



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

May 2016

Australian Aid 



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Cover: DFAT officials surveying the damage and impact of Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji, March 2016. Photo: Market Development Facility – Fiji

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DFAT gifting medical supplies to the Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services, March 2016. Photo: DFAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Humanitarian crises undermine growth, reverse hard-won development gains, increase poverty and can result in instability which can last for decades. Over the past decade, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has doubled.¹ Since 2005, disasters have killed more than 700,000 people globally and left nearly 23 million homeless,² while armed conflict and persecution of civilians has resulted in unprecedented numbers of displaced people – almost 60 million in 2015.³ As demand for humanitarian assistance increases, so too does the need for our responses to be effective, efficient and accountable.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is responsible for leading the Australian Government's response to international humanitarian crises. The Humanitarian Strategy articulates how DFAT will respond to humanitarian crises and ensures our humanitarian investments and policy engagements align with and support Australian government policy, including *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*.

The goal of Australia's humanitarian action is to save lives, alleviate suffering and enhance human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters and other humanitarian crises, as well as to reduce risks from and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations. To achieve this, Australia's investments will focus on four strategic objectives: strengthen international humanitarian action by supporting reform and innovation to ensure a system that is fit for purpose; investing in disaster risk reduction with a particular focus on our region; supporting regional preparedness and response capabilities; and enabling early recovery efforts.

Our strategy is underpinned by guiding principles that include: putting affected people at the centre of planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance; promoting internationally agreed principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence; promoting respect for and compliance with international law; doing no harm and adopting conflict sensitive approaches; supplementing – not substituting – national and local efforts; and being accountable to those we seek to assist, as well as the Australian people.

The goal of Australia's humanitarian action is to save lives, alleviate suffering and enhance human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters and other humanitarian crises, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

Australia's investments will promote gender equality and social inclusion, and support vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by humanitarian crises, including women and girls, children, and people with disabilities. Protection is at the core of our work and our assistance aims to ensure the safety of affected populations.

Increasing humanitarian needs mean we must find new and more efficient ways to deliver humanitarian assistance. We will tap into private sector expertise to support innovation and the delivery of new and more effective humanitarian support. We will also continue to learn from our actions in order to improve the quality of our work through comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of our activities and those of our partners.

GOAL

THE GOAL OF THE HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY IS TO:

Provide the framework for Australia's humanitarian action which is designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters and other humanitarian crises, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.⁴

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

– SUMMARY

Through this strategy, DFAT will:

- **Strengthen International Humanitarian Action:** Australia will support reform and innovation within the international humanitarian system to ensure that it is fit for purpose, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Reduce Disaster Risk:** Australia will invest in a safer future by supporting countries to reduce disaster risk. Australia will promote effective disaster risk reduction in our region, in line with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*.
- **Support Preparedness and Effective Response:** Australia will support countries to better prepare for disasters. Australia will provide effective humanitarian assistance and protection in response to rapid and slow onset crises, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific.
- **Enable Early Recovery:** Australia will support the transition from humanitarian relief to longer-term recovery and development.

1 United Nations *Humanitarian Assistance* available at <http://www.un.org/en/sections/priorities/humanitarian-assistance/>

2 The Sendai Framework 2015-2030

3 UNHCR *Worldwide displacement hits an all-time high as war and persecution increase* <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

4 As defined by the Principles and Good Practice of Good Humanitarian Donorship to which Australia has been signatory since 2003

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

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 – funding requirements rose 430 per cent in the decade to 2013 and continue to escalate.⁵

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.⁶ The impacts have been greatest in the Indo-Pacific region. Disaster resilience is challenged by population growth, climate change, rapid urbanisation, poor planning and environmental degradation, all of which expose greater

numbers of people to more frequent and/or intense shocks. Despite these challenges, considerable progress has been achieved at local, national, regional and global levels to strengthen resilience and improve our ability to respond to these events.

Protracted crises affect more than 350 million people globally, undermining the resilience of communities and the prospect of sustainable development.⁷ Armed conflict, violence and persecution have resulted in unprecedented levels of displacement – almost 60 million people in 2015, which is 60 per cent more than a decade ago.⁸ The drivers of today's conflicts are multifaceted and highlight the vital importance of strong linkages between humanitarian and development actors to meet both the short-term needs and long-term aspirations of affected communities.

The Australian Medical Assistance Team unloads medical equipment and relief supplies in the Philippines, November 2013. Photo: ADF










- 5 Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Saving lives today and tomorrow p.11
- 6 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction *Historic framework adopted* 24 March, 2015 <https://www.unisdr.org/archive/43382>
- 7 FAO Building Resilience in Protracted Crises and Natural Disasters p.1
- 8 UNHCR worldwide displacement hits an all-time high as war and persecution increase <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

Disasters and conflicts have a debilitating effect on communities, markets and services. They negatively affect people, livelihoods, interrupt or end education for millions of children, and lead to an increase in sexual and gender-based violence. They can also create or exacerbate existing inter-communal tensions, bring about health challenges including dramatic rises in malnutrition and reduced access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, degrade vital infrastructure and public utilities, abruptly halt commerce, and force the temporary and permanent dislocation of millions. Poor people living in marginalised circumstances experience disasters most acutely. It is incumbent upon the international humanitarian community to find effective ways to alleviate this suffering.



— SINCE 2005 —

DISASTERS HAVE:

KILLED  
more than
700,000  
globally   

LEFT *nearly* **23 MILLION**
HOMELESS  = 1 MILLION HOMELESS



— IN 2015 —

ARMED CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION OF CIVILIANS HAVE:

LEFT *almost* **60 MILLION**
PEOPLE DISPLACED

   = 2 MILLION DISPLACED



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY IS UNDERPINNED BY TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- 1) Respect and promote internationally agreed humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence in humanitarian action.⁹
- 2) Promote respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, international refugee law and international human rights law, in the provision of humanitarian action and the protection of populations affected by humanitarian crises, in line with DFAT's Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework.
- 3) Reaffirm that states have primary responsibility for reducing risk, preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters and other crises. Wherever appropriate, international humanitarian assistance should supplement – not be substitutes for – national and local efforts.
- 4) Put affected people at the centre of humanitarian assistance, including when determining needs, in allocation and delivery of relief, and when assessing impact.
- 5) Integrate gender equality and social inclusion in all aspects of our humanitarian action, promote diverse participation in leadership, and ensure the specific needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.
- 6) Manage and plan for current and future risk profiles and drivers of risk, including climate change, urbanisation, migration and demographic shifts.
- 7) Apply “Do No Harm” approaches in our engagement to ensure our assistance does not lead to unintended consequences, such as the creation of new risks, exacerbating existing risks of violence, gender-based or other social inequalities, conflict and disaster, or undermine legitimate state building processes.
- 8) Adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, including by providing predictable and flexible humanitarian funding and providing humanitarian assistance in ways that are conducive to recovery and development.¹⁰
- 9) Be an effective and innovative humanitarian partner that delivers high quality and value for money humanitarian programs in line with The Government's *'Making Performance Count Framework'*.¹¹
- 10) Be accountable to the Australian people and the communities we seek to assist.

