

# **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

## **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

Represented by the Australian Agency for International Development  
(AusAID)

**ABN 62 921 558 838**

and

**REDR AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

**AUSAID AGREEMENT 57839**

## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Between the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief (RedR) Australia Limited (ABN 89 068 902 821)**

### **Preamble**

1. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring Australia responds rapidly to international humanitarian crises through the Australian aid program. With an expanding aid program, humanitarian assistance will continue to feature prominently. Humanitarian disasters undermine the potential for developing countries' future growth, and Australia is committed to ensuring hard-won development progress is not lost to natural disasters or conflict. Australia will continue to contribute to international responses, taking where appropriate, a leadership role in humanitarian operations in the Asia-Pacific.
2. AusAID aims to extend the reach and impact of Australian humanitarian assistance aligning with the goals and principles of AusAID's Humanitarian Action Policy. AusAID commits to strengthening partnerships for the rapid mobilisation of resources, particularly by supporting the Australian humanitarian community. AusAID recognises RedR Australia as a key partner in this endeavour as a humanitarian organization whose mission is to relieve suffering in disasters by selecting, training and providing competent and effective relief personnel to humanitarian relief agencies worldwide.
3. This three year Partnership Agreement seeks to foster enhanced capacity within the Australian humanitarian community to contribute to international emergencies while increasing the profile of Australian humanitarian responses among the Australian public, host governments and within the UN system. AusAID acknowledges RedR Australia's well-earned reputation for professionalism and responsiveness within the Australian and international humanitarian community, and seeks to support RedR Australia's goals for the strategic growth of the organisation.

### **RedR Australia Capability Statement**

4. The work of RedR Australia involves collaboration with multiple other parties.
5. In accordance with the RedR Australia mission to relieve suffering in disasters by selecting, training and providing competent and effective relief personnel to humanitarian relief agencies worldwide, Red R Australia is an official Standby Partner of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and UN OCHA.
6. Each of these relationships is informed by a Memorandum of Understanding setting out terms under which RedR Australia provides fully-funded personnel to field operations, and on occasions to agency headquarters. This form of

Australian contribution to international humanitarian relief has been endorsed and encouraged by successive Australian governments, via AusAID.

7. The keystone of these arrangements is the construction, utilisation and maintenance of a Standby Register of personnel. Knowing the experience and skill profiles required by UN agencies at field level, RedR Australia strives to interest suitable Australians in being available, often at short notice, to take up agency positions providing relief after disasters and emergencies.
8. The roles of RedR Australia personnel, in effect seconded to the UN agencies, are in accordance with the United Nations' humanitarian missions, policies, working practices, standards and guidelines pertaining to each agency, and may arise in response to natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies. The prevailing model for work of this type is known as the Cluster System, but there are numerous variations within that system.
9. The priority for UN agency action becomes the shared priority for RedR Australia personnel. Those seconded to the field follow agency work programmes and security processes, directing humanitarian assistance to those who need it most in accordance with field assessments of need. Sometimes RedR Australia personnel contribute to the identification of those needs, if mobilised to address the immediate post-impact phase of a disaster.
10. Participation in the work programme and priorities of the UN agencies includes compliance with internationally-endorsed policies on human rights, gender, child protection, international humanitarian law, protection of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups including the SPHERE standards, among others.
11. RedR Australia does more than apply the policies in practice in the field. The RedR Australia Training Service curricula include these themes in the preparation of people ahead of field service.
12. While RedR Australia exercises high levels of attention to the safety and security of its people (including themed training, pre-departure briefing, attention to travel advisories, etc), the crisis or disaster issue which requires their field involvement may be a security concern in itself. Field personnel in humanitarian missions have been increasingly targeted, and the trend seems unlikely to be reversed. Steps are taken to reduce risk, but safety cannot be guaranteed.
13. The UN system of phased security assessment, not always the same as Australian Government assessments, is integral to considerations of safety of personnel in the field, when to mobilise and when to withdraw. Safety oriented training, the application of sound judgement, backed by a suite of relevant insurance policies, are the primary components of safety of personnel, a responsibility which RedR Australia accepts despite the lead role being taken by the UN agency concerned, backed by United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

