

Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRM), Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Capacity Building: Learning and Achievements, Year One

DRR, DRM and capacity building programs funded under the HPA and totaling \$9m were developed in May/June 2011. The flexibility and scope of annual tranches of AUD 500,000 enabled agencies to design context-driven, ongoing three-year programs in alignment with their DRR/DRM and capacity building priorities and expertise, and in accordance with their long term integrated approaches to resilience, humanitarian and development activities. Activities across the partnership are very different; at the time of design there was no expectation for HPA agencies to develop collective initiatives. Agencies also recognized that the HPA provides significant opportunity for inter-agency collaboration to deliver added value and capacity to the sector, and good foundations have been set in this first year which will assist future collaboration. Collective activities should continue and be strengthened in years two and three alongside individual agency initiatives. Agencies all agree they would not want to forfeit the flexibility of funding and diversity of the programs for a more resource intensive structure.

HPA funded DRR, DRM and capacity building initiatives began progressively during June and July 2011 (no common start date) and will be evaluated at the mid-point in line with grant agreements. All partners submitted interim reports to AusAID in May/June, when second year grants were approved. The templates both for agency to AusAID and level 2 collective lessons have now been tested for the first time and should be reviewed and improved on the basis of this experience.

The HPA has been instrumental in enhancing agency and partner preparedness capacity. In the emergency response continuum, preparedness underpins a rapid, effective and accountable response. HPA agencies are dual-mandate organisations with a commitment to respond to emergencies and meet the humanitarian needs in the most efficient, effective and accountable way. The DRM component of this program has been broadly utilised to strengthen internal capacity. The diversity of this is seen through the variety of activities across agencies, for example: provision of dedicated staff, increased country office capacity in emergency preparedness and response staff, and in leadership development in disaster management.

This summary report covers achievements, areas of joint collaboration and common learning in year one which will help to inform future implementation and direction. All partners have successfully completed year one interim reviews and have made small program modifications for year two, as outlined in the annexed reports. More comprehensive information on agency programs, encompassing results and key outcomes, can be found in the reports previously submitted to AusAID.

HPA Collaboration

During the first year of the HPA program, emergencies and DRR/DRM teams within each agency have identified potential avenues for collaboration. While HPA programs were designed individually, agencies have utilized opportunities to strengthen collaborative ways of working on DRR/DRM.

Examples include:

- DRR/DRM experts in Melbourne have held regular meetings and are now arranging virtual forums to ensure inter-state partners are included. DRR/DRM initiatives are also a regular discussion at the HPA Quarterly Steering Committee meeting.
- Humanitarian Leadership Program, led by **Save the Children**, commenced in February 2012 with involvement and participation from **Oxfam, CARE, World Vision and AusAID**. The initiative is contributing to efforts to professionalize the sector and enhance the quality of humanitarian leadership throughout the region.

- Participatory Regional Trainings, such as **CARE's** WASH in Emergencies in Bangkok, involved HPA partners, Australian Red Cross, AusAID and ACFID. **Plan** also facilitated Disability Inclusiveness training in Ethiopia at which **Caritas**, **CARE** and **Oxfam** participated. The value of such forums is agreement on common standards and improved program quality.
- **CARE** led an Assessment Capacities Project Consortium (ACAPS) scoping study on harmonized needs assessment in partnership with other HPA agencies in East Timor. Findings were gathered between November 2011 and July 2012 and will be used to identify and analyze the status of emergency preparedness.
- International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) occurs in October and will be marked by HPA agencies at local and global levels. Events will promote the 2012 theme '*Women and girls: the (in)visible force of resilience*'. For example, globally the new DRR practitioner's handbook, developed through the international multi-agency Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Consortium, will be launched. **Save the Children**, **Oxfam**, **World Vision** and **Caritas** (CRS) have been involved in this. In Australia, AusAID will announce the winner of their IDDR photo competition and host an event in Canberra.
- **Plan's** 4CA Program Team, as part of Children in Changing Climate coalition, is organizing a parallel session on Child Centered DRR and CCA during the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR to be organized in Jogjakarta, Indonesia 22-25 October.