⁹ These core principles are contained within the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and were reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 46/182 (1991) and 58/114 (2003). Australia has reinforced its commitment to humanitarian principles by endorsing the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship on 17 June 2003. Refer to Appendix A for more information.

¹⁰ Principles and Practice of Good Humanitarian Donorship, < <http://www.ghdinitiative.org/>> accessed September 2015.

¹¹ See *Making Performance Count: enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of Australian aid*, <http://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/making-performance-count-enhancing-the-accountability-and-effectiveness-of-australian-aid.aspx>



Australian Aid staff with a group of local children in cyclone affected Koro Island, Fiji. February 2016. Photo: ADF



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF HUMANITARIAN CRISES ENABLES A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. THROUGH THIS STRATEGY, DFAT WILL:

1) Strengthen International Humanitarian Action:

Australia will support reform and innovation within the international humanitarian system to ensure that it is fit for purpose, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. We will advocate for integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement within humanitarian action, particularly in protracted and slow-on-set crises. We will demonstrate our leadership in protecting and empowering vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, and people with disabilities, and promote respect for principled humanitarian action and international law.

2) Reduce Disaster Risk: Australia will invest in a safer future by supporting countries to reduce disaster risk. Australia will promote effective disaster risk reduction in our region, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. We will also continue to support effective climate adaptation and efforts to reduce loss and damage in line with the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We will work with partners to identify risks and hazards, and lay the foundations for resilience to disasters and climate change, focused on local communities, and local and national governments.

3) Support Preparedness and Effective Response:

Australia will support countries to better prepare for disasters. Australia will provide effective humanitarian assistance and protection in response to rapid and slow onset crises, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific. We will build resilience and strengthen responses to protracted and slow onset crises through effective humanitarian relief and development assistance that addresses the underlying causes of conflict, displacement and chronic vulnerability.

4) Enable Early Recovery:

Australia will support the transition from humanitarian relief to longer-term recovery and development. We will prioritise early recovery efforts to restore basic services, markets and livelihoods after a disaster or crisis. We will provide technical assistance to partner organisations and governments to assist early recovery efforts.



Australian aid supplies being delivered following Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, March 2015. Photo: DFAT

OBJECTIVE ONE:

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION

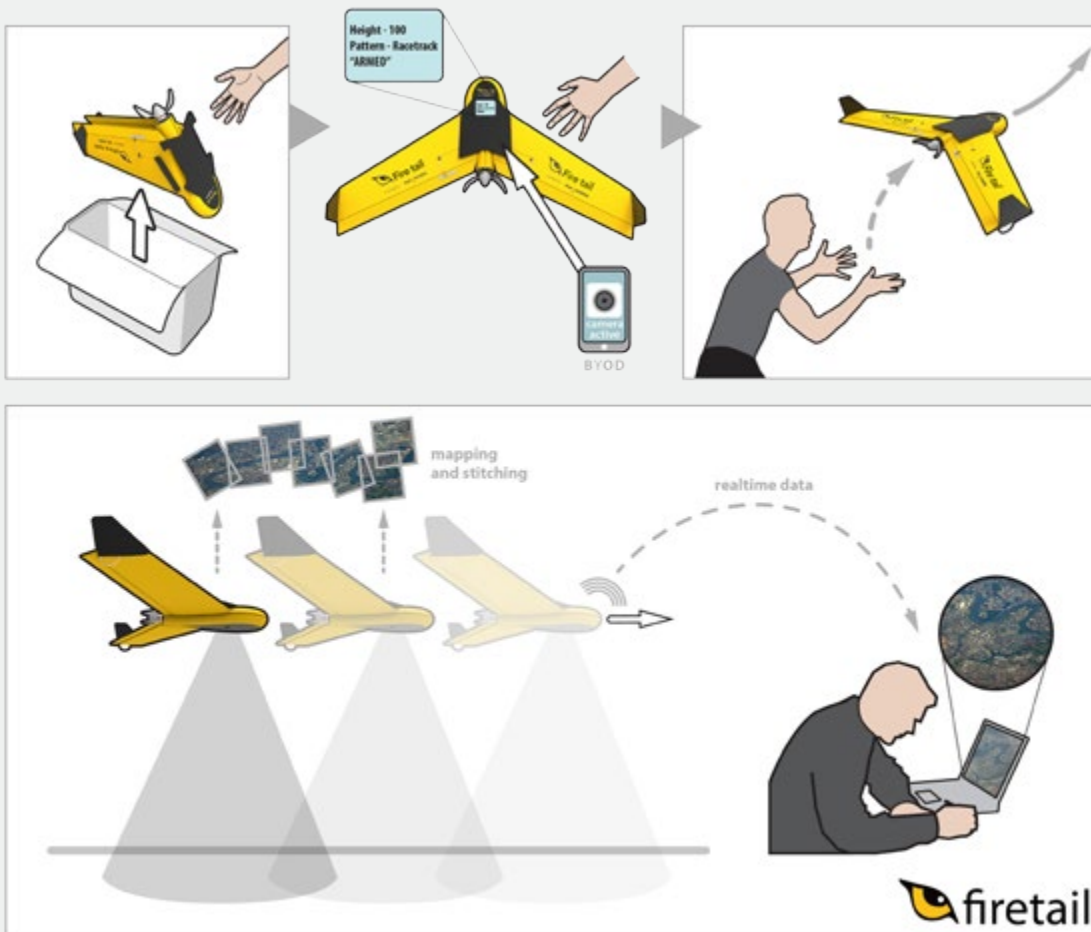
The performance of the international humanitarian system is uneven. We will continue to work with partners to improve its effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness. To achieve this, we will adopt a multi-layered approach designed to help strengthen the system at all levels. At the multilateral level, we will build coalitions with like-minded stakeholders to promote reform and innovation with the aim of improving global humanitarian response capabilities. Regionally, we will continue our active engagement through effective Indo-Pacific institutions to improve coordination, strengthen resilience and enhance response architecture. Bilaterally, with a particular focus on our region, we will invest in countries capabilities to reduce risk, build community resilience and respond effectively to humanitarian crises. In the context of an increasingly complex and contested humanitarian landscape, it is in Australia's national interest to invest in efforts to strengthen humanitarian action that is principled, accountable, and meets the needs of the most vulnerable. We will strengthen linkages between humanitarian and development actors to end entrenched cycles of risk, vulnerability and crisis.

