



Humanitarian Partnership Agreement – Saving lives through Collective Action

Six years of achievement



Acknowledgments

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Front cover images from left to right: Save the Children (Cyclone Winston response);
CARE (PNG El Nino Dought response); World Vision (Ebola reponse)

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Foreword

Over the period 2011 – 2017, the Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) has been the Australian Government’s primary mechanism for providing humanitarian and emergency response funding to Australian NGOs. The HPA brings together DFAT and six Australian NGOs (CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision). The Partnership has been guided by three key pillars:

- Enable a rapid and coordinated response to humanitarian needs to countries affected by crisis
- Foster community resilience through disaster risk reduction (DDR) and disaster risk management (DRM) activities to build the capacity and preparedness of communities
- Strengthen the strategic humanitarian partnership between these organisations and DFAT.

The predictable, multi-year nature of the DRR and DRM funding ensured that the HPA approach was flexible, ensuring that the support provided targeted the most urgent needs. The HPA has supported

long-term planning and helped build stronger partner relationships through collaboration, coordination and knowledge sharing. The design of the HPA allowed for funds to be rapidly released in a humanitarian crisis. Activations responded to rapid-onset emergencies, a spike in slow-onset emergencies, and protracted crises around the world, with a focus on Australia’s near region. The rapid release of funds enabled partners to leverage other funding sources, such as the private sector; to engage with local partners, governments and other stakeholders quickly; and to ensure responses were flexible, targeted, coordinated and accountable.

Our region – the Indo-Pacific – is particularly prone to natural hazards. Investments in disaster risk reduction and preparedness pay dividends, by saving lives, allowing people to more quickly return their lives to normal, and making economies resilient.

The Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) concluded on 30 June 2017. This publication highlights the positive outcomes

of strong partnership, collaboration and coordination by the HPA NGO partners and the Australian Government when responding to humanitarian crises. It has helped to inform the design of the new Australian Humanitarian Partnership (\$50 million, 2017 – 2022), which will build upon the successes and achievement of the HPA. The AHP’s primary focus will be on building the capacity of Pacific partners – including governments, locals NGOs, women’s groups and the Red Cross – to manage disasters more effectively. The Australian Government will continue to respond efficiently, effectively, and rapidly to humanitarian crises, both in our immediate region and beyond.

Jamie Isbister

First Assistant Secretary and Humanitarian Coordinator
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

“ The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the progress made by DFAT and its NGO partners in achieving the aims of the Humanitarian Partnership. ”



