



# AUSTRALIA

## Disaster Management Reference Handbook

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# Disclaimer

This report has been prepared in good faith based primarily on information gathered from open-source material available at the date of publication. Most of the information used was from United States (U.S.) or other government sources and is thus considered to be in the public domain. Such sources include the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Fact Book, U.S. Department of State (DOS), and foreign government's web pages. Where possible, a link to the original electronic source is provided in the endnote (reference) section at the end of the document. Other sources used include Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) home pages, Relief Web, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) or other United Nations (UN) agency web pages, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank (ADB). While making every attempt to ensure the information is relevant and accurate, the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information in this publication. Australia is currently conducting a whole of government review of this handbook. Any necessary updates will be incorporated in a future version.

# Welcome - Note from the Director

Dear Reader,

The CFE-DM has a mandate to provide and facilitate education, training, and research in civil-military operations, particularly for international disaster management and humanitarian assistance that require coordination between the Department of Defense (DOD) and other agencies. In line with this mandate, CFE-DM has conducted research to create reference books on disaster management roles, processes, capabilities and vulnerabilities. This Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series is designed to provide decision makers, planners and responders a basic understanding of regional disaster management plans and structures, including information on key domestic disaster response entities, basic regional background, and local and international humanitarian organizations present in the region. CFE-DM produces country and regional reference books to provide a commonly available baseline of information regarding disaster management environments. Many places in the Pacific Basin are subject to a variety of disasters including floods, droughts, and landslides, and these handbooks provide a context for regional-specific factors that influence disaster management.

Each handbook is a working document and will be updated periodically as new, significant information becomes available. We hope that you find these handbooks informative, relevant, reliable, and useful in understanding disaster management and response for this country. We welcome and appreciate your feedback to improve this document and help fill any gaps to enhance its future utility. Feedback, comments, or questions can be emailed to [cfe-dmha.fct@pacom.mil](mailto:cfe-dmha.fct@pacom.mil). You may also contact the Center for Excellence at: (808) 472-0518. Please visit our website (<https://www.cfe-dmha.org>) to view the latest electronic versions available or to request a hard copy of a disaster management reference handbook.



Sincerely,

Col Joseph D. Martin  
Director

# Information about the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

## Overview

The CFE-DM is a U.S. DOD organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Pacific Command and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

CFE-DM was founded due to a worldwide need based on lessons learned in complex humanitarian emergencies and disaster response operations in the early 1990s. The need was for integrated education, training, applied research, and civil-military coordination across the disaster management spectrum. While maintaining a global mandate, the Asia-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice.

## Our Mission

The Center's mission is to advise U.S. Pacific Command leaders; enable focused engagements, education and training; and increase knowledge of best practices and information to enhance U.S. and international civil-military preparedness for disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

## Vision

CFE-DM exists to save lives and alleviate human suffering by connecting people, improving coordination and building capacity.

## Contact Information

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# Foreward

This guide serves as an initial source of information for those individuals preparing for disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities or immediate deployment with Australian partner responders in crisis. It includes references provided by the Australian Government as well as open source material. Additionally, it highlights the important role Australia plays in preparing for, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from a natural or man-made disaster in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. This disaster management reference handbook also provides decision makers, planners, responders and disaster management practitioners greater insight into Australian Disaster Management (DM) capabilities, thereby enhancing regional civil-military response. Discussion includes key areas such as the Australian organizational structure for domestic and foreign disaster management, international DM agreements, regional training programs and exercise support. An in-depth understanding of Australia's and other partner nation capabilities improves collaboration before, during and after a disaster response. Therefore, this handbook focuses on strengthening partnerships and is not an assessment of Australia's capabilities.

# Executive Summary

Australia is a key player in disaster management and humanitarian assistance (DMHA) efforts in the Pacific Island region. They are a primary international partner providing assistance for response and recovery efforts in response to natural disasters. This includes disaster assistance during the most recent disasters, Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu (2015) and Cyclone Winston in Fiji (2016). These efforts are facilitated by international agreements such as the France, Australia, New Zealand (FRANZ) agreement and the Five Power Defence Arrangement with New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. Membership in international organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum and East Asia Summit (EAS) contributes to preparedness, prevention, response and mitigation efforts among Pacific Island nations. Furthermore, bilateral arrangements with the U.S. and New Zealand further enhance common interests on both the regional and international stage.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is the institution which builds and maintains emergency response capacities with whole-of-government and international partners, ensuring emergency relief supplies and standby arrangements are in place to deliver humanitarian responses. Additionally, other organizations such as the Australia Defence Force (ADF) and the Australian Medical Assistance Team (AusMAT) are critical providers of logistics and medical support during domestic and international disasters. Australia also has a Search and Rescue (SAR) capability, which has provided assistance during international and domestic missions.

Australia is an essential participant in regional exercises such as Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), Balikatan, and Pacific Partnership. These activities strengthen international partnerships when responding to natural and man-made hazards. Talisman Saber, a biennial exercise between Australia and the U.S., prepares both militaries for crisis action planning and execution of contingency operations. Australia has also become a leader in promoting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Detailed domestic and international plans have been developed to integrate gender perspectives into natural, man-made, and technological hazards.

Australia's domestic plans, policies, agreements, and strategies reflect a cooperative effort for Australia to withstand and recover from the effects of all potential hazards. This includes close collaboration between civil and military entities. This cooperation enhances domestic response to internal hazards such as bushfires, droughts, cyclones, and other disasters.

The U.S. and Australia are important strategic partners. Australia has sought to broaden and deepen their alliance with the U.S., by supporting its critical role in underpinning security in the Indo-Pacific region through the continued rebalance of U.S. military forces. This shared commitment has become even more important with growing interconnectivity, which means that events across the world have the potential to affect Australia's security and prosperity. The Australian Government is making practical and effective military contributions to global security operations to maintain the rules-based order and address shared security challenges where it is in their interest to do so.<sup>1</sup>



# AUSTRALIA

## Regional Overview

# Regional Overview

The area surrounding Australia is the most disaster prone region in the world. It is highly vulnerable to tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, tropical cyclones, drought, volcanic eruptions and other hazards. Over 85% of people killed or affected by disasters in the last decade have been from the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and

more severe.<sup>2</sup> The effects of climate change are expected to change the frequency, severity and unpredictability of weather related events across the region, increasing the intensity of the hazards; impacts are likely to affect global stability, health, resources and infrastructure. Many of these Pacific Island Countries in this area are vulnerable to disasters; they rely on external assistance for disaster aid.<sup>3</sup>

Pacific Island Countries are some of Australia's most important development partners, reflecting Australia's geographic position, historic relationship and special responsibilities in the region. Australia's interest in the stability and development of Pacific Island Countries is toward greater regional prosperity and reducing the growing threat from various hazards including environmental vulnerability and climate related changes. Australia is well positioned to respond, and to promote disaster risk reduction and preparedness to strengthen their ability to manage and respond to crises.<sup>4</sup>

The Indo-Asia-Pacific Region is depicted in Figure 1.<sup>5</sup> This includes independent, dependent, and associated states.<sup>6</sup> The Australian Government has invested in a range of disaster risk reduction activities at the regional, bilateral and community level in over 30 countries, including:<sup>7</sup>

- **Strengthening international leadership and collaboration**, including support for



Figure 1: Map of the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region

the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)'s Asia-Pacific program and the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, which is focused on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in developing countries;

- **Funding key regional initiatives**, such as the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, South Pacific regional organizations, ASEAN's disaster preparedness through the Australia Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction to support implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management & Emergency Response, and the operations of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre);<sup>8</sup>
- **Strengthening partner government agencies**, including national disaster management offices to prepare for and mitigate disasters and technical agencies to map risks from hazards such as typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes; and
- **Supporting community-based activities** such as preparedness programs to improve local response and recovery, to protect against the loss of livelihoods and mitigate potential hazards.



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# AUSTRALIA

## International Framework

Australia Disaster Management Reference Handbook | 2016

# International Framework

## Guiding Principles (Civil-Military)

Australia’s civil-military approach to conflict and disaster management derives from six guiding principles. These guiding principles help direct the work priorities of departments and agencies, and impact positively on decision making. Commitment to these guiding principles enables a civil-military culture of engagement for conflict and disaster management based on trust and mutual respect. The principles assist leadership and promote coordination and cooperation for the achievement of common national objectives. The principles are:

- Employ a collaborative and flexible approach;
- Leverage organizational and cultural diversity;
- Strengthen proactive multiagency engagement;
- Promote a shared understanding;
- Deliver comprehensive outcomes; and
- Commit to continuous improvement.

Adherence to the principles helps departments and agencies to maintain unity of purpose and economy of effort, while assisting international partners in understanding Australia’s approach. The principles apply throughout conflict and disaster management: preparedness; prevention and/or mitigation; response; and recovery and development (Figure 2).<sup>9</sup>

A comprehensive multiagency approach is essential to effective and efficient performance in crisis response, with departments and agencies committed to synchronizing civil-military collaboration and strengthening the link between strategic decision making and operational implementation. The effectiveness of Australia’s operational response to conflicts and disasters is related to the level of preparedness.

There are challenges in responding to disasters because the civil and military actors are frequently required to share the same physical and humanitarian space. This requires an understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities, lines of authority and mutual functions for coordination, as well as the ‘no-go’

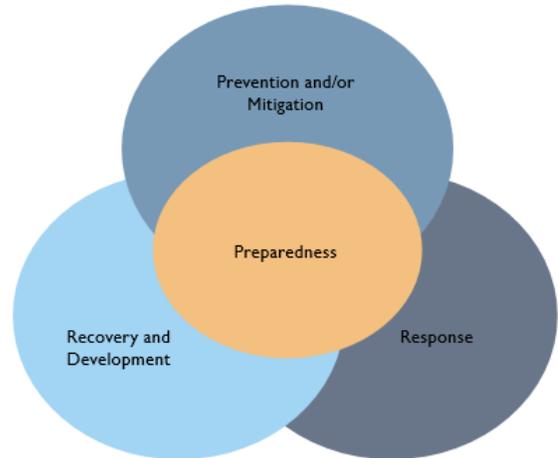


Figure 2: Spectrum of Conflict and Disaster Management

areas for collaboration. The activities outlined in Figure 3 reflects the understanding and resources required to implement disaster management strategies effectively for Australia.<sup>10</sup>

## Partnerships, Agreements, and Memberships

Australia has produced numerous policies, frameworks and arrangements, and has signed several bilateral and multilateral agreements with its partners and stakeholders in disaster response.<sup>11</sup>

### Bilateral Partnerships

Australia regularly responds to disasters abroad. Maintaining strong bilateral partnerships with disaster management agencies from key partner countries enables the Australian Attorney-General’s Department to continually improve emergency management capabilities, learn and share lessons learned from events, strengthen policy responses to disaster trends, and ensure working relationships exist with partners to enable collaborative response when needed. The department’s formal working relationships on emergency management cooperation include arrangements with:

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency) under a 2015 Memorandum of Understanding on Emergency Management Cooperation;



The U.S.-Australia alliance is an anchor for peace and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and around the world. The U.S. and Australia share an interest in maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, including in the South China Sea. The U.S. and Australia also work closely in Afghanistan and Iraq, and cooperate closely on efforts to degrade and defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and address the challenges of foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism. The U.S. and Australia attach high priority to controlling and eliminating chemical weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and anti-personnel landmines. In addition to AUSMIN consultations, Australia and the U.S. engage in a trilateral security dialogue with Japan. The U.S. and Australia have signed tax and defense trade cooperation treaties, as well as agreements on science and technology, emergency management cooperation, and social security. Furthermore, they also have concluded a mutual legal assistance treaty to enhance bilateral cooperation on legal and counter-narcotics issues. In addition, a number of U.S. institutions conduct cooperative scientific activities in Australia.

U.S. exports to Australia include machinery, vehicles, optic and medical instruments, aircraft, and agricultural products. U.S. imports from Australia include precious stones/metals, agricultural products, and optic and medical instruments. The U.S. is by far the largest foreign investor in Australia, accounting for over a quarter of its foreign investments. The 2005 Australia-U.S. Free Trade Agreement has nearly doubled U.S. goods trade and increased U.S. services trade by more than 122%. The two countries share a commitment to liberalizing global trade, and work closely in the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The U.S. and Australia concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations to establish a trade agreement between twelve countries in the Asia-Pacific. As founding members of the Equal Futures Partnership, both countries collaborate to expand economic opportunities for women and increase women's participation in leadership positions in politics, civic society, and economic life.<sup>14</sup>

Another example of this partnership is the deployment of U.S. Marines to Darwin and northern Australia. These rotational deployments include exercises and deployment with the ADF. This reflects the enduring alliance and common security interests in the region and improves

U.S.-Australia interoperability.<sup>15</sup> Photo 1 shows a U.S. Marine infantryman with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force - Darwin, going on patrol in Australia during a training exercise in April 2015. Marines conduct bilateral training exercises with Australian forces and may deploy to other countries to participate in multilateral security cooperation activities. The drills help to strengthen unit cohesion and basic marksman skills during MRF-D, which is the deployment of U.S. Marines to Darwin and the Northern Territory, for approximately six months at a time, where they will conduct exercises and training on a rotational basis with the ADF.<sup>16</sup>

### ***Bilateral Partnership Activities between New Zealand and Australia***

Australia and New Zealand cooperate closely in the international arena and in regional bodies, such as the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum. The Australia, New Zealand and ASEAN free trade agreement, entered into force on 1 January 2010. Both Australia and New Zealand cooperate closely in pursuing World Trade Organization goals, notably through participation in the Cairns Group - a coalition of 19 agricultural exporting countries seeking the liberalization of trade in agriculture. New Zealand has made valuable contributions to security in areas of high priority to Australia, notably in East Timor (Timor-Leste), Bougainville, Solomon Islands (Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands), Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>17</sup>

Australia and New Zealand also have a Partnership for Development Cooperation. The partnership implements the Cairns Compact for Strengthened Development Coordination in the Pacific, agreed at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Cairns in 2009. The partnership pledges new efforts by Australia and New Zealand to integrate development assistance activities in order to lift the effectiveness of aid programs and make improved progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific.<sup>18</sup>

New Zealand is also a signatory to the ANZUS security treaty. The Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) is an important annual private sector-led event, which brings together a diverse group of leaders from business, government, and community sectors to contribute ideas on developing the bilateral relationship. The forum examines and



Photo 1: U.S. Marines Conduct Training Exercise in Australia

debates economic, defense, political and social ties between Australia and New Zealand as well as broader strategic issues of domestic and international significance. The 10<sup>th</sup> ANZLF was held in Auckland in February 2015.

The Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers hold an annual Leaders' Meeting, as part of a commitment by both governments to the importance of the relationship and an intention to strengthen links further through deeper economic integration. The most recent Australia New Zealand Leaders' Meeting was held in Sydney on 19 February 2016.<sup>19</sup>

The deployment of a combined Australia-New Zealand Task Group to the current Building Partner Capacity mission in Iraq, and their cooperation to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, underscores the shared regional and global interests of both countries. Australia's ability to work closely with New Zealand in these operations reinforces their high levels of interoperability. This interoperability includes close cooperation on strategic planning and intelligence.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Bilateral Partnership Activities between Indonesia and Australia***

The strength of Australia's security relationship with Indonesia is built on a framework set out in the 2006 Lombok Treaty, the 2012 Defence Cooperation Arrangement, and the 2014 Joint Understanding on Intelligence Cooperation. Strategic dialogue includes combined Defence and Foreign Affairs 2 + 2 Ministerial talks, the Chief of Defence Force-led High Level Committee, Indonesia-Australia Defence Strategic Dialogue, and Navy, Army and Air Force talks.

Australia works with Indonesia to counter mutual security threats. Key areas for cooperation included counter-terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping and intelligence. Their training and professional military education partnership includes staff college exchanges, mobile training teams and English language courses which build common approaches and mutual understanding.<sup>21</sup>

## Multilateral Partnerships

Australia is party to multilateral partnerships including:

- The East Asia Summit (EAS);
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC);
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA);
- ASEAN Preparedness and Response Working Group;
- ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM);
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR);
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);
- International Organization for Standardization (IOS); and
- Multinational Resilience Working Group.

Emergency Management Australia (EMA), Australia's national disaster management organization, has the most active participation with the ASEAN and EAS forums. EMA has and will continue to work closely with ASEAN and EAS Member states, most notably Indonesia, to develop disaster management capabilities.<sup>22</sup>

## Agreements and Memberships

Australia and the U.S. belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, G-20, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the World Trade Organization. Australia is a Partner for Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and an Enhanced Partner of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Australia and New Zealand have historically had very strong bilateral relationships. Both are party to a number of bilateral and multilateral treaties.