Influence of Government Policy and Practice

All HPA agencies are involved in global DRR initiatives and continue to play a significant role in advancing Australian and regional concerns and shaping the global DRR discourse. This has been demonstrated by the inter-agency briefing on DRR for Rio 20, which was led by **Oxfam** and presented to AusAID in January 2012. The Rio20 briefing generated significant momentum within the Australian context on DRR, a trend set to continue as the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) moves towards revision in 2015.

Agencies are also involved in online dialogue forums that opened on 27 August post the 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). This is one of a series of opportunities for debate. **Oxfam**, for example, is represented on the ISDR Advisory Board for post-HFA which positions the agency at the centre of DRR debates and in touch with most of the key players. HPA funding strongly positions Australian NGOs to contribute to these ongoing initiatives.

Save the Children, **World Vision**, **Caritas** and **Oxfam** are also working with the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative, with Oxfam co-chair of the DRR/Preparedness stream. This is a two year endeavor which will involve a donor meeting to develop donors' action plans on 20 September 2012 in Geneva. The year will end with a High Level Meeting in June, 2013, where donor countries make commitments to DRR/Preparedness.

The international paper '*A Dangerous Delay*', co-authored by **Save the Children** and **Oxfam**, articulated concerns over response times in the Horn of Africa and opened a dialogue with AusAID, and subsequent lobbying with government and parliament. HPA partners made a major contribution to the ACFID Humanitarian Forum in 2012 and the parallel Parliamentary event, "A Stitch in Time", focused on the need for better actions to address early warning.

Plan's 4CA Program in Vietnam has produced teacher's 'Teaching Manual on Climate Change Education' which has been formally endorsed by Ministry of Education to be a national standard guideline for CC education in schools. The government in Tonga, sighting the good outcome of Plan's 4CA KAP survey, is conducting a national KAP on CC issues, and has asked Plan's Tongan partner Tonga Development Trust to take the lead.

CARE's work with district and provincial level implementers¹ with the Government of Vietnam's (GoV) Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) is a strong example of an initiative to strengthen policy and practice on DRR. This has resulted in integration of DRR and CCA into local planning processes. **CARE** and **World Vision** have established a consortium project with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam, to implement the national CBDRM program (Prime Minister's decision 1002) and to integrate DRR/CCA into local planning.

Save the Children have entered a MOU with the Department of Education in the Philippines to provide technical support to the integration of DRR into education sector planning and programming. The HPA funding supported a national DRR in education congress bringing together provincial education department staff with schools staff and pupils from across the Philippines to Manila to share good practice and to discuss planning for the further development of DRR in the education sector.

The aforementioned CARE-led harmonized needs assessment will feature as a long term initiative for the Government of East Timor with the aim of improved joint assessment capacity through concrete recommendations following the assessment.

Predictability and Level of Funding, Leverage of other Funding

Partners have all noted the value of flexible and predictable DRR/DRM funding over the three year period, which has also enabled good leverage of other donor funding.² It has enabled partners to build on activities in countries where there is already good DRR/DRM experience, to expand the knowledge and capacity, for example on climate change adaptation and livelihoods impact. In other countries, this has allowed other leveraged funding to build community and institutional capacity and to enable local program partners to play a key role, for example in bringing children to the forefront of DRR/CCA.³

Funding has been used strategically to leverage and/or match larger DRR programming, adopting a program approach which integrates funding to achieve greater, more sustainable outcomes and longer term strategies. Examples include:

- five year strategies on Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) **(Plan)**;
- programs to integrate DRR/CCA and livelihoods **(CARE)**;
- applying a DRR lens to a One program approach **(Oxfam)**;
- developing a Resilient Development Practice Strategy – bringing together DRR and CCA programming approaches **(World Vision)**; and
- integrating DRR and CCA into existing sector based programs, including Education, Health and Child Protection **(Save the Children)**.