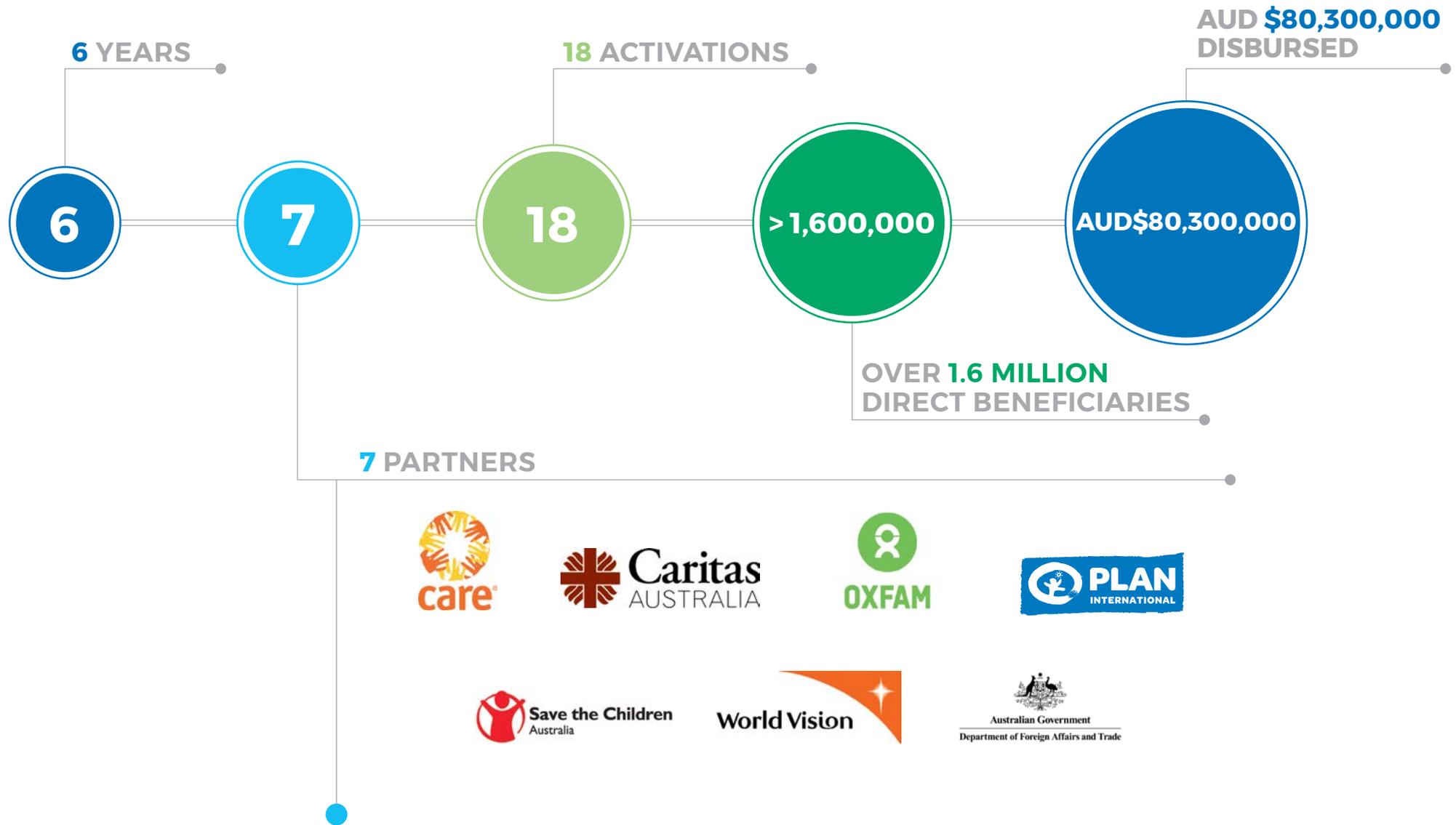
**Cyclone
Winston
Fiji**

Photo: Save the Children



T HPA Overview

HPA at a glance



Introduction

How it all began

The Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (2011-17) has transformed the way the Australian humanitarian non-government organisation (NGO) sector responds to disasters. Before its inception Australian government funding was directed to a selected group of Australian NGOs. An independent evaluation found that this narrow and competitive approach weakened the coherence and overall impact of Australian humanitarian interventions.¹

In response, a broad based partnership between DFAT and participating NGOs was developed, in the form of the HPA. NGO partners would work together to propose a collective response based on agreed criteria, and the capacities of each agency in the disaster affected area. Rapid agreement and dispersal of funding would ensure maximum impact. Response funding would

be accompanied by disaster risk reduction (DRR) and institutional development funding to strengthen preparedness for disasters. The partnership would also include collective learning and accountability exercises and policy dialogue in relation to disasters.

The basis of the new mechanism was the *AusAID-NGO Humanitarian Partnership Agreements Framework (2010)*. This document established the goal and purpose of the HPA and identified key themes which were to be its focus:

Goal

The goal of HPA is to ensure Australian humanitarian assistance is timely, predictable and flexible and contributes to safer, more resilient communities.

Purpose

To strengthen the strategic humanitarian partnership between AusAID and Australian Non-Government Organisations to respond effectively

to disasters and to strengthen community resilience and preparedness.

In October 2010 accredited Australian humanitarian NGOs were invited to tender for the HPA and six agencies were subsequently selected: CARE Australia, Caritas Australia, Plan International Australia, Oxfam Australia, Save the Children Australia and World Vision Australia.

“ The HPA has improved DFAT’s understanding of NGOs; we’ve learnt how to work with them more effectively. ”

Photo: Save the Children



**Cyclone
Winston
Fiji**

¹ Independent Review of the Periodic Funding Agreement for Disaster Risk Management, R Turner and C Bennett, December 2009

“ The HPA helped NGOs to understand policy parameters under DFAT...It helped agencies to make nuanced decisions about their programs. ”

HPA

KEY FEATURES

- Streamlined funding processes
- Greater program and funding visibility
- Increased focus on Australian NGO coordination and responsibility
- Consistency with humanitarian guiding principles and best practice
- Providing vulnerable women, men, girls and boys the opportunity to participate as partners in all aspects of activities
- Enhanced DRR and disaster risk management (DRM) Capacity Building
- Joint planning and assessments, evaluations and peer reviews

Spending funds responsibly

SAFEGUARDS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

In addition to each individual agency's standards and principles, HPA partners are required to adhere to the following DFAT policies

- [Gender equality and women's empowerment strategy](#)
- [Child Protection Policy](#)
- [Fraud and Anti-Corruption Guidance](#)
- [Environment Protection Policy](#)
- [Displacement and Resettlement of People in Development Activities](#)
- [Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program \(May 2015\)](#)
- [Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection](#)
- [Australian Humanitarian Strategy \(May 2016\)](#)

