PROMOTING INNOVATION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

A CALL FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HELP SAVE LIVES IN EMERGENCIES

Globally, humanitarian disasters are increasing in scale, frequency and impact. As demand for humanitarian assistance increases, the need for humanitarian response to be effective, efficient and accountable also increases. The Australian Government is committed to rapid and effective response to humanitarian crises, particularly within the Indo-Pacific Region. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is responsible for leading the Australian Government’s response to international humanitarian crises.

The Australian Government is also innovating the way we do business and identifying effective ways for the private sector to contribute to humanitarian response. As part of this agenda, DFAT is investing in new and innovative humanitarian emergency relief supplies to help save lives and provide relief immediately after a crisis.

Through the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge, DFAT is seeking new partnerships with Australian businesses, entrepreneurs, NGOs, social enterprises, academics and designers. Together we want to identify new products, partnerships and innovative solutions addressing three common challenges faced in the immediate aftermath of a humanitarian crisis.
THE CHALLENGES

DFAT INVITES BOTH NEW PRODUCTS THAT CAN SUPPLEMENT OUR EXISTING SUPPLIES AND NEW, UPDATED, MORE SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY THAT CAN PERFORM BETTER THAN OUR EXISTING SUPPLIES

1. PROVIDING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
   (READ THE FULL WATER BRIEF ON PAGE 6)
   > Low cost, environmentally sensitive products or solutions that can provide people affected by humanitarian disasters access to clean, potable water.

2. GENERATING OFF-GRID ENERGY
   (READ THE FULL ENERGY BRIEF ON PAGE 6)
   > Getting power to individuals and remote communities when energy systems fail.
   > Innovative approaches to harnessing renewable energy sources after a disaster.

3. SAFE TEMPORARY SHELTER OPTIONS
   (READ THE FULL SHELTER BRIEF ON PAGE 6)
   > New technology or design that makes temporary shelter for individuals, families and communities easier to use, safer and more appropriate in the Pacific regional context and easier for DFAT to transport and store.
WHAT DFAT CURRENTLY SUPPLIES IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES

DFAT currently maintains stores of humanitarian relief supplies in the priority areas of:

› water, energy and shelter

that can be rapidly deployed within 48 hours of a disaster to assist up to 65,000 families.

EXAMPLES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES CURRENTLY STORED IN DFAT WAREHOUSES FOR DEPLOYMENT IN EMERGENCIES:

› PROVIDING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
  » Water storage buckets and collapsible containers for individuals and families
  » Water sterilisation tablets (Aquatabs) for individuals and families
  » Hygiene kits for families (e.g. soap, toilet tissue, etc.)
  » Water bladder tanks and diesel/petrol powered pump kits for communities
  » Diesel sludge pumps for communities

› GENERATING OFF-GRID ENERGY
  » Solar powered torches and lanterns for individuals and families
  » Petrol and diesel generators for families and communities

› SAFE TEMPORARY SHELTER OPTIONS
  » Mosquito repellent bed nets, blankets, shelter repair tool kits, tents & tarpaulins

Through the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge, DFAT is inviting applications that demonstrate both new ideas for products that can supplement our existing supplies and new, updated, more sustainable technology or solutions that can perform better than our existing supplies.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CURRENT STORES ON PAGE 12.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are open to all Australian businesses, universities, non-governmental organisations, social enterprises and researchers with a valid ABN. DFAT also welcomes applications from international organisations that can demonstrate a working involvement within the Indo-Pacific region.

VIEW THE FULL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA ON PAGE 6

Applications must be submitted online using the application form onSmartyGrants.


If you are unable to access Smarty Grants please email humanitariansupplieschallenge@dfat.gov.au
 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Pacific countries are highly exposed to the impacts of climate change and extreme natural events (e.g. tropical cyclones, storm surges, rising sea levels, floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis). In the last 60 years, these events have affected more than 9.2 million people and caused more than US $3.2 billion in damage (World Bank 2012).

Disasters have a greater impact on small, vulnerable communities and economies, such as the small island states of the Pacific. Over the past decade, most humanitarian crises in the Indo-Pacific have been the result of disasters.

Humanitarian crises undermine growth, reverse hard-won development gains, increase poverty and can result in social and economic instability which can last for decades. Where the impact of a disaster exceeds a country’s capacity to respond, Australia stands ready to assist.

 HOW DFAT RESPONDS TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

The Australian Government is committed to responding to international humanitarian crises. Between July 2015 and April 2016, Australia responded to 20 crises, providing $167 million in life saving assistance. Australia’s location in the Indo-Pacific region provides us with a unique perspective on humanitarian action in the region.