In addition to the above organizations, Australia is also a member of the following:

Asian Development Bank, Australia New Zealand U.S. Security Treaty, ASEAN (dialogue partner), Australia Group, Bank for International Settlements, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (implementing country), Food and Agriculture Organization, International Atomic Agency, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development,

International Civil Aviation Organization, International Code Council International Council on Clean Transportation, Institute of Certified Research Management, International Energy Agency, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, International Hydrographic Organization, International Labor Organization, International Mobile Satellite Organization, International Police, International Organization for Migration, International Parliamentary Union, International Organization for Standardization, International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, International Telecommunication Union, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Pacific Alliance (observer), Paris Club, PIF, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (observer), South Pacific Regional trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement, United Nations, United Nations Security Council (temporary), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, United Nations World Tourism Organization, Universal Postal Union, World Customs Organization, World Federation of Trade Unions, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization, and Zangger Committee.<sup>23</sup>

### *The FRANZ Agreement*

The FRANZ agreement (signed by France, Australia and New Zealand) coordinates emergency operations in case of natural disasters in the South Pacific. The agreement is crucial in that Pacific Island States are regularly suffering from natural disasters (cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, flooding and drought). These states are mostly remote, composed of numerous scattered islands sometimes with no maritime connections and very few resources to answer a crisis situation. Therefore, the states endowed in this region with military and civil capacities (Australia, New Zealand and France) are therefore often required



Photo 2: Exercise Southern Cross 2014

to assist the small Pacific Island States.

The FRANZ agreement, flexible and pragmatic, allows the nations to help those states be better prepared to face natural disasters, to share information between partners, and to cooperate and coordinate emergency assistance. Over the years, FRANZ has become a crucial partnership in the response brought to natural disasters in the Pacific area. The cooperation between France, Australia and New Zealand is the manifestation of their solidarity and will to maintain stability in the region.<sup>24</sup>

The implementation of the FRANZ Agreement is an example of donor assistance in the event of a disaster. Since it was signed, the agreement has provided a mechanism for their joint cooperation in the South Pacific on humanitarian and maritime surveillance operations. The Croix du Sud (Southern Cross) military exercises held every two years in New Caledonia also provides a level of regional military cooperation (Photo 2).<sup>25</sup> Southern Cross is a biennial multinational exercise hosted by the French Armed Forces of New Caledonia with visiting forces from Australia, New Zealand and Pacific island states. FRANZ actively contributes to maritime surveillance, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, and support to regional defence and police forces, in the Pacific and Southern Oceans.<sup>26</sup>

This cooperation has been highlighted in several real world incidents, including the

tsunami in Samoa and Tonga in September 2009; volcanic eruption in Gaua in the Banks archipelago of Vanuatu in November 2009; Cyclone Thomas in the Fiji Islands in March 2010; and Cyclones Vania and Atu in Vanuatu in February-March 2011.<sup>27</sup>

### ***Five Power Defence Arrangements***

Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from Malaysia and Singapore, a multilateral agreement was established between Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom in 1971 to provide security for the newly formed states. The Five Power Defence Arrangements with Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and the United Kingdom remain valued as a mechanism for engaging with important partners in the region.

The purpose of the Five Power Defence Arrangements is to cultivate cooperation and interoperability between member armed forces through combined training exercises, which aim to develop a joint operational capability. Through the conduct of multilateral military exercises, Australia is able to practice their ability to inter-operate with other militaries through desk-based and field training activities in order to respond to security issues, and jointly provide assistance and relief to humanitarian and disaster events in the region.<sup>28</sup>

## ***ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)***

Australia was a founding member of ARF and has been an energetic participant in the forum's discussions and activities. Australia has been supportive of efforts for ARF to develop preventive diplomacy tools, including as a key drafter of the ARF Work Plan for Preventive Diplomacy. During the 2014-15 ARF cycle, Australia co-chaired a workshop on multiyear strategic planning for regional disaster relief exercises with the U.S. and Malaysia, and co-led work with Malaysia and Russia on the ARF Information and Communication Technologies Work Plan. In 2015-16, Australia is co-leading with Malaysia on counter-radicalization (under the ARF Work Plan for Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime) and co-chairing with Singapore an annual meeting of the ARF's Track Experts and Eminent Persons group. Australia will also co-chair with the Philippines an ARF Workshop on National Maritime Single Points of Contact.<sup>29</sup>

## ***East Asian Summit***

The EAS is a regional leaders' forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on key challenges facing the East Asian region. The EAS is a significant regional grouping with an important role in advancing closer regional integration and cooperation at a time of particular dynamism in East Asia. Australia participated, as a founding member, in the inaugural EAS held in Kuala Lumpur on 14 December 2005.

The Australian Foreign Minister attended the fifth EAS Foreign Ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 August 2015. Foreign Ministers discussed regional and global political and security developments, including maritime security in the South China Sea, countering violent extremism, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the recent Iran nuclear agreement and the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17. They discussed efforts to strengthen the EAS during its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and practical cooperation to address a range of traditional and non-traditional security issues. Foreign Ministers adopted a statement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action regarding the P5+1 nuclear deal with Iran.

The Minister for Trade and Investment attended the EAS Economic (Trade) Ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur from 23-24 August 2015. This was an opportunity to discuss the declaration of the ASEAN Economic Community

and ongoing efforts to address behind the border measures related to non-tariff measures, services integration and reforms of investment policies.<sup>30</sup>

The Attorney-General's Department, through the EMA, also has a close working relationship with Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authority, [Indonesian: *Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana* (BNPB)]. Since 2013, BNPB and EMA have been jointly leading the EAS Disaster Management Initiative to improve the capacity of EAS participating countries to rapidly respond to disasters in the region. The department also works bilaterally with disaster management agencies from a host of other countries around the world as the need arises.<sup>31</sup>

## ***Pacific Islands Forum***

The PIF represents Heads of Government of all the independent and self-governing Pacific Island countries. Since 1971, it has provided member nations with the opportunity to express their joint political views and to cooperate in areas of political and economic concern. The 16 member countries of the Pacific Island Forum include Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.<sup>32</sup>

## ***Five Eyes Intelligence Agreement***

The "Five Eyes" (otherwise known as FVEY), is an intelligence alliance of the U.S., Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.<sup>33</sup> Australia joined the alliance in 1955, subsequent to the original alliance between, the U.S. and the United Kingdom.<sup>34</sup>

## ***Secretariat of the Pacific Community***

Australia is a member of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the principal scientific and technical agency supporting development in the Pacific. In December of 2015, maritime experts from Australia and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community met to negotiate maritime boundary agreements and refine their claims to areas of continental shelf.<sup>35</sup>

## ***ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus***

Australia is a member of The ADMM-Plus, a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region. In addition to Australia, ADMM

Plus countries include ten ASEAN Member States, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and seven plus countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, ROK, Russian Federation, and the U.S.<sup>36</sup>

### ***Australia-Japan-U.S. Trilateral Partnership***

The trilateral partnership among Australia, Japan and the U.S. ensures a peaceful, stable, and prosperous future for the Asia-Pacific region. The partnership rests on the foundation of shared interests and values, including a commitment to democracy and open economies, the rule of law, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

In November 2014, the President of the U.S. along with the Prime Minister of Australia and Japan met in Brisbane, Australia on the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit. The leaders expressed their firm commitment to deepen the already strong security and defense cooperation among the three countries and to strengthen the collective ability to address global concerns and promote regional stability through enhanced cooperation on:

- Trilateral exercises;
- Maritime security capacity building and maritime domain awareness;
- Peacekeeping capacity building, particularly in the area of prevention of violence against women;
- Increasing development assistance coordination throughout the region;
- Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;
- Cyber capacity building; and
- Defense equipment and technology.

They welcomed work being done to this end and directed their governments to expand trilateral cooperation in all of these areas.<sup>37</sup>

## **Australian Government Departments Involved in Crisis Response**

The key Australian departments and agencies involved in conflict and disaster management are the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), DFAT, the Department of Defence (Defence), the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).<sup>38</sup>

From 2004-2013, almost 980,000 people

were killed and almost two billion affected by natural disasters. In 2013 the number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people worldwide was 51.2 million people. The economic losses from disaster over the past 30 years are estimated at AUD \$4.8 trillion (US \$3.5 trillion). Australia's location in the Indo-Pacific provides a unique perspective on humanitarian action. Australia is committed to helping partner nations manage crisis response themselves and does so by building the capacity of the national government and civil society to be able to respond to disasters. Australia also works with experienced international partners to prepare for and respond to disasters, including other donors, United Nations agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-government organizations. Between July 2014 and April 2015, Australia responded to 15 crises providing AUD \$127 million (US \$93.3M) in life-saving assistance. Australia has the ability to lead and coordinate Australian technical teams (medical, engineering, search and rescue) to simultaneous crises.<sup>39</sup>

## **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

Disaster preparedness and response are core business for DFAT, which includes resources from the former organization Australian Agency for Aid and Development (AusAID). DFAT builds and maintains emergency response capacities with whole-of-government partners (including EMA, the ADF and the Department of Health) and with commercial, non-government, and international partners to ensure emergency relief supplies and standby arrangements are in place to deliver humanitarian responses. These include arrangements to rapidly manage the deployment of personnel to provide technical assistance and emergency relief supplies quickly and effectively.<sup>40</sup> DFAT maintains a pool of deployable staff in response to humanitarian crises at short notice. This staff provides essential humanitarian support in affected countries. In the last two years, staff was deployed to Nepal, Vanuatu, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga.<sup>41</sup> The Attorney General department works closely with other Commonwealth agencies, in particular DFAT, to provide and coordinate Australian whole-of-government domestic and foreign policy relating to disaster management, as well as operational assistance and response efforts to international disasters. To support this role, the department actively engages and participates in key regional multilateral fora and

meetings to develop and strengthen domestic and foreign policy on regional disaster response arrangements, best practices and capabilities.<sup>42</sup>

### Australian Civilian Corps

Australia also has the Australian Civilian Corps which enables the Australian Government to rapidly deploy civilian specialists to contribute to stabilization and early recovery efforts in natural disaster or conflict affected countries. These specialists are drawn from federal, state, territory and local government and the broader Australian community. They remain in their regular employment until they are needed for deployment. Deployed civilian specialists may work in-line with host government officials to provide essential services or work as advisers to assist bilateral or multilateral recovery efforts. Specialists are brought from the following six fields of expertise:<sup>43</sup>

- Security, justice and reconciliation;
- Machinery of government;
- Essential service restoration;
- Economic stability;
- Community and social capacity building; and
- Stabilization and recovery management.

Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission workers show local candidate posters that the Australian Civilian Corps helped produce at a trial poll booth set up in Port Moresby, National Capital District in 2012 (Photo 3).<sup>44</sup>

### Australian Defence Force and Joint Operation Command

The ADF is constituted under the Defence Act 1903. Its mission is to defend Australia and its national interests. In fulfilling this mission, the ADF serves the Government of the day and is accountable to the Commonwealth Parliament which represents the Australian people to efficiently and effectively carry out the Government's defence policy. This is founded on the principle of self-reliance in the direct defence of Australia, but with a capacity to do more where there are shared interests with partners and allies. The ADF, commanded by the Chief of the Defence Force, consists of the three Services - the Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Australian Army and the Royal Australian Air Force (including Reserves).<sup>45</sup> The ADF supported response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in November 2013. Two Royal Australian Air Force aircraft, a C-17A Globemaster and a C-130J Hercules, deployed to assist in the relief effort.



Photo 3: Australian Civilian Corps Assistance to Papua New Guinea Elections

They transported doctors, nurses, paramedics, other medical specialists, and ADF logistic support staff.<sup>46</sup>

The Australian **Headquarters Joint Operations Command** is the ADF operational level headquarters responsible for the command and control of ADF operations worldwide. It was formed from “Headquarters Australian Theatre” in 2004 to reflect the changing internal structure of the ADF and the need to establish a purpose-built co-located joint headquarters.<sup>47</sup>

## Urban Search and Rescue

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) is a specialist resource, which assists victims who have been trapped or affected by a structural collapse. USAR teams consist of highly-skilled emergency services workers who are specially trained to respond to these complex emergencies. Australia currently maintains two internationally deployable USAR teams— Fire and Rescue New South Wales and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to:<sup>48</sup>

- Maintain an internationally deployable USAR capability and equipment cache to international standards;
- Build international engagement with the international USAR organization and among other international teams; and
- Assist in building the capacity of other countries’ national and international USAR capability.

Australia sent a 72-person USAR, including sniffer dogs, to Miyagi Prefecture, Japan in the wake of the 2011 earthquake, and tsunami. Photo 4 provides a snapshot of the Queensland USAR team awaiting their departure to Japan where they assisted with search and rescue efforts.<sup>49</sup> Additionally, a wide-body C-17 military transport also provided airlift support, helping move fresh water, Japanese troops and equipment to the quake-zone. The Australian Government also offered field hospitals and victim identification specialists.<sup>50</sup>



Photo 4: Australian Fire and Rescue Crew

## Pacific Patrol Boat Program

The Australian Pacific Patrol Boat Program (PPB) impetus was the passage of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). UNCLOS divided formerly international waters mainly through the establishment of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), which extend 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers, or 230 miles) from the shores of each country. This had a particular impact on the small Pacific island states as they suddenly acquired the responsibility to police and regulate activities across vast stretches of water. The Australian Government commenced the PPB program in 1987 to gift patrol boats as sovereign assets to participating countries. The patrol boats have enabled these countries to patrol their territorial waters and EEZ. The vessels are suitable for maritime surveillance and patrol, as well as fisheries protection. The boats provide the island nations a platform which allow their governments to more effectively administer their territorial possessions, respond to humanitarian emergencies (including SAR), and have helped to increase the number of trained mariners. The program delivers patrol boats to Tonga, the Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Cook Islands (the original recipients of the program).

In addition to delivering the PPBs, Australia provides fuel and maintenance and conducts training for personnel intended to operate the PPBs, giving them the skills to conduct surveillance operations with minimal external input. This training has come from two sources; the Department of Defence has provided training through its International Navigation and Navigator Yeoman Courses, as well as more general management, staff and operational courses. The Australian Maritime College (AMC) in Launceston, Tasmania has provided many courses in maritime technical, seamanship, communications and management subjects in support of the PPB Project.

Since 1998, the AMC has conducted 32 courses per year for the PPB Project at an annual cost to the Australian Government of approximately AUD \$1.5 million (US \$1.29M). Australia's strategic presence and interest in the region is more widely recognized since the introduction of the PPBs. This is due to the role of the Australian naval advisers, partly because the boats enjoy a visible presence in many island

harbors and partly because Prime Ministers, government officials, senior police and other VIPs use the boats for special occasions and for VIP transport. A valuable part of the project is the people who go with the PPBs and the personal networks created. The naval advisers give Australia a presence throughout the region. They are valued by the island maritime agencies for their help in-country, providing a facilitating role in identifying training and developing a more mature maritime enforcement arm.<sup>51</sup> Patrol Boats from Tonga and Solomon Islands supported Vanuatu relief efforts in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam. The *Neiafu* (Tonga) and *Auki* (Solomon Islands) assisted with emergency evacuations, the delivery of humanitarian stores to the outer islands and transporting needs assessment teams to remote areas.<sup>52</sup> Additionally, in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, Tonga sent a patrol boat, the *Voia Pangai* to the badly hit island of Vanuabalavu in east Fiji.<sup>53</sup> Photo 5 shows the Solomon Islands *Auki* Patrol Boat.<sup>54</sup>

In 2014, the Australian Government announced the replacement of the PPBs under the Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP). The replacement of the existing fleet of PPBs forms the center of the PMSP, and reflects Australia's ongoing commitment to work with regional partners to broaden and strengthen the region's capacity to respond to maritime security. Australia will continue to provide long-term training, maintenance, operational support and in-country advisory support through Royal Australian Navy advisers. The PMSP also includes integrated aerial surveillance and enhancements to regional coordination. The first of up to twenty-one replacement PPBs will be delivered in 2018 and reflect the requirements of the participating nations in a larger, more capable vessel.

## Australian Medical Assistance Team

AusMAT is a specialized disaster response capability of qualified professionals from Australian state and territory health systems who are drawn from a national register to provide effective emergency medical care in the aftermath of a disaster. It is a flexible capability structured to meet the health needs of disaster-affected countries. DFAT, the Department of Health, and EMA work closely with state and territory governments to prepare and deploy AusMAT in response to international disasters. AusMAT was a core element of Australia's support to the Government of Vanuatu in response to Tropical



Photo 5: Solomon Islands Auki Patrol Boat

Cyclone Pam in March 2015.<sup>55</sup>

In March 2016, combined AusMAT/Fijian teams treated a total of 1,768 people in the evacuation centres, villages and settlements within the cyclone affected sub-divisions of Rakiraki, Ba, Ovalau and Tailevu in response to Cyclone Winston.

