

Introduction

Overview

What is the Direct Aid Program?

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a small grants program funded from Australia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget. It provides funding for locally led projects that deliver practical and tangible development outcomes in ODA-eligible countries consistent with Australia's development priorities.

The DAP provides funding to community and grass-roots development projects which provide direct, immediate, tangible and high-impact outcomes for beneficiary communities.

Who can Apply?

Funding is available on a not-for-profit basis to community groups, non-government organisations and other organisations engaging in development activities in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.

What activities are eligible for DAP Support?

Priority thematic areas for the 2026-27 DAP year include:

- gender equality, empowerment of women and social inclusion;
- climate change and environmental protection;
- disability equity and rights;
- water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH);
- poverty alleviation and rural development;
- healthcare;
- education; and
- human rights and governance.

Applicants may apply for funding for development projects in other thematic areas.

Competitive applications will:

- address multiple thematic areas in a single project;
- support vulnerable and marginalised communities;
- clearly articulate the positive change and impact that would occur following project implementation; and
- provide strong public diplomacy opportunities for the Embassy.

Projects should be self-contained with finite timelines. Consideration will also be given to activities in which the beneficiary community makes a significant contribution in terms of:

- labour,
- materials or funds,
- act as a catalyst for additional development of the community or a model for similar development activities elsewhere and/or have direct links with Australia will also be welcomed.

There is no minimum amount a single DAP project can receive but the **maximum is AUD80,000** (or the USD equivalent).

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Form Preview

Activities may run for a maximum of two years as specified in the Grant Agreement.

All applications must be accompanied by a fully costed project budget. **A detailed budget is required and must be supported by two quotations for any budget line item between USD700 and USD7,000 and three quotations for amounts above USD7,000.**

Two referees are required. Referees cannot be from the applicant organisation or from an organisation which stands to gain from the proposed project.

Additional documents may be attached if necessary. However applicants are strongly encouraged to be concise. The Embassy will seek further information if required.

Proposals must be clearly defined with specific outputs. Proposals will be considered based on the:

- cost and the development benefits of the proposal;
- soundness of the project's objectives and design;
- sustainability of outcomes;
- practicality of the proposed implementation arrangements;
- applicant's consideration and approach to risk management including project implementation, governance and integrity systems, past performance, fraud and corruption controls, child protection, preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and environmental protection; and
- compatibility of the proposal with the objectives of the Direct Aid Program.

Expenses and costs ineligible for DAP funding

Generally, we cannot fund the following expenses and costs through the DAP:

- operating, overhead and administrative costs (staff salaries, allowances, office rent, utilities, etc.);
- workshops and associated expenses (e.g., venue hire, food/drinks, audio/video, etc.);
- cash grants or micro-credit schemes or projects that involve the return of money;
- commercial ventures or private for-profit business activities;
- purchase of major assets, e.g. vehicles or land;
- Australian or overseas study tours;
- international travel;
- sponsorship of major sporting tournaments or cultural displays that do not have a clear development benefit;
- consulting fees;
- construction projects that use asbestos or other materials that are hazardous to human health;
- direct support for governments;
- sponsorship of advocacy/fund-raising/commemoration events;
- landscaping and other cosmetic work around town squares and other public buildings;
- projects run by multilateral organisations such as UN agencies; and
- small/discrete components within a larger project managed by a multilateral organisation.

Applications that request funding for these expenses may be removed from consideration.

Instructions

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Form Preview

This form is to be completed by the applicant online. All applications must be accompanied by a fully costed project budget.

This application form should be read in conjunction with information on the Direct Aid Program available at - <https://www.dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/direct-aid-program/pages/direct-aid-program>

Notes:

- 1.DAP building and construction related projects should meet or exceed Australian standards wherever reasonably practicable to do so Departure from Australian WHS standards on the basis that meeting such standards is not “reasonably practicable” should only be accepted where it is defensible to do so, supported by a clear, persuasive and documented explanation. In such cases, the project should meet the highest standard that is reasonably practicable, with hazard mitigation measures supported by a hazard identification and risk assessment report identifying the residual risks of injury and illness to any workers or third parties, and proposed mitigation strategy
- 2.If the project involves working with children, the organisation must have a current child protection policy or code of conduct to be eligible. For information on child protection policy, see <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/child-protection/Pages/child-protection>
- 3.Recipients of DAP funding must ensure that no support or resources are provided to any entity subject to sanctions (by the United Nations Security Council or the Australian Government).
- 4.Recipients of DAP funding must ensure that the work conducted in relation to this project is undertaken in a safe manner and complies with all applicable local laws, standards and policies that relate to health and safety.

