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## Australia helps to transform lives in Uganda

**Media Release**  
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An Australian-funded scheme is saving and transforming lives in the Central, Eastern and Northern Regions of Uganda.

The recently released Annual Report for the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) shows how Australian Government support to NGOs in Uganda has increased in recent years with a focus on improving peoples' lives and delivering more opportunities to the most vulnerable and poor.

Supported by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), NGOs contributed to improved food security in marginalised areas of Uganda by giving nearly 3000 smallholder farmers in rural and remote communities' access to improved agricultural technologies and extension services. NGOs also assisted over 200 women farmers to purchase livestock in order to give them an alternative source of income. The AACES program is being implemented in Uganda by ActionAid International Uganda, Plan International Uganda and World Vision Uganda.

Geoff Tooth, Australia's High Commissioner to Uganda, was delighted to hear of the findings of the Report.

"I am particularly proud that Australia has been able to assist the most marginalised groups in Uganda including women, children, people with disability, and those vulnerable to disaster" he said today. "By supporting strong community and government engagement we also hope to contribute to greater accountability in the delivery of services to poor and marginalised people."

NGO activities also improved access to health for nearly 900 women through the provision of maternal, newborn and child care. Program partners provided access to maternal and child health rights education for more than 7,000 Ugandan women and girls, including 340 with disability.

The impact of the program is illustrated by the transformation it has brought in terms of strengthening government health systems, empowering small-holder farmers and promoting women's rights to land and resources.

As the largest AusAID funded NGO program in Africa, AACES supports development in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Annual Report provides an overview of the program's contribution to food security, maternal and child health and water, sanitation and hygiene.

AusAID provides most of its aid in Africa through partners that are trusted to deliver results. AACES NGOs are encouraged to network and collaborate to achieve greater impact through shared learning and synergies. Delivering funding in this way has helped to improve value for money and improve effectiveness.

The AACES Annual Report is available at [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About AusAID**

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program. AusAID is an Executive Agency within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio and reports to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The fundamental purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty. AusAID is strongly committed to evaluating and improving Australia's aid program and to collecting, analysing and publishing development data and other information. For more information please visit: [www.ausaid.gov.au](http://www.ausaid.gov.au)

### **About AACES**

AACES is a partnership of AusAID, ten Australian Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and their Africa-based partners. It contributes to the AusAID strategy for Africa through community-based interventions across the sectors of food security, maternal and child health and water, sanitation and hygiene. The program focuses on marginalised communities, with particular attention to women, children, people with disability and people vulnerable to disaster.

## **Media Enquiries**

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