KEY RESULT 1: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM REFORMS REFLECT AUSTRALIAN PRIORITIES

Australia's efforts to influence reform of the international humanitarian system will be complementary to and support broader efforts to reform the global peace and security architecture.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Leverage our diplomacy and financial investments in humanitarian action bilaterally, regionally and internationally to influence ongoing system reform to reflect the changing humanitarian context and to ensure the humanitarian system is fit for purpose.
- Promote international norms and influence the international humanitarian agenda at the United Nations and other fora in support of humanitarian access, through effective international humanitarian response and compliance with international law.
- Advocate for differentiated and appropriate approaches to improve leadership, funding, coordination and response in disasters, conflict settings and protracted displacement. This involves a fundamental move away from a one-size-fits-all approach, and the prioritisation of nationally led responses to disasters.
- Advocate for adequate resourcing of humanitarian action in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Support reforms that address the gap in global humanitarian financing, including by seeking to broaden the donor base (state-based and private sector), drive efficiencies, and promote innovations to improve cost-effectiveness, for example, through disaster risk financing and insurance, and cash transfer programming.
- Work with our humanitarian partners to identify and articulate further advocacy and policy priorities, drawing on partners' analysis and needs assessments as well as best practice and lessons learned.
- Innovate to drive new efficiencies in humanitarian assistance, for example building on cash transfer technologies in other areas of response and early recovery.



DFAT Pacific Humanitarian Challenge – one of the winning innovation ideas, Firetail – easily-deployed low-cost unmanned aerial systems. Image: Firetail

INNOVATION AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The current humanitarian system is unable to deliver to the scale required, and many traditional forms of assistance no longer meet the demands of contemporary crises. New technologies, actors and approaches are essential if the humanitarian system is to deliver effectively to the scale now required. Innovation in humanitarian response will drive the use of new approaches, new technologies and new partnerships, including collaborating more closely with the private sector. DFAT is fostering an environment where the use of innovative methods is encouraged, both in our own responses and in the actions of our implementing partners. This includes encouraging new ways of delivering assistance, faster and more effectively, new partnerships, closer collaboration with private sector actors and an acceptance of higher risk for higher reward. This approach will be essential if the humanitarian system is to address entrenched challenges.

In the context of an increasingly complex and contested humanitarian landscape, it is in Australia's national interest to invest in efforts to strengthen humanitarian action that is principled, accountable, and meets the needs of the most vulnerable.

KEY RESULT 2: ASSISTANCE IS PRINCIPLED, ACCOUNTABLE AND PROTECTS THE MOST VULNERABLE IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Crises have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities. Australia's approach prioritises gender equality, social inclusion, and empowerment of vulnerable groups as central to effective risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Advocate for and support stronger links between development efforts and humanitarian assistance in protracted and slow onset crises to improve human conditions, alleviate human suffering and build resilience.
- Work with humanitarian partners to identify and respond to vulnerability in order to address differentiated needs. This includes efforts to protect and empower people with disabilities, women and girls, children, and preventing and responding to gender based violence.
- Ensure that the needs of potentially vulnerable or marginalised groups are not neglected by investing in both mainstreamed and dedicated protection programming.
- Strengthen accountability to affected populations by requiring partners to demonstrate that their humanitarian programs are inclusive of vulnerable and marginalised groups, and provide equal opportunities for vulnerable groups to participate in and lead risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- Encourage adherence to the *Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability* as well as accepted technical standards, such as *The Sphere Handbook*, *Humanitarian Charter* and *Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*.

Ensure that the needs of potentially vulnerable or marginalised groups are not neglected by investing in both mainstreamed and dedicated protection programming.

UNDERSTANDING VULNERABILITY

Humanitarian crises impact people differently. People are more vulnerable due to poverty, inequality and marginalisation on the basis of gender, gender identity, age, disability, social group, sexual orientation or other identity such as ethnic or religious group. Vulnerable groups are at greater risk of harm and deprivation, and often experience discrimination and inequality in accessing resources and humanitarian assistance. Australia's humanitarian action is designed to address underlying risks and sources of vulnerability, build the resilience of vulnerable groups to crises, and to ensure affected populations have equal access to humanitarian assistance and protection that meets their specific needs.

KEY RESULT 3: LINKAGES BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT RESPONSES ARE STRENGTHENED

Disasters and conflicts are exacerbated by poverty, climate change, demographic changes and urbanisation. The increasingly protracted nature of crises demands new and innovative approaches to better link humanitarian and development assistance in order to address the underlying causes of conflict, displacement and vulnerability, as well as support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Advocate for and support stronger links between development efforts and humanitarian assistance in protracted and slow on-set crises to improve human conditions, alleviate human suffering and build resilience.
- Highlight the mutually reinforcing nature of effective humanitarian action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

OBJECTIVE TWO:

REDUCE DISASTER RISK

The impact of hazards on communities is a direct result of vulnerability related to a range of complex, inter-related factors, such as poverty, environmental degradation, disability and gender inequality. This is likely to be further exacerbated in the future due to climate change, urbanisation, migration and demographic shifts. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation require long-term investments to build national and local capacities to address these underlying vulnerabilities as well as proximate drivers of risk. DRR and climate adaptation protects lives, health, livelihoods and assets, and enables service and business continuity when natural hazards occur. DRR involves putting in place actions and measures to reduce the risk of loss and damage from disasters. DRR safeguards development gains by protecting investments from being impaired or lost. DRR significantly reduces the costs involved in responding to and recovering from disasters. Even the most conservative estimates suggest that \$1 invested into DRR activities saves up to \$15 in response and recovery costs in the aftermath of a disaster.¹²

12 UNISDR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015)

Indications are that \$1 invested into DRR activities can



SAVE UP TO

\$15 on response and recovery in the aftermath of a disaster



CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE HUMANITARIAN IMPLICATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

In December 2015, Australia and 194 other parties adopted the landmark Paris Climate Change Agreement by consensus, which heralded far-reaching commitments to limit global emissions. It called for the mobilisation of support for adaptation in developing countries and efforts to reduce climate related loss and damage. The goals of our DRR efforts will be closely aligned with our climate change adaptation efforts through the shared goal of building resilience to climate-related hazards. Our humanitarian action will be tailored to address both the direct consequences of climate change (e.g. increased number and intensity of climate-related hazards) and the indirect and slow-onset consequences (e.g. food insecurity, desertification, water shortages and submerged coastlines) that lead to forced displacement and represent a risk multiplier for violent conflict and fragility. Accordingly, climate risk will be incorporated into preparedness, response and recovery planning to ensure our readiness to one of the key drivers of future humanitarian crises.

KEY RESULT 1: PARTNER COUNTRIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION ARE SUPPORTED TO MEET THEIR COMMITMENTS TO THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework places primary responsibility for leading DRR efforts on national governments and local authorities, but recognises that it is a shared responsibility with other stakeholders, including community-based organisations, NGOs, international and regional organisations, the private sector, philanthropic foundations and communities themselves. DFAT will focus on strengthening the growing capacity of partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region to meet this commitment.



WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Work with other stakeholders to enable the inclusive, people-centred approaches to DRR advocated by the Sendai Framework.
- Assist partner countries to generate scientific data, map hazards, and better understand risks that will enable them to mobilise domestic resources and tailor approaches to the risk context.¹³
- Promote and invest in nationally-compatible, regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms and help share hazard warning information across all countries.
- Promote and support the integration of DRR into national legislative, policy and planning frameworks of partner governments based on a multi-hazard understanding of disaster risk and evolving drivers, including gender inequality, urbanisation, climate change, natural resources depletion, migration and other demographic shifts.
- Advocate for public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction.

