

PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

between

**The Government of Australia, as represented by the
Australian Agency for International Development
(AusAID)**

and

**The United Nations, as represented by the International
Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat (UNISDR)**

2011-2013

AusAID Agreement Number 57479

I. GRANT AGREEMENT

This Partnership Framework expresses the understandings of the Government of Australia, as represented by the Australian Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as “AusAID”) and the United Nations, as represented by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat (hereinafter referred to as “UNISDR”) (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Participants”) regarding the provision of grant funding by AusAID to UNISDR for the triennium 2011 through 2013, as described and detailed in this Partnership Framework.

II. BACKGROUND

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat (UNISDR) was established to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio-economic and humanitarian fields (UN General Assembly Resolution 56/195).

The *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* (the HFA) was adopted in January 2005 at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan. At the conference 168 nations committed to substantially reducing the loss of lives and livelihoods from disasters by implementing the HFA, a global blueprint for disaster reduction efforts to 2015. Member States of the Hyogo Declaration (UN General Assembly Resolution 60/195) called upon the UNISDR secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the HFA in collaboration with governments and regional, international and United Nations entities.

Since its inception in 2000, UNISDR has sought to build disaster resilient communities by promoting increased awareness of the importance of disaster risk reduction (DRR) as an integral component of sustainable development, with the goal of reducing human, social, economic and environmental losses due to natural hazards and related technological and environmental disasters.

AusAID recognises the vital role of UNISDR in facilitating the implementation of the HFA, monitoring its progress, and coordinating regular reporting on its delivery. AusAID recognises UNISDR’s mandate to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters through effective advocacy, coordination and knowledge management, and through fostering partnerships for DRR with national, regional and international members of the ISDR system. AusAID has identified UNISDR as a key partner in supporting the Australian aid program’s objective of assisting developing countries reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development, in line with Australia’s national interest.

UNISDR recognises AusAID’s considerable contributions to international disaster reduction efforts. In 2009 AusAID launched *Investing in a Safer Future: a Disaster Risk Reduction policy for the Australian aid program*, which builds on the Australian aid program’s investments and achievements in DRR in over 30 countries. The goal of the policy is reduced vulnerability and enhanced resilience of countries and communities to disasters. The policy commits to: integrating risk reduction across the aid program; supporting partner countries to

reduce disaster risk in line with the HFA; supporting advocacy and leadership efforts for DRR; and coordination of DRR and climate change adaptation.

AusAID and UNISDR wish to continue their strong partnership based on the principles and objectives set forth in this Partnership Framework.

III. STATUS OF PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

This Partnership Framework embodies only the programmatic understandings of the participants and it is not governed by international law.

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In entering this Partnership Framework, the partners mutually acknowledge their commitment to:

1. The United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
2. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and a recognition that improved gender equality is crucial to the achievement of the MDGs;
3. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
4. The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries;
5. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (UN General Assembly resolution 60/195) and other relevant UN General Assembly Resolutions;
6. The delivery of effective aid in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action;
7. Working in partnership to support the implementation of the outcomes of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction's deliberations as reflected in the Chair's Summary;
8. Pursuing partnership outcomes that support the ISDR secretariat's core mandate and the priorities outlined in UNISDR's biennial work programs;
9. The goal, outcomes and guiding principles of *Investing in a Safer Future: A Disaster Risk Reduction policy for the Australian aid program*; and
10. A strong and transparent partnership based on:
 - a. Mutual respect for the contribution of each participant, and recognising that each participant has different skills, attributes and strengths;
 - b. Open and effective communication, including the sharing of lessons learned to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of joint and separate activities;
 - c. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the overall outcomes to which Australia commits to contribute.

V. SHARED OBJECTIVES

AusAID and UNISDR will pursue the following shared objectives in line with the priorities outlined in UNISDR's biennial work programs.

Shared Objective 1 – Improved coordination of DRR efforts to support implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

AusAID and UNISDR are committed to enhancing the coordination of DRR efforts among the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system partners in order to support the implementation of the HFA. AusAID recognises UNISDR's mandate to develop and support coordination mechanisms that enable stakeholders to share experiences, learn from good practice and to identify gaps and actions required to accelerate risk reduction in regional, national and local settings.

Of increasing importance is the need to coordinate DRR and climate change adaptation interventions to reduce duplication and maximise the efficiency of efforts to build resilience to weather-related disasters. Increasing cooperation between DRR and climate change adaptation practitioners will be a priority for action under this partnership.