Applicant Details

* indicates a required field

Applicant Organisation

Organisation Name *

Organisation Name

Type of Organisation *

Postal Address *

Address

Primary Contact

Primary Contact *

Title

First Name

Last Name

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Position *

Work Phone Number *

Mobile Phone Number

Email *

Secondary Contact

Name * Title First Name Last Name

Position *

Work Phone Number *

Mobile Phone Number

Email *

Must be an email address.

Key achievements to date

What are some of your key achievements to date? *

Previous DAP Projects

Have you received DAP funding previously? * Yes No

If yes, list any projects previously done by this organisation through the Direct Aid Program

Project Name	Name and Contact	Currency Type	Amount Funded	Dates
			Must be a number.	

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Provide details of two referees for your project.

Referee One

Name *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Referee Two

Name *

Title

First Name

Last Name

Organisation & Position *

Organisation & Position *

Primary Phone Number *

Office Phone Number *

Primary Email *

Office Email *

Project Proposal

* indicates a required field

Project Summary

Name of Project *

Must be no more than 250 characters.

Project description *

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

Start Date *

Must be a date

End Date *

Must be a date

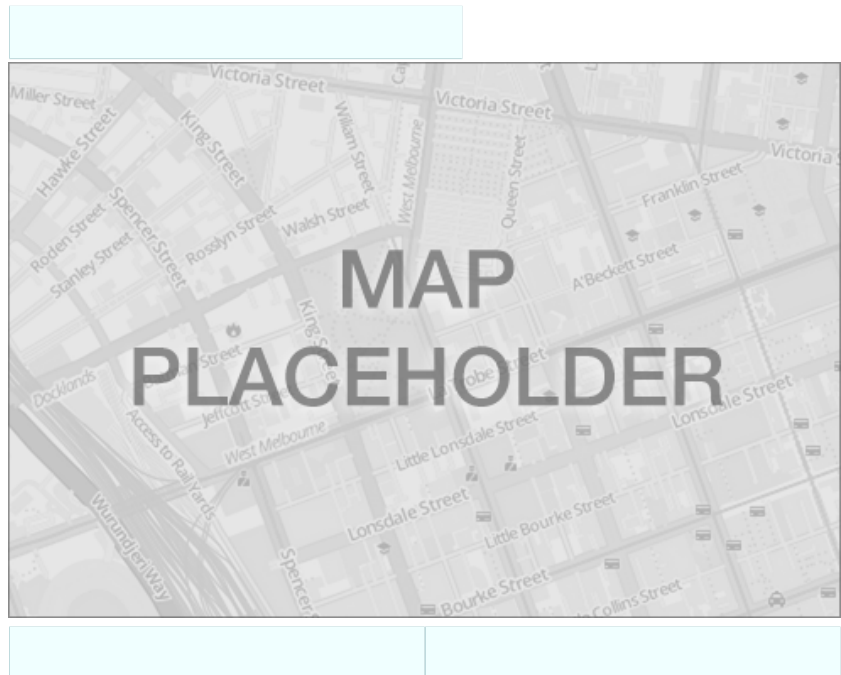
Project Location

Project Country *

Project Province/State *

Project Location *

Address



Project Objectives

Select one or more of the Objectives below.

Which of the following are objectives of this project? *

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Health or Sanitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conferences, Training, or Capacity Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty alleviation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural or sporting activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Promoting gender equality, disability inclusion, youth or social inclusion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster or humanitarian relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of the environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (general) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Development or Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education (Infrastructure) | <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Democratic Institutions and Promoting Human Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship and Trade Promotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting or promoting mental health and wellbeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality | |

Code of Conduct

Does your organisation have a code of conduct? * Yes No

If yes, upload a copy of your code of conduct *

Attach a file:

Child Protection

DFAT has a zero tolerance approach to child exploitation, abuse and harm. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate their commitment to protecting children through their activity, including with support from DFAT. Applicants are asked to familiarise themselves with the [interim guidance](#) and DFAT's [Child Protection Policy](#)

Direct Aid Program considers a child to be a person under the age of 18 years.