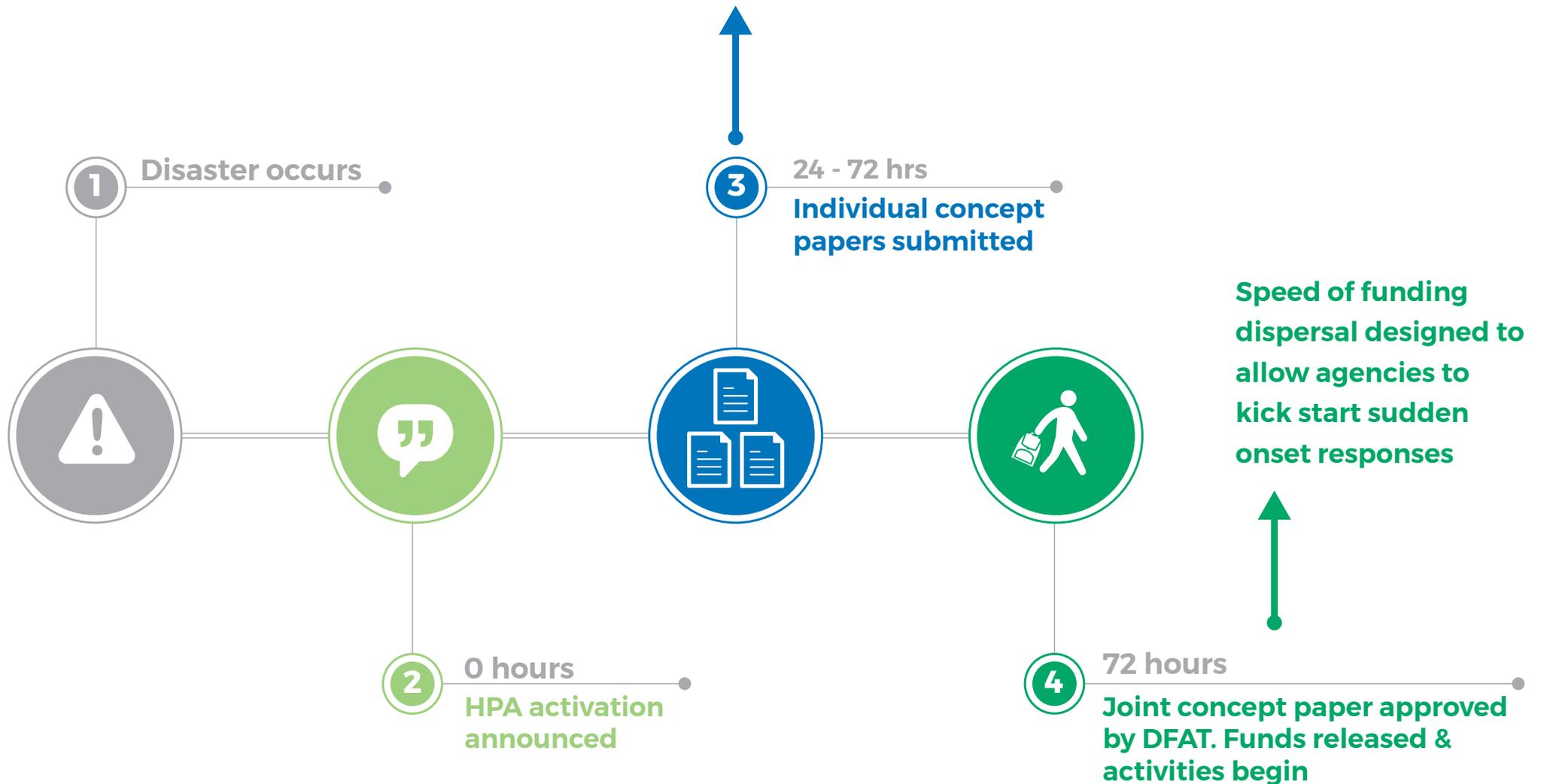
ASSI program



Mobilisation for rapid onset disaster

“ The HPA provided a mechanism to provide funds quickly to disasters, particularly in our region. ”

Robust peer assessment of proposals to select best placed agencies



Partner reflections

1

Ensuring that Australian humanitarian assistance is timely, predictable and flexible

“The 2015 Nepal earthquake happened on a Saturday... funding for programs was approved on the Monday.”

“The process allows the funds to be allocated quickly and then there is time to adjust the project to the emerging realities on the ground...It is best practice in terms of timeliness and flexibility.”

“ There is now a lot more coordination and communication between agencies because there is a platform for it...based on consistent membership and consistent and predictable funding. ”

Implementing partners “were really impressed at how quickly the money came through. The teams (for example in Somalia and Lebanon) were telling me this is really great, really useful.”

2

Improving program quality

“HPA resulted in a more cohesive analysis of the disaster situation...agreeing on a single picture of what had happened.”

“During the Cyclone Bopha response (Philippines) Caritas and Oxfam both got funds for similar areas. We sat down and negotiated so there was no overlap... It was a reassuring example of inter-agency cooperation to ensure maximum impact and efficiency on the ground.”

“ The HPA has strengthened the humanitarian sector in Australia. Agencies have learned from each other and it has raised the standards of our responses. ”

“In Timor Leste during the El Nino Drought the HPA agencies worked together to cover the whole country using a consistent approach.”

Photo: CARE Lucy Beck



Earthquake
Nepal

Photo: Plan International



ASSI
program

Photo: CARE Sam Bolitho



El Nino
prepared-
ness
PNG

Photo: World Vision



Ebola
outbreak
West
Africa

3

Increased focus on ANGO cooperation and responsibility

- “Coordination has seen a big improvement...There’s a willingness to share information and get involved in joint evaluations, joint proposals and consortia such as those in Nepal and Vanuatu.”
- “In Timor Leste the HPA agencies have been working together for five years... They conducted a joint needs assessment for the El Nino drought in 2015. They have effectively replicated the HPA at a country level. Now they have accessed other donors such as the Start Network and this cooperation will continue.”
- “It promoted a broader forum for discussion of how Australia responds to disasters; these discussions occurred even when funding was not at stake...You can’t overstate how important this was... After cyclone Pam we were able to operationalize civil-military cooperation with the NGOs and ADF.”
- “At the manager level there is almost weekly interaction between the agencies. There has been a remarkable level of stability of staffing across the agencies... which has allowed us to develop strong relationships and a good level of trust has developed.”
- **“ There is a lot of mutual respect between agencies and individuals which reflects maturity...trust has developed. ”**
- In allocating funds “agencies were challenged by critical friends.”