AusAID and UNISDR will pursue the following partnership commitments:

Partnership commitments	Indicative Indicators
Strengthen regional coordination for DRR, including through supporting the activities of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Platforms on DRR and the ISDR Asia Partnership.	<p>Level of participation and engagement of a broad range of stakeholders in the Regional Platforms and other coordination mechanisms for DRR, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level government attendance including officials from planning, finance or other central ministries. • Attendance and full participation of non-government partners including civil society organisations, academia and the private sector. <p>Outcomes of the regional platform meetings, and extent to which outcomes are actioned and coordinated by ISDR partners.</p>
Engage with regional and sub-regional Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) to support their mandated roles and priority programmes on DRR.	<p>Proven organisational commitment to DRR within IGOs as demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an increase of dedicated functions and programmes on DRR. • strategic contribution to coordination mechanisms for national and regional DRR efforts.
Support regional and national implementation of the Madang Framework through	Level of progress towards the Madang Framework as outlined in Pacific regional

UNISDR's continued sub-regional presence in the Pacific.	reports on HFA progress and other national reporting.
Work in partnership with regional organisations, UN Country Teams and other partners to strengthen national coordination of DRR through National Platforms or other multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.	Reports on activities and results of national level multi-stakeholder mechanisms such as National Platforms. Number of new National Platforms (or equivalent) formed with the support of UNISDR and other partners.
Engage with the climate change community to ensure policies and programming for DRR and climate change adaptation are coherent and coordinated.	Number of regional and national coordination mechanisms that involve the climate change community.

Shared Objective 2 - Advocacy and partnerships to promote greater investments in DRR at all levels

AusAID and UNISDR are committed to advocating for greater investments in disaster reduction at all levels, for the acceptance of DRR as a development issue, and for the utilisation of DRR practices for climate change adaptation. AusAID will support UNISDR's advocacy efforts with parliamentarians, national and local government and other development partners.

UNISDR and AusAID are committed to developing and sustaining robust partnerships for DRR. UNISDR will continue to work with partners of the ISDR system to support national and local level action on DRR. UNISDR will work closely with UN Country Teams to support the integration of DRR and climate change adaptation into Common Country Assessments and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

AusAID and UNISDR will pursue the following partnership commitments:

Partnership commitments	Indicative Indicators
Advocate for sustained political and financial investments in DRR including through high-level advocacy with parliamentarians, national and local governments.	Increased financial investment in DRR by national and local government. The development of national and local legislation or policy on DRR and climate change adaptation. Regional DRR champions identified and supported for high-level advocacy.
Support for the objectives of global DRR campaigns including those on 'Making Cities Resilient', and on 'Safer Schools and Hospitals'.	Level of stakeholder participation in global DRR campaigns, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cities signed up to the 'Making Cities Resilient' campaign. • Number of schools and hospitals pledged for the 'one million safe

Partnership commitments	Indicative Indicators
	schools and hospitals' initiative. Level of partner engagement in the development and dissemination of campaign advocacy messages, and commitment of partners to continue advocacy efforts beyond the life of the campaign.
Advocate for greater cooperation between DRR and climate change communities, and for the utilisation of DRR practices for climate change adaptation.	Number of national and local policies, programmes and legislation that incorporate DRR and the HFA as a means to adapt to climate change.
Promote DRR as a development issue, and advocate for the integration of DRR and climate change into the development processes of all levels of government and the international development community.	Number of countries that incorporate DRR and climate change into their development and poverty reduction strategies. Number of national and local governments that develop Strategic National / Local Action Plans for DRR and climate change. Number of new or revised UN Common Country Assessments and UNDAFs with DRR and climate change objectives included or integrated into programs.

Shared Objective 3 - Strategic information and knowledge management to improve availability and relevance of information on DRR for all stakeholders

AusAID is committed to supporting UNISDR's strategic information and knowledge management capabilities. UNISDR facilitates the provision of up-to-date information, practical tools and policy and technical guidance on risk reduction for the DRR and broader development community.

Of increasing importance is the need to draw on existing knowledge and expertise to provide a firm evidence base for investments in risk reduction and for the use of DRR for climate change adaptation. Providing such an evidence base, and improving the availability, accessibility and relevance of information on DRR will be priorities for action under this partnership. To this end UNISDR will ensure that all major studies and publications such as the biennial Global Assessment Reports on DRR and the findings of the HFA Mid-Term Review are widely available and accessible to a diverse range of stakeholders.