Please refer to the definitions below to assist with clarity.

No contact with children (No standards to apply): Activities with no anticipated interaction with children

For example: Office-based roles, one-off delivery of corporate goods, service or a trade or remote, desk-based policy advice or writing

Incidental or Minimal contact with children (Essential Standards to apply): Activities where interaction with children is limited, indirect or incidental

For example: The focus of the activity is solely engaged with adults but is in a setting where children may be present, for example institutional settings such as health centres, attendance at public diplomacy events or delivery of goods/services, where children may be present under the supervision of parents/carers.

Direct, sustained, or significant contact with children (Comprehensive standards): where children are anticipated to be regularly in attendance or a beneficiary of activity.

Will this project involve contact with children? * Yes No

If yes:

Does the project have: * Incidental or minimal contact with children
 Direct, sustained or significant contact with children

Attach a copy of the policy, procedure or guidelines * Attach a file:

Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

DFAT does not tolerate sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment (SEAH) of any kind.

Visit [Preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) for more information on Australia's DFAT

Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy

The PSEAH Policy sets out expectations and requirements for all DFAT staff and delivery partners to manage SEAH risks and incidents. It applies to all DFAT staff and all DFAT partners, in Australia and overseas.

Do you have PSEAH guidelines for your project? * Yes No

If Yes, attach a copy of the guidelines * Attach a file:

Fraud and Corruption Control

DFAT does not tolerate inaction on fraud and corruption.

DFAT has robust systems and procedures in place to protect public money and property from fraud and corruption. DFAT's partner organisations (funding recipients) also play a critical role in minimising exposure of Australian funding to fraud and corruption. This Fraud Control Toolkit for Funding Recipients articulates DFAT's requirements and expectations it has of its partners who manage and deliver programs and projects on behalf of DFAT.

Visit [Fraud Control Toolkit for funding recipients | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#) for more information on Australia's **DFAT's Fraud Control Toolkit**.

Do you have a Fraud and Corruption guidelines for your project? * Yes No

If Yes, attach a copy of the guidelines * Attach a file:

Environmental Protection

Negative impacts on the environment resulting from aid investments can harm the people they are intended to help and undermine development outcomes.

Protecting and conserving natural resources and maintaining ecosystems is fundamental to sustainable development and integral to the economic prosperity of many developing countries.

In addition, environmental degradation can increase the vulnerability of communities to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

Applicants should consider environmental impact of their project activities and endeavor to avoid use of hazardous substances such as asbestos containing materials.

Will your project be using asbestos containing material? * Yes No

Funding

*** indicates a required field**

Outline the total amount of funds you are requesting and breakdown of what the money will be spent on here. This includes materials, transportation of goods, building services

Note it is not sufficient to simply refer to quotes, a detailed budget must be outlined here. Attach two quotes for the purchase of any products.

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Currency Type *

- AUD - AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR
- USD - US DOLLAR
- EUR - EURO
- MWK - MALAWI KWACHA
- GBP - POUND STERLING
- ZMW - ZAMBIAN KWACHA
- CDF - CONGOLESE FRANC

Total Project Cost *

What is the total budgeted cost of your project?

Total Amount Requested *

What is the total amount being requested for this project?

Applicant's contribution *

What is the total budgeted cost of your project?

Budget

Provide a detailed budget by filling the table below. You may also attach the budget as a separate file along with the quotations.

NOTE: Ensure all costs quoted in the budget are in the same currency type as the **Total Project Cost**.

As per the DAP guidelines, a detailed budget is required and must be supported by two quotations for any budget line between USD700 and USD7000 and three quotations for amounts above USD7000.

Item	Cost per item	Number of items	Total cost	Applicant Contribution	DAP Contribution	Contribution from other donors
	EG: \$20 per metre	EG: 50 metres	Must be a number.	Must be a number.	Must be a number.	Must be a number.

Quotations

Upload relevant quotations (see DAP guidelines for quotation requirements) *

Attach a file:

Recurrent Costs

DAP funding cannot be used for recurrent costs.