14. RedR Australia monitors all aspects of safety, health and well-being of its personnel, and determines the regions in which it is “safe” to work, and when to withdraw.
15. In attending to the needs of civilians, the UN agencies may interface with communities having, or suspected of having, links to military, paramilitary or subversive organisations. This may, by association with the agency programme, bring the RedR Australia personnel into similar linkages in the provision of humanitarian relief. Such interfaces are rare, but both parties to this agreement acknowledge that innocent interaction with people in need and possibly linked to subversive elements, is not out of the question.
16. Disaster impact mitigation initiatives are valuable where possible. RedR Australia is active in the pursuit of opportunities to mobilise appropriate personnel to engage with responsible offices such as National Disaster Management Offices or equivalents, with the objective of assisting people to take action in advance of a major threat.
17. The training mandate of RedR Australia is regarded as a component of disaster impact mitigation as it seeks to improve the capability of Australians and others to deliver the highest quality humanitarian response.
18. RedR Australia Training Service, informed by specific reference to the field environment, delivers short courses on specific humanitarian themes. Led by a small team of in-house trainers, associate trainers assist in the delivery of training for RedR Australia Standby Register purposes and for a growing number of external clients, both government and non-government.

### **Guiding Principles**

19. In entering this Partnership Agreement, the parties mutually acknowledge their commitment to:
  - a) AusAID’s Humanitarian Action Policy;
  - b) AusAID’s Disaster Risk Reduction Policy;
  - c) Disability inclusive programs. In the delivery of its programs RedR strives towards practical approaches to promote the dignity and well-being of people with a disability, recognising that people with a disability are often among the poorest and most marginalised people in developing countries, making them particularly vulnerable in the event of a humanitarian disaster; and
  - d) Gender equality as a critical goal in humanitarian disaster response. In the delivery of its services RedR Australia strives towards gender equality, which it recognises as essential to increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of disaster response and mitigation efforts.

## **Shared Goals**

20. **Best Practice:** Both parties acknowledge the over-arching goal of the partnership is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during, and where possible before, international humanitarian emergencies. The activities under the partnership should reflect international best practice in humanitarian response – in implementation and impact assessment.
21. **Rapid, Professional Responses to International Emergencies:** Both parties acknowledge that rapid mobilisation of resources in response to humanitarian crises is imperative, and will undertake to maintain appropriate management systems to facilitate this goal.
22. **Effectiveness and Accountability:** To maintain a high standard of transparency and accountability to the Australian and international humanitarian community, and demonstrate a commitment to evaluation of the effectiveness of the partnership's activities. A strong focus on the evaluation of the partnership's effectiveness, particularly from the perspective of United Nations agencies and governments is critical. Both parties will work together to enhance accountability and transparency of the activities supported by this Partnership Agreement.
23. **To Build Awareness of the AusAID-RedR Australia Partnership:** Both parties aim to maximise the Australian community's understanding of, and support for, humanitarian emergency responses, particularly the Australian contribution to international relief efforts. AusAID and RedR Australia will identify opportunities for building public awareness of the Partnership and its outcomes. Both parties undertake to coordinate communication in relation to both information sharing in emergencies and community awareness. Achievement against this objective will be measured by RedR Australia's ability to gain maximum exposure through media, professional journals and public speaking in representing the work of deployees in the field and in Australia over the life of the Partnership.
24. **Independence:** AusAID respects the independence of RedR Australia, including its right to comment on government policy and advocate for policy change. AusAID recognises the importance for RedR Australia in maintaining their status as a non-government organisation and to this end will support RedR Australia's efforts to attract support from other sources to undertake their core activities.
25. **Alignment with Emerging Priorities:** Both parties commit to regular strategic communication between the CEO of RedR Australia and the AusAID Humanitarian Coordinator to ensure the Partnership remains relevant to emerging priorities for AusAID and the wider humanitarian community.

## **Australian Government Commitment**

26. The Australian Government commits:

- a) To provide substantial opportunities for dialogue through regular 6 monthly meetings with RedR Australia at the RedR Australia CEO – AusAID Humanitarian Coordinator Level, and/or the program manager level.
- b) To provide policy guidance, including on emerging priorities, to RedR Australia in a timely and transparent manner.
- c) To provide to RedR Australia, where possible, enhanced advice and information on security issues in countries to which RedR is considering deployments

### **RedR Australia Commitment**

#### 27. RedR Australia commits:

- a) To extend, in conjunction with AusAID, the RedR Australia Communications Strategy articulating communications objectives including recruitment, fundraising, and branding as well as promotion of RedR, and AusAID’s Partnership, domestically and internationally.
- b) To an increased focus on monitoring and evaluation of both the deployment and training program in order to better measure their impacts, acknowledging that:
  - i) RedR deployees are generally contributing within UN agency programs with wide ranging impacts (this increased focus should include provision of a synopsis of UN agency reports focusing on specific achievements of RedR Australia. This information may be disseminated through the communications strategy).
  - ii) RedR training courses are already monitored for participant feedback. This increased focus may capture information from alumni given RedR Australia’s extensive network.
- c) To ensure that RedR Australia attend and provide perspective at relevant multilateral forums during the period of the partnership agreement.
- d) To the sustainability of RedR Australia through the diversification of support across Australian Government, other donors and the corporate sector. To this end, RedR Australia will continue to develop and report on a model for strategic growth across the life of the Partnership.
- e) To respect the role of AusAID in implementing Australian government policy and the confidentiality of government information including sensitive non-public information relating to field security.
- f) To provide timely responses to requests for input on relevant policy matters wherever possible.