AusAID and UNISDR will pursue the following partnership commitments:

Partnership commitments	Indicative Indicators
Facilitate the sharing of information, policy and technical guidance, lessons learned and good practice on DRR and climate change	Increase in DRR and climate change related submissions from the region into Preventionweb.net, and an increase in the

adaptation. Identify and promote suitable opportunities for the promotion of such knowledge, including the use of Preventionweb.net and the regional help-desk function.	number of website users. Regional help-desk function established to assist national counterparts in DRR and climate change adaptation communities in applying DRR tools and approaches.
Enhance the online HFA monitoring and reporting system to facilitate the sharing of lessons and good practice.	Number of countries providing national reports with quality data on HFA implementation, including evidence on investment in disaster risk reduction.
Identify knowledge gaps in the DRR community and engage with partners to develop specific guidance to fill these gaps.	Number of publications developed by UNISDR and partners that are demand driven and fill knowledge gaps.
Support the development, dissemination and use of the Global Assessment Reports (GAR) on DRR, the findings of the HFA Mid-Term Review (MTR) and other major studies and publications.	Improved feedback on the accessibility and usage of the GAR. Number of national / regional launches of the GAR, the HFA MTR and other major publications in local languages with targeted dissemination strategies.

Shared Objective 4 - Monitoring and Evaluation systems developed for DRR

AusAID and UNISDR are committed to enhancing monitoring systems and developing generic, realistic and measurable indicators to assess the progress of the implementation of the HFA. UNISDR will continue to facilitate the biennial monitoring process of HFA and will support national and regional partners utilise the “HFA Monitor” to enable them to monitor, self-assess and report on progress made towards the goal of the HFA.

The development of indicators to measure progress against the HFA, and the strengthening of UNISDR internal monitoring and evaluation capacities will be priorities for action under this partnership.

AusAID and UNISDR will pursue the following partnership commitments:

Partnership commitments	Indicative Indicators
Monitor and measure progress towards achieving the HFA by 2015, including through the Mid-Term Review of the HFA.	Outcomes of the HFA Mid-Term Review are analysed and disseminated to a broad range of stakeholders, and recommendations from the review are implemented by ISDR partners.
Provide guidance on the regional and national level HFA progress review process, and support the use of the HFA Monitor to enable countries to better monitor, self-assess and report on HFA implementation.	Number of national and regional stakeholders reporting on the HFA, and using the HFA Monitor to analyse gaps and progress in HFA implementation.
Develop indicators to assist countries to	Indicators are developed, disseminated, and

measure progress of HFA implementation.	utilised to measure national and regional progress in DRR and HFA implementation.
Strengthen monitoring and evaluation procedures of the UNISDR secretariat, including through implementing a results-based management system, to better analyse UNISDR's impact in the region.	Implementation of results-based reporting which measures impacts of DRR activities and changes in behaviour due to UNISDR support. Qualitative indicators are developed and utilised by UNISDR alongside quantitative indicators.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNERSHIP

AusAID and UNISDR will pursue this strengthened partnership for development and implementation of joint strategies and programmes via a range of mechanisms including:

1. Consultation on matters of mutual interest and ongoing dialogue to ensure a coherent approach to their collaboration and programme implementation;
2. Exchange of relevant information and data on matters of common interest to their members, and collaboration in the collection, analysis and diffusion of such information and data;
3. Making available the services of their staff for conducting the activities identified as priorities, to the extent feasible and taking into account budgetary, financial and human resources constraints. Whenever appropriate, AusAID and UNISDR may identify and mutually decide on the engagement of experts, including staff of other international or regional organisations;
4. Mutually facilitate participation of their responsible officers in relevant expert meetings or conferences on DRR.

VII. DURATION AND TERMINATION

This Partnership Framework will come into effect upon its signature by the duly authorised representatives of AusAID and UNISDR. This Partnership Framework will remain in effect until 31 December 2013, unless it is terminated by mutual consent, or by one of the partners giving the other 90 days written notice of termination. Such termination will not affect any activities or liabilities undertaken prior to the termination.

Upon termination, any unused portion of the contribution other than those irrevocably committed in good faith before the date of termination and those determined by the two partners as being required to finalise activities will be returned to AusAID or otherwise reprogrammed by UNISDR upon consultation with AusAID and mutual consent.

VIII. FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

AusAID will provide, subject to annual budgetary appropriation by the Australian Government, the UNISDR's activities and programs in the Asia-Pacific region with grant funding of up to **AUD6,000,000** (herein referred to as "the Contribution") in accordance with the payment schedule outlined below:

Year	Contribution (AUD)
2011	2,000,000
2012	2,000,000
2013	2,000,000

AusAID may, from time to time, make additional contributions to UNISDR in accordance with available resources, policy priorities and satisfactory achievement of the partnership commitments made under this Partnership Framework.