Funding has enabled partners to undertake innovative projects in shelter, livelihoods and community resilience **(Caritas)** which would otherwise be harder to attract funding for. **World Vision** have focused on urban DRR research (mostly in Asia not funded by this money but learnings are crossing over into Middle East and Latin America regions) and Child Friendly DRR particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

¹ This group comprises the Vietnam National Red Cross Society (VNRC), Department of Education (DoE), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DONRE), Department of Planning and Investment (DPI), Women's Union (WU) and other mass organizations.

² For example, CARE has utilized HPA DRR/DRM funding to secure over \$1m for work in East Timor and Vietnam. Plan's 4CA program has been up scaled from internal funding to cover three more countries (Fiji, Tuvalu and Kiribati) in the Pacific. In total, there are now 10 countries working for 4CA program in Asia and Pacific. 4CA program has been taken by Plan Internally globally. The similar program has been financed by Swiss donor to be implemented in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

³ Plan has been able to expand its project to three additional countries in the south Pacific using agreed ANCP funds, and will replicate the model in three countries in south Asia (Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) using other donor funding.

Funds have also been used successfully to develop long-term resources and training tools, including on gender, Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (PVCA), and resources to enable staff to communicate effective messages and advocacy on DRR, DRM and capacity building advocacy. The flexibility and scope of the funding has allowed the recruitment of a number of regional emergency staff in high and medium risk areas, and has contributed significantly to professionalization in the sector.

Progress, Achievements and Innovation by Agency

CARE has utilized HPA DRR funds to develop cost effective e-learning and online networking applications, combined with practical face to face learning lab components, where Country Offices and partners build their capacity on how to practically integrate DRR and CCA into programming. The impact has been strengthened capacity on community based DRM in the Asia Pacific Region with the labs enabling testing and improvements to methods and tools before roll out. The link is available at [Digital Toolkits: Strengthen your adaptation skills](#)).

Other achievements include:

- 3,000 food insecure households have enhanced adaptive capacity in the face of environmental degradation and climate change in the Western Highland of Timor Leste.
- Country offices in Asia Pacific (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia PNG, Timor Leste and Vanuatu) have greater understanding of integrating DRR/CCA into programming, through the development and roll out of e-modules and focused regional workshops to reinforce learning.
- CARE's Emergency Toolkit has been translated into Vietnamese, Tetum and Burmese for maximum usage and uptake in our national contexts.
- Communes and teachers have received training in Vietnam and in Indonesia direct training and training the trainer have taken place.

Caritas Australia has two dedicated 'innovation' projects; one links the Shelter Reference Group with RMIT to review best practice in post-disaster shelter reconstruction in the Asia-Pacific region, the other is to assist communities in Indonesia through the development of a climate forecast model to combat the impact of shifting and erratic rainfall on food security and livelihoods. Both of these projects are progressing well and Caritas is looking forward to sharing its initial findings. Caritas Australia is now looking at how DRR can be integrated into all its regional activities and joint learning with key partners within the confederation.

Oxfam continues to pilot its urban DRR project in Durban, South Africa, incorporating lessons from urban work in Gaza, Haiti and Kenya. The importance of DRR in urban contexts will increase in future with the number of people living in cities exceeding those living in rural areas since 2008. One billion people, 15% of the worlds' seven billion, currently live in urban slums, a figure expected to double within 20 years. **World Vision** also has expertise in urban DRR with two pilots in Asia (not funded through HPA) incorporating learning into Middle East and Latin America regions.

Monitoring tools and resources, including the Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (PCVA), the Disaster Risk Management Capacity Assessment toolkit and KAP survey, have been developed and rolled out in South Africa, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands and Indonesia. These have helped strengthen Oxfam's integrated approach to CCA and DRR and build overall program quality. Oxfam has identified the need for more work to ensure the appropriateness of tools in an urban context and are refining processes in consultation with community stakeholders and partners.

Plan's Child Centered Climate Change Adaptation (4CA) program has been recognized by UNISDR and UNICEF as a lead in child centered DRR/CCA for the south Asia and south Pacific region. The 4CA Program team played a key role in the SREX (youth friendly version) regional launch Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. **Plan** and **Save the Children** are working together with UNICEF in the Children in the Changing Climate Coalition, and joint projects have been approved on climate change adaptation, building on the 4CA experience. **World Vision** is also involved in this work at a global level (not directly funded by HPA).

- **Plan's** KAP survey considered the views of more than 1000 children from PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vietnam on climate change and what they are doing to tackle it. Findings were analyzed and presented to different local and regional forums. The Tongan Government requested that Child Centered Climate Change Adaptation (4CA) partners conduct a national KAP survey which will inform the national adaptation plan (NAPA) preparation process.
- A CCA teachers' manual which has been formally endorsed by the Vietnamese government. Vietnam has also developed/conducted 'Youth Peer Education on CCA. Indonesia has also prepared 'Adaptation Training Toolkit' and designed youth led 4CA ongoing program monitoring system (by video documentation). Plan Indonesia and Lao (are already working on a seed grant project (project designed by youth and children after climate risk assessment).
- Plan Tonga has translated 'Pou and Miri', a child centered climate change awareness story book in local language, while in PNG Plan have prepared a puppet show based on 'Tales of Disaster'.

Save the Children – approximately half of the funding is dedicated to DRM capacity building to contribute to raising the professional standards of humanitarian managers and leaders across the sector. The other half has been allocated to the integration of DRR into sector based programs in support of the AusAID 2009 DRR policy. Key achievements include:

- The initiation of the Humanitarian Leadership Program, led by Save in partnership with Deakin University which is designed to enhance professionalization in the sector and region. The first iteration of the program was an outstanding success and brought together both facilitators and students from a diverse range of countries and agencies. The program has now launched for its second iteration with a view to it being approved as a Graduate Certificate program. The course is regarded as a benchmark in training and developing humanitarian leaders, and is likely to become the minimum level qualification for humanitarian leaders with a number of agencies taking part in the program.
- Save the Children's DRR program, which supports the integration of risk reduction into existing core program sectors, has harness pre-existing and long-term relationships to promote efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of activities and led to a host of constructive learning in year one which will form the basis of a regional learning event and publication in year 2. Five countries – the Solomon Island, Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste have all been involved in demonstrating models for the integration and up-scaling of DRR in their sector based programs including health, education, child protection and youth engagement.
- Save the Children also saw the importance of cross-country learning and sharing for the integration of DRR and CCA into programming, and therefore have formed 2 regional working groups (of 20 countries) under this program, that will be sustained in subsequent years. One covers South East Asia, and the Pacific, the second South and Central Asia.

World Vision organized a number of events in Brazil leading up to the Rio+20 summit, including the release of a resilience rap song in collaboration with a Brazilian artist; a resilience march led by children and young people in a *favela* in Rio de Janeiro and advocacy via social media to promote action on climate change and children's rights.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8O_69nNjTg&list=UUMIRRBXUMnRp-8GQvya2xKg&index=2&feature=plcp

In an urban slum in Ethiopia children participating in World Vision's Child Focused DRR project identified an urgent need for First Aid training as large parts of their community were inaccessible to emergency services. Children trained in First Aid by the project have been allocated space in their schools by school administration and are now the key providers of First Aid to their school mates.