## **Implementation of the Partnership**

28. AusAID and RedR Australia will pursue this Partnership through strategic dialogue at the RedR CEO – AusAID Humanitarian Coordinator level, and regular operational interaction and reporting. Both parties will take a consistent approach to communication including:
- a) Providing early notification of emergency response activities (including requests to RedR from UN agencies and others for deployees) to facilitate rapid response and accurate reporting;
  - b) Identifying opportunities for high-level visits from Ministers and senior officials to emergency response operations in which RedR deployees are active;
  - c) Ensuring regular interaction at the operational level between a nominated focal point for RedR Australia and a nominated focal point in the Humanitarian Emergency Response section in AusAID;
  - d) Collaborating on promotion and public awareness-raising endeavours; and
  - e) Reaching agreement on strict protocols for exchange, storage, and subsequent use of sensitive information. This will include RedR Australia's provision of information of a personal nature involving its deployees, and AusAID's provision of non-public security information to assist deployment decision-making.

## **Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation**

29. AusAID places a premium on evidence-based policy of which sound monitoring and evaluation strategies are a key component. To this end:
- a) RedR Australia will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to more effectively measure the impact of activities under the Partnership.
  - b) AusAID will take an active role in tracking the achievements of RedR Australia, through annual reports and other monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
  - c) Both parties will establish an information sharing protocol to allow real-time reporting amidst an emergency response operation involving a RedR deployment, dependent upon the nature of the specific emergency response.

## **Review**

30. AusAID and RedR Australia will review this partnership at the mid-term point to determine its value and impact and inform a possible next phase of the

Partnership. Both parties also agree to review this Partnership Agreement on a six monthly basis at both senior management and program officer level, as well as at other times as needed.

### **Partnership Agreement**

31. AusAID and RedR Australia agree that this Partnership Agreement, whilst expressing goodwill and intent of the parties to cooperate and collaborate on issues of mutual interest, does not create legal relations or a partnership at law between the parties in any jurisdiction. Any funding provided to RedR Australia will be provided through separate grant agreement deeds. Grant Agreement Deed 56104 (1 January 2011 to 30 June 2013) will set out the funding arrangement for the Partnership.

### **Dispute Resolution**

32. AusAID and RedR Australia will consult together at any time upon request of either partner regarding any matter relating to the terms of this Partnership Agreement and will endeavour in a spirit of co-operation, good faith and mutual trust to resolve any difficulties or misunderstandings which may arise. These consultations will be held between the RedR Australia CEO and AusAID Humanitarian Coordinator.
33. The Australian Government is not responsible for the activities of any person or third party engaged by RedR Australia as a result of this Partnership Agreement, nor will AusAID be liable for any costs incurred by RedR Australia in terminating the engagement of any such person or organisation.

### **Amendments**

34. The Partnership Agreement may be amended and supplemented at any time by an arrangement in writing in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the two parties.

### **Duration**

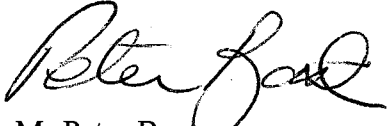
35. This Partnership Agreement will take effect from the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 30 June 2013.

### **Termination**

36. The Partnership Agreement may be terminated by either party for any reason at any time on six (6) months' notice in writing to the other party.

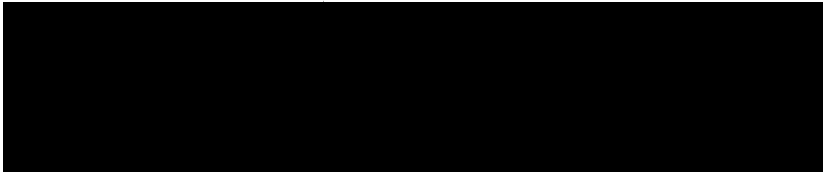


**SIGNED** on behalf of the **AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AusAID)**



Mr Peter Baxter  
Director General

**SIGNED** on behalf of **REDR AUSTRALIA**



Chief Executive Officer