AusAID will provide the Contribution into the following account:

Account name: UN Geneva General Fund
Account number: 240-C0590160.1
IBAN: CH65 0024 0240 C059 0160 1
Bank name: UBS AG
Bank address: Rue du Rhone 8, CH-1211 Geneve 2, Switzerland
Bank number: 240
Bank swift code: UBSW CH ZH 80A
For further credit to: Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

UNISDR will immediately acknowledge to AusAID in writing receipt of each contribution.

This Partnership Framework applies to all AusAID contributions to UNISDR unless otherwise indicated by AusAID, and accordingly sets out all terms and conditions applicable to such contributions.

IX. LETTER OF REQUEST

AusAID will provide the Contribution to UNISDR within 30 days of the receipt of a Letter of Request.

The Letter of Request will identify this Partnership Framework by its title and AusAID Agreement number and state the amount of funds being requested.

Requests by UNISDR for additional contributions under Paragraph VIII of this Partnership Framework will also be via a Letter of Request.

X. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress and achievements against the objectives of this Partnership Framework will be measured through regular joint missions, dialogue and reviews, at least once a year at a high level. Performance will be measured through UNISDR's monitoring and evaluation systems, and in particular, UNISDR's Annual Reports which will include reporting on core performance indicators and utilisation of funds. AusAID will support UNISDR's efforts to harmonize donor-reporting requirements.

Toward the end of the three-year period, AusAID and UNISDR will undertake a joint review of the Partnership Framework.

As a result of periodic monitoring and changes in the operational environment, UNISDR and AusAID may propose adjustments to objectives, commitments and indicators, as appropriate and relevant, and discuss potential financial implications.

XI. RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION

UNISDR will, as appropriate, acknowledge Australia's Contribution under this Partnership Framework.

XII. ADMINISTRATION AND UTILISATION OF THE CONTRIBUTION

In administering and utilising the Contribution, UNISDR will:

- (a) maintain a sound administrative and financial management system capable of verifying financial statements;
- (b) use any interest income earned on and attributable to the Contribution in accordance with the UN's regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

AusAID confirms that up to 13% of the Government of Australia's contribution for the above mentioned Partnership Framework may be used for programme support costs.

UNISDR will immediately inform AusAID of any circumstance which may interfere or threaten to interfere with the successful implementation of the Partnership Framework and, with a view to resolving the issue, will consult with AusAID.

XIII. AMENDMENT

This Partnership Framework may be amended in writing with the mutual consent of the participants.

XIV. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

The Participants will attempt to resolve amicably any dispute arising in relation to the interpretation and/or implementation of this Partnership Framework.

XV. ANTI-CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

UNISDR will manage the Contribution in accordance with the United Nations' policies and practices in relation to anti-corruption and prevention, detection and investigation of fraud and recovery of funds subject to fraud.

XVI. AUDIT

The Contribution and all financial statements will be subject to the auditing procedures provided for in the United Nations' financial regulations, rules, policies and procedures, and relevant reports will be shared accordingly.

XVII. COUNTER TERRORISM

Consistent with UN Security Council Resolutions relating to terrorism, including UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999) and related resolutions, both AusAID and UNISDR are firmly committed to the international fight against terrorism, and in particular, against the financing of terrorism. It is the policy of AusAID to seek to ensure that none of its funds are used, directly or indirectly, to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism. In accordance with this policy, UNISDR undertakes to use its best endeavours to ensure that the Contribution is not used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism. If, during the term of this Partnership Framework, UNISDR discovers a link with any organization or individual associated with terrorism, it will inform AusAID immediately.

XVIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Any communication regarding the operation of this Partnership Framework will be addressed to the following persons:

For UNISDR:

Name: Mr. German Velasquez
Title: Senior Regional Coordinator
UNISDR Asia Pacific
Address: c/o UNESCAP
UN Secretariat Building, 8F
section A
Rajdamnern Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200 THAILAND
Phone: +66-2-288-2750

For AusAID:

Name: Mr. Alan March
Title: Assistant Director General
Humanitarian Policy and
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Address: AusAID
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Phone: +61 2 6206 4627

Signed in duplicate at

on

, in the English language.

For the Government of Australia
represented by the Australian Agency
for International Development:



Mr Peter Baxter
Director General,
Australian Agency for International
Development

For the United Nations International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction secretariat:

Ms Margareta Wahlström
United Nations Special Representative of the
Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction