptly apply its technical expertise. It has also made considerable efforts to improve and streamline costly and unnecessary programmatic frameworks.

These efforts complement the larger United Nations' reform agenda that seeks to reposition the UN system in ways that ensure more effective and coherent support to countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

FAO believes that a reform of the UN's development system can be a powerful tool for better aligning UN-wide efforts with the priorities of the SDGs, and for achieving Zero Hunger in particular. The fact that the SDGs recognize the vital contributions agriculture and sustainable resource use make to sustainable development highlights the key role FAO plays in the achievement of the goals — and the Organization is positioning itself to rise to that task.

FAO's Strategic Programmes already embed the SDGs. In addition, **value for money, effectiveness and efficiency are guiding principles** in defining FAO's engagement in any common operational, financial and administrative framework.

Making all three guiding principles means applying those concerns throughout the Organization. While there is still ample room for improvement, FAO will continue its efforts to mainstream across areas of its work and increase efforts to obtain better knowledge of the relation between the cost and impact of activities. This, in turn, will support better-informed strategic decisions about the allocations of resources to cut costs and increase the effectiveness and efficiency of outputs.

List of projects funded by Australia (ongoing over the 2017–2018 period)*

Project Symbol	Project Title	Total Budget**	Start date	End date	Current status***
GCP/GLO/874/AUL	Fast-tracking readiness using REDDcompass	185 423	8/9/2017	1/9/2018	Closed
OSRO/GLO/102/AUL	Partnership on global animal health and biosecurity initiatives	2 054 207	7/6/2011	31/12/2019	Ongoing
OSRO/SOM/708/AUL	Emergency Drought Response	1 871 735	15/5/2017	31/12/2017	Closed
GCP/GLO/810/AUL	Contribution towards FAO Regional Consultations on Agricultural Biotechnology	110 700	1/4/2017	28/2/2018	Closed
GCP/PAK/126/AUL	Australian Assistance to Agricultural Development in Balochistan Border Areas — AUSABBA	10 989 828	5/9/2012	30/6/2017	Closed
GCP/PAK/140/AUL	Empowering Women in Balochistan through Agri Entrepreneurship	863 230	3/4/2017	3/4/2019	Ongoing
GCP/PAK/141/AUL	Australia Balochistan Agri-business Programme-Phase Two (AusABBA II)	16 742 770	7/7/2017	30/6/2023	Ongoing

*Contributions provided to the Multilateral/Pooled Trust Funds are not included in this list.

**In USD, subject to change for ongoing projects.

***As of 7 February 2019.

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