Experience of Year One

While it is too early to assess overall program impact and programs will be evaluated at the mid-term point, some **early learning** and common themes have emerged from the first year. Overall lessons, applicable to all HPA agencies, must be distinguished from specific agency feedback, captured below:

- Agencies have focused on depth rather than breadth, to avoid funds being spread too thinly.
- Activities have been grouped where possible to avoid resource intensive management of a large number of diverse and small activities, further dispersed by country.
- Transition from Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) to action planning can be a challenge, and will benefit from specific technical guidance. Integrating DRR & CCA into sector based projects and programs necessarily involves up-skilling program staff with new frameworks and methodologies for analysis, terminologies and language of programming.
- In order to effectively integrate DRR & CCA into an existing program a thorough review of the work plan of the regular program is required in order to identify appropriate entry points for effective and efficient integration of new methodologies. This takes time and resources.
- The need for broad-based partnership is a recurring theme across the projects where staff felt that the best way to effectively integrate DRR & CCA into activities was to do so in consultation and collaboration with all stakeholders from children and communities, to all levels of government departments to like mined NGO partners.

Reporting

The variance in (narrative and financial) reporting timeframes caused significant disruption for agencies, particularly those working through partners, as the timing did not align with the program cycle. See recommendation for final year.

The narrative template was somewhat onerous, repetitive and heavy on outputs/ outcomes. It was a challenge to clearly communicate the progress of some activities within the ten page limit and this was especially pronounced for DRM activities which are focused on capacity building/ preparedness and therefore outcomes may not be apparent within a one year duration. Agencies took steps to mitigate the complexity of reporting on multi-country programs by the addition of annexes to accurately reflect the complexity and diversity of the respective agency programs.

Visibility and Profile

Although awareness of the HPA is growing, the Partnership is still not widely understood throughout AusAID particularly at post, or across all HPA member agency field office networks. Knowledge is patchy in different places. An article in Focus magazine in June, which looked at the broad range of activities under the HPA Partnership including DRR, DRM and capacity building, has helped to promote the Partnership. A number of story ideas have been submitted for the November edition of Focus which will highlight humanitarian activity. Partners have an ongoing commitment to send good news stories to AusAID. The HPA Director is in touch with the AusAID communications team to identify other opportunities to promote the HPA Partnership. HPA Partners have participated in recent AusAID

regional training. HPA agencies should continue to promote the HPA to their country teams. A one page 'Who are we?' fact sheet will be written.

All HPA agencies are implementing programs in accordance with the Visibility and Recognition Guidelines for NGOs, March 2012. Advocacy material, publications, signage display and educational materials carry the appropriate Australian Aid logo and the generosity of Australia's aid program will continue to be acknowledged publicly, for example at launches and other events, and in speeches, by all agencies.

During the Regional WASH in Emergencies training led by **CARE** in Bangkok, visibility of the Australian Aid logo was ensured. **Plan** has made a number of radio broadcasts about 4CA and **Save the Children** achieved good coverage for the first part of the humanitarian Leadership Program, as well as having the AusAID logo predominantly placed in the Philippines DRR and education congress attended by senior ministry staff, donors and international organizations. AusAID was acknowledged during these forums. **Oxfam** facilitated a workshop in Durban, South Africa which was attended by partner organizations, regional Oxfam colleagues from Angola and Malawi, as well as the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) officials from the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, KwaZulu-Natal. The workshop ensured branding requirements were met and raised the profile of AusAID in South Africa.

Summary of Recommendations, Action and Next Steps

- As there has been a tendency for AusAID to work bi-laterally with agencies, the HPA will strive to promote future improvements in overall DRR programming at both desk and post. Opportunities thus far have included information exchange with AusAID over International DRR activities however this needs to be strengthened on both sides in future to ensure consistency.
- The joint initiatives with HPA partners have proved successful although not all that were originally budgeted for/planned actually occurred (or required funding). Agencies would like to see the collaboration and information sharing strengthened further over the next two years.
- Regular/annual budget review to allow savings to be reallocated to or expand programs, to be agreed with AusAID.
- The HPA recommends that final narrative report submission date is amended to align with end of year financial so that program implementation can be completed and aligned with the program cycle.