The experienced AusMAT teams, comprising doctors, nurses, paramedics, logisticians, a pharmacist and allied health staff, worked effectively alongside local Fijian Health Teams to provide primary health care to affected communities. Upon departure of the AusMAT teams, Australia gifted the Fijian Government FJD \$23,000 worth of medicine to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.<sup>56</sup>

AusMAT was also extensively used in the response to Typhoon

Haiyan in the Philippines in November, 2013. AusMAT support included a field hospital composed of 12 doctors, 14 nurses, three paramedics, a radiographer, a pharmacist and six logisticians.<sup>57</sup> Photo 6 shows relief supplies provided by Australia during Cyclone Winston.<sup>58</sup>



Photo 6: Relief supplies provided during Cyclone Winston

## Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia

Disaster management is a complex process involving international, national and local organizations each with a distinct role to play (Table 1). Disaster response is a coordinated effort.

Organization	Resource
<p>Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)</p> <p>14 Napier Close, Deakin, ACT, 2600</p> <p>Postal Address: Private Bag 3 Deakin, ACT, 2600</p> <p>T: +61 2 6285 1816</p> <p>E: main@acfid.asn.au</p> <p>W: <a href="https://acfid.asn.au/">https://acfid.asn.au/</a></p>	<p>ACFID is Australia's peak body for Australian non-government organizations (NGOs) involved in international development and humanitarian action.<sup>59</sup> ACFID brings together a large and diverse national membership that includes Australian organizations that are part of global federations and alliances, national NGOs, secular and faith-based agencies, and small organizations with specific geographic or thematic mandates. ACFID harnesses member expertise and that of our Affiliate Members. Strategic partnerships with other public, community and private sector players will be an important part of ACFID's network that work in the field of international aid and development.<sup>60</sup> The ACFID Blog is a platform for Members, policy makers, and the general public to share knowledge, engage with each other, and influence debate.<sup>61</sup></p>
<p>Australian Red Cross: Canberra</p> <p>Red Cross House 3 Dann Close Garran ACT 2605 Mail PO Box 610 Mawson ACT 2607</p> <p>T: +61 2 6234 7600</p> <p>F: +61 2 6234 7650</p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:actinfo@redcross.org.au">actinfo@redcross.org.au</a></p> <p>W: <a href="http://www.redcross.org.au/">http://www.redcross.org.au/</a></p>	<p>The Australian Red Cross provides immediate and practical help with disaster relief and recovery to the most vulnerable people and communities in Australia and internationally. Their work is focused around seven priority areas:<sup>62</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services in Australia</li> <li>• International programs (aid and development)</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples</li> <li>• Social inclusion (building community bridges)</li> <li>• Stronger communities (helping disadvantaged population)</li> <li>• Protecting people in war (international humanitarian law)</li> <li>• Migration support</li> </ul>
<p>CARE Australia</p> <p>GPO 2014 Canberra ACT 2601</p> <p>T: +61 2 6279 0200</p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:info@care.org.au">info@care.org.au</a></p> <p>W: <a href="https://www.care.org.au">https://www.care.org.au</a></p>	<p>CARE's mission is to serve individuals and families in the poorest communities in the world. Drawing strength from global diversity, resources and experience, CARE promotes innovative solutions and advocates for global responsibility through:<sup>63</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening capacity for self-help;</li> <li>• Providing economic opportunity;</li> <li>• Delivering relief in emergencies;</li> <li>• Influencing policy decisions at all levels; and</li> <li>• Addressing discrimination in all its forms.</li> </ul> <p>Care Australia was on the ground in Fiji after Cyclone Winston (2015), securing safe water sources and access to sanitation with a focus on vulnerable groups such as children, women and girls. Together with the Tongan branch of Live &amp; Learn, CARE is supporting communities to replant crops.<sup>64</sup></p>

Table 1: Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia

Organization	Resource
<p>Caritas Australia</p> <p>GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001 T: +61 2 8306 3400 E: questions@caritas.org.au W: <a href="http://www.caritas.org.au/">http://www.caritas.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Caritas supports long-term development programs in impoverished communities in Africa, Asia, East Timor, Latin America, and the Pacific. Caritas Australia work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to emergencies such as the food crisis in East Africa.</li> <li>• Implementing Disaster Risk Reduction strategies, particularly in the Pacific Islands, where villagers are experiencing rising sea levels.</li> <li>• Helping farmers with sustainable agricultural practices, such as the Farmer Field School in Nepal.</li> <li>• Building water catchments in regions like Ethiopia, so communities have access to fresh, clean water and are able to grow crops.</li> <li>• Providing access to education and workshops in regions of South-East Asia, so vulnerable people can learn new skills.</li> <li>• Training rural midwives in quality antenatal, delivery and postnatal care for women in rural areas.</li> </ul> <p>The work that Caritas does within Australia can be found in the Domestically Focused Organizations section of this book.</p>
<p>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</p> <p>Level 1, 15 National Circuit, Barton Canberra, ACT Australia 2600 T: +61 2 6273 2968 F: + 61 2 6273 3791 E: can_canberra@icrc.org W: <a href="https://www.icrc.org/au">https://www.icrc.org/au</a></p>	<p>The (ICRC) is a humanitarian organization whose unique mandate is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and of other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. ICRC works in accordance particularly with the humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence. ICRC is an important partner in Australia's humanitarian aid program. Australia is a member of the ICRC Donor Support Group. Australia views this as a very useful forum to influence ICRC's policy and strategy. ICRC's work aligns strongly with the Australian aid program's strategic goals of saving lives and humanitarian and disaster response.<sup>65</sup></p>
<p>International Organization for Migration (IOM) Country Office for Australia with Coordinating Function for the Pacific</p> <p>Canberra-Head Office 4th floor, CPA Building 161 London Circuit Canberra ACT 2608 PO Box 1009 Civic Square ACT 2608 T: +61 2 6267 6600 F: +61 2 6257 3743 E: IOMCanberra@iom.int W: <a href="http://www.iomaustralia.org/">http://www.iomaustralia.org/</a></p>	<p>IOM Country Office for Australia has coordinating and liaison functions with the Government of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, to help address the broad range of migration issues not only in Australia and the region but globally through Australian-funded activities that, inter alia, directly assist migrants or build the capacity of other governments to better manage migration.<sup>66</sup></p>

Table 1: Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia (Continued)

Organization	Resource
<p>Oxfam</p> <p>Melbourne Head Office 132 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053 T: +61 3 9289 9444 W: <a href="https://www.oxfam.org.au/">https://www.oxfam.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Oxfam Australia is an Australian, independent, not-for-profit, secular, community-based aid and development organization, and an affiliate of Oxfam International. Oxfam Australia supports community-level peace-building projects, and reducing the risk and impact of disasters by helping vulnerable communities adapt to climate change as well as ensuring they're equipped to cope with any kind of disaster. They also help improve international responses to crisis.<sup>68</sup></p>
<p>Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief (RedR) Australia</p> <p>55-61 Barry St Carlton VIC 3053 T: +61 3 8341 2666 E: <a href="mailto:communications@redr.org.au">communications@redr.org.au</a> W: <a href="http://www.redr.org.au/">http://www.redr.org.au/</a></p>	<p>RedR Australia is part of the international RedR network of accredited organisations, each sharing a common vision and mission. RedR Australia is a Standby Partner to eight United Nations and other frontline relief agencies. During a humanitarian crisis, a global network of Standby Partner organisations provides additional support to United Nations response efforts. They are the only Standby Partner to the United Nations in the Asia Pacific.<sup>69</sup> RedR Australia is a humanitarian organization whose mission is to relieve suffering in disasters by selecting, training and providing competent and committed personnel to humanitarian relief agencies worldwide. RedR Australia is at the forefront of disaster risk reduction and they capacity build National Disaster Management Offices in the Asia Pacific and have pre-positioned expert staff throughout the Pacific prior to the cyclone season. Australia's AUD \$7.1 million (US \$5.1M) investment in RedR Australia, including AUD \$2m (US \$1.5M) to the Ebola response, in 2014-15 helped:<sup>70</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide approximately 240 deployment months of professional and technical services to United Nations response emergencies and disasters globally, notably their rapid response to Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu providing much needed surge support;</li> <li>• To recruit, train and maintain a register of suitable professional and technical persons; and</li> <li>• Provide an additional 38 deployment months in response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa.</li> </ul>
<p>United Nations Information Centre (UNIC): Canberra</p> <p>Level 1, 7 National Circuit Barton, ACT 2600 Australia PO Box 5366 Kingston, ACT 2604 Australia T:+61 2 6270 9200 E: <a href="mailto:unic.canberra@unic.org">unic.canberra@unic.org</a> W: <a href="http://un.org.au/">http://un.org.au/</a></p>	<p>The formal United Nations presence in Australia and the principal local source of information about the United Nations system. Its information-related responsibilities also extend to Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu.<sup>71</sup></p>

Table 1: Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia (Continued)

Organization	Resource
<p>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Regional Office</p> <p>14 Kendall Lane, New Acton, Canberra ACT, 2601 Australia  T: +61 2 6281 9100  E: <a href="mailto:aulca@unhcr.org">aulca@unhcr.org</a>  W: <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/australia.html">http://www.unhcr.org/australia.html</a></p>	<p>Australia for UNHCR is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to providing life-changing humanitarian support to refugees and other displaced and stateless people supported by UNHCR - the UN Refugee Agency. They achieve this by raising funds for UNHCR's international humanitarian operations and hosting public awareness events and activities around the issue of refugees and international aid and development. The UNHCR Regional Representation is based in Canberra, and is responsible for the promotion and protection of refugee rights in the region, which includes Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.<sup>72</sup> In 2014-15 Australia provided \$21 million (US\$ 15.3M) in core funding, including \$1 million (US \$.73M) to address sexual and gender-based violence to UNHCR. Australia's funding supports UNHCR to provide critical humanitarian relief and safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees and internally displaced persons including the Indo-Pacific region.<sup>73</sup></p>
<p>International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)</p> <p><a href="http://www.ippf.org">http://www.ippf.org</a></p>	<p>IPPF manages the Sexual and reproductive health <b>PR</b>ogramme <b>IN</b> Crisis and Post Crisis <b>Si</b>Tuations (SPRINT) Initiative, which is funded by DFAT. Australia's investment in the SPRINT initiative includes:<sup>74</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting national governments to integrate sexual and reproductive health into national disaster management policies;</li> <li>• Building the capacity of local, national and regional organizations to implement the minimum initial services package; and</li> <li>• Supporting timely sexual and reproductive health responses during emergencies.</li> </ul> <p>In 2014, SPRINT reached more than 328,000 people affected by humanitarian crises, including conflict in Kachin State, Myanmar and flooding in Solomon Islands and Bangladesh.</p>
<p>Plan International</p> <p>Level 18 / 60 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006  T: 13 PLAN (13 7526) or +61 3 9672 3600 (outside Australia)  E: <a href="mailto:info@plan.org.au">info@plan.org.au</a>  W: <a href="https://www.plan.org.au/">https://www.plan.org.au/</a></p>	<p>PLAN international conducts the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works in more than 51 developing countries and raises funds to support work in 21 countries; and</li> <li>• Actively involves children, and works at a grassroots level with no religious or political affiliations.</li> </ul>

Table 1: Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia (Continued)

Organization	Resource
<p>World Vision</p> <p>1 Vision Drive, Burwood East, Victoria, 3151                      T: 13 32 40 from within Australia or + 61 3 9940 5501 (outside Australia)                      W: <a href="https://www.worldvision.com.au/">https://www.worldvision.com.au/</a></p>	<p>World Vision is a worldwide community development organization that provides short-term and long-term assistance to 100 million people worldwide (including 2.4 million children). World Vision works globally, implementing development programs and responding to emergencies. The four regions in which we work are Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean and the Middle East, Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia.<sup>75</sup></p> <p>World Vision is involved with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformational development, which is the phrase used to describe a holistic approach to improving the lives of the poor by recognizing people's physical, social, spiritual, economic and political needs;</li> <li>• Emergency relief following the International Code of Conduct for disaster relief organizations;</li> <li>• Promotion of justice by advocating for victims of injustice and poverty;</li> <li>• Strategic initiatives-such as programs promoting community leadership; and</li> <li>• Public awareness; and Christian engagement.</li> </ul>

Table 1: Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia (Continued)

## Foreign Disaster Management Activities

External shocks, including natural disasters, conflict, and economic shocks (such as food and fuel price spikes) severely undermine growth, reverse development gains and increase poverty and insecurity. Australia's region is highly vulnerable to these shocks, and their impact is becoming more extreme as climate-related disasters become more severe and frequent. Australia fosters an effective humanitarian system to ensure timely, coordinated international responses to specific disasters. In line with its global responsibilities, Australia responds promptly and effectively to humanitarian disasters. Australia is also pursuing a number of measures to build the resilience of countries, communities and the most disadvantaged members of communities to future disasters and shocks.

There are significant and increasing humanitarian needs. Disasters are worsening and affecting the poor most of all, especially in developing countries. Even small events can push vulnerable people further into poverty. Meeting the needs of populations affected by

humanitarian crises reduces the follow-on effects of crises, such as political and social instability, the impact on families of preventable injuries and sickness, and the long-term displacement of affected populations. Australia has a tradition of supporting those facing humanitarian crises overseas. The Australian community makes important contributions, providing their own expertise, time and money. Australia is well positioned to respond and has valuable knowledge which can assist people affected by disasters in the region and globally.

Australia has a range of response options available when responding to humanitarian crises, in particular in the Indo-Pacific region, where Australia plays a major role. Australia's response will depend on the scale and nature of need and how best Australia can make a difference to broader international efforts. Effective preparedness and response, together with disaster risk reduction, builds community and government resilience to crises, reducing casualties, minimizing economic losses, limiting the scale of re-building exercises and allowing countries to remain focused on economic and social growth. Australian aid also focuses on helping communities and governments to be better prepared and respond to natural disasters.

Investing in disaster risk reduction is the most effective way to reduce the impact of a crisis, save lives and limit the economic costs of a disaster. This can include ensuring buildings are rebuilt better and are able to stand up to extreme weather events, improving warning systems and supporting vulnerable communities to gain access to insurance.<sup>76</sup>

When the Australian Government responds to disasters abroad the Attorney-General's Department, through the EMA, works closely with DFAT to facilitate Australian assistance and response efforts. EMA maintains key partnerships in the region and across the globe to better equip Australia and its partners abilities to respond to disasters at home and abroad. This is critical, given Australia's susceptibility to natural disasters and its proximity to the world's most disaster prone region. EMA engages and cooperates globally through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. Maintaining strong bilateral partnerships with disaster management agencies from key partner countries enables the department to best place Australia to respond to disasters both at home and abroad. These partnerships are in place to continually improve emergency management capability, learn and share lessons from events, strengthen policy responses to disaster trends, and ensure working relationships exist with partners to enable Australia to respond together when needed.<sup>77</sup>

### **Australian Government's Aid Program**

The Australian Government's aid program promotes prosperity, reduce poverty and enhance stability with a strengthened focus on their region, the Indo-Pacific. The purpose of the aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction (Figure 4).<sup>78</sup> The government's aid program will promote prosperity, reduce poverty and enhance stability by focusing on achieving two development outcomes: strengthening private sector development and enabling human development.

### **Procedures to Request Support for Humanitarian Assistance**

As a developed country, Australia accepts humanitarian responsibility for providing aid to countries in need. This responsibility extends to provision of assistance to countries affected by disasters. The Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan (AUSASSISTPLAN),

Humanitarian Action Policy, and coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), are all important pieces in Australia's disaster relief and humanitarian assistance response.

### **AUSASSISTPLAN**

The aim of AUSASSISTPLAN is to detail the coordination arrangements for the provision of Australian emergency assistance, using Commonwealth physical and technical resources, following a disaster in another country. The Ministerial agreement relates principally to provision of assistance to Papua New Guinea and the countries of the South Pacific but it also permits EMA to be tasked to coordinate a response outside this area of primary concern. This plan has been designed for use in coordinating relief after a disaster anywhere in the world. Assistance will not be provided or transported by the Commonwealth Government unless the request for the assistance has been approved by the disaster management authorities of the affected country.

AUSASSISTPLAN is activated through a series of readiness phases, which are related to the likelihood of requests for Australian assistance from an overseas country. Disasters and emergencies vary and the initial activation may begin with any phase. Requests for Australian assistance are normally passed by the government of a disaster-affected country to the head of the appropriate Australian diplomatic Head Of Mission (HOM). The HOM forwards the request to DFAT who will decide whether Australia will respond to the request and the size and type of response to be provided. If a physical or technical response is approved, DFAT will ask EMA to coordinate the response within any stated guidelines. Director General, EMA is authorized to task any appropriate Commonwealth Government or other Australian resources to meet requests. Costs are monitored and all expenses paid by DFAT. The outline system is shown in diagrammatic form in Figure 5.

Under AUSASSISTPLAN, NGOs may request movement of relief supplies in Commonwealth Government funded transport to the disaster-affected country.<sup>79</sup> The Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) is the primary mechanism for humanitarian funding for Australian NGOs. The Agreement brings together DFAT and six pre-selected Australian NGOs (Care, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the

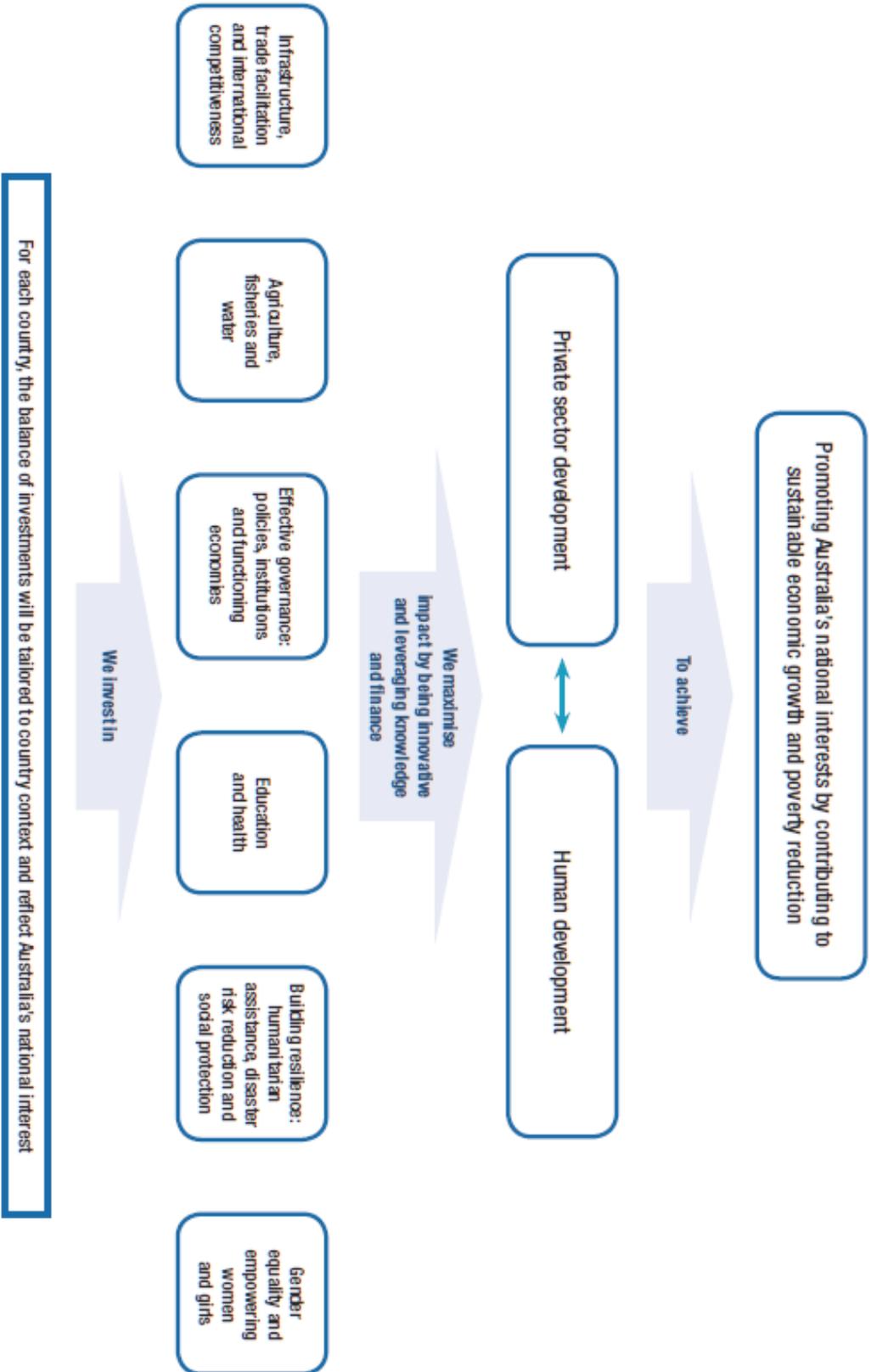
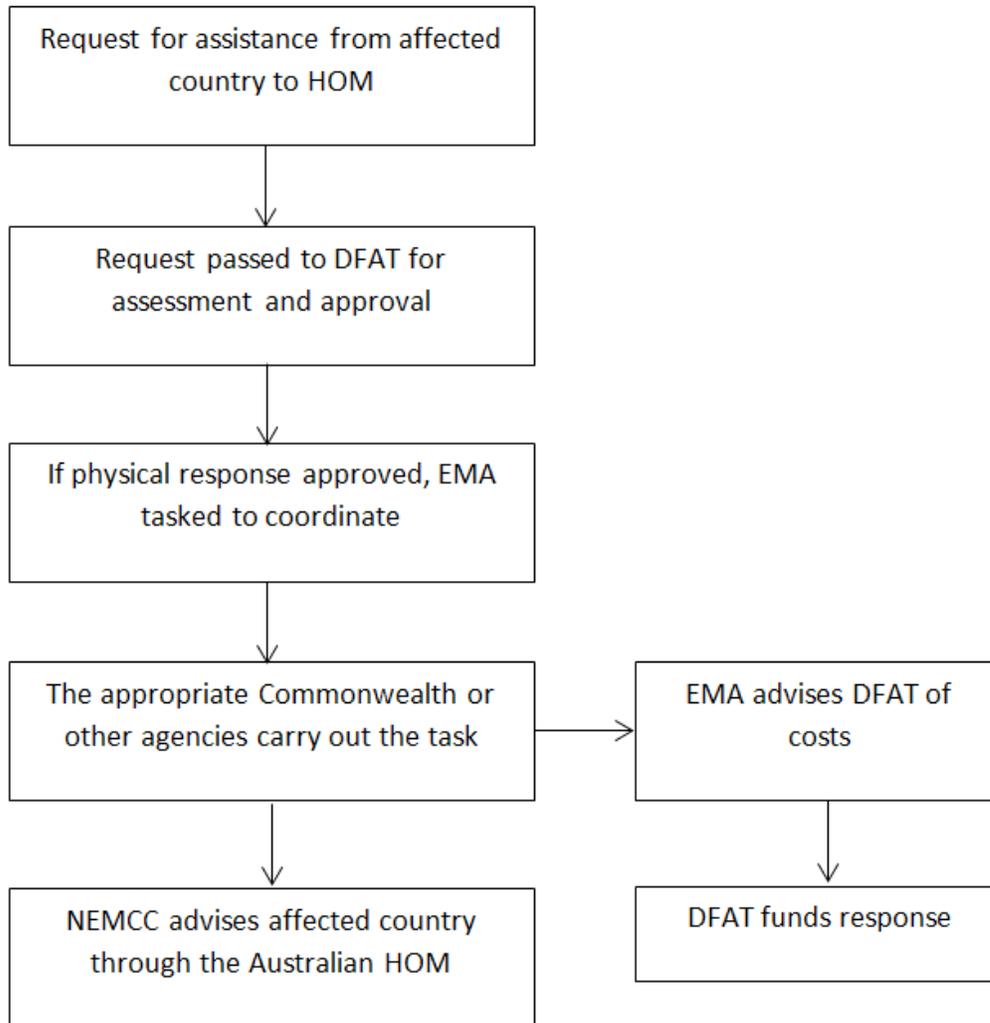


Figure 4: Strategic Framework for the Aid Program

## AUSASSISTPLAN



### \*notes

DFAT-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

EMA-Emergency Management Australia

HOM-Australian Head of Mission (Senior Australian diplomatic representative in a foreign country)

NEMCC-National Emergency Management Coordination Centre

Figure 5: AUSASSISTPLAN Outline System for International Assistance

Children and World Vision) to enable a rapid and coordinated response to humanitarian needs, especially in response to rapid-onset humanitarian emergencies.<sup>80</sup> Transport requests will only be met if the need for the supplies and their suitability has been confirmed by the national disaster management agency in the affected country through the Australian HOM. Provision and deployment of Commonwealth

physical resources to assist overseas a disaster will be coordinated by the National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC) through nominated Commonwealth Agency Emergency Management Liaison Officers who are their agency's first point of contact for matters relating to disasters and emergencies. Their role in disaster response is to facilitate the provision of assistance from their agency.<sup>81</sup>

## **Humanitarian Action Policy**

This Humanitarian Action Policy outlines the strategic framework that guides Australia's humanitarian action. The policy applies to all overseas humanitarian action delivered by DFAT, the lead agency in delivering this assistance in partnership with developing nations in times of crisis. Australian whole-of-government partners play an essential role in delivering humanitarian action. As a result, an important aim of this policy is effective coordination and policy coherence between DFAT and whole-of-government partners. DFAT has provided aid to the following Pacific Nations:

- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of Palau
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

## **United Nations**

The United Nations comprises many agencies, funds and programs with specialized agencies, including World Food Program (WFP), UNHCR, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), OCHA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).<sup>82</sup>

OCHA is responsible for mobilizing and coordinating effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors. OCHA is a key partner in delivering Australia's humanitarian program. Australia works with OCHA in advocating for and supporting more effective and efficient international humanitarian preparedness and response, and the continued reform and accountability of the international humanitarian system.<sup>83</sup>

In a disaster response, OCHA is the lead United Nations department to facilitate the coordination of an international humanitarian response. OCHA has both a humanitarian and civil-military coordination function. Regionally, OCHA coordinates the Pacific Humanitarian

Team, which includes donors, agencies from the aid community, United Nations agencies and others, and supports host governments to prepare contingency plans, run scenarios and then respond when disaster strikes. After the immediate humanitarian response, the UNDP is the agency usually tasked with coordinating the United Nations development response. In situations of conflict or instability, the United Nations will, when called upon by the United Nations Security Council, authorize peacekeeping missions in countries/regions affected by conflict. These missions often involve a combination of military, political and humanitarian/development objectives to support peacebuilding efforts.<sup>84</sup>

OCHA has an Onsite Operational Coordination Centre (OSOCC) and a Virtual OSOCC (Figure 6).<sup>85</sup> These are established at the onset of a disaster to manage the flow of international relief agencies. The OSOCC is a physical facility established in the USAR-requesting country to receive incoming and support inter-USAR coordination. At the OSOCC, international relief teams are registered and receive basic information about the situation, the operations of national and international responders, and logistical arrangements. The Virtual OSOCC is a global online network and information portal that facilitates data exchange between disaster responders and affected countries before, during and after sudden-onset disasters. It is the first place to look to see if a government is requesting search-and-rescue support, and to track the arrival and position of different USAR teams.<sup>86</sup>

## **Military Cooperation (Training and Exercises)**

Australia takes part in several military humanitarian training and exercises aimed at strengthening international relationships with partner and host nations in the Asia-Pacific Regions. Examples include *Talisman Saber*, *Balikatan*, *Pacific Partnership*, *Exercise Rim of the Pacific*, *Exercise Bersama Lima*, *Croix De Sud*, and others.

### ***Talisman Saber***

*Talisman Saber* is a biennial training activity aimed at improving Australian and U.S. combat readiness and interoperability. *Talisman Saber* is a U.S. and Australian-led Combined Task Force operation preparing the militaries for crisis action planning and execution of contingency operations. It was designed to maintain a high

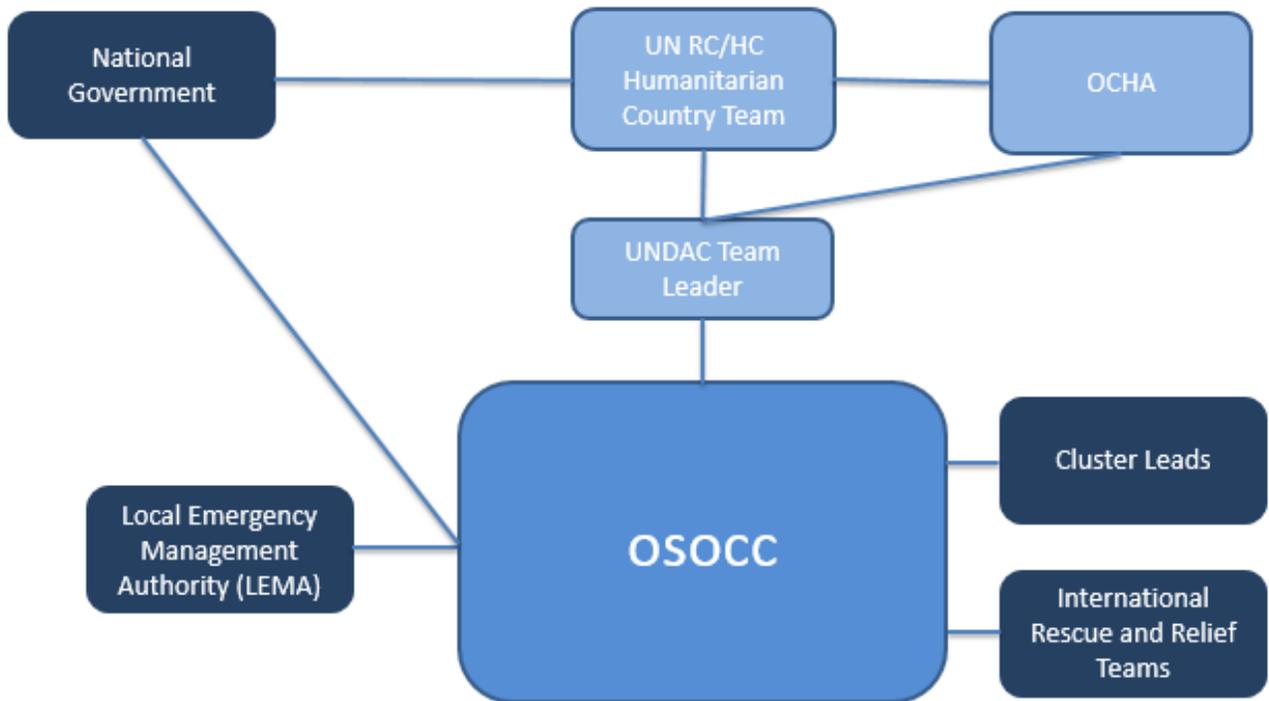


Figure 6: OCHA Onsite Operations Coordination Centre

level of interoperability between U.S. and Australia.<sup>87</sup> Photo 7 shows personnel from the U.S. Marine Corps and Australian Army during exercise Talisman Saber.<sup>88</sup>



Photo 7: U.S. Marines and Australian Army Personnel During Exercise Talisman Saber

### ***Balikatan***

Balikatan has historically been a bilateral activity between the U.S. and the Philippines addressing maritime security and humanitarian and disaster response activities. Australia

joined as an observer in 2013 following the Senate ratification of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) with Australia in September 2012. The Balikatan 2014 exercise saw the participation of a small group of 60 Australian defence forces joining thousands of Filipino and American troops. With the ratification of the SOVFA, Australia is seeking to deepen military cooperation with the Philippines to include defence and security matters such as disaster response and counterterrorism.<sup>89</sup> Photo 8 represents Philippine Special Operations Forces Soldiers conducting a close air support tactics, techniques and procedures exchange with U.S. and Australian SOF at Fort Magsaysay, Philippines during Balikatan 2014.<sup>90</sup>



Photo 8: Balikatan 2014, Philippines

### ***Pacific Partnership***

Pacific Partnership is an annual U.S.-led humanitarian and civic assistance exercise aimed at strengthening international relationships with partner and host nations in the Asia-Pacific region. Australia most recently participated in Exercise Pacific Partnership from 17 May – 8 September 2015 along with regional military partners from the U.S., Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Canada, Fiji, Timor-Leste and Singapore. Photo 9 represents a Fijian patient receiving surgery aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy in Savusavu, Fiji, during Pacific Partnership 2015. While training for crisis conditions, Pacific Partnership missions to date have provided medical care to approximately 270,000 patients and veterinary services to more than 38,000 animals. Additionally, Pacific Partnership 2015 provided critical infrastructure development to host nations

through the completion of more than 180 engineering projects.<sup>91</sup>

The cooperative exercise allows the ADF to work with partner militaries, inter-governmental agencies, host nation civilian agencies, and NGOs, which enhances a collective ability to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.<sup>92</sup>



Photo 9: Pacific Partnership 2015 Mission

### ***Exercise Rim of the Pacific***

In 2014, Australia participated in RIMPAC 14. RIMPAC is a major U.S. Pacific Fleet biennial combined exercise in and around the Hawaiian Islands and California, involving forces from 23 countries including Australia, Canada, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom and USA.

Australian Defence Force participation included:

- Approximately 970 personnel from Navy, Army and Air Force;
- HMAS Sheean (Collins Class Submarine);
- HMAS Success (Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment vessel);
- A Maritime Clearance Diving Task Group;
- A rifle company from 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment (5 RAR); and
- Three Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion aircraft.

During the exercise, participating personnel conducted gunnery, missile, anti-submarine,

and air-defence exercises, as well as maritime interdiction and vessel boarding, explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage operations, mine clearance operations and an amphibious landing.<sup>93</sup> Multilateral interoperability training during RIMPAC 14 also enhanced the capability of partner nations to collaboratively respond to an international disaster or humanitarian crisis in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. Photo 10 represents an exercise in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, during the 2014 RIMPAC Exercise. The photo is of a Royal Australian Navy explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician, assigned to Australia Clearance Diving Team One, jumping out of a U.S. Army UH-60L Blackhawk helicopter, as part of a multi-national helicopter-insertion familiarization. RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise, and provides a unique training opportunity, which helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships, which are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and ocean security.<sup>94</sup>



Photo 10: Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2014

## ***Exercise Bersama Lima***

This exercise supports the Five Power Defence Arrangements between Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom. It enhances interoperability and strengthens the professional relationships of Five Power Defence Arrangements nations by conducting maritime, land and air operations in a simulated multi-threat environment, which enhances coordinated all-hazards response for future crises.

In 2014, approximately 500 Australian Defence Force personnel from all three services participated in the exercise. Major equipment and units included:

- The Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Stuart (FFH153), ANZAC Class Frigate Helicopter (FFH) with a multi-role, and SikorskyS-70B-2 Seahawk helicopter;
- Two Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft;
- One Royal Australian Air Force KA350 King Air light transport aircraft; and
- One Rifle Platoon from the Australian Army's Rifle Company Butterworth, based in Malaysia.

Australian Defence Force staff personnel also supported the Command Post Exercise and Field Training Exercise activities.<sup>95</sup>

## ***Croix Du Sud***

Croix du Sud, which means "Southern Cross" in French, is a multinational military exercise organized every two years by the French Armed Forces in New Caledonia, with a scenario based on the devastating aftermath of a category four cyclone. Around 200 Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force personnel were among members from 10 international defense forces contributing to the exercise, held from 25 August to 5 September, 2014.

Along with a headquarters element, sailors, soldiers and airmen across the wider Australian Defence Force contributed across all facets of the exercise. Australian Navy members provided a Deployable Geospatial Survey Team to survey landing areas, while landing crafts HMA Ships Labuan and Tarakan facilitated troop and vehicle movements with support from HMNZS Canterbury.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, formed a rifle company to assist in providing security alongside French Armed Forces, New Zealand Army, Tonga Defence Services, British Army and U.S. Marines personnel. Royal Australian Air Force members provided airlift with a KA350 King Air, supporting air operations with the French Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Air Force.<sup>96</sup>

## **Operations**

### ***Cyclone Winston***

Tropical Cyclone Winston, the most powerful cyclone to strike Fiji to date (Photo 11), cut a path of destruction across the country on 20 and 21 February 2016. It caused widespread damage (Photo 12). On 21 March, the Fijian Government extended the State of Natural Disaster in areas severely affected by the cyclone until 19 April.<sup>97</sup>

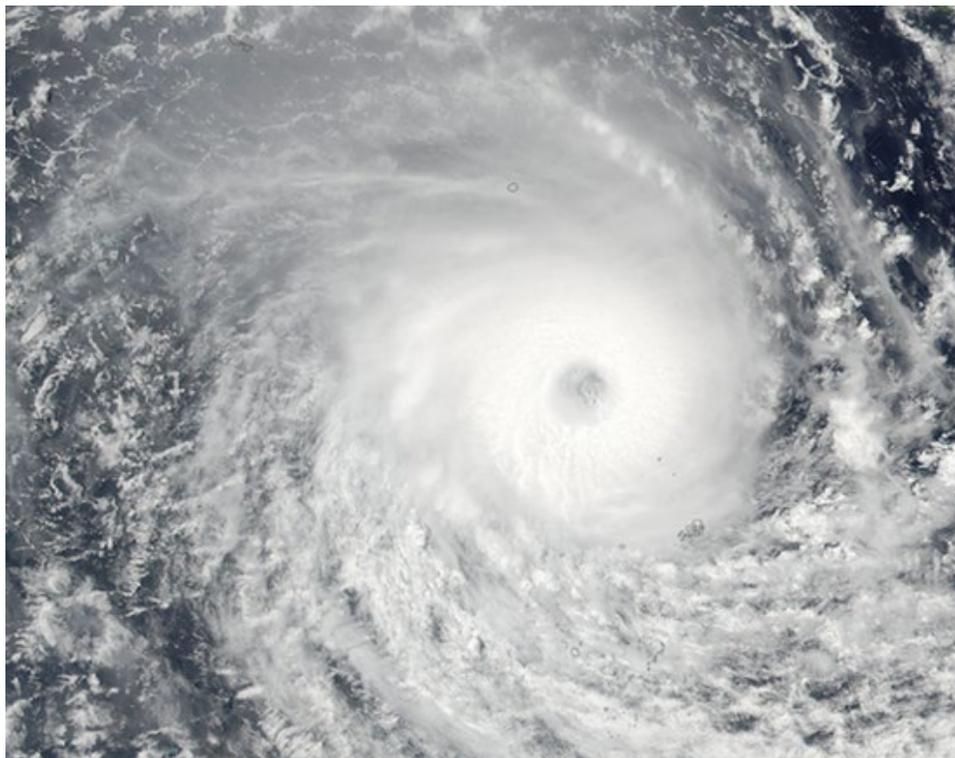


Photo 11: Tropical Cyclone Winston Image over Fiji



Photo 12: Damage from Cyclone Winston, Fiji

The Australian Defence Force deployed transport personnel and humanitarian flights to Fiji in the aftermath of Cyclone Winston. This included the transporting of humanitarian supplies to provide urgent lifesaving support to people affected by the cyclone. MRH-90 helicopters, C-17 and C-130 flights were deployed to assist Fiji in carrying out assessments and provide humanitarian supplies, equipment, and relief to the outlying islands affected by the cyclone.<sup>98</sup> An AusMAT consisting of 21 doctors, nurses and medics provided emergency medical care for more than 1,700 people in Fiji. Australia also supported Fiji's Ministry of Health to restore its cold chain system for vaccines, which was damaged in the cyclone, to ensure that essential and life-saving vaccinations could continue to reach communities.<sup>99</sup> In addition, CARE Australia launched an emergency response with local partner Live & Learn.<sup>100</sup>

To date, the Australian Government has provided AUD 35 million of assistance to Fiji in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston. This includes the latest assistance package of AUD20 million to provide ongoing reconstruction support to Fiji, aimed at returning life to normal, giving Fijians back their schools, medical clinics

and livelihoods. The early recovery support has reached over 200,000 people affected by the cyclone by providing life-saving supplies such as clean water and hygiene, and shelter, access to education and medical facilities and protection services for those most vulnerable. The assistance was complemented by extensive ADF support.<sup>101</sup>

#### ***Operation Pacific Assist 2015***

In March 2015, Tropical Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu as a category five causing 11 deaths and severe damage to housing, health centers, schools and other critical infrastructure.<sup>102</sup>

This cyclone has been referred to as the worst disaster in the history of the island nation. Year after year, Vanuatu has been the country with the highest disaster risk in the ranking of the WorldRiskIndex. This country has a high level of vulnerability and when it is hit by an extreme natural event, it increased the likelihood that it will turn into a disaster.<sup>103</sup> Australia was the largest international contributor to Cyclone Pam response, committing AUD \$50 million (US \$36.7M) for humanitarian support as well as early and long-term recovery needs. Australian personnel arrived in Vanuatu to provide humanitarian support within 36 hours

of the cyclone's impact. In consultation with the Vanuatu Government, Australia deployed ADF assets, urban search and rescue, medical teams and more than 500 personnel to repair key infrastructure, restore basic services and deliver 182 tons of emergency relief supplies. The humanitarian support included transport and logistics, water and sanitation, health and hygiene, child protection, food security, livelihoods and shelter. These were provided through the United Nations, Australian Red Cross, Save the Children Australia, World Vision and Care Australia.

For almost two years prior to Tropical Cyclone Pam, DFAT embedded an Australian Civilian Corps 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 Australian Civilian Corps specialist provided a critical operational link between the Government of Vanuatu and international donors, and helped facilitate Australia's humanitarian and consular response. The Australian Civilian Corps positioned with the National Disaster Management Office, were able to act early and respond to the disaster, ultimately saving lives. Australia is continuing to work closely with the Vanuatu Government and humanitarian partners to implement their three-year, AUD \$35 million (US \$25.7M) long-term recovery program.<sup>104,105</sup>

### ***Response to 2015 Nepal Earthquakes***

In April, 2015 Nepal experienced its largest earthquake in eighty years, measuring a 7.8 magnitude. Only two weeks after the devastation, a second 7.3 magnitude quake struck as the nation was struggling to its feet.<sup>106</sup> These earthquakes killed almost 9,000 people, and injured about 20,000 others.<sup>107</sup> Homes were completely devastated or severely damaged. Australia provided strong support to Nepal as part of recovery efforts following the earthquakes. The Australian Government has provided more than AUD \$28 million (US \$20.6M) in assistance to Nepal. This includes approximately AUD \$12 million (US \$8.7M) for immediate humanitarian relief and more than AUD \$16 million (US \$11.7M) for recovery and reconstruction. The first portion of funding helped provide 42,000 people with access to safe water and sanitation, and 68,000 people with emergency shelter assistance. Australia's more than AUD \$16 million (US \$11.7M) recovery

package involves partnerships with Nepal's government, non-government organizations, and international agencies to deliver assistance. The Australian Government is working with the UNDP to restore the lost small business enterprises of the very poor for economic recovery; Plan Australia to assist children return to school; and the Asia Foundation's project to address post-disaster conflict.<sup>108</sup>

### ***Malaysian Flight MH 370 SAR***

On 31 March 2014, following an extensive sea and air search, the Malaysian Government accepted the Australian Government's offer to take the lead in the SAR operation in the southern Indian Ocean in support of the Malaysian accident investigation. On behalf of Australia, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) led search operations for MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean.<sup>109</sup> This allowed the investigation to be based in Australia. Australia focused on the ocean area, as their ports were nearest the search area.<sup>110</sup>

### ***Response to 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan, Philippines***

The Australian Defence Force supported response to Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in November 2013. Two Royal Australian Air Force aircraft, a C-17A Globemaster and a C-130J Hercules, deployed to assist in the relief effort. They transported doctors, nurses, paramedics, other medical specialists, and ADF logistic support staff. The C-130J transferred medical personnel and equipment in-country.

Super Typhoon Haiyan was one of the strongest cyclones ever measured, and it resulted in high numbers of victims and destruction on a massive scale in the islands of Samar, Leyte, Cebu and Panay. More than 6,000 people were killed, hundreds of thousands had to abandon their homes and seek refuge in tent camps and approximately 11 million people were affected. Entire cities were hit, and destruction is still visible in many towns and villages.<sup>111</sup>

A full AusMAT from Darwin flew into Tacloban airport, a handful of kilometres outside the city, which bore the brunt of Haiyan. The runway and control tower were by this point functional, but the rest of the airport was essentially destroyed. They set up a complete two-theatre field hospital to offer humanitarian medical assistance five days after the super typhoon Haiyan hit. Photo 13 shows

the AusMAT field hospital at work in Tacloban after Super Typhoon Haiyan.<sup>112</sup> Post disaster healthcare followed well established patterns; immediate trauma care was supplied by local services. AusMAT were the first fully functional surgical foreign medical team in the region. The hospital had 38 beds in three wards, two theatre tables (within one theatre), an emergency department and a two bed resuscitation room.<sup>113</sup>

medical teams were coordinated through the Attorney General's Department (EMA) and the Australian Government, in conjunction with the Department of health and Ageing. As the magnitude of the disaster unfolded, Australia committed additional funding to United Nations agencies, the Pakistan Government, and Australian NGOs engaged in humanitarian relief and recovery activities.<sup>115</sup>



Photo 13: AusMAT Field Hospital-Super Typhoon Haiyan

### ***Response to 2011 Japan Earthquake/Tsunami***

The Australian Government provided AUD \$10 million (US \$7.3M) to the Australian Red Cross Japan and Pacific Disaster Appeal. The Australian Red Cross dispatched a 76-member Urban Search and Rescue team to search for survivors in Minami Sanriku and deployed a Royal Australian Air Force C-17 to transport more than 500 tons of relief stores, food, water and personnel around Japan. Many Australian businesses, individuals and volunteer groups offered support to assist Japan in its long process of recovery.<sup>114</sup>

### ***Pakistan Floods, July 2010***

In addition to initial financial aid and the early dispatch of relief supplies by the Royal Australian Air Force to those affected by the Pakistan floods, the ADF and Australian Government deployed a Joint Inter-Agency Medical Task Force to Kot Addu in Punjab province. The joint medical relief effort comprised of civilian and military doctors, nurses, and paramedics, which were logistically supported by ADF personnel and assets. Civilian

### ***West Sumatra (Indonesia) Earthquake, September 2009***

Following a devastating earthquake with its epicenter close to the West Sumatran capital Padang, Australia responded with financial aid, DFAT, ADF and state government personnel and assets to support Indonesia's relief and reconstruction effort. Australia's whole-of-government effort was coordinated on the ground through a Joint Task Force. Australia contributed funds for relief and reconstruction, including through local Indonesian NGOs. The ADF contributed personnel and assets from all three Services: the Army contributed medical personnel, engineers, logisticians

and support personnel; the Navy contributed health staff, air lift support, and asset support; and the Air Force contributed asset support and personnel, including air-load teams. In addition, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service team contributed civilian search and rescue personnel.<sup>116</sup>

### ***Response to the 2009 Tsunami (Samoa and Tonga)***

On 29 September 2009, Samoa and Tonga were hit by an 8.3 magnitude earthquake and tsunami resulting in severe devastation. It killed 144 people, and ruined numerous lives, homes, businesses, communities and pristine beaches. In Samoa, more than 3000 people subsequently were living in temporary tents and under tarpaulins. In Tonga, on the island of Niuatoputapu, the tsunami killed nine people and destroyed most of the infrastructure. Australia responded and provided assistance under the FRANZ Arrangement. A total of AUD \$13 million (US \$9.5M) was provided to assist with immediate relief efforts, recovery

and rebuilding. Various Australian Government agencies worked together under the guidance of the Governments of Samoa and Tonga to respond to immediate humanitarian needs.<sup>117</sup>

The ADF responded with a tri-service disaster relief operation in support of the Australian Government's contribution to the wider disaster relief effort. Support included aero-medical evacuation teams, rescue equipment and emergency response supplies. Additionally, Australia rushed tents, tarpaulins, trunks and stretchers, collapsible water containers, bottled water and rations to Samoa to meet the immediate demands of the disaster relief. Support also included 34 civilian emergency specialists coordinated through EMA. Additionally, Red Cross aid workers provided water, sanitation, psychosocial support and restored family links.<sup>118</sup>

### ***Response to the Oro Flood, Papua New Guinea, November 2007***

Tropical Cyclone Guba caused heavy flooding in Oro Province, Papua New Guinea. Upon request by the Government of Papua New Guinea, Australia provided assistance. The Australian Government provided financial aid as well as deployed disaster management experts to work alongside national actors. ADF aircraft transported critical relief and supplies to otherwise inaccessible and remote regions, and the ADF provided clearance divers, a health assessment team, an engineering team, and a support and command component.<sup>119</sup>

### ***Pakistan Earthquake, October 2005***

The Australian Government responded to Pakistan's devastating 2005 earthquake by providing support to relief and recovery operations. The Australian Government assisted local and international NGOs and multilateral agencies to deliver immediate humanitarian assistance as well as longer-term education and health initiatives. The ADF deployed a critical medical relief capacity through its Primary Health Care Teams. The medical personnel were drawn primarily from the Army, with support from an Air Force Primary Health Care Team, with support provided by an Army Black Hawk helicopter detachment to assist in enabling medical assistance to remote areas.<sup>120</sup>

### ***Indian Ocean Tsunami - Combined Support Force 536***

The Australian whole-of-government response

in 2004-2005 to the Indian Ocean tsunami involved numerous departments and agencies, including the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM & C), DFAT, former AusAID, Department of Defence, Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Health and Ageing, Emergency Australia, and various state agencies. Indonesia received the greater part of Australia's assistance with medical relief, water supply and sanitation, child protection and logistical support provided during the emergency phase. Seven medical teams and critical medical supplies were mobilized to northern Sumatra. Water purification plants and millions of tons of clean water were delivered to Banda Aceh relief efforts. Aid to Sri Lanka focused on providing and distributing clean drinking water and medical relief. Assistance to the Maldives and Seychelles included sending Australian environmental assessment teams to assess damage to the islands' coral reef and ecosystems. At the invitation of the Thai government, personnel were dispatched to Thailand to take a lead role in coordinating the Disaster Victim Identification process (DVI) and DVI team members began arriving in Thailand on 28 December 2004.

During a 12-month period, the AFP coordinated an Australian operation comprising officers from the AFP and state agencies, which identified more than 2,500 human remains within days of the tsunami. The main Australian charities established relief appeals to receive donations from private citizens, community groups and businesses. Australian charities-like their international counterparts-were flooded with donations. By 31 March 2005, Australian NGOs received a phenomenal AUD \$280 million (US \$205.7M) in donations from Australian businesses and the Australian public (this increased to AUD \$313 million (US \$229.9M) by mid May 2005. Various fund-raising activities were held throughout Australia, including the Wave Aid Tsunami Relief Concert in Sydney, which raised more than AUD \$2 million (US \$1.5M) in proceeds for UNICEF, CARE, Oxfam and the Red Cross. Australia's five largest NGOs, namely Australia Red Cross, CARE Australia, Caritas Australia, Oxfam Australia and World Vision Australia, received some 95% of the total donations. Nearly all of the top 12 Australian Stock Exchange listed companies reported donations to tsunami disaster relief appeals. Australia's top listed company, BHP Billiton's contribution totaled AUD \$1.1 million (US

\$1.5M). This included an initial donation of \$AUD 682,000 (US \$500,000) to World Vision and UNICEF plus AUD \$30,000 (US \$22,000) donated by BHP Billiton businesses in Indonesia, with additional donations from employees being matched by BHP. Other substantial corporate donations included AUD \$250,000 (US \$183.6) from each of the Commonwealth Bank, Australia Post and Wesfarmers, and AUD \$500,000 (US \$367.2) from Lonely Planet Publications. A number of companies made in-kind donations.<sup>121</sup> The Australian Defence Force contributed one medical team to assist in the Maldives and Sri Lanka. They also assisted Indonesia by providing naval vessels, helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, a field hospital, an engineering team, and air traffic control support.

### **Response to 2002 Bali Bombing**

Operation Bali Assist was an operation to evacuate Australian and other foreign nationals from Bali to Australia after the Bali terrorist bombing on 12 October 2002. It was the largest aero medical evacuation by the ADF since the Vietnam War. The mission was conducted in two phases. The first phase was the evacuation of 66 patients in five C130 aircraft from Sanglar Hospital, Bali to Darwin Hospital, Darwin, Australia. The first aircraft arrived 17 hours after the explosion and this phase involved the establishment of a casualty clearing station at Denpasar Airport to stabilize patients prior to transport. In the second phase, 51 patients were secondarily evacuated from Darwin Hospital to burns treatment/trauma centers around the country for definitive care (35 patients were transported by military aircraft and the rest by civilian agencies). This effort was coordinated by EMA. The mission was successful due to adherence to disaster management principles, training, and the united response of all civilian and military people involved.<sup>122</sup>

### **Evacuation from Affected States**

DFAT has outlined a Consular Services Charter that explains how they can assist Australians overseas. In crisis such as a natural disaster, terrorist attack, pandemics, or major accidents, the nature of the assistance may include:<sup>123</sup>

- Deploying expert teams to support affected Australians;
- Liaising with the families of any Australians killed or injured;

- Working with local authorities to support affected Australians;
- Supporting Australians trying to leave the area and putting them in contact with their families; and
- Providing travel advice and crisis updates.

DFAT maintains a pool of staff to be deployed in response to humanitarian crises at short notice. These staff provide essential humanitarian support in affected countries. In the last two years, they have deployed to Nepal, Vanuatu, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga.<sup>124</sup>

Below is a list of a few examples of how the Australian Government has provided this assistance:

- In February 2011, the Australian Government evacuated its officials from Libya as the security situation deteriorated due to Libyan government crackdown on anti-regime protesters.<sup>125</sup>
- The Australian Government coordinated responses to civil unrest and hostilities in Indonesia, East Timor (Timor-Leste), Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Kashmir during 1999–2000.<sup>126</sup>
- The Solomon Islands evacuation in June 2000, involved a seaborne evacuation, a joint Australia–New Zealand airborne operation and the need for a high level of cooperation between Commonwealth and State agencies on reception arrangements. A total of 1,066 people were evacuated, including 313 Australians.<sup>127</sup>
- During the hostage crisis and civil coup in Fiji in May–June 2000, the Australian Government issued 19 travel advisories on Fiji to keep the Australian public informed of the changing political and security environment. As a result, the number of Australians in Fiji decreased significantly during the period of the crisis.
- The East Timor (Timor-Leste) evacuation in September 1999 involved coordinating the deployment of substantial Australian Defence Force assets to assist in the departure of 2,551 Australians, approved third-country nationals, and a substantial number of internally displaced people.<sup>128</sup>

## **Women, Peace and Security**

Women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality are paramount to achieving sustainable development globally. Greater gender

equality may enhance economic efficiency and improve other development outcomes by removing barriers which prevent women from having the same access as men to human resource endowments, rights, and economic opportunities. Giving women access to equal opportunities allows them to emerge as social and economic actors, influencing and shaping more inclusive policies. Improving women's status also leads to more investment in their children's education, health, and overall wellbeing from a global perspective.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), adopted in 2000, recognizes that the experiences and needs of women and girls differ from those of men and boys in conflict and post-conflict situations, particularly in relation to human rights violations such as sexual and gender-based violence. UNSCR 1325 affirms the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding, and stresses their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the promotion of peace and security. It also affirms the need to integrate a gender perspective across United Nations operations. Australia actively supports the Women, Peace and Security agenda to ensure women and girls' human rights are protected and that women are empowered to participate in formal peace and security processes. In 2011, Australia appointed an Ambassador for Women and Girls, and in 2012 the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was endorsed by the Australian Government.

New and emerging issues for the Women, Peace, and Security agenda that are having an impact on the implementation of national action plans are illustrated in Figure 7.<sup>129</sup>

### **Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls**

Around half of Australia's aid budget is spent on initiatives, policies and programs, which focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.<sup>130</sup> The Australian Government is strongly committed to being at the forefront of efforts to empower women and girls and promote gender equality in the Indo-Pacific region. Reflecting this commitment, the government has appointed an Ambassador for Women and Girls to advocate on these issues. The government has also set a target requiring a minimum of 80% of investments, regardless of their objectives, will effectively address gender issues in their implementation. Where there are persistent challenges and slow progress towards equality, Australia will continue to invest strongly in enhancing.<sup>131</sup>

- Women's voice in decision-making, leadership, and peace-building;
- Women's economic empowerment; and
- Ending violence against women and girls.
- Australia also seeks to ensure their aid programs align with international diplomatic efforts by:<sup>132</sup>
- Expanding women's access to and participation in the global economy through advocacy within international fora, such as the G20;

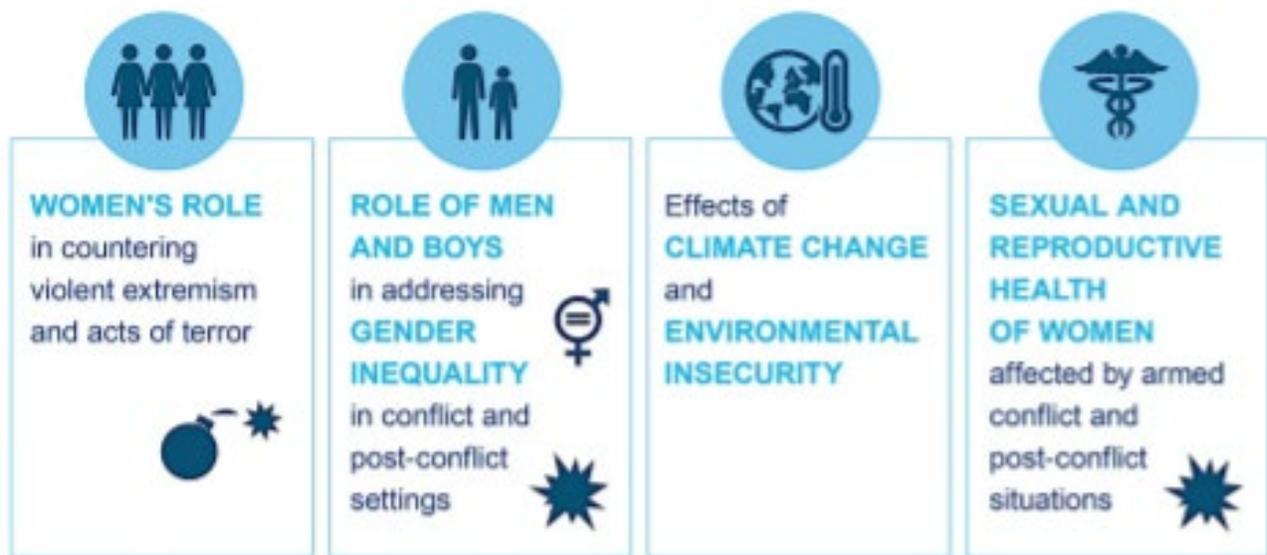


Figure 7: Issues Relating to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

- Ensuring the empowerment of women and girls in the region is a high priority for global and regional bodies through partnerships with United Nations Women, ASEAN, the IORA and the Pacific Islands Forum; and
- Implementing the United Nations Security Council's Women, Peace and Security commitments through effective aid program investments in countries affected by conflict.

***Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018***

In March 2012, the Australian Government adopted a *National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018* (Australian NAP). This action plan is the Australian Government's primary mechanism for fulfilling its commitment to turn UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda into action.<sup>133</sup>

The Australian Government recognizes women and girls have vastly different experiences to men and boys when it comes to peace and security. Women and girls often face devastating human rights violations, including high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, in conflict-affected settings. Women are also significantly underrepresented and often overlooked in formal peace processes. This is in spite of the fact that women can be powerful agents in preventing conflict and building peace. UNSCR 1325, under the United Nations' Women, Peace and Security agenda, addresses the impact of conflict on women and girls, and highlights the critical role women can play in preventing, managing and resolving conflict. Additionally, governments have a responsibility to make sure women and girls' human rights are protected as well as ensure women are empowered to participate in formal peace and security processes.<sup>134</sup>

UNSCR 1325, adopted in October 2000, is widely recognized as a landmark resolution. It represents the first time that the United Nations Security Council acknowledged the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, women's participation at the forefront of conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and women's right to participate in these processes. It formally acknowledged that women's participation, protection and a gender perspective are essential to the maintenance of international peace and security. These acknowledgments grew from previous commitments made by United Nations Member

States, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. UNSCR 1325 identified the need for action by the United Nations system and Member States in the following broad areas:

- Increasing participation of women in institutions and mechanisms related to conflict prevention, resolution and management, including United Nations field-based operations and peace processes.
- Adoption of a gender perspective in peace and security efforts, including peacekeeping operations, peace processes, and in the design of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs and refugee camps and settlements.
- Protection of women and girls, and their rights, including in relation to sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>135</sup>

The Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018 demonstrates Australia's ongoing support for the United Nations Women, Peace and Security agenda. The National Action Plan sets out how Australia will respond, at home and abroad, to integrate a gender perspective into its peace and security efforts, protect women and girls' human rights, and promote their participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution. It also commits the government to report every two years to the Australian Federal Parliament on the progress of this work. The National Action Plan is a practical step forward in establishing a framework for a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to implementing UNSCR 1325.<sup>136</sup>

In Australia, the Office for Women is the central coordinating body for the NAP. Australian Government agencies responsible for implementation of the NAP are:

- Department of Defence (Defence);
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT);
- Australian Federal Police (AFP);
- AusAID (integrated into DFAT in 2013);
- Attorney-General's Department (AGD); and
- Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), identified separately, but also part of Defence.

Office for Women, formerly in the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and since 2013, in the PM&C. They are all represented in the Women, Peace and Security agenda Inter-Departmental Working Group, which is the 'primary mechanism responsible for Australia's implementation of the NAP'.

At a global level, DFAT is working with other governments, civil society and the United Nations to ensure that international commitments to peace and security progress the principles of UNSCR 1325 and reflect the experiences, needs and roles of women and girls in conflict settings. In the Philippines, for example, DFAT has supported peacebuilding initiatives in Mindanao since 1996, including funding the Women Engaged in Action on UNSCR 1325 and continues to support the peace process between the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. DFAT has also supported the practical response to women's reproductive health needs in many conflict settings, through SPRINT.<sup>137</sup> The SPRINT Initiative provides access to

essential life-saving sexual and reproductive health services for women, men and children in times of crises. SPRINT delivers practical solutions for girls and women, trains humanitarian workers to deal with pregnancy, childbirth, reproductive health and the aftermath of rape and violence. Figure 8 depicts this SPRINT model of relief.<sup>138</sup>

In Papua New Guinea, there has been mounting political pressure to improve women's empowerment from women's groups (Office for the Development of Women) backed by the United Nations agencies and AusAID (now currently absorbed into DFAT) efforts. Gender-based violence remains a major issue in PNG as it is driven by social and cultural attitudes. The historic Equality and Participation Bill introduced in 2011 that was aimed at guaranteeing 22 seats to women in parliament has yet to be passed into law. Australia together with national and other non-government development agencies have committed funds and expertise to reduce genderbased violence by encouraging an environment of gender equality.<sup>139</sup>

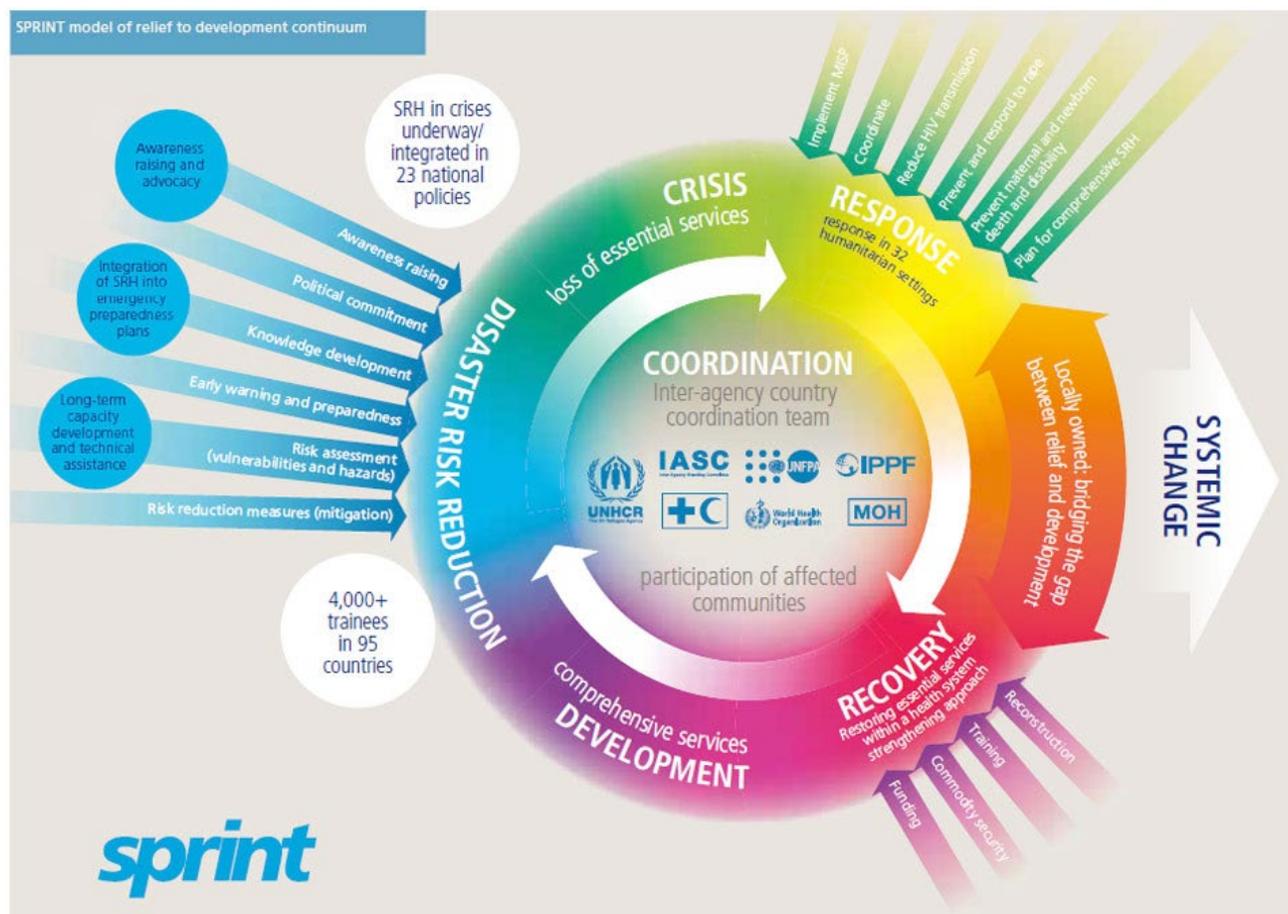


Figure 8: SPRINT Model of Relief



# AUSTRALIA

## National Framework

# National Framework

The Commonwealth of Australia is an island country with no land boundaries. Australian territories include Tasmania Island and many other small islands in the Pacific Ocean. Australian territories expand a total of 7.69 million sq. km (2.96 million sq. miles). It is an advanced country and one of the most prosperous in the world.<sup>140</sup> Australia has a culturally diverse population of 23 million (December 2013), including over 400,000 international students. The main language is English plus an additional 300 other languages are utilized throughout the country. The capital city of Australia is Canberra and the largest city is Sydney with a population of 4.67 million (2013). Australia's foreign and trade policy endorses its security and long-term prosperity. Australia has been fundamentally involved in global exertions to promote peace and security for decades.<sup>141</sup>

Australia is one of the world's most multicultural countries, rich in indigenous and immigrant cultures. Australia is a successful and prosperous nation, ranked second in the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Report 2014. The economy is one of the strongest of advanced economies in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. With low unemployment and low inflation, Australia is the fourth largest economy in the Asian region and is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.

Australia is vulnerable to natural disasters, including severe drought, bushfires, floods, severe storms, earthquakes, cyclones and landslides. These events may cause great financial hardship for individuals and communities, and can result in loss of life.<sup>142</sup>

Australian State Governments have responsibility, within their borders, for coordinating and planning for the response to and recovery from domestic disasters and civil emergencies. When the total resources (government, community and commercial) of an affected state cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the situation, the state government can seek assistance from the Australian Government. The Australian Government accepts responsibility and prepares plans for providing national-level assistance in response to such requests. The Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) provides the framework for addressing state requests for

Australian Government physical assistance arising from any type of disaster or emergency.<sup>143</sup>

The Attorney General's Department delivers programs and policies, which maintain and strengthen Australia's national security and emergency management procedures. Emergency management within the department is primarily undertaken across two divisions:<sup>144</sup>

The EMA division is responsible for preparing for emergencies and disasters through the development and maintenance of national plans; coordination of Australian Government crisis response and recovery efforts; and coordination of protective security arrangements (physical and personal) for Australian high office holders, visiting foreign dignitaries, at-risk foreign missions in Australia, as well as security arrangements for special events in Australia or overseas.

The National Security Resilience Policy Division provides policy advice on emergency management, protective security, identity security, e-security, critical infrastructure protection, and the security of chemicals.

The Australian Government Crisis Coordination Centre, operated by EMA, is a dedicated all-hazards facility, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.<sup>145</sup> The center provides whole-of-government situational awareness to inform national decision making during a crisis. This includes the coordination of physical assistance as well as briefing and support to executive decision-makers in the Australian Government, the state and territory governments, and non-government agencies.<sup>146</sup> In addition to 24/7 hazard monitoring and reporting, the center also:

- Centralizes and coordinates information across the Australian Government, states and territories during a crisis in Australia;
- Supports the DFAT during major emergencies and events overseas;
- Coordinates Australian Government physical and financial assistance for disaster relief;
- Maintains Australian Government response plans and arrangements for responding to domestic and international incidents; and
- Maintains the National Security Hotline, which is the single point of contact for the public to report possible signs of terrorism.

Where resources to meet a particular need are not available in Australia, EMA in consultation with the affected jurisdiction, DFAT and PM&C will seek international assistance as necessary through the appropriate channels.<sup>147</sup>

Responding to natural disasters, including the provision of relief and recovery assistance to disaster affected communities, is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments ('the states'). However, in recognition of the significant cost of natural disasters, the Australian Government established the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) to alleviate the financial burden on the states and to facilitate the early provision of assistance to disaster affected communities. Through the NDRRA, the Australian Government provides financial assistance directly to the states to assist them with costs associated with certain disaster relief and recovery assistance measures.

The NDRRA makes provisions for state governments to activate relief and recovery assistance immediately following a disaster without seeking approval from the Australian Government. Under the Arrangements, the states determine the type and level of assistance to make available. Importantly, the states are not bound by the assistance available under the NDRRA. That is, states can make available whatever assistance deemed necessary regardless of whether it is eligible for costs sharing under the NDRRA. This recognizes that states are best placed to identify the type and level of assistance to make available following a disaster, in accordance with their responsibility for disaster management.<sup>148</sup>

## National Policies, Plans, Frameworks, and Agreements

Australia has produced numerous policies, plans, frameworks and agreements to guide effective disaster response. This includes:

### Humanitarian Action Policy

The Humanitarian Action Policy provides a strategic-level framework, which guides the Australian Government's commitment to deliver effective and appropriate humanitarian action as part of their aid program in Australia.<sup>149</sup> It focuses on the preparation for, response to and recovery from humanitarian crises. The Australian Government's Humanitarian Action Policy identifies saving lives and humanitarian and emergency response as two of the five strategic

goals of Australia's aid program. Appropriate, effective response to humanitarian crises in developing nations is essential to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as assisting partner countries to protect their people and development gains. The MDGs are at the center of Australia's aid program.<sup>150</sup> This is evidenced by the fact that Australia is the largest ODA donor to the Pacific region with net ODA disbursements of AUD \$960 million (US \$704M) in 2009.<sup>151</sup> Providing assistance to those affected by natural disasters and conflict is considered to be both a humanitarian imperative and a pragmatic one. The Australian Government implements the HAP by delivering appropriate and effective humanitarian action through its agencies and through partners, such as United Nations agencies, the IFRC and non-government organizations.<sup>152</sup>

### Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework

The Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework is central to achieving the goal of Australia's Humanitarian Action Policy. The goal of the framework is to improve the safety of people affected by natural and human-induced crises, and relates to humanitarian action provided by DFAT in developing countries. The framework has been developed through extensive consultations with governments, and humanitarian multilateral and non-government organizations.<sup>153</sup>

### Australia's Aid Policy

The Australian Government's new development policy (June 2014), *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*, introduces key shifts in the aid program. The new performance framework, *Making Performance Count: enhancing the accountability and effectiveness of Australian aid*, was developed to build an aid program which is effective in promoting economic growth and reducing poverty and protects Australia's broader interests in the Indo-Pacific region. Both the new development policy and new performance framework introduce a stronger focus on performance, results, and value-for-money.<sup>154</sup>

### A Disaster Risk Reduction Policy for the Australian Aid Program

Investing in a Safer Future: a Disaster Risk Reduction Policy for the Australian Aid Program

provides the framework for the full integration of disaster risk reduction into Australia's aid program. This is Australia's key policy document for international disaster risk reduction. The policy supports the significant efforts of partner governments, United Nations agencies, civil society and others to implement the Hyogo Framework. The policy is crucial to help developing countries and communities minimize the impact of disaster.<sup>155</sup>

## Australian Government Disaster Response Plan

The COMDISPLAN is the plan for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance to Australian states and territories in an emergency or disaster. The Attorney-General or Minister responsible for Emergency Management must authorize approval for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance.<sup>156</sup> They also have the Australian Government Overseas Disaster AUSASSISTPLAN and is jointly managed by DFAT and EMA, with EMA acting as an agent of DFAT. The AUSASSISTPLAN recognizes the right of the affected country to set its own priorities and manage foreign assistance. This is repeated in Australia's Emergency Management Arrangements, which note that Australia responds to overseas disasters at the request of the affected country.<sup>157</sup>

## National Strategy for Disaster Resilience - 2011

Australian governments have recognized a national, coordinated and cooperative effort is required to enhance Australia's capacity to withstand and recover from emergencies and disasters due to increasing regularity and severity of natural disasters. A disaster resilient community is one which works together to understand and manage the risks it confronts. Australia believes disaster resilience is the collective responsibility of all sectors of society, including all levels government, business, the non-government sector and individuals. If all these sectors work together with a united focus and a shared sense of responsibility to improve disaster resilience, they will be far more effective than the individual efforts of any one sector.<sup>158</sup>

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience strategy focuses on seven priority areas to build disaster resilient communities across Australia:<sup>159</sup>

- Leading change and coordinating effort;

- Understanding risks;
- Communicating with and educating people about risks;
- Partnering with those who effect change;
- Empowering individuals and communities to exercise choice and take responsibility;
- Reducing risks in the built environment; and
- Supporting capabilities for disaster resilience.

The strategy is the first step in a long-term, evolving process to deliver sustained behavioral change and enduring partnerships. It also recognizes disaster resilience is a shared responsibility for individuals, households, businesses and communities, as well as governments. The COAG adopted the strategy on February 13, 2011.

## United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Attorney-General's Department is the Australian Government's focal point for the United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Sendai Framework is the global blueprint and fifteen-year plan to build the world's resilience to natural disasters.<sup>160</sup> The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:

- Understanding disaster risk;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- Investing in disaster reduction for resilience and;
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

It aims to achieve the 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. It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015. Figure 9 shows the Sendai DDR Framework.



www.preventionweb.net/go/sdrr  
 www.unisdr.org  
 isdr@un.org

# Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

## Scope and purpose

The present framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or manmade hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors.

## Expected outcome

The 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

## Goal

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster; increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

## Targets

Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015	Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030	Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030	Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020	Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030
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## Priorities for Action

There is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas.

- Priority 1** Understanding disaster risk
- Priority 2** Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Priority 3** Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Priority 4** Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to «Build Back Better» in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Figure 9: Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

## Humanitarian Partnership Agreement

The HPA is the primary mechanism for humanitarian funding for Australian NGOs. The HPA brings together the department and six pre-selected Australian NGOs (Care, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision) to:<sup>161</sup>

- Strengthen the strategic humanitarian partnership between these organizations and the department;
- Support NGOs' efforts to foster community resilience and preparedness; and
- Enable a rapid and coordinated response to humanitarian needs, especially in response to rapid-onset humanitarian emergencies.

The HPA has two major components:

- A disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction component to expand the risk reduction programs of the six HPA partners.
- A stand-by emergency response arrangement by which the department can request a single proposal for a joint humanitarian response from all or some of the NGO members of the Agreement.

This partnership was activated to respond to the earthquake in Nepal and Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. Photo 14 shows an Australian Black Hawk helicopter providing assistance during Operation Pacific Assist 2015. The HPA is scheduled to end in June 2016. Design for the successor mechanism is underway.<sup>162</sup>



Photo 14: Australian Assistance During Pacific Assist 2015

## Australian Government Agencies

Table 2 represents a list of Australian Government Agencies.<sup>163</sup>

Organization	Resource
<p>Airservices</p> <p>Alan Woods Building 25 Constitution Avenue Canberra ACT 2600 T: +61 2 6268 4111 W: <a href="http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/">http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/</a></p>	<p>Australia aviation traffic management matters including: air traffic control and aeronautical information services; aviation navigation and communication services; and aviation rescue and firefighting services at major airports.</p> <p>Airservices has an extensive national footprint and communications network including both terrestrial resources and digital radio communications.</p>
<p>Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence</p> <p>Level 1, 34 Lowe Street NSW 2620 Queanbeyan Australia T: +61 2 6160 2200 F: +61 2 6297 9072 E: <a href="mailto:info@civmilcoe.gov.au">info@civmilcoe.gov.au</a></p>	<p>Supports the development of national civil-military capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond more effectively to conflicts and disasters overseas. The Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence was established by the Australian Government in 2008. It is a multiagency Centre, administered by the Australian Department of Defence, with representation from the New Zealand Government, the DFAT, International Development, The Australian Federal Police and the Australian Council for International Development.<sup>164</sup></p>
<p>Attorney-General's Department</p> <p>Robert Garran Offices 3-5 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600 T: 1300 555 727 then ask for +61 2 6141 6666 W: <a href="https://www.ag.gov.au">https://www.ag.gov.au</a></p> <p>Emergency Management Australia (EMA) and National Security Resilience Policy Division Housed within the Attorney-General's Department</p>	<p>The EMA and the National Security Resilience Policy Division are the lead divisions for emergency management within Australia.</p>
<p>Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>ABS House 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen ACT 2617 T: 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 135 070 W: <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au/">http://www.abs.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>The ABS is Australia's national statistical agency, providing trusted official statistics on a wide range of economic, social, population and environmental matters of importance to Australia.<sup>165</sup></p>

Table 2: Australian Government Agencies

Organization	Resource
<p>Australian Civil-Military Centre</p> <p>2/34 Lowe St, Queanbeyan NSW 2620, Australia                      T: +61 2 6160 2200                      E: Info@acmc.gov.au                      W: https://www.acmc.gov.au/</p>	<p>The Australian Civil-Military Centre is an Australian Government initiative to improve Australia's effectiveness in civil-military collaboration for conflict and disaster management overseas.</p> <p>ACMC engages with and supports government departments and agencies, non-government organizations and international partners, including the United Nations, on civil-military issues to achieve focused outcomes for the region and globally. ACMC seeks a best practice approach to civil-military engagement by those involved in the strategic planning and delivery of conflict and disaster management activities.</p> <p>ACMC is staffed by officials of relevant Australian Government departments and agencies. It is administered through the Vice Chief of Defence Force Group. Portfolio responsibility resides with the Minister for Defence.</p>
<p>Australian Competition &amp; Consumer Commission</p> <p>Canberra office                      23 Marcus Clarke Street                      Canberra ACT 2601                      T: +61 2 6243 1111                      W: https://www.accc.gov.au/</p>	<p>This Commission implements video conferencing networks covering state capitals and Townsville, and is the statutory authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the Trade Practices Act.</p>
<p>Australian Federal Police (AFP)</p> <p>AOCC Client Liaison Team                      GPO Box 401                      Canberra ACT 2601                      T: +61 2 6131 3000                      W: http://www.afp.gov.au/</p>	<p>AFP gives access to national police communications networks for transmission of urgent traffic when other communications are restricted or unavailable.</p>
<p>Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)</p> <p>82 Northbourne Avenue                      Braddon ACT 2612                      T: +61 2 6279 5000                      W: http://www.amsa.gov.au/</p>	<p>AMSA conducts marine and aviation search and rescue planning and response; marine pollution identification, monitoring and dispersal; and maritime ship casualty response.</p>
<p>Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)</p> <p>619 Lower Plenty Road                      Yallambie VIC 3085                      T: +61 3 9433 2211                      W: http://www.arpansa.gov.au/</p>	<p>ARPANSA, as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)-designated National Competent Authority on Emergency Preparedness and Response to radiological and nuclear events, is postured to provide specialist technical and operational support to the Australian Government if requested to assist during a radiological or nuclear incident.</p>

Table 2: Australian Government Agencies (Continued)

Organization	Resource
<p>Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)</p> <p>Canberra (Central Office) 62 Northbourne Avenue Canberra ACT 2601 T: 1800 020 616 W: <a href="https://www.atsb.gov.au/">https://www.atsb.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>ATSB provides advice on transport safety matters including, but not limited to, OH&amp;S and site security aspects of accident sites.</p>
<p>Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)</p> <p>CASA head office CASA ABN Address: 16 Furzer Street Phillip ACT 2606 T: +61 2 6217 1111 W: <a href="https://www.casa.gov.au/">https://www.casa.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>CASA provides approval for use of foreign registered aircraft in Australia.</p>
<p>Department of Agriculture and Water Resources</p> <p>GPO Box 858 Canberra City ACT 2601 T: +61 2 6272 3933 W: <a href="http://www.agriculture.gov.au/">http://www.agriculture.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department provides advice and expertise on biosecurity, animal health and welfare, epidemiology, aquatic animal health, plant pests and diseases, introduced marine pests, food residues, pesticide use and response, and native and pest animal issues. They also grant access to state agricultural departments.</p>
<p>Department of Communications</p> <p>38 Sydney Avenue Forrest ACT 2603 T: +61 2 6219 5555 W: <a href="https://www.communications.gov.au/">https://www.communications.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department makes emergency broadcasting arrangements and provides strategic advice and professional support on broadcasting, online regulation, information and communications technology, telecommunications and post.</p>
<p>Department of Defence (DOD)</p> <p>T: 1800333362, +61 2 6127 1999 E: <a href="mailto:media@defence.gov.au">media@defence.gov.au</a> W: <a href="http://www.defence.gov.au/">http://www.defence.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>DOD has a range of military capabilities to assist the civil community in emergencies as required. Examples of capabilities are as follows: airlift (fixed and rotary wing aircraft); engineering support; search and support teams; temporary accommodation and general support; health and psychological support; liaison officers; defense imagery; aviation refuelling; and communications.</p>

Table 2: Australian Government Agencies (Continued)

Organization	Resource
<p>Department of Immigration and Border Protection</p> <p>The Manager Global Feedback Unit GPO Box 241 Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, 3001 T: 133 177 inside Australia W: <a href="https://www.border.gov.au/">https://www.border.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is responsible for immigration and customs border policy. This department is the conduit through which legitimate travellers, migrants, potential citizens and goods can pass, and the department to close the gate against those who intend to circumvent border controls. They manage the Migration Programme, the Humanitarian Programme, Australian citizenship, trade and customs, offshore maritime security and revenue collection.</p>
<p>Department of Social Services</p> <p>National office Tuggeranong Office Park Soward Way (cnr Athllon Drive) Greenway ACT 2900 T: 1300 653 227 W: <a href="https://www.dss.gov.au/">https://www.dss.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department delivers a broad range of social policy outcomes. It works in partnership with other government and non-government organizations in the management of a diverse range of programs and services designed to support and improve the lives of Australians by creating opportunities for economic and social participation by individuals, families and communities. The Department assists and ensures aged care providers have emergency plans in place.</p>
<p>Department of Finance</p> <p>John Gorton Building King Edward Terrace Parkes ACT 2600 T: +61 2 6215 2222 W: <a href="http://www.finance.gov.au/">http://www.finance.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department provides government financial accountability, governance and financial management frameworks; develops procurement policy; and fosters the efficient and effective use of information and communications technologies by the Australian Government.</p>
<p>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)</p> <p>R.G. Casey Building John McEwen Crescent Barton ACT 0221 T: +61 2 6261 1111 W: <a href="http://dfat.gov.au/pages/">http://dfat.gov.au/pages/</a></p>	<p>This Department's role is to advance Australia's national interest by working to strengthen Australia's security and enhance Australia's prosperity.</p> <p>This Department provides foreign, trade and development policy advice to the government and works with other government agencies to ensure that Australia's pursuit of its global, regional and bilateral interests is coordinated effectively.<sup>166</sup></p>
<p>Department of Health</p> <p>GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601 T: +61 2 6289 1555 W: <a href="http://www.health.gov.au/">http://www.health.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department provides a computer network between capitals and major city centers; prepares national health plans on environmental health, communicable disease, mass casualty and CBRN guidelines; offers epidemiologists and communicable disease experts to assist with epidemic prevention, response and recovery; provides information flow with state and territory emergency operations centres and links with State/territory health departments; establishes an emergency media response network; assists with long-term mental health responses; requests convening of the Australian Medical Transport Coordination Group; offers health finance advice; and grants access to State health departments through Chief Health Officers, AHPPC.</p>

Table 2: Australian Government Agencies (Continued)

Organization	Resource
<p>Department of Human Services</p> <p>PO Box 7788            Canberra BC ACT 2610            T: +61 3 6216 0864            W: <a href="https://www.humanservices.gov.au/">https://www.humanservices.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satellite linked TV facilities with interactive talkback support to over 400 locations;</li> <li>• Income support;</li> <li>• Medicare and child support advice and assistance;</li> <li>• Payment systems;</li> <li>• National Emergency Call Centre Surge Capability;</li> <li>• Allied health professionals, field staff and approximately 650 social work staff resources; and</li> <li>• Mobile computing support and two mobile service locations.</li> </ul>
<p>Department of Immigration and Border Protection</p> <p>3 Lonsdale Street            Braddon ACT 2612            Postal address:            GPO Box 717            Canberra ACT 2601            T: +61 2 6264 1111-switchboard            W: <a href="https://www.border.gov.au/">https://www.border.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sourcing of translating and interpreting services;</li> <li>• 24 hour Border Operation Center in Canberra; and</li> <li>• Replacement immigration documentation to clients where necessary.</li> </ul>
<p>Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development</p> <p>National Office:            111 Alinga Street            Canberra ACT 2601            T: 1800 075 001 (within Australia)            W: <a href="https://infrastructure.gov.au/">https://infrastructure.gov.au/</a></p>	<p>This Department provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice on transport security matters;</li> <li>• Assessment of airport curfew dispensation requests;</li> <li>• Processing of aviation transportation requests; and</li> <li>• Assistance in facilitating additional commercial airline resources or access to airport.</li> </ul>

Table 2: Australian Government Agencies (Continued)

## Australian Organizations (Domestically Focused)

Table 3 represents Australian Organizations with a Domestic Focus.

Organization	Resource
<p>Australian Council For International Development (ACFID)</p> <p>14 Napier Close, Deakin, ACT, 2600</p> <p>Postal Address: Private Bag 3 Deakin, ACT, 2600</p> <p>T: +61 2 6285 1816</p> <p>E: @acfid.asn.au</p> <p>W: <a href="https://acfid.asn.au/">https://acfid.asn.au/</a></p>	<p>ACFID is focused on building a strong and effective civil society, both in Australia and in developing countries. More information on how ACFID supports international aid in developing countries can be located in the <i>Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia</i> section of this book.</p>
<p>Australian Red Cross: Canberra</p> <p>Red Cross House 3 Dann Close Garran ACT 2605 Mail PO Box 610 Mawson ACT 2607</p> <p>T: +61 2 6234 7600</p> <p>F: +61 2 6234 7650</p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:actinfo@redcross.org.au">actinfo@redcross.org.au</a></p> <p>W: <a href="http://www.redcross.org.au/">http://www.redcross.org.au/</a></p>	<p>The Australian Red Cross provides relief in times of crisis and care for local communities in Australia and Asia Pacific.<sup>167</sup> Within Australia their work is focused around emergency services. How the Australian Red Cross provides assistance outside of Australia, is located in the <i>Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia</i> section of this book.</p>
<p>Caritas</p> <p>GPO Box 9830 Sydney NSW 2001</p> <p>T: +61 2 8306 3400</p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:questions@caritas.org.au">questions@caritas.org.au</a></p> <p>W: <a href="http://www.caritas.org.au/">http://www.caritas.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Caritas Australia work in Australia includes alleviating poverty in Indigenous Australia through projects such as the Tjanpi Desert Weavers, which generate an income and provide sustainable development opportunities for women in rural communities. Caritas Australia supports small Aboriginal and Strait Islander run and led organizations that have their roots in the local communities, working towards greater self-determination and cultural revitalization.<sup>168</sup> For more information on how Caritas provides assistance outside of Australia, please see the <i>Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia</i> section of this book.</p>
<p>Oxfam</p> <p>Melbourne Head Office 132 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053</p> <p>T: +61 3 9289 9444</p> <p>W: <a href="https://www.oxfam.org.au/">https://www.oxfam.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Oxfam Australia is an Australian, independent, not-for-profit, secular, community-based aid and development organization, and an affiliate of Oxfam International.<sup>169</sup> Oxfam Australia works to support Indigenous Australians. Poverty in Australia is as harsh and real as it is in developing countries. For example, Australia's Indigenous population (approximately 500,000 people) is the most disadvantaged group in the country in terms of income, unemployment, imprisonment, child protection, health and wellbeing, life expectancy and education.<sup>170</sup> For more information on how Oxfam provides assistance outside of Australia, please see the <i>Internationally Focused Organizations in Australia</i> section of this book.</p>

Table 3: Australian Organizations

Organization	Resource
<p>United Nations Association of Australia</p> <p>EcoCentre Griffith University 170 Kessel Rd Nathan Qld 4111 T: +61 07 3735 3525 W: <a href="http://www.unaaqld.org.au">http://www.unaaqld.org.au</a></p>	<p>The United Nations Association (UNAA) in Australia operates through state divisions to promote the United Nations throughout Australia. UNAA Queensland organizes a variety of activities, events, award programs and conferences that promote the aims and ideals of the United Nations. United Nations Associations have a unique role to play in: <sup>171</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminating information and educational materials about the United Nations;</li> <li>• Lobbying the government, political parties and interest groups in support of the United Nations;</li> <li>• Conducting research and academic initiatives such as Model United Nations conferences and seminars;</li> <li>• Motivating the media to provide frequent and accurate coverage of the United Nations and its programs;</li> <li>• Collaborating with other civil society organizations, local United Nations offices, private sector and other partner on projects related to the work of the United Nations;</li> <li>• Commemorating United Nations Days through public events; and</li> <li>• Educating and engaging the youth of today to be leaders and world citizens – mainly through the use of digital media – so that they may understand and embrace global interdependence.</li> </ul>

Table 3: Australian Organizations (Domestic Focus Continued)

## Domestic Disaster Management Activities

### Roles and Responsibilities of the State, Territory and Local Governments

Under Australia’s constitutional arrangements, primary responsibility for the protection of life, property and the environment rests with the states and territories in their capacity as first responders. In Australia, each state and territory has legislation that governs its emergency management arrangements. States and territories also have emergency plans that include a communications component for the dissemination of emergency warnings to communities. State and territory emergency services organizations decide whether to issue an emergency warning, to whom a warning is issued, which warning technologies to adopt, and when to activate them in accordance with nationally required protocols. State and territory governments, in collaboration with local government, also have a responsibility to educate, prepare and warn people who are vulnerable, or who may have special needs in the event of an emergency.<sup>172</sup>

The COAG endorsed the Model arrangements for leadership during emergencies of national consequence (‘the Arrangements’) in 2008. These Arrangements represent how Australian governments would work together to coordinate the response to, and recovery from, emergencies of national consequence. These are defined, for the purposes of these Arrangements, as emergencies that require consideration of national level policy, strategy and public messaging or interjurisdictional assistance, where such assistance is not covered by existing arrangements. In adopting the Arrangements, leaders acknowledged the following roles and responsibilities:<sup>173</sup>

- States and territories have primary responsibility for the management of emergencies within their jurisdictions;
- When emergencies occur, the Australian Government provides certain forms of physical and financial assistance to states and territories, when requested to do so and may also provide financial and other assistance to individuals directly affected by an emergency;

- The Australian Government also has specific responsibilities in relation to national security and defence, border control, aviation and maritime transport, quarantine, astronomical and meteorological observations, enforcement of Australian Government legislation, and international relations; and
- Each jurisdiction is responsible for determining its own internal coordination mechanisms to give effect to these Arrangements.

A frequent element in national disaster response has been the provision of assistance by defence. Defence domestic disaster assistance is viewed as a secondary activity to its priority role of warfighting and other international tasks. There is no allocated budget to defence assistance for domestic disasters nor does it have detailed capability requirements. Several times a year, defence provides longer duration assistance to prevent further loss of life or to reduce suffering. These tasks include the provision of shelters, fodder drops from helicopters, and transporting firefighters and equipment by helicopter into and out of remote areas. These activities normally occur following large disasters such as Cyclone Tracy (1974), the Ash Wednesday fires (1983), the Sydney hailstorms (1999), the Australian Capital Territory and Victorian fires (2003), Cyclone Larry (2006), Victorian bushfires (2009), and the Cairns Hospital evacuation.<sup>174</sup>

### ***Victorian Bushfires***

The Black Saturday Victorian bushfires of 7 February 2009 claimed 173 lives, injured 822 people and destroyed 2,029 houses. The Victorian Government requested Commonwealth assistance on 8 February. The Prime Minister, together with the National Security Adviser, flew to Victoria that day to lead the Australian Government's response. Headquarters Joint Operations Command formed a Joint Task Force (JTF) 662 to coordinate the on-ground Defence contribution. The Chief of Defence Force's Liaison Officer initially worked out of the Victorian Integrated Emergency Coordination Centre, before moving to the Department of Human Services. The liaison role involved maintaining five lines of communications: JTF 662, Defence Aid to the Civil Community stakeholders, Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, the Victorian Government and the Defence Support

Group. Under the transition to recovery and reconstruction, emergency services originally provided by the ADF were transitioned to local solutions, such as councils, state government agencies and commercial contractors.<sup>175</sup>

### ***Cairns Hospital Evacuation***

The Cairns Hospital Evacuation, also known as Operation Yasi Assist, was the largest air evacuation, undertaken at very short notice to avert disaster, in Australia's history. Tropical storm Cyclone Yasi was bearing down north of Queensland in February 2011, and 250 patients from the Cairns Base Hospital and Cairns Private Hospital were moved to Brisbane to avoid the severe tropical storm. The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) activated aeromedical evacuation teams at Amberley and Richmond bases and by shortly after 10 pm the aircraft touched down at Cairns Airport. Over the next eight hours, four high-dependency patients and more than 100 on stretchers, along with many walking patients and accompanying family members, were loaded onto the aircraft and flown to safety. A week later, the RAAF returned 35 patients to Cairns who could not be transported by civilian means.<sup>176</sup>



# AUSTRALIA

## Conclusion

# Conclusion

Australia's geographic location, within the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and their strong economic status coupled with a robust disaster management and humanitarian assistance program, affords Australia the ability and the capacity to support national and regional disaster management efforts. Globally, the intensity and frequency of disasters is increasing in scale and impact. Geographically, the Indo-Asia-Pacific region is the most disaster prone region in the world. Australia responds quickly and effectively to nations within the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to help develop mitigation initiatives, coordinate response activities, and engage countries within this region in DRR initiatives.

Australia has a progressive approach to DRR throughout the region to support disaster planning, legislation, capacity building and relationship building, which addresses existing government initiatives in disaster management and preparedness, and climate change adaptation throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. This helps to promote the development of effective disaster management activities and national resilience.

DFAT is responsible for leading the Australian Government's response to international humanitarian crises; DFAT ensures that humanitarian investments and policy engagements align with and support Australian government policy. Where requested, DFAT has the capacity to respond rapidly to provide humanitarian assistance tailored to the crisis context. They work closely with partner governments to determine the best way for Australia to assist.

The CFE-DM Australia Disaster Management Handbook serves as an initial source of information for those individuals preparing for DRR activities or immediate deployment with Australian partner responders in crisis. It includes references provided by the Australian Government as well as open source material. Additionally, it highlights the important role Australia plays in preparing for, mitigating, responding to, and recovering from a natural or man-made disaster in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

Discussion includes key areas such as the Australian organizational structure for domestic and foreign disaster management, international DM agreements, regional training programs and

exercise support. The handbook also provides general information in regards to multi-national response activities and further explains how the U.S. and Australian DMHA responses interrelate and correspond with one another in order to provide an effective, timely and cohesive response throughout the region. Australia's international framework and whole-of-government (domestic) framework provides a general guide for U.S. forces, who may work closely under a unified DM effort.

Australia has numerous policies and frameworks, and has several bilateral and multilateral agreements with its partners and stakeholders in disaster response. Strong international collaboration is a key element in preventing, preparing, responding to and recovering from the myriad of disaster threats facing the Indo-Asia Pacific region. The development of strong global partnerships saves lives and mitigates the effects of natural disaster hazards.



# AUSTRALIA

## Appendices

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ACFID	Australian Council for International Development
ACMC	Australian Civil-Military Centre
ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADMM-Plus	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AGD	Attorney-General's Department
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
AMC	Australian Maritime College
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ANZEMC	Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee
ANZLF	Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum
ANZUS	Australian-New Zealand-U.S.
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ATSB	Australian Transport Safety Bureau
AusAID	Former Australian Agency for Aid and Development (currently absorbed into DFAT)
AUSASSISTPLAN	Australian Government Overseas Disaster Assistance Plan
AusMAT	Australian Medical Assistance Team
AUSMIN	Australia-U.S. Ministerial consultations
BNPB	Indonesian: Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COMDISPLAN	Australian Government Disaster Response Plan
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade
DM	Disaster Management
DMHA	Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Acronym	Definition
DOD	Department of Defense
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DVI	Disaster Victim Identification process
EAS	East Asia Summit
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones
EMA	Emergency Management Australia
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
FRANZ	France, Australia, New Zealand (FRANZ) agreement
HOM	Head of Mission
HPA	Humanitarian Partnership Agreement
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
IOS	International Organization for Standardization
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
JTF	Joint Task Force
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NEMCC	National Emergency Management Coordination Centre
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSOCC	Onsite Operational Coordination Centre
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PM&C	Prime Minister and Cabinet
PMSP	Pacific Maritime Security Program
PPB	Australian Pacific Patrol Boat Program
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RedR	Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief
RIMPAC	Rim of the Pacific (Exercise)
SAR	Search and Rescue
SOVFA	Status of Visiting Forces Agreement

Acronym	Definition
SPRINT	Sexual and Reproductive Health Program IN Crisis and Post Crisis SiTuations
UNAA	United Nations Association of Australia
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

## Department of Defense Recent Engagements

The U.S. views its alliance with Australia as an anchor of peace and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The U.S. will work with Australia to sustain a stable security environment and regional order rooted in economic openness, respect for international law and norms, peaceful resolution of disputes, and respect for universal rights and freedoms.<sup>177</sup> Table 4 highlights the events and descriptions of some recent civil-military engagements.

Event	Description
Civil-Military Interaction Workshop 5-10 April 2015	CFE-DM attends the Civil-Military Interaction Workshop to increase shared understanding amongst those involved in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and to build awareness of what these organizations bring to assist affected countries.
ACMC Civil-Military Leaders Workshop 9-12 June 2015	CFE-DM attends the Civil-Military Leaders Workshop hosted by ACMC.
RedR Australia Essentials in Humanitarian Practice Training 27 March-1 April 2014	CFE-DM participates in the RedR Australia Essentials in Humanitarian Practice Training.
Australia Civil-Military Center Leadership Conference 8-11 February, 2014, Australia <sup>178</sup>	On 11 February 2015, 37 representatives met from across government (Australian and international), civil society, private sector and the Australian Defence Force to draw on the experiences and observations of individual who were apart of the response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. <sup>179</sup>
Engagement with Joint Operations Command and the Australian Defence Force 18 June, 2014	A senior-level engagement with Australian Air Commodore Kendall Quinn, Director of General Engagement and Assessment, Joint Exercises and Evaluation. <sup>180</sup>
Talisman Saber 2015 in Australia 4-19 July, 2015	More than 33,000 U.S. and Australian personnel participated in the biennial military training exercise. <sup>181</sup>
Talisman Saber 2013 in Australia 14-29 July, 2013	A bilateral exercise designed to train Australian and U.S. Forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations in order to improve Australian/U.S. combat readiness and interoperability.
Talisman Saber 2011 in Australia 11-29 July, 2011	Talisman Saber, jointly sponsored by the U.S. Pacific Command and ADF Joint Operations Command, trained the U.S. 7th Fleet and Australian Deployable Joint Headquarters staffs as a designated Combined Task Force. <sup>182</sup>

Table 4: Department of Defence Recent Engagements

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