¹³ For example, the Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (approximately \$32 million, 2012-16) is helping fourteen Pacific national meteorological services make seasonal forecasts and use climate science to make information accessible and useful to their governments and communities and support planning in sectors including agriculture, water security and health. This includes: the use of seasonal climate outlooks to prepare for droughts and flooding in Kiribati and the use of weather and climate data to develop predictive information about malaria outbreaks in Solomon Islands for health services.

Australian Aid representatives learning first-hand the processes of rehabilitating a school building to make it more earthquake proof in Nepal, June 2013. Photo: DFAT

BUILDING RESILIENCE

The enduring nature of protracted crises and the recurrent nature of slow onset disasters require different forms of relief and recovery assistance. People affected by these crises require support that enables them to adapt to repeated shocks with less recovery time, to better absorb their impacts when they occur and to bounce back quicker and better afterwards. Building the resilience of women and men in crisis-affected communities builds self-reliance in situations of extreme adversity and lessens the impact of future shocks. To do this, we will invest in measures before, during and after crises to strengthen the resilience of households, communities and essential services as well as build robust early warning systems to prepare people for inevitable shocks.

KEY RESULT 2: AUSTRALIAN AID INVESTMENTS ARE RISK-INFORMED

Integrating DRR and climate risk considerations into aid programming decisions ensures that Australian aid investments create a platform to build disaster resilience but avoids creating or exacerbate vulnerabilities.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Integrate DRR and climate-risk reduction into thematic strategies, such as infrastructure, health, education, social protection and food security for program design and delivery.
- Protect our aid investments by taking disaster risk into consideration throughout the program cycle in order to safeguard development gains and avoid creation of new disaster risks.

SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030

The Sendai Framework aims to achieve a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health, and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. The framework supports focused action within and across sectors by states at local, national, regional and global levels in the following priority areas:

1. Understanding disaster risk.
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.



*Australian supported Resilience and Preparedness toward Inclusive Development (RAPID) workshop with Filipino community leaders on developing simple DRR-related interventions in their local areas, August 2015.
Photo: Kris Guico / Rapid-CCC*



OBJECTIVE THREE:

SUPPORT PREPAREDNESS AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

Australia is located in the most disaster prone region in the world. We support the growing capability and will of national and regional actors to manage disaster response in our region, and are committed to supporting their preparedness efforts. Where requested, DFAT has the capacity to respond rapidly to provide humanitarian assistance tailored to the crisis context. We work closely with partner governments to determine the best way for Australia to assist. Where state capacity is weak or destroyed or a state is an active participant in a conflict, the international community needs to play a greater leadership and coordination role to meet the affected population's needs. We also recognise that globally, human-induced crises are becoming more complex and are resulting in the long-term displacement of civilian populations. We will strengthen our approach to slow-onset and protracted crises and displacement by complementing our humanitarian assistance and protection with investments in longer-term resilience and peace-building.

We work closely with partner governments to determine the best way for Australia to assist.

KEY RESULT 1: PARTNER GOVERNMENTS ARE SUPPORTED TO PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO CRISES EFFECTIVELY

Our focus will be on supporting affected governments in the Indo-Pacific region to prepare for and respond to crises effectively.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Build the capacity of national governments, civil society and local communities to prepare for and respond to disaster. We will focus our efforts on government ministries and departments responsible for disaster management, including government officials and other emergency services, to improve national plans and develop the skills and knowledge of staff and volunteers to respond.
- Support better coordinated regional approaches and operational mechanisms to prepare for and ensure rapid and effective disaster response in situations that exceed national coping capacities.
- Work to reinforce local capacities during a response and ensure they are not marginalised by international actors arriving with their own staff, systems and priorities. We will support national and local authorities to drive coordination where possible.
- Recognise the role women play as first responders to crises and support women's increased leadership in humanitarian decision making.
- Share the Australian Government's own experience, capacity and expertise in managing the multitude of natural hazards faced in Australia – droughts, bushfires, cyclones and floods – that has taught us much about how to better prepare for these events.
- Develop and disseminate procedures to support coordinated action in disaster preparedness and response, and share lessons learned and best practices for policy practice and post-disaster reconstruction.





DFAT staff and humanitarian supplies being transported in Fiji, February 2016. Photo: DFAT

INCREASING IMPACT: CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Cash based transfers are important mechanisms that can empower crisis affected people and catalyse economic activity in the aftermath of a disaster. Cash-based transfers can help close the gap between ever-widening humanitarian needs and available global funding. The Australian Government supports the increased use of cash-based transfers as a humanitarian programming option for relief and early recovery where appropriate, based on case-by-case analysis. DFAT will work with its partners, including the private sector, to consider cash transfer programming as an appropriate humanitarian response option and when relevant, aim to provide cash transfers at scale including by transferring cash via electronic means such as Smart Cards and mobile phones. DFAT will also provide support to countries in our region that are interested in better integrating their social protection systems (which provide regular and predictable cash transfers to vulnerable groups) and humanitarian systems response measures.

KEY RESULT 2: EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO DISASTERS ARE DELIVERED IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Most humanitarian crises in the Indo-Pacific region over the last decade have been the result of disasters. The Indo-Pacific region accounted for a staggering 85 per cent of the world's deaths and 38 per cent of economic losses during 1980–2009, despite being home to 61 per cent of the world's population and generating just one quarter of its gross domestic product.¹⁴ Where the impact of a disaster exceeds a country's capacity to respond, Australia stands ready to assist.

¹⁴ UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2010 – Protecting Development Gains, <www.unescap.org/idd/pubs/Asia-Pacific-Disaster-Report%202010.pdf>, accessed 23 June 2011

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Maintain the capability to respond to humanitarian emergencies within 48 hours of a country's request for assistance, and to respond to simultaneous emergencies in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Provide funds to trusted implementing partners who have local capacity, access, specialist expertise, and demonstrate effective gender and social inclusion programming. This includes the United Nations, Australian Government agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, Australian and international non-government organisations and private sector partners.
- Consider the deployment of humanitarian emergency relief supplies, specialist response teams and logistics support through existing stand-by arrangements (see Annex B for list of stand-by partners).
- Build and support the capacity of Australia's humanitarian partners, including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, international and national non-governmental organisations and United Nations agencies to respond to crises.
- Promote regional protocols to facilitate offers of assistance during and after disasters. Regional organisations, such as the East Asia Summit, Pacific Islands Forum, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, can provide useful links between international humanitarian actors and national governments.
- Support initiatives that strengthen civil-military cooperation and engage in disaster preparedness exercises that include civil and military representatives.
- Coordinate our humanitarian assistance through the FRANZ Arrangement between France, Australia and New Zealand supporting international response to disasters in the Asia-Pacific.

Maintain the capability to respond to humanitarian emergencies within 48 hours of a country's request for assistance, and to respond to simultaneous emergencies in the Indo-Pacific region.