4

Increased emphasis on consistency with humanitarian guiding principles and best practice; strengthened inclusion of gender, disability, and child protection considerations in all activities

- “The project selection process enforces a focus on humanitarian principles and best practice. Humanitarians are reviewing humanitarians.”
- “I was impressed with the level of expertise in the room and the application of quality standards...Every response committee included Sphere standards and involved rigorous interrogation of projects...There is robust peer accountability which has been unique in my experience.”
- **“ We had to address gender from the first conversation which was a massive positive...It was not an ‘add on’ ”**

5

Enhanced DRR and DRM capacity building in support of the emergency response component to reduce vulnerability, enhance resilience, and strengthen preparedness and response capacity

“The volume of DRR funding was game changing...”

“The HPA commitment to DRR/DRM is great. Under the previous funding arrangement agencies got \$50k per annum: under HPA it was an initial \$1.5m with additional funds after the first 3 years. DFAT are to be commended for allowing us to innovate.”

“ DRR is the bridge between humanitarian and development programming. By providing considerable funds for DRR that bridge has been strengthened. ”

“The commitment of \$9m to DRR was very bold – and positive. DFAT really got behind DRR and put their money where their mouth was.”

6

Joint planning and assessments, real-time evaluations and peer reviews

“We conducted a joint monitoring mission to the Syria crisis...It started with HPA agencies (Plan International, Caritas) but then extended to include others... We visited each other’s projects and had meetings with diplomats and heads of UN missions. It really helped to update our analysis of the crisis and inform policy discussions.”

7

Strategic dialogue between the partners

“An independent Director has been important for managing dialogue between agencies and when agencies themselves are perhaps scared to be blunt... It provided a strong voice to say things that were difficult.”

“Together with the ACFID Humanitarian Reference Group the HPA has done significant work on the humanitarian consequences of the Syrian crisis. On the fourth anniversary of the crisis they launched a social media and postcard initiative and encouraged people to sign a global petition. There was a parliamentary briefing by the NGOs.”

“The HPA agencies provided input into the Office of Development Effectiveness whole of government review of the response to the Horn of Africa drought in 2011-12 This fed into recommendations on addressing protracted crises.”

8

Greater program and funding visibility

“ A lot of the visibility comes from the rapidity of the funding. It’s there in the first phase of the response and it helps leverage more funds from the Australian public and other institutional donors. ”

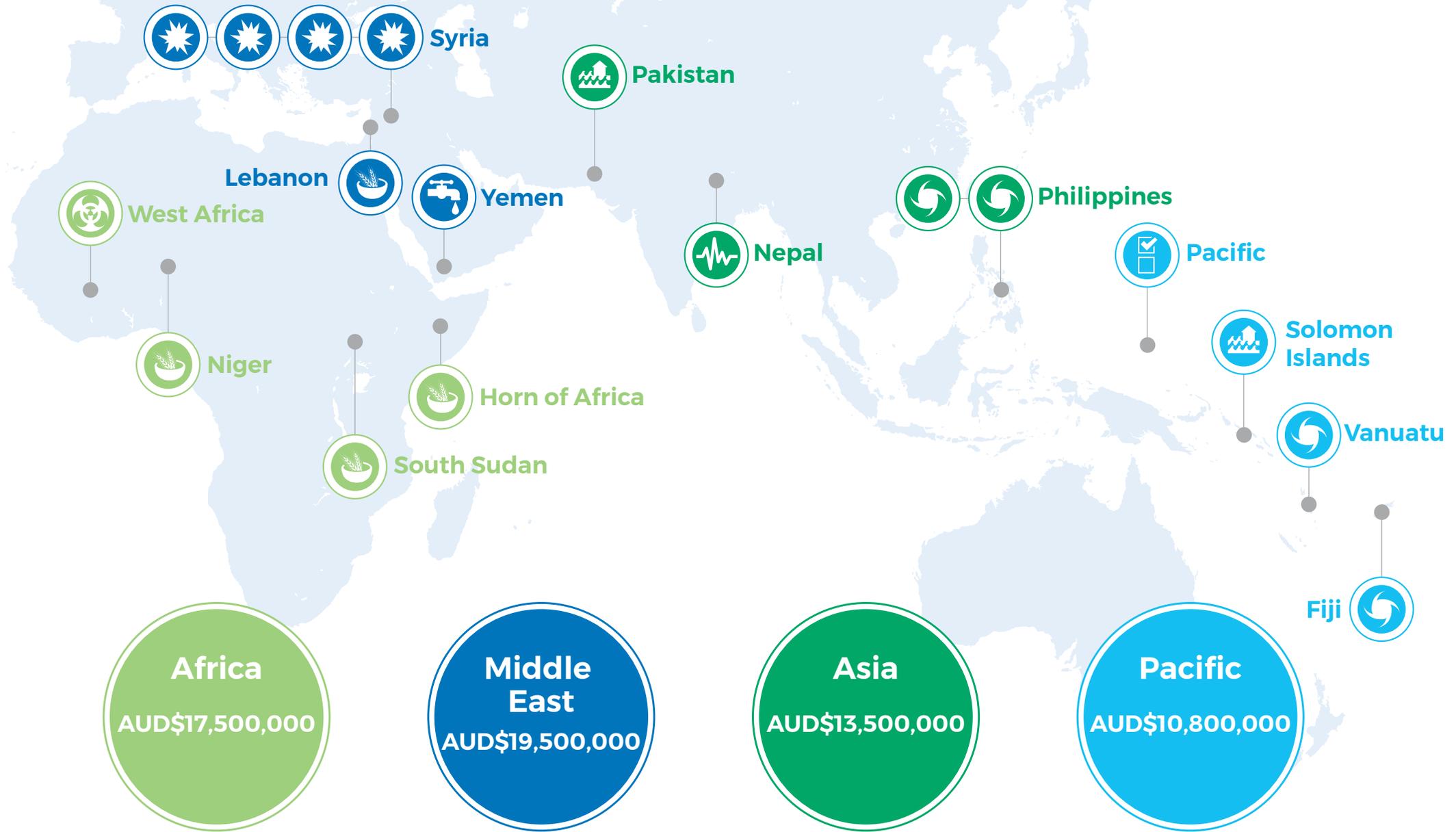
**Food
Insecurity**
**Horn of
Africa**

Photo: CARE Kate Holt

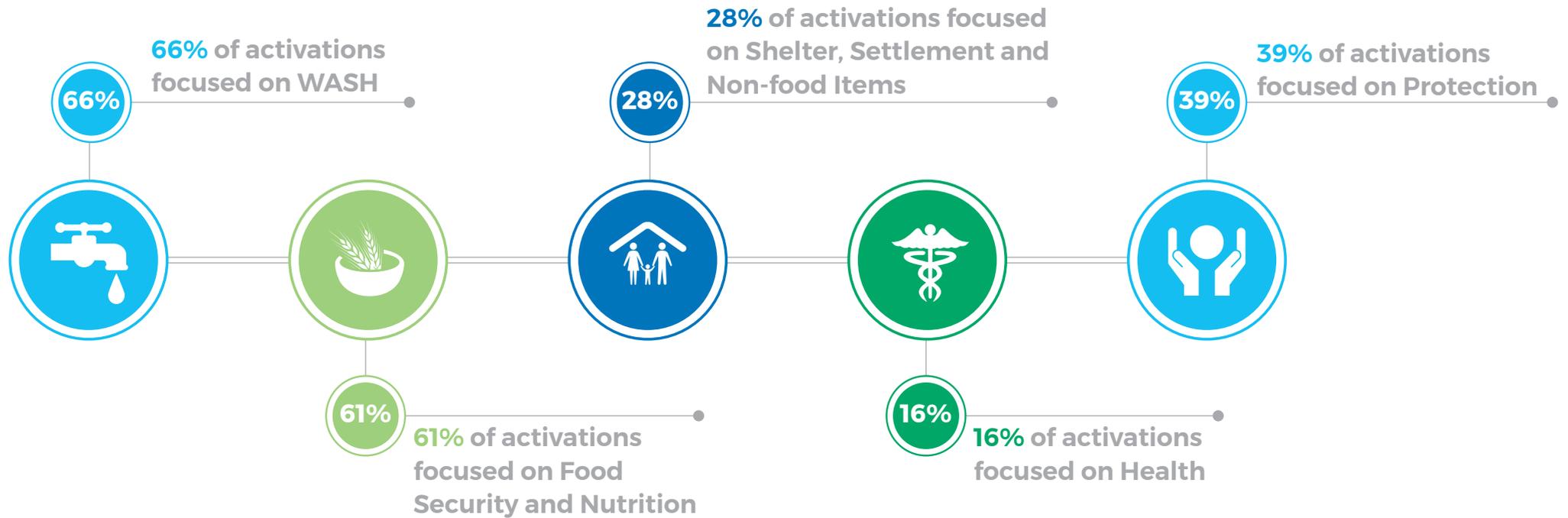


2 HPA Activation History

A global mechanism



Breakdown of Sector Focus*



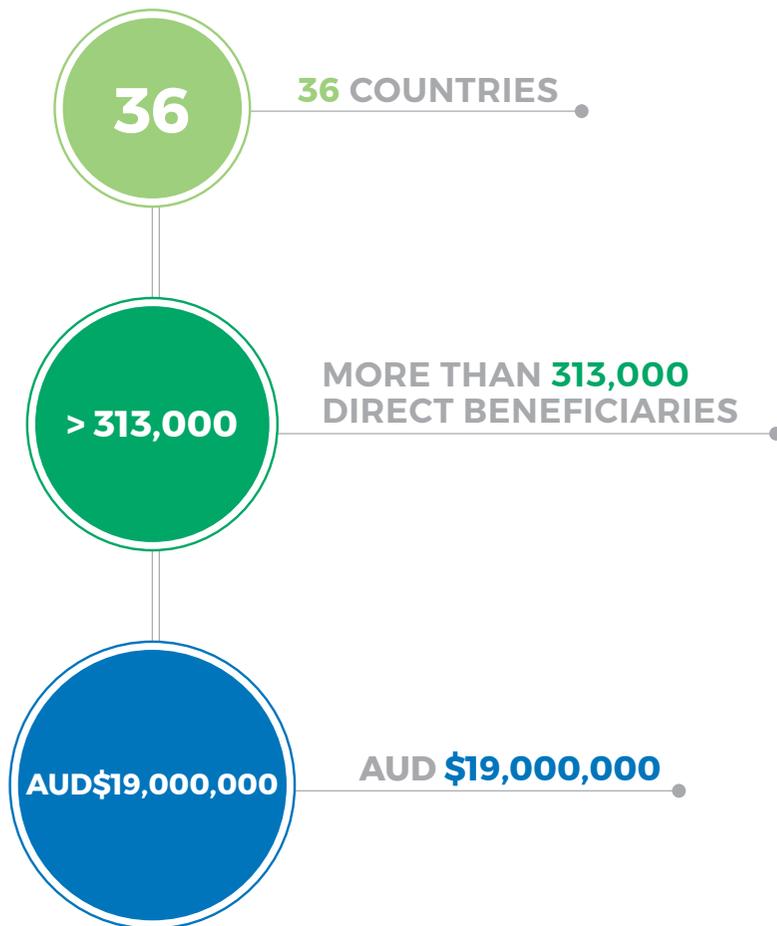
* Some activations focus on more than one sector

Rapid Onset Compared to Protracted/Slow Onset Disasters



Disaster Risk Reduction

“ Certainty of funding for DRR/DRM has really born fruit such as the HLP or CARE’s assessment of DRR impact in Vanuatu ”



Impact of strengthening shelter for Cyclones

Case study: Vanuatu, Cyclone Pam



26,946 people reached by HPA agencies*

HPA programs strengthened 4,491 homes† at an approximated cost of AUD\$269,500‡. These shelters were strengthened with greater resilience through the provision of emergency shelter, shelter repair kits, ‘build back safer’ kits and through the provision of ‘build back safer’ training.

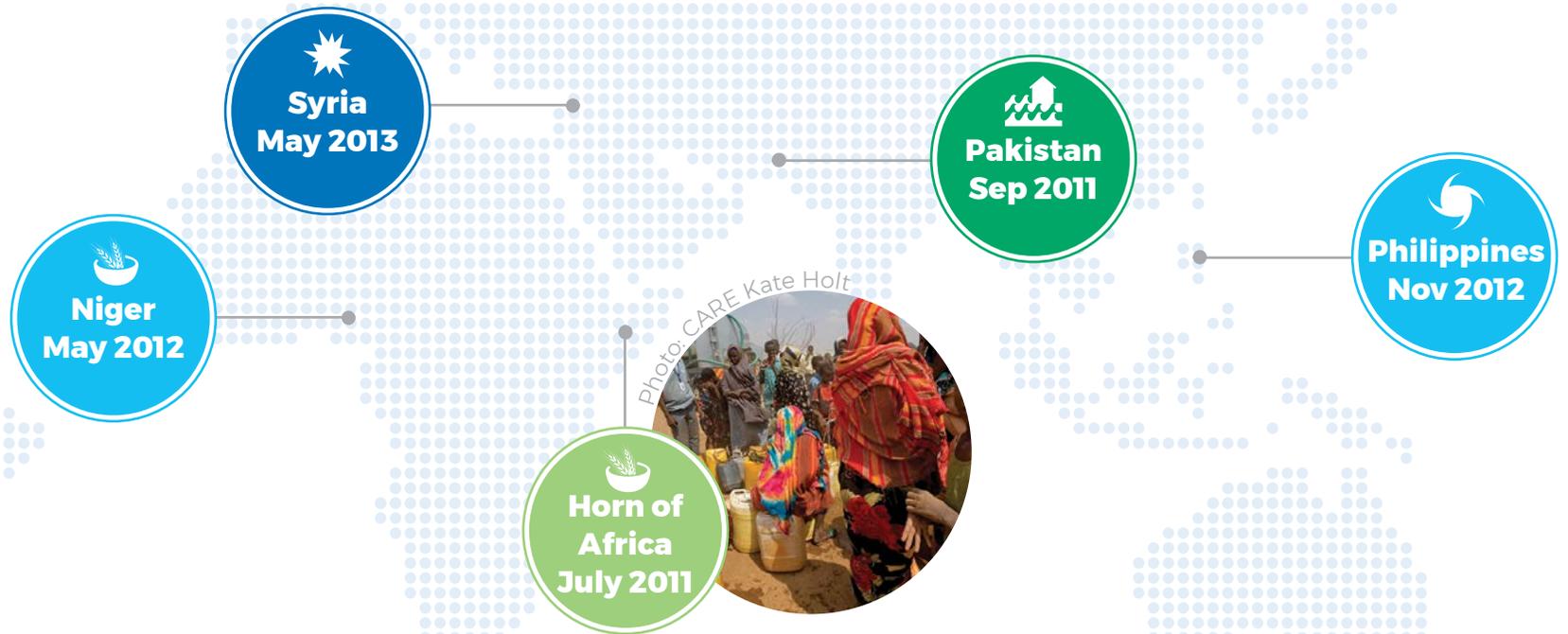


The financial impact is that for every AUD\$60 per shelter investment, you potentially save AUD\$3,600 in the event that the shelter is affected by a cyclone again.‡



* Based on six people per household † This figure covers all household shelter repair support as detailed in the HPA report to DFAT 23 December 2015. ‡ This figure has been calculated off the estimate that it costs AUD\$60 to strengthen a house † This estimate is based off the estimation that it costs AUD\$3600 to rebuild a traditional home.

HPA activation history



JULY 2011	SEP 2011	MAY 2012	DEC 2012	MAY 2013
Horn of Africa	Pakistan	Niger	Philippines	Syria
Drought	Floods	Drought	Typhoon Bopha	Conflict
AUD\$5,000,000	AUD\$2,500,000	AUD\$5,000,000	AUD\$2,000,000	AUD\$4,000,000
Agencies involved: CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision	Agencies involved: Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children	Agencies involved: CARE, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children	Agencies involved: Caritas, Oxfam, Save the Children	Agencies involved: CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Save the Children



JULY 2013	NOV 2013	MAR 2014	OCT 2014	MAR 2015
📍 Syria	📍 Philippines	📍 Solomon Islands	📍 West Africa	📍 Vanuatu
🌟 Conflict	🌀 Typhoon Haiyan	🏠 Floods	🦠 Ebola outbreak	🌀 Cyclone Pam
💰 AUD\$4,000,000	💰 AUD\$5,000,000	💰 AUD\$1,500,000	💰 AUD\$2,500,000	💰 AUD\$3,000,000
👥 Agencies involved: CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision	👥 Agencies involved: CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision	👥 Agencies involved: Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision	👥 Agencies involved: Caritas, Save the Children, World Vision	👥 Agencies involved: CARE, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision



APRIL 2015 **APRIL 2015** **JAN 2016** **FEB 2016** **APRIL 2016**

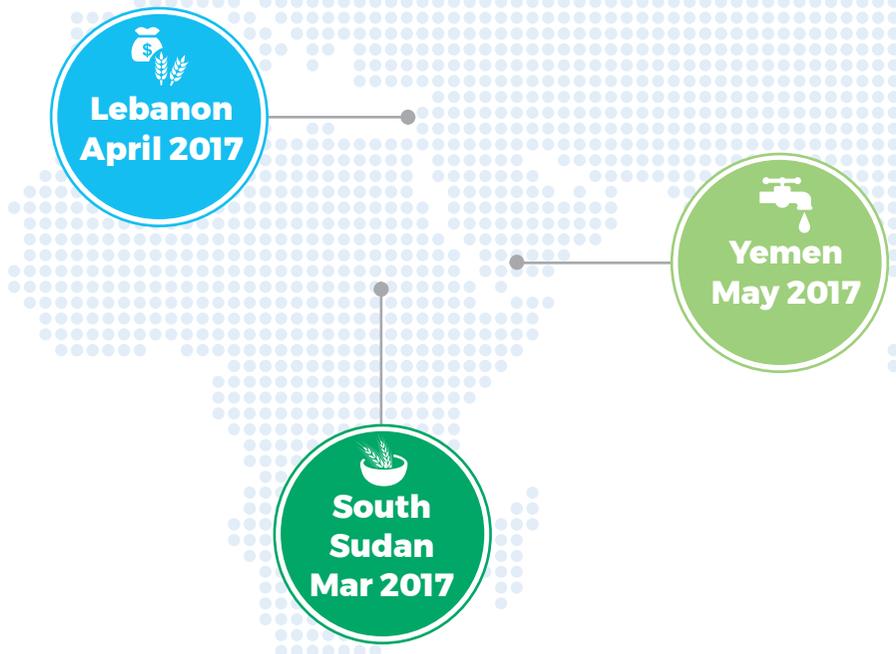
Nepal
 Earthquake
 AUD\$4,000,000
 Agencies involved:
 CARE, Caritas, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, World Vision

Syria
 Gender Based Violence
 AUD\$3,000,000
 Agencies involved:
 Caritas, Plan International

Pacific
 El Nino preparedness
 AUD\$4,800,000
 Agencies involved:
 CARE, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision

Fiji
 Cyclone Winston
 AUD\$1,500,000
 Agencies involved:
 CARE, Save the Children

Syria
 Lebanon and Jordan Education/Livelihoods
 AUD\$3,000,000
 Agencies involved:
 Caritas, Oxfam



MAR 2017

- South Sudan
- Famine
- AUD\$5,000,000
- Agencies involved:
Oxfam, World Vision

APRIL 2017

- Lebanon
- Livelihoods
- AUD\$3,500,000
- Agencies involved:
CARE, Oxfam,

MAY 2017

- Yemen
- WaSH
- AUD\$2,000,000
- Agencies involved:
Save the Children

“ The HPA has strengthened the humanitarian sector in Australia. Agencies have learned from each other and it has raised the standards of our responses. ”

* The three 2017 activations were initiated during the transition period from the HPA to the AHP.

Partnership in action

1 Horn of Africa response 2011

The first HPA response occurred in July 2011 in response to a massive drought affecting around 13 million people across six countries in the Horn of Africa. DFAT's activation provided \$5m and all six NGO partners were involved addressing key humanitarian needs in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. A desk review of the response found that: "As a funding mechanism, HPA has been generally praised as fast and flexible."

