



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM IN PNG EVALUATION

In August 2022, jointly with Geoscience Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned an evaluation of the Technical Disaster Risk Reduction Program in Papua New Guinea. The program is funded by DFAT and implemented by Geoscience Australia (GA). The current phase of the program has been ongoing since 2016, however the partnership between GA and counterpart technical agencies in the Government of PNG (GoPNG) commenced in 1994.

The evaluation assessed the program's performance against standard evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability) and provides recommendations to inform future investment decisions regarding the partnership with Geoscience Australia, and the broader architecture of DFAT's disaster risk reduction/management portfolio in PNG.

DFAT-GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA JOINT RESPONSE TO THE EVALUATION

DFAT and GA welcome the independent evaluation of the Technical Disaster Risk Reduction Program. We broadly accept the recommendations put forward in the evaluation report and consider it to be a fair assessment of the strengths and challenges of the program and the context it operates in.

DFAT-GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA JOINT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Response	Who/What/When
Recommendation 1: Geoscience Australia to continue its flexible and needs-based approach to assisting PNG technical agencies in building their capacity to manage hazards.	Agree	<p>LEAD: Joint</p> <p>BY: June 2023</p> <p>GA and DFAT agree the current program model offers sufficient flexibility to support a needs-based approach to PNG technical agencies and that this model has supported program efficiency and effectiveness. Any future programming will incorporate similar levels of flexibility.</p>
Recommendation 2: Geoscience Australia to coordinate with United States Geological Survey to ensure potential future United States Geological Survey inputs are complementary with Geoscience Australia future inputs.	Agree	<p>LEAD: Geoscience Australia</p> <p>BY: December 2023</p> <p>GA will seek opportunities for future coordination with technical agencies from other development partners also seeking to support PNG to ensure coordination and maximising our collective efforts. This includes the United States Geological Survey.</p>
Recommendation 3: Geoscience Australia to revisit the issue of a multi-hazard approach in the design of a new phase of the program (from July 2023). This could also include linkages with the PNG Australia Climate Initiative Australian Humanitarian Partnership NGOs in PNG.	Agree in part	<p>LEAD: Joint</p> <p>BY: June 2023</p> <p>As part of any new program design activities, GA and DFAT will explore options to reinstate a multi-hazard approach for GA support to technical agencies in PNG. This will include considering opportunities to leverage Australia's other disaster risk management and climate change investments in PNG.</p> <p>GA and DFAT will also consider if GA is the right agency to support multi-hazard approaches, or if DFAT should consider partnerships with other Australian technical agencies who may be better placed to support their counterpart agencies in PNG. If the latter approach is taken, DFAT will ensure complementarity and coordination between programs.</p>
Recommendation 4: Geoscience Australia to meet with the Disaster READY Country Committee to explore possibilities for piloting	Agree	<p>LEAD: Joint</p> <p>BY: June 2023</p>

Recommendation	Response	Who/What/When
community-based hazard awareness on seismic risk, most likely in Bougainville.		As part of efforts to ensure complementarity, and opportunities to leverage DFAT's investments in the disaster risk management sector in PNG, DFAT will consider all points of entry for GA. This will include considerations as to how GA's expertise and work can be utilised by NGO partners under the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Disaster READY Program.
Recommendation 5: DFAT to consider a different approach to strengthening DRM in PNG. One model to consider could be the Australia-Indonesia Partnership in Disaster Risk Management with its focus on institutional capacity and organisational systems strengthening to improve leadership in Disaster Risk Management.	Agree	<p>LEAD: DFAT PNG Post</p> <p>BY: June 2023</p> <p>DFAT welcomes the reflections on the broader architecture of the disaster risk reduction portfolio in PNG and agrees on the importance of taking an institutional capacity and organisational systems strengthening approach to improve local leadership on DRM. This evaluation is part of a broader exercise to ensure we have a clear understanding of our investments, and the gaps and opportunities to support GoPNG DRM priorities.</p> <p>Post will consult with other DFAT country programs, and DRM technical experts in DFAT Canberra to help inform any future proposed programming.</p>
Recommendation 6: Geoscience Australia's annual reporting should consistently include gender-disaggregated data for participation in program related training and workshops.	Agree	<p>LEAD: Joint</p> <p>BY: October 2023</p> <p>DFAT and GA will revisit annual reporting format to ensure it adequately captures gender-disaggregated data.</p>
Recommendation 7: Geoscience Australia to continue the current model of program delivery using a range of technical staff to deliver inputs consistent with the evolving program outputs.	Agree	<p>LEAD: GA</p> <p>BY: Ongoing</p> <p>GA and DFAT agree the breadth of technical expertise at GA is critical to the success of the program. This has been critical to the deployment of targeted and relevant technical skills and knowledge to meet the evolving needs of the program. GA has available staff with a wide range of technical expertise and experience and will continue to draw on these staff as needed.</p>

Recommendation	Response	Who/What/When
<p>Recommendation 8: DFAT to consider supporting University of PNG in offering the Graduate Diploma in Geohazards and Risk Management through support from Australia Awards PNG, including targeted scholarships for women.</p>	<p>Not agreed</p>	<p>LEAD: DFAT PNG Post BY: January 2024 DFAT recognises the importance of building disaster risk management capabilities in PNG. Through the Australia Awards program, DFAT will explore opportunities to deliver a targeted short course award in DRM for intake 2024, including the potential for collaboration with UPNG.</p>