DFAT’s Humanitarian Strategy provides the framework for Australia’s humanitarian action, which is designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters and other humanitarian crises.

Australia has a range of response options available when responding to humanitarian crises. One of the ways we provide relief is in the provision of life-saving emergency supplies including products and technology that help individuals, families and communities impacted by disaster access potable water, generate energy when local systems fail, and provide safe, temporary shelter.

In order to respond rapidly in the aftermath of a disaster, DFAT maintains a stockpile of these humanitarian emergency relief supplies in six strategic locations across the Indo-Pacific region that can be deployed to support up to 65,000 families immediately after a crisis.

 WHY A CHALLENGE?

Increasing humanitarian needs mean we must find more efficient ways to deliver humanitarian assistance. As outlined in the Humanitarian Strategy, DFAT believes that there is significant potential for improved outcomes by stocking more effective relief supplies and promoting innovative solutions, including those developed by the private sector.

The Humanitarian Supplies Challenge continues DFAT’s commitment to innovation and private sector engagement and follows the success of the $2 million Pacific Humanitarian Challenge that concluded in May 2016.

The Humanitarian Supplies Challenge is an opportunity to find new and improved methods of delivering assistance that targets the needs of those affected by humanitarian disasters.
PROBLEM 1 – ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

Following a disaster, access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene is an essential foundation for people’s health and quality of life. When normal access to clean water and regular hygiene routines are disrupted in a crisis, inadequate access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and poor hygiene practices can lead to significant health impacts including the spread of diseases such as cholera, diarrhoeal disease, polio and hepatitis.

When responding to humanitarian crises DFAT prioritises resources that can be deployed to save lives and assist with access to safe, clean drinking water for individuals, families and communities.

Through the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge, DFAT is seeking new products that can provide low cost, technologically simple, environmentally sensitive solutions for the creation, delivery and storage of potable water at the:

› Personal (1 individual)
› Family (5 people) and
› Community (20 families) scales.

PROBLEM 2 – GENERATING OFF-GRID ENERGY

Generating electricity after a disaster is vital for: keeping communication lines open, particularly access to mobile phones; preserving health (including cold storage of food and essential medicines); keeping individuals and families safe and preventing unnecessary environmental impact and detrimental health impacts from using wood fires for cooking and lighting.

In the Pacific, delivering energy solutions to remote and hard to access communities impacted by disaster is a significant challenge.

Through the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge, DFAT is seeking new technology and regionally appropriate ways to:

› Provide temporary power to individuals and remote communities when existing energy systems fail
› Harness energy from renewable sources if existing energy systems fail after a disaster, and
› Provide temporary energy storage solutions to families and communities impacted by disasters.

PROBLEM 3 – SAFE TEMPORARY SHELTER OPTIONS

In the Pacific, climate change is making small island states increasingly vulnerable to severe weather events such as cyclones. These large scale natural disasters can cause catastrophic damage to essential infrastructure such as homes, schools and medical centres.

In the aftermath of natural disasters, the rapid provision of appropriate temporary shelter helps protect the most vulnerable members of communities, including women, children and people with disabilities or special needs when their homes or care facilities are no longer habitable.

The unique context of the Indo-Pacific region including its community structures, climate and remoteness require innovative solutions to temporary shelter that are both culturally and technologically appropriate.

Through the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge, DFAT is seeking to supplement our existing temporary shelter products with new technology and innovative solutions that are:

› Safer, lighter, more durable, easily transportable and easy to use, and
› Technologically and culturally appropriate in the Pacific regional context.
THE CHALLENGE AWARDS

The expert selection panel will select up to 10 Challenge winners to share in the $1 Million (Australian Dollars) Challenge awards. Winning products will supplement DFAT’s existing stores of life saving humanitarian emergency relief supplies.

Challenge applicants may also gain exposure to the broader global relief supplies market through our partnerships with humanitarian contractors, NGOs, logistics providers and UN Agencies.

The Challenge may also give DFAT the opportunity to develop relationships with potential humanitarian emergency relief suppliers that we may call on in future disaster responses.

TIMELINE

- AUGUST 19: CHALLENGE OPENS
- SEPTEMBER 30: CHALLENGE CLOSES
- OCTOBER 8: SELECTION PANEL MEETING
- NOVEMBER 2: WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Personnel from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and Fiji Police Force prepare Australian Aid stores to be distributed in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, 2016. - Credit ADF
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The Humanitarian Supplies Challenge submissions will be accepted from:

1. Applicants must be:
   a. An Australian registered business with a valid ABN.
   b. Or a business based overseas with overseas registration details.
   c. Able to demonstrate: a functional business model, the capacity to deliver supplies in appropriate quantities, and demonstrate the ability to operate within the Indo-Pacific region.