HOW AUSTRALIA DETERMINES ITS HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO A CRISIS

In determining Australia's response to a humanitarian crisis, we consider:

- the needs of the affected population, including gender and protection considerations
- the scale of the disaster and affected government response capacities, circumstances and preferences, including whether a request for assistance has been made
- Australia's national interest and capacity, including where our resources will be most efficiently and effectively deployed
- funding and plans of other donors
- the capacity and activities of humanitarian partners on the ground
- geographic location – Australia is committed to supporting our near neighbours, while continuing to be responsive to humanitarian requests globally
- Good Humanitarian Donorship principles, Including delivering predictable, flexible, diversified and longer-term funding arrangements with limited earmarking and ensuring our support is conducive to recovery and development
- the principles and approaches we advocate internationally
- the lessons learned by us and our partners in previous responses.

Within this framework, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability systems, connectedness, risk management and alignment with thematic priorities are our primary considerations in determining how to respond.

DFAT Crisis Response Team in Vanuatu following Tropical Cyclone Pam, April 2015. Photo: DFAT



KEY RESULT 3: CONFLICT-AFFECTED AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS ARE PROTECTED AND ASSISTED

Eighty per cent of global humanitarian assistance is delivered in conflict-affected countries.¹⁵ Conflict-affected and displaced populations require support to meet their basic needs for survival and protection, as well as the means to rebuild damaged economies, livelihoods and critical infrastructure.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Improve awareness of and promote compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law.
- Advocate for and support protection of civilians, atrocity prevention, and safety and security of humanitarian personnel in situations of armed conflict.
- Prioritise humanitarian action that protects civilians from serious harm, including violence, exploitation, coercion and deliberate deprivation.
- Partner with effective multilateral, private sector and non-government organisations that can effectively access affected communities, provide impartial assistance, demonstrate results in protection and social inclusion, and extend our global reach.
- Identify opportunities to work more closely with non-traditional partners and emerging economy donors who may have greater ability to gain access and meet humanitarian needs in conflict-affected situations.¹⁶

¹⁵ ALNAP, The State of the Humanitarian System 2015 p.7

¹⁶ Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability, June 2014, page 4.



Identify opportunities to work more closely with non-traditional partners and emerging economy donors who may have greater ability to gain access and meet humanitarian needs in conflict-affected situations.

PROTECTION IS ESSENTIAL TO EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Violations of human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law can be extensive during crises and horrendous for those affected and their families. Conflicts are increasingly characterised by blatant violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, such as the deliberate attacks on civilians – including humanitarian aid workers – and the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war. Disasters can also result in serious protection issues, such as lack of safety and security, unequal access to assistance, forced displacement, abuse and exploitation of children, and increased gender-based violence. Protection involves interventions to stop abuses, prevention of further abuses and the creation of an environment which respects basic human rights. People's need for safety can be as fundamental as their need for food, clean water or shelter. Humanitarian assistance delivered in the absence of people's safety and security can mean that assistance has a limited or even detrimental effect.

Red Cross and DFAT providing Relief to people devastated by Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu, March 2015. Photo: Hanna Butler /NZ Red Cross



Red Cross Red Crescent is providing aid to 4.5 million people every month in Syria, March 2015. Photo: Ibrahim Malla / IFRC

KEY RESULT 4: BUILD RESILIENCE IN PROTRACTED AND SLOW-ONSET CRISES

Over 350 million people are affected by protracted crises, in which a significant proportion of the population is chronically vulnerable to death, disease and disruption of livelihoods over a prolonged period of time.¹⁷ Responding to protracted crises requires investments in humanitarian assistance and protection, while also building the resilience of communities to future shocks. In contrast to sudden-onset events such as earthquakes or tsunamis, slow-onset emergencies such as drought emerge gradually and may be the result of a number of different events. The impact of these crises can be mitigated by early responses which reduce human suffering and prevent vulnerability to future crises.¹⁸

17 FAO *Building Resilience in protracted Crises and Natural Disasters* p.1

18 OCHA *OCHA and slow-onset emergencies* p.3

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Continue to improve the coherence between DFAT's diplomatic, development and humanitarian responses to protracted and slow-onset crises, including by deploying funding mechanisms that target both humanitarian and longer-term development needs.
- Take timely action to mitigate the impact of slow-onset crises, particularly in our region.
- Investigate options to extend existing social protection mechanisms in partner countries, and consider whether cash transfers in emergencies can lay the groundwork for long-term social protection mechanisms where they do not already exist.
- Prioritise support for education in protracted crises, recognising the long-term social and economic risks for children denied access to education.
- Provide core, un-earmarked funding to humanitarian actors to respond to unforeseen spikes and unmet needs in humanitarian situations across the globe.

OBJECTIVE FOUR:

ENABLE EARLY RECOVERY

DFAT recognises the importance of early recovery assistance to support the transition from humanitarian relief to longer-term recovery and development. Early recovery activities focus on establishing the foundations for longer term post-crisis recovery and are informed by rapid assessments in agreed priority areas. We will ensure gender equality and social inclusion in our approach to early recovery.

KEY RESULT 1: ACCELERATE THE TRAJECTORY OF RECOVERY

The sooner work on early recovery begins the shorter and more effective the post-crisis recovery process is likely to be. Early recovery investments should help localise a post-crisis response by empowering local actors, including women and children, people with disabilities and other marginalised and vulnerable groups, and by supporting the local private sector, particularly small to medium enterprises, to recover.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Prioritise the restoration of basic services (health, education and infrastructure): for example, funding temporary schooling to get children back into learning (to provide a safe space for children and promote a rapid return to normality).
- Support the resuscitation of markets and livelihoods: for example through cash-based transfers that catalyse economic activity, stimulate local markets and empower affected populations to “get back to work”.
- Support protection measures: for example, the provision of transitional shelter to vulnerable groups to reduce the risk of exposure to violence, exploitation and abuse.

KEY RESULT 2: INCORPORATE THE “BUILD BACK BETTER” PRINCIPLE INTO RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

The recovery and reconstruction phase is also a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, in order to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and other shocks in the future.

Early recovery activities focus on establishing the foundations for longer term post-crisis recovery and are informed by rapid assessments in agreed priority areas.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Work with partner governments to ensure that post disaster and crisis activities result in greater resilience, both physically and institutionally. For example, by constructing more disaster and climate-resilient and accessible buildings, and by raising public awareness about the dangers of unsafe buildings and locations.
- Advocate for Early Recovery and Build Back Better principles within humanitarian responses, including through diplomatic engagement and advocacy at country, regional and international level.
- Build greater flexibility into DFAT’s country aid programs to allow them to refocus and accommodate early recovery activities if required, particularly in disaster, climate and conflict prone countries.
- Support partner governments and local actors to prepare recovery and reconstruction policies, and strengthen coordination and funding mechanisms before the next crisis.



The Australian Medical Assistance Team being deployed to the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan, November 2013.

KEY RESULT 3: ENSURE TIMELY ACCESS TO TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ASSISTANCE

Early recovery activities should be implemented in parallel with humanitarian relief operations, which prioritise lifesaving interventions. Technical expertise and resources can ensure that the transition from humanitarian response to recovery is as quick and effective as possible.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Maintain and strengthen our ability to deploy specialist personnel and teams, including whole of government personnel and pre-selected Australian Civilian Corps (ACC) specialists, with the expertise to support partner governments and affected communities to promote early recovery.
- Work to put in place standing arrangements with host states and select partner organisations to facilitate the rapid deployment of our personnel in response to a disaster or crisis.

AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN CORPS

Through the ACC, DFAT manages a register of civilian specialists – with experience in recovery and stabilisation – who provide preventative and post-crisis support across the Indo-Pacific. A recent example of the ACC in operation was Australia’s humanitarian assistance to Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu.

For almost two years prior to Tropical Cyclone Pam, DFAT embedded an ACC Disaster Management Specialist in Vanuatu’s National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to strengthen the NDMO’s ability to prepare for and respond to natural hazards.

When Tropical Cyclone Pam hit, the ACC specialist provided a critical operational link between the Government of Vanuatu and international donors, and helped facilitate Australia’s humanitarian and consular response, including deploying six additional ACC specialists for post-disaster recovery. The ACC deployees positioned with the National Disaster Management Office, were able to act early and respond to the disaster, ultimately saving lives.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

DFAT's approach to delivering on its humanitarian strategic objectives is informed by thematic priorities that are central to the efficacy of all Australian aid. These thematic priorities will be integrated throughout the design, implementation and evaluation of DFAT's humanitarian policy and programming.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women, girls, boys and men experience crises differently: they have different needs, responsibilities and capabilities. When humanitarian action does not take into account the differences between these groups, it results in unequal access to humanitarian relief; inappropriate goods and

services being provided; increased rates of sexual and gender based violence; and inadequate engagement of women, girls and boys in program design and delivery. This undermines the ability of women, men, girls and boys to exercise their rights and be active partners in humanitarian action. The empowerment of women and girls is a priority in the Government's aid policy, which also requires more than 80 per cent of investments to effectively address gender issues.

Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja, visits a school in Kenya where Australia has funded a school feeding program through the World Food Programme, August 2015. Photo: DFAT





DFAT-funded SPRINT Initiative providing sexual and reproductive health services to women, men and children in Fiji, March 2016. Photo: SPRINT Initiative

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Undertake gender analysis at the design stage of humanitarian activities, including engaging women in decision making on priorities and resource allocations, and ensure this analysis is used to inform programming, implementation and evaluation.
- Support the active participation of gender and age groups in disaster response, and increase the disaggregation of data by sex and age, so we can better plan for and understand the impacts of humanitarian assistance.
- Ensure that women are well represented in leadership roles, decision making, planning and evaluation at all levels. Support capacity building of women's leadership and address underlying barriers to participation.
- Ensure women have equal access to the benefits of humanitarian assistance, including investments in early recovery and disaster risk reduction, and support women to achieve long-term economic empowerment and access to livelihoods.
- Prioritise the protection and empowerment of women and girls to prevent and respond to gender based violence.
- Promote international good practice and ensure partners implement and report against the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Gender Marker and use the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health at the onset of a humanitarian emergency.

The empowerment of women and girls is a priority in the Government's aid policy, which also requires more than 80 per cent of investments effectively address gender issues.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH) AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Australia provides funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support lifesaving birthing and reproductive health services, and gender-based violence prevention and response. The program prepositions reproductive health items, including clean delivery and dignity kits, in key countries in the Indo-Pacific region (the Philippines, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Fiji) that are at high risk of disaster to allow for rapid distribution to populations in need.



Australian Aid volunteers in Indonesia, Eban Pollard and Antoni Tsaputra discussing plans for a Disability-Inclusive DRR strategy, August 2014. Photo: DFAT

DISABILITY INCLUSIVENESS

According to the World Health Organization, 15 per cent of any population are estimated to be living with a disability. Disasters and conflict can increase the prevalence of disability, and create additional barriers in the physical environment.¹⁹ Of the estimated one billion people living throughout the world with a disability, 80 per cent live in developing countries where they are disproportionately represented among the most disadvantaged.²⁰ Due to stigma, discrimination and inaccessibility, people (particularly women and girls) with disabilities are less likely to access basic services or humanitarian assistance. The lack of access to vital services and programs contributes to their marginalisation and exclusion, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and human rights abuse. An inclusive approach that makes people with a diverse range of disabilities active participants in planning, design and implementation can empower people with disabilities to access to humanitarian assistance on an equal basis with others.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Ensure all humanitarian, disaster risk reduction and early recovery assistance under the aid program is designed and implemented in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia’s aid program, and DFAT’s Accessibility Design Guide: Universal Design Principles for Australia’s Aid Program.
- Fund programs that protect and empower people with disabilities in times of crisis.



TOTALING APPROX 1 BILLION WORLD WIDE 

PROTECTION

Protection aims to assure the safety of people from serious harm. This includes protection from violence, such as killing, wounding, torture, cruel and inhumane treatment, protection from exploitation and coercion, and protection from deliberate deprivation, such as denial to medical care, food, shelter or water. Protecting the rights and dignity of people affected by a crisis is an essential component of Australia’s humanitarian action and advocacy, as contained in DFAT’s *Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework*.

¹⁹ World Health Organisation World Health Report 2011 available at www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/chapter2.pdf

²⁰ Ibid.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Prioritise the safety and dignity of affected populations in line with internationally accepted standards, and ensure protection is mainstreamed into all of the humanitarian action which DFAT funds.
- Ensure humanitarian programs are designed and implemented based on analysis that identifies the different threats women, girls, boys, men and people with a disability are exposed to, understands their vulnerabilities and supports the strategies they use to protect themselves.
- In accordance with the *Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework*, fund dedicated protection programs that protect and empower people with disabilities, prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and improve the accountability of humanitarian action to affected populations.
- Avoid exposing people to further harm, including from aid workers themselves, and adapt programming to enhance people's safety.
- Provide core funding to mandated protection agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Respond to protection issues by coordinating with organisations that have the appropriate expertise.
- Ensure all programming complies with DFAT's Child Protection Policy 2013 and its nine compliance standards, and considers risks to children in program design.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Private sector engagement offers opportunities to inject new and additional expertise, ways of working and resources into the humanitarian system. Humanitarian agencies need to consider what can be learnt from the private sector to drive internal operational efficiencies and to achieve better humanitarian outcomes. DFAT will find ways to encourage greater investment by businesses in disaster prone and crisis-affected regions to promote resilience through economic activity, access to services and risk mitigation, and to draw on the significant additional capacity offered by private sector partners.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Increase and strengthen our engagement with the private sector in support of humanitarian outcomes.
- Identify where private sector expertise can be more effectively utilised within the international humanitarian system.

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

In 2012, the World Food Programme (WFP) and MasterCard entered into a partnership to deliver innovative solutions to end hunger. The partnership links MasterCard's expertise in technology and payment systems to WFP's expertise in delivering food assistance. The partnership has two elements – first, the use of e-cards to enable refugees and other vulnerable people access the food they need from local markets, rather than relying on food distributions. The second element is MasterCard's use of its marketing and commercial network to raise awareness and funds for the WFP.