Will the project have recurrent costs? * Yes No

Explain how you will recover recurrent costs. *

Word count:
Must be no more than 200 words.

Other sources of finance

Do you have any other sources of finance for this project? *

Yes No

Specify your other sources of funding, including funding from other donors.

Click the '+' sign or "Add More" at bottom right to add new rows.

Funding source	Amount	Description
Name of funder.	Must be a number.	What and why is this provided?

Financial Risk Management

Do you have a strategy in place to cover unforeseen costs that may arise during the project cycle?(e.g. bank charges, taxation e.t.c.) *

Yes No

Outline your strategy *

Word count:
Must be no more than 500 words.

Banking Information

Does your organisation have a Nostro Foreign Currency Account held in USD? *

Yes No

Does your nominated Bank have a USD Correspondent Bank? (You are encouraged to confirm this directly with your bank). *

Yes No

Do your preferred suppliers have a Nostro Foreign Currency Account? *

Yes No

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Do your preferred suppliers' nominated Banks have USD Correspondent Banks? (Your suppliers are encouraged to confirm this directly with their banks) * Yes No

DAP disburses funding via bank transfer in United States Dollars (USD). Outline what risk measures you intend to take in order to maintain the value of the disbursement in USD? *

Word count:
Must be no more than 300 words.

Project Details

* indicates a required field

Why does this work need to be done? *

Word count:

Describe the specific issue or need you want to address (200 words recommended)

What are the planned activities? What will the funds be used for? *

Word count:

Briefly list (bullet points) the specific activities that will take place and where they will take place (200 words recommended)

What are the expected outcomes of the project? *

Word count:

Describe three things you want the project to achieve in terms of benefits for participants and/or others (200 words recommended)

How will you know if these outcomes have been achieved? *

Word count:

Describe three changes you will see if the expected outcomes of the project occur (150 words recommended)

Risk Assessment

Please identify key potential risks and provide information on mitigation/control measures in the table below.

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Examples of risks include but are not limited to:

- Child Protection
- Crime
- Environmental
- Financial
- Fraud
- Political (*Political risks affect the relationship between community and council or government*)
- Project Management
- Physical
- Security
- Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Sexual Harassment
- Social
- Work Health and Safety

Risk Event	Risk Source	Risk Impact	Mitigation Strategy
What could go wrong?	What may cause the event to happen?	What are we concerned about?	What are we going to do, and who is responsible?

Beneficiaries

Who will benefit from the project? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe the estimated number, gender, age and location/region of these participating in the project. Please include data on beneficiaries who are people living with disabilities if relevant.

Sustainability

Explain how the project will be sustainable beyond the financial aid from Australia *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Will the requested funding be adequate to finish the intended activities of the project? *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Promotion of Australian Support

Explain how your organisation will promote Australian support for the project, including through the media *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Funding Agreement

* indicates a required field

Conditions of funding

DFAT is committed to making all reasonable efforts to ensure public resources are not used, either directly or indirectly, in a way that supports a person who, or an organisation that, fosters terrorism. To help stifle terrorism, DFAT requires its officers and funding recipients to manage terrorism resourcing risks in relation to any of its activities.

For Listed Terrorist Organisations visit with <https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/what-australia-is-doing/terrorist-organisations/listed-terrorist-organisations>

For the Consolidated Sanctions List visit <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/Pages/consolidated-list>

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) does not tolerate fraudulent or dishonest behaviour and is committed to preventing, detecting and responding to fraud in all aspects of its business. Fraud undermines the ability of DFAT to achieve its objectives and reduces the effectiveness of the Australian Government's policies and programs administered by DFAT. It is the responsibility of DFAT and its stakeholders (including grant recipients) to prevent funds, assets and information from being misused. See the DFAT Fraud Control resource page and a link to the Toolkit for Funding Recipients at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/corporate/fraud-control/Pages/fraud-control>

As a condition of this DAP funding, your organisation must ensure that no support or resources, including training, is provided to any criminal, illegal or terrorist entity.

Accordingly, your organisation must take all necessary steps to ensure that funding provided by us does not, directly or indirectly, contribute to any criminal, illegal or terrorist individuals or entities.

Does your Organisation directly or indirectly, contribute to any criminal, illegal or terrorist individuals or entities? * Yes No