2. Applications must fall within one of DFAT’s identified Challenges:
   a. Access to clean water,
   b. Off-grid energy generation or,
   c. Temporary shelter.

3. Products or solutions within the ‘access to clean water’ and ‘energy generation’ categories must be suitable for deployment within the first 48 hours of emergency humanitarian disaster response in order to help save lives.

4. Items under ‘temporary shelter’ may include durable products that could be distributed during the emergency relief phase of a sudden onset disaster to provide immediate temporary shelter needs while people rebuild their homes and community structures. Permanent shelter solutions are not within the parameters of this challenge and will be deemed ineligible to progress for further consideration.

5. At least one member of the submission team must be available to attend a ‘Showcase’ event on the east coast of Australia, if requested. This event is currently scheduled for 2 December 2016.

6. Applicants must be able to provide a sample product for testing, if requested (only short listed applications will be invited to provide samples).

7. Applications must be in English.

8. Only complete applications will be eligible review.
SELECTION PROCESS - HOW WILL APPLICATIONS BE ASSESSED?

DFAT will conduct a streamlined assessment and shortlisting process of eligible applications to identify up to 10 Challenge finalists.

The selection process involves three key stages

› Initial eligibility checking,

› Review and shortlisting by the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge Expert Selection Panel, comprising independent technical experts and DFAT sector specialists,

› Finalists may be invited to showcase their products to the Expert Selection Panel before winners are announced.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria by the Expert Selection Panel:

1. **Alignment with the Challenge** – The product or solution meets one of the three Challenges: Access to clean water, Off-grid energy generation and Temporary shelter; is suitable for deployment within 48 hours after a disaster; aligns with DFAT policies; and delivers value for money.

2. **Potential for impact** – The application demonstrates the product or solution’s potential to improve humanitarian response in the Indo-Pacific Region; is innovative in nature and aligns with the Do No Harm approach.

3. **Technical Feasibility** – The product or solution is proven through evidence of past success or research to be technically sound, safe and able to solve its identified Challenge problem and meets safety and storage requirements for warehousing and deployment.

4. **Practicality of use** – The product or solution solves its identified Challenge problem and is simple to use, intended for use by a non-expert, does not require detailed training and aligns with any relevant international standards for use in humanitarian response.

5. **Relevance to the region** – The applicant demonstrates an understanding of the specific geographic, environmental and cultural context of the Pacific and how their product or solution meets these circumstances.

APPLICATION FORM

Applications must be submitted online using the application form on SmartyGrants.


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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: WHAT ARE AUSTRALIA’S AID PRIORITIES?**

Australia’s aid program is focused on two key development outcomes: supporting private sector development and strengthening human development.

To achieve this, the aid program invests in several priority areas including:

- Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness
- Agriculture, fisheries and water
- Effective governance
- Education and health
- Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection

For more information on Australia’s aid priorities and to find out how Australia delivers aid visit the DFAT webpage.

**Q: WHAT HAS BEEN AUSTRALIA’S RECENT CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE PACIFIC?**

The response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, which devastated Fiji in February 2016, is a good example of the sort of assistance that Australia provides in the Pacific. The Australian Government response was swift and substantial, including providing 520 tonnes of life-saving relief supplies that assisted more than 200,000 displaced people.

Working closely with the Government of Fiji, other key donors and humanitarian partners, Australia’s overall $35 million package of humanitarian assistance that comprised emergency humanitarian relief, early recovery and long term recovery and reconstruction to assist the government and people of Fiji.

**Q: IS THE CHALLENGE TARGETED TO NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS NGOS AND CHARITIES?**

The challenge is open to any organisation that can provide an innovative solution to the three challenges: access to clean water; energy generation and storage; and safe, temporary shelter. We expect to receive submissions from NGOs, businesses, universities, regional organisations, and other creative, design-focused institutions from Australia and internationally.

**Q: HOW MANY AWARDS ARE AVAILABLE? IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A WINNER TO RECEIVE MORE THAN ONE AWARD?**

The $1 million (Australian dollar) Challenge funding will be shared between up to 10 winners of the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge.

Organisations with multiple innovations are welcome to submit separate applications for each product they wish to be assessed.
The expert selection panel will review all eligible applications and recommend a short list of Challenge finalists. DFAT will decide on the division of available funds based on the expert selection panel’s recommendations and the number, relevance and quality of products submitted.

Each Challenge winner will have an allotment of their product prepositioned in DFAT’s emergency relief supply warehouses on a one-off basis for trial in a humanitarian response.

During replenishment of stores, DFAT may choose to invest in further allotments of successfully trialled Challenge products.

**Q: WHAT SORT OF PRODUCTS WILL QUALIFY FOR AN AWARD?**

DFAT is seeking innovative and market-ready solutions to the three Challenge problems: Access to clean water, Off-grid energy generation and Temporary shelter solutions. Winning products will clearly demonstrate their potential to improve humanitarian emergency response in line with the Selection Criteria.

To qualify for an award, the application must meet the Eligibility Criteria in order to progress to review by the expert selection panel. The selection panel will review and rank applications based on the Selection Criteria and DFAT will select Challenge winners based on the committee’s recommendations and the number, relevance and quality of products submitted.

**Q: WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE?**

DFAT observes international best practice standards in humanitarian response. Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the appropriate standards for their products or solutions. Useful resources include:


**Q: WHAT KINDS OF PRODUCTS ARE CURRENTLY PREPOSITIONED FOR DEPLOYMENT IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSES?**

Examples of relief supplies DFAT currently stores for deployment in emergency responses include:

- Access to clean water: Water storage buckets and collapsible containers, water sterilisation tablets, water bladder tanks and pump kits, hygiene kits, diesel sludge pumps.
- Off-grid energy generation: Petrol generators, diesel generators, small-scale solar powered lighting.
- Temporary shelter: Mosquito repellent bed nets, blankets, shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, family tents.

For more detail see page 12 or email humanitariansupplieschallenge@dfat.gov.au for specifications of current supplies.

**Q: WHERE CAN I ASK QUESTIONS?**

If you have a question about the Humanitarian Supplies Challenge please email us at humanitariansupplieschallenge@dfat.gov.au.

- **Access to clean water** – Low cost, environmentally sensitive solutions, and sustainable delivery of potable water.
- **Generating off-grid energy** – Getting power to remote communities when energy systems fail.
- **Temporary shelter** – Supplementing existing shelter solutions with new technology and innovation to make them safer, easier to use, more durable and more adaptable in the regional context.
**DFAT RELIEF SUPPLIES**

**WATER**

**HYGIENE KITS**
Hygiene kits and Water purification solutions—provided to families
These items help provide minimum requirements for creating and storing clean water and maintaining minimum hygiene standards. (Sphere Project 2011, p. 95) DFAT is seeking innovative approaches to water purification technology/techniques and lightweight, transportable water storage options.

**WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS**
Water purification tablets—provided to families
These items help provide minimum requirements for creating and storing clean water and maintaining minimum hygiene standards. (Sphere Project 2011, p. 95) DFAT is seeking innovative approaches to water purification technology/techniques and lightweight, transportable water storage options.

**SLUDGE PUMPS**
Water Bladders and Sludge Pumps—Provided to assist communities
These items assist in maintaining essential services at the community level. DFAT has identified the opportunity to seek innovative approaches to provide minimum clean water quantities to institutions such as medical centres. (Sphere Project 2011, p.121)

**WATER BLADDERS**
Water Bladders—Provided to assist communities
These items assist in maintaining essential services at the community level. DFAT has identified the opportunity to seek innovative approaches to provide minimum clean water quantities to institutions such as medical centres. (Sphere Project 2011, p.121)

**ENERGY**

**PETROL GENERATORS**
Petrol and Diesel Generators—provided to communities to generate essential power needs.
These items assist in maintaining essential services at the community level. DFAT has identified the opportunity to seek innovative approaches to provide off-grid energy (including clean, renewable options).

**DIESEL GENERATORS**
Diesel Generators—provided to communities to generate essential power needs.
These items assist in maintaining essential services at the community level. DFAT has identified the opportunity to seek innovative approaches to provide off-grid energy (including clean, renewable options).

**SOLAR LAMP**
Solar lamps—provided as part of hygiene kits to provide essential lighting requirements to families.
Lighting is essential to maintaining safety for individuals and communities. DFAT is seeking innovative approaches to provide lighting to individuals, families and communities.

**SHELTER**

**SHELTER TOOL KITS**
Shelter tool kits and Tarps—tools and fixings provided to families to assist in repairing damage to existing shelters.
Assisting people to remain in their homes reduces displacement, increases self-sufficiency and helps maintains family and community life. DFAT is seeking innovative and durable products that can provide immediate shelter and debris clearing needs.

**TEMPORARY SHELTER**
Temporary shelter—provided to families whose homes are no longer habitable.
DFAT has identified the opportunity to seek durable products that could provide temporary shelter needs while people rebuild their homes.