The UNHCR entered into a private sector partnership with clothing retailer Fast Retailing in 2015 to provide US\$10 million in funds and winter clothing for refugees over three years. The company is also providing internships with future employment opportunities to one hundred refugees.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

DFAT strives to be accountable and to continually learn from our actions and improve the quality of our work.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for Australian humanitarian action.
- Undertake and commission quality After Action Reviews of DFAT's own humanitarian responses.
- Require our humanitarian partners to undertake in-depth monitoring and evaluation of their activities and provide meaningful performance information to all their stakeholders.
- Systematically integrate lessons learned into future humanitarian responses.
- Provide support for accountability and learning initiatives to enable continued improvement of the global humanitarian system.
- Commit to high standards of transparency in the management of the Australian aid program.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Investment Priority

Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection

Goal - Save lives, alleviate suffering and enhance human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters and other humanitarian crises, as well as reduce risks from and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

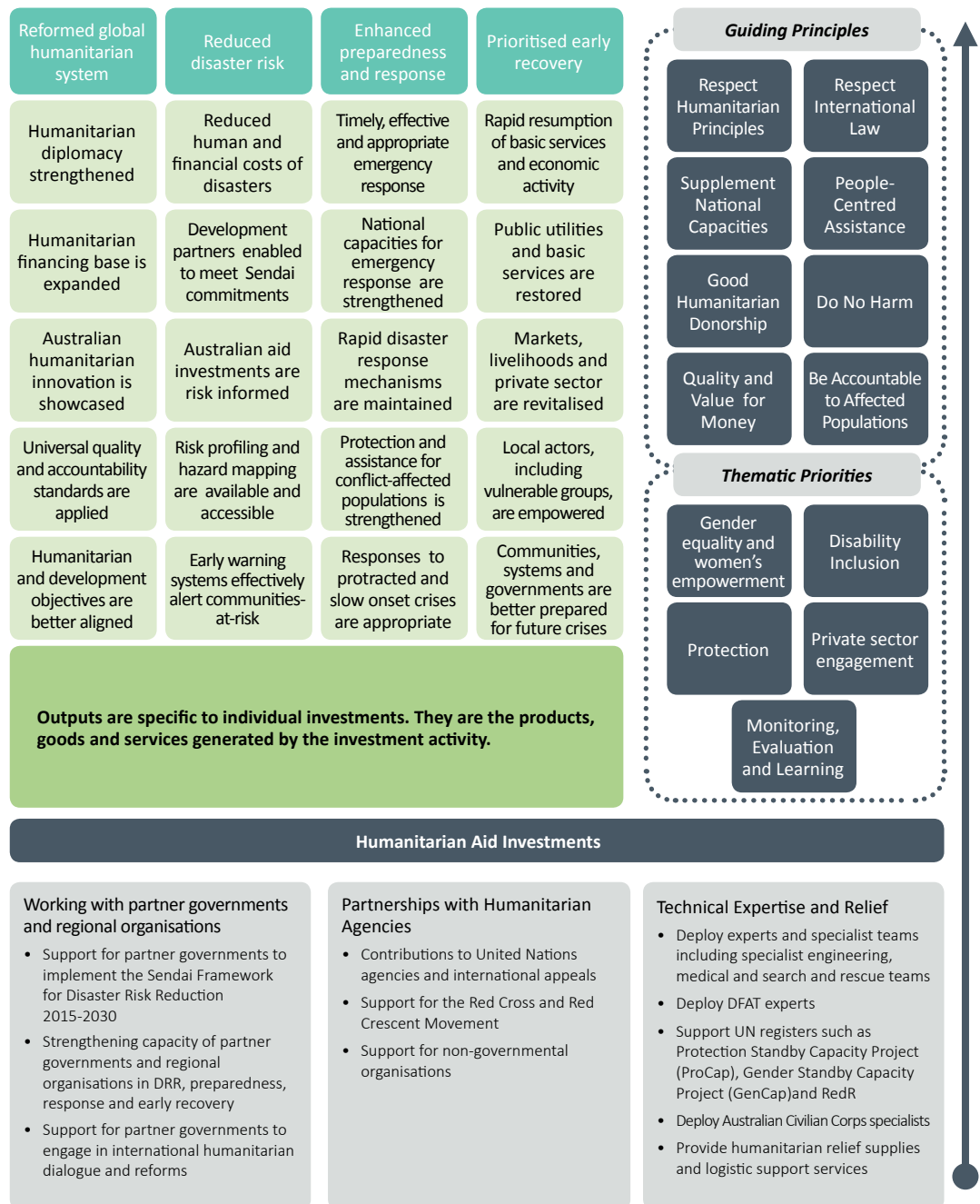
Strategic Objectives

Impacts

Outcomes

Outputs

Australian Aid Investments



MAKING PERFORMANCE COUNT

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF THE HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

DFAT, in coordination with other relevant Australian Government agencies, will monitor the overall performance of the aid program to maximise outcomes.

WHAT WE WILL DO:

- Assess the breadth, depth and effectiveness of our work across the aid program, identifying lessons learned and examples of good practice.
- Review annually the performance of the aid program's overall portfolio of investments in the humanitarian and disaster risk reduction sectors, based on existing performance information. The outcome of this review will be publically reported in the annual *Performance of Australian Aid* report.
- Require all data submitted by partners to be disaggregated by sex, age and disability to ensure we can assess the gender equality and social inclusion dimensions of our responses.

DFAT, in coordination with other relevant Australian Government agencies, will monitor the overall performance of the aid program to maximise outcomes.

TO INFORM THIS ASSESSMENT, WE WILL COLLECT AND ANALYSE INFORMATION FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES INCLUDING:

- Aggregate Development Results (ADRs) to deliver quantitative analysis of the number of instances of life saving assistance delivered by the Australian aid program.
- Annual Aid Quality Checks (AQC) and Humanitarian Response Aid Quality Checks (HAQCs) of country and regional aid investments to understand progress, achievements and trends across the portfolio.
- Annual Program Performance Reports (APPRs) to assess humanitarian strategies and investments in country and regional programs.
- Findings from evaluations of humanitarian investments commissioned by DFAT or our partners.
- Findings from After Action Reviews of DFAT's humanitarian response processes.
- Data on funding of humanitarian investments and how and where this is being spent.
- Feedback from humanitarian partners and key stakeholders, including humanitarian organisations, other donors, partner governments and affected populations, on Australia's progress and commitments under the strategy.
- Annual Partner Performance Assessments (PPAs) and Multilateral Performance Assessments (MPAs).
- In depth reviews and analysis of emerging trends and opportunities will inform future investment decisions and Aid Investment Plans (AIPs), and assist to ensure knowledge management throughout our work.



Australian Aid response to Myanmar floods, September 2015. Photo: Boothee Thaik Htun / DFAT

RISK MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDS

Australia's development policy *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability* commits DFAT to manage risks to people and their environment by actively applying mandatory safeguards policies. DFAT safeguards policies for child protection, displacement and resettlement, and environmental protection apply to all aid activities. The safeguard policies are designed to ensure potential adverse social and environmental impacts are identified and adequately addressed. These policies are an important part of DFAT's risk management approach and ensure that Australia's assistance does no harm.

