



## Activity brief (December 2014)

### Regional Diplomatic Training

May 2011 – June 2015



**Background:** The Australian Government has received many requests from African governments through foreign affairs ministries to provide diplomacy training for their foreign service officials. Through high-level discussions, the Australian Government decided to deliver the Regional Diplomatic Training program between May 2011 and June 2014.

**Objective:** The objective of the diplomatic training is to provide participants with additional knowledge, skills and networks to contribute to the effectiveness of their Foreign Service agencies.

**Activity description:** In 2011 and 2012, eight courses were delivered in five countries: Lagos, Nigeria (1); Accra, Ghana (2), Brisbane, Australia (2); Pretoria, South Africa (2); and Nairobi, Kenya (1). A total of 221 participants attended: 136 were male and 85 were female.

In 2013 and 2014, three Advanced Alumni Diplomacy Training (AADT) courses were held in Nairobi, Accra and Pretoria. These courses were designed to build on the knowledge, skills and networks developed through previous courses in the activity. UniQuest (part of the University of Queensland) delivered the courses in partnership with the University of Pretoria, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, and the Foreign Service Institute in Nairobi. The joint delivery of these courses demonstrates the growing partnerships between Australian and African institutions in providing high quality training for Africans.

Ten diplomats from Cameroon, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Egypt, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia have been given the opportunity to complete a Graduate Certificate in International Studies – Diplomacy through The University of Queensland online. Before embarking on their academic studies, the 10 awardees attended a Graduate Certificate Preparation course at the University of Pretoria in February 2014. The preparation course provided comprehensive coverage of topics including security challenges, conflict mediation and development.

**Sector:** Public policy

**Expected outcomes:** Expected outcomes of the training include: increasing participants' skills and knowledge in areas relevant to their work; creating and strengthening networks among participants; and increasing Australia's profile. The Australian Government will strengthen diplomacy and foster friendship with, and between, Australia and African countries through an on-going series of trainings for diplomats in Africa.

**Results to date:** The survey of 55 Regional Diplomacy Training alumni (conducted in April 2013), found that 55 per cent of respondents had been able to extensively apply knowledge gained from the course they had attended. Respondents provided 51 examples of how they had applied this knowledge, including conducting negotiations, protecting human rights, resolving disputes/conflicts, instilling protocol and etiquette, and preparing and presenting briefs. Moreover, 83 per cent of respondents found that the program had played a major role in helping them understand Australian foreign policy better, and 95 per cent reported that they now had a better idea of what Australia had to offer in terms of diplomatic relations.

**Participation:** More than 300 African diplomats have participated in 12 training courses; more than one-third of the participants have been women. Thirty-nine countries and three organisations have participated: African Union, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, East African Community (EAC), Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

**Participant feedback:** Mr Ferdinand Nwonye, a participant from Nigeria, said: "The Australian Government must be commended for their efforts in capacity building for African diplomats. The training has been very rewarding and has also brought together diplomats from various African countries to share ideas and knowledge. We have also gained from the experience of diplomatic practitioners and experienced lecturers in the field of international relations. I have benefitted immensely from these trainings and I'm sure others equally did."

Gwendoline Mwila Lunda from Zambia said: "The Advanced Alumni Diplomatic Training has provided me with yet another opportunity to deepen my understanding of the important role that diplomacy plays in promoting international peace and development."

<b>Date approved:</b>	11/05/2011
<b>Implementation partner:</b>	UniQuest
<b>Total cost:</b>	AUD 4.4 million