

CASE STUDY 1:

AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIP (AHP) DISASTER READY PROGRAM (PHASE 1)

AHP Disaster READY demonstrates multiple enablers of best practice for climate change integration, particularly those focused on partnerships and local leadership. This case study links to the ‘Programmatic’ level of ACFID’s Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

LOCATION:

Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste

TIMEFRAME:

2018 - 2022

PARTNER NGOS:

CARE Australia	Caritas Australia (CAN DO)	Oxfam Australia
Plan International Australia	Save the Children Australia	World Vision Australia
Local NGO partners in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG and Timor Leste		

THE LOCAL NGOS IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM IN COUNTRIES:

Plan International Fiji	Caritas Timor Leste	Action Aid Vanuatu
ADRA Fiji	Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste	World Vision Vanuatu
Fiji Disabled People’s Federation	Plan International Timor Leste	Save the Children Vanuatu
Tailevu South disabled people’s organisation Fiji	Mercy Corps Timor Leste	CARE International PNG
Naitasiri Disability Association Fiji	Child Fund Timor Leste	Caritas PNG
Pacific Disability Forum Fiji	Oxfam Timor Leste	World Vision Solomon Islands
Habitat for Humanity Fiji	CARE International Timor Leste	Oxfam Solomon Islands
Empower Pacific Fiji	Oxfam Timor Leste	
Fiji Council of Social Services Fiji	Ra’es Hadomi Timor Oan Timor Leste	
Fiji Red Cross		
Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji		

Photo: Australian Humanitarian Partnership. Teacher in Charge of Br. Felix Koniana Elementary School, Mrs Rehab Taiaka (in green), with Save the Children PNG WASH Officers beside the new VIP latrine. Ronald Naki/Save the Children PNG.

OBJECTIVE:

Phase 1 of the AHP Disaster READY program includes disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation activities focusing on the community level and linking communities to local government. It focusses on engaging key vulnerable groups, such as disabled people's organisations, and building local capabilities to meet humanitarian needs.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:

PROGRAMMATIC

Building climate resilience

DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options

2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange

3: Ongoing and holistic approach

4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations

5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge

6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

Phase 1 of the program is a multi-year (2018 – 2022) (Enabler 1) multi-country, multi-partner approach to support disaster risk reduction and preparedness. While climate change adaptation was not explicitly included in the design of Phase 1, in practice, adaptation has increasingly become key to Disaster READY's activities.

The partner NGOs of the program worked to make and sustain connections (Enabler 2) between the government agencies and communities and link traditional knowledge (Enabler 5) with Western scientific information. For example, there was a combined effort of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and World Vision Solomon Islands to link the traditional early warning signs with the scientific warning system. This made a demonstrable contribution towards increasing the capacity of Pacific communities and governments to prepare for and respond to disasters.

The ANGOs worked closely with local partners, (Enabler 2) with strong leadership from local government for implementation. Introducing climate change considerations was made easier given these long term and pre-existing strong relationships (Enabler 3) and working through local governance structures.



The program was a government-led approach where civil society is providing those links into communities."

Jason Brown, AHP.

The program prioritised communities' needs and designed the implementation phase considering communities' contexts. This approach successfully provided people with the knowledge, systems and structures to support themselves and others within community to respond to disasters. For example, CAN DO developed guidance on climate change adaptation and disaster resilience awareness messaging from a theological perspective. The messages were supported by biblical texts and made available for priests and pastors to use, which brought about positive behavioural change in faith-engaged communities. This example illustrates consideration of the 'what' (climate change adaptation messaging for communities) and 'how' (delivering the message through culturally appropriate channels of Church leadership) – and links to Enabler 6.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 1:

- For multi-partner and multi-year programs, internal coordination between partners (e.g., ANGOs) supports the sharing of lessons and refining of practice along the way (Enabler 1)
- Working with local partner NGOs and government agencies can support sustainable, ongoing activities (Enablers 2 and 3)
- Community-led and systems thinking approaches helps to embed traditional and local knowledge (Enabler 4)
- Consideration of what the message being disseminated is, and how it is being disseminated (e.g. through Church leadership channels) can result in successful uptake of messages