APPENDIX A: DFAT'S PARTNERS IN THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR - WHO WE WORK WITH

DFAT's humanitarian partnerships are based on mutual commitments to deliver timely humanitarian responses to the most vulnerable and improve the quality of the humanitarian system, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific.

PARTNER	ROLE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
Local communities	<p>Local communities are the first to respond to a humanitarian crisis, often providing the most immediate, effective and sustainable assistance to save lives and begin recovery.</p> <p>Australia supports local communities through our implementing partners who deliver humanitarian action in support of these communities.</p>
The affected country and regional organisations	<p>The government of the affected country holds primary responsibility for assisting and protecting all people within their borders during crises. When a government's capacity is overwhelmed, it can request international humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>Australia works with affected governments and regional bodies to build local capacities. We support national leadership of a crisis response or, where a government cannot lead, we support its priorities. Where the government is weak, non-responsive to need, or is an active participant in conflict that is generating the humanitarian crisis, Australia may work with our other humanitarian partners to determine priorities that guide our assistance.</p>
United Nations	<p>The collective resources, global reach, expertise and internationally agreed mandates of a range of United Nations humanitarian organisations make them important partners in a crisis.</p> <p>Australia promotes and supports the leadership, coordination (both through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the cluster system) and delivery role of the United Nations through a range of its agencies such as the World Food Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Health Organization.</p>
International Financial Institutions	<p>The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) helps developing countries to better understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to natural hazards, and adapt to climate change through grant financing, technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing activities to mainstream disaster and climate risk management in policies and strategies. GFDRR is a global partnership managed by the World Bank, and supported by some 34 countries and nine international organisations. Australia is a member of the Consultative Group of GFDRR.</p>

PARTNER	ROLE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	<p>The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) comprises the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Federation) national societies in 190 countries and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The Movement is valued for its neutrality, impartiality and independence, its commitment to international humanitarian law, and its unparalleled access during times of conflict and other situations of violence.</p> <p>Each component of the Movement plays a distinctive role. Based on its international mandate, the ICRC protects and assists those affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. The Federation regularly leads the Movement’s relief response in situations of natural disasters occurring outside of conflicts and strengthens national society capacity. National societies, such as the Australian Red Cross, are independent national relief organisations that can act as auxiliaries to the public authorities in humanitarian action, providing relief and support to vulnerable people during emergencies, conflict and peace time.</p> <p>Australia supports the work of the Movement to assist and protect those affected by natural disaster, conflict and other situations of violence. In Australia, DFAT has an agreement with the Australian Red Cross that supports disaster preparedness, crisis response, community resilience and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.</p>
Non-government organisations	<p>Non-government organisations play a key role in delivering humanitarian action, and in mobilising public support and voluntary contributions for emergency assistance. These organisations, especially local ones, often have strong links with community groups in developing countries. Working directly in-country or with national and international partners, they are a vital source of technical advice, material assistance and personnel, and an effective channel for rapid support to crisis-affected populations.</p> <p>Australia works closely with pre-selected non-government organisations as key partners in our humanitarian action program.</p>
Donors and other countries	<p>Donors play a vital role in influencing humanitarian action through funding decisions and policy dialogue.</p> <p>Australia works with donors and other countries to influence the international humanitarian agenda, for example through United Nations General Assembly resolutions. We also work with other donors to coordinate our humanitarian action to reduce duplication and gaps, and to strengthen the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian financing, such as through membership of the <i>Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship</i>.</p>
Private sector	<p>The private sector is increasingly involved in providing humanitarian assistance, offering innovative solutions to humanitarian problems.</p> <p>Australia may contract the private sector as a supplier in humanitarian response, often for logistics and procurement services.</p>

APPENDIX B: STAND-BY PERSONNEL FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

ROSTER/SOURCE	STAFFED BY	PURPOSE	MANAGED BY
DFAT Crisis Response Team	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Provides coordinated, whole-of-government humanitarian response operations, diplomatic and consular services, and may also help to evacuate Australians from the affected country.	DFAT
Australian Civilian Corps	Australian specialists	Deploys specialists to countries experiencing or emerging from disaster or armed conflict in the stabilisation, recovery and development planning phases.	DFAT
Australian Defence Force	Australian Defence Force	Deploys military capabilities, including personnel, logistics, medical capability and transport. Evacuation and protection abilities as required.	Australian Defence Force
Australian Federal Police	Australian Federal Police	Provides disaster victim identification and other policing services.	Australian Federal Police
States and territories	State and territory government specialists	Provides technical support including medical, engineering, search and rescue, and information communication technology.	States and territories with deployments coordinated by Emergency Management Australia and the Department of Health and Ageing (medical assistance) with states and territories

ROSTER/SOURCE	STAFFED BY	PURPOSE	MANAGED BY
RedR Australia	Humanitarian specialists	RedR Australia deploys specialists to support United Nations partner agencies.	RedR Australia (funded by DFAT)
Australian Red Cross Humanitarian Action	Specialist aid workers	Deploys specialists and/or relief equipment and supplies globally to assist in disaster response and recovery, and in complex emergencies. Aid workers may be deployed directly by the Australian Red Cross, via the ICRC or the Federation.	Australian Red Cross
Non-government organisations	Humanitarian specialists	Deploy specialists globally to assist in response and recovery phases.	Non-government organisations
United Nations registers and standby arrangements	Australian humanitarian and protection response specialists	Australian members of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination team can be deployed to support the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in crisis response. Sectoral specific registers such as the Protection Standby Capacity (ProCap) and Gender Standby Capacity (GenCap) can provide experts on short notice.	DFAT in conjunction with OCHA

APPENDIX C: SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Humanitarian Strategy articulates how DFAT will ensure Australia's humanitarian investments and policy engagement aligns with and supports the Government's aid policy and broader economic diplomacy and conflict prevention efforts. The Strategy also serves as a guide to other Australian Government agencies delivering Official Development Assistance in these sectors. More detailed policy and operational notes will guide implementation of this Strategy. This document should also be read in conjunction with other DFAT aid strategies in related sectoral and thematic areas, including:

- Aid effectiveness: The Government's commitments to improving the impact and accountability of Australian aid are outlined in Australia's development policy, *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*, and accompanying performance framework, *Making performance count: enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of Australian aid*.
- More broadly, Australia's approach to aid aligns with international aid effectiveness principles, including those outlined in the *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2011)*, the *Accra Agenda for Action (2008)*, and the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005)*.
- DFAT's *Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework* for the Australian aid program (2013).
- DFAT's *Promoting opportunities for all: Gender equality and women's empowerment strategy* (2011).
- DFAT's *Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program* (2015).
- DFAT's *Child Protection Policy* (2013).
- DFAT's *Strategy for Australia's aid investment in social protection* (2015).
- *Same Space - Different Mandates – A Civil-Military Guide to Australian Stakeholders in International Disaster and Conflict Response*, Australian Civil-Military Centre (2012).