It described the response as "solid and successful" and noted that: "The collective impact of the HPA is evident in the speed and flexibility of the response it has produced."

It highlighted the following as examples of innovation and best practice:

- An important initiative by **Plan International**, working with the CBM-Nossal Institute to mainstream the needs of People Living With a Disability into their Ethiopia program
- **Oxfam's** use of a local partner and system of money transfer used by the diaspora community to deliver support to beneficiaries in areas of great insecurity in Somalia
- **Save the Children's** use of Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) surveys and end of project surveys to measure the impact of health promotion and livelihoods interventions in Somalia
- **World Vision's** innovative use of the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach as part of a humanitarian intervention in Northern Kenya
- A thorough and well documented nutrition intervention by **CARE** in Ethiopia
- Accountability to beneficiaries and post intervention impact surveys by **Caritas** in Kenya



“ The collective impact of the HPA is evident in the speed and flexibility of the response it has produced. ”

2 Cyclone Pam response March 2015

Cyclone Pam was a category five cyclone, one of the worst ever to hit Vanuatu with sustained winds of up to 270km per hour. 166,000 of the country's population of 270,000 were estimated to have been affected. DFAT activated the HPA as part of its response to the disaster and made AUD\$3m available. To ensure effective coordination, the four successful agencies (CARE, Oxfam, Save the Children and World Vision) formed a consortium which resulted in a coherent response.

The agencies based their response on existing programs to use their local partnerships and expertise most effectively.

“ There has been increasing collaboration on the ground – it is important that we learn from examples such as the consortium in Vanuatu. ”

- **CARE** focused on Tafea Province where they had already worked for several years to strengthen the Provincial Disaster Council and had strong community links.
- **World Vision** also used their presence in islands including Tanna, Efate and Pentecost Island as the basis of their program.
- **Save the Children** worked in Shefa and Malampa provinces.
- Prior to the disaster **Oxfam** had worked closely with the National Disaster Management Office and seconded staff to its Vanuatu Humanitarian Team which played an important coordination role during the response.

The response included shelter programs to repair or replace damaged houses, food distribution, provision of water and sanitation, health and child protection.

Six months after the disaster the consortium partners came together to conduct a peer evaluation of the response and trained national

monitoring and evaluation staff in the process. The evaluation concluded that the response had been “broadly successful” and was “on track to achieve or exceed the targets listed in the Emergency Response Implementation Plan.” It suggested that the response “scores well for effectiveness and efficiency” The strong relationships between the participating agencies were regarded as an important success factor.

“ ...the response “scores well for effectiveness and efficiency” The strong relationships between the participating agencies were regarded as an important success factor.”



Photo: World Vision



Photo: CARE



Photo: CARE

3 Nepal Earthquake response 2015

In April 2015 a massive earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale devastated large parts of Nepal, killing more than 8,800 people and destroying more than 600,000 houses.

Five HPA agencies commissioned a joint study to see how effectively they had addressed the needs of disadvantaged groups in Nepal including women, people living with a disability, children and the elderly – and how they could learn from each other and improve the impact of their work.¹

Agencies were held accountable to humanitarian principles and minimum standards as well as ‘best practice’ in this area. A field study included interviews and focus groups with affected communities including different castes, ethnic groups ages and genders.

The study looked at the work of each agency and documented strengths and weaknesses. For

example World Vision has developed strong consultation and transparency mechanisms to ensure that all members of the community, including the most marginalised, can access information about their program and have multiple channels to provide feedback through community meetings, suggestion boxes, toll free phone helplines and contact with social mobilisers. Information about project activities was also provided through notice boards and pamphlets. World Vision appointed Accountability Officers in each district to facilitate this.

CARE conducted a Rapid Gender Analysis to identify how the disaster had affected different groups in Nepalese society. Survey data was disaggregated according to gender, age and identified those with physical or mental disabilities. This enabled CARE to understand and anticipate the issues which earthquake survivors were facing: For example many men had migrated to

find work to support their recovery leaving more women and children in the project areas with increased concerns for their safety and protection. The analysis also informed CARE’s advocacy and media work during the response.

The report found that all agencies “conveyed a strong commitment to inclusion, and a willingness to understand how to strengthen current practice.” The report also

provided recommendations on how their support for disadvantaged groups could be strengthened. This included better training for staff on gender and inclusion, building stronger links with organisations representing or working with people living with a disability and developing specific inclusion objectives for future disaster responses.



¹ Inclusive Humanitarian Action: A Study into Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) Practice in the Nepal Earthquake Response, L Searle, 2016

4 PNG El Nino drought response 2016

In 2015-16 the El Nino drought affected several countries in the Asia Pacific region and DFAT released \$5m for preparation and response activities. In Papua New Guinea more than 1.3 million people were estimated to be affected by high food insecurity. Funds were accessed by CARE, Oxfam, World Vision and Save the Children. CARE and Oxfam are based in Goroka in the Eastern Highlands and decided to submit a joint project with common objectives.

Their focus was on six districts in Chimbu and Eastern Highlands Provinces which present challenging logistical and security conditions. Their pre-drought programming experience and contextual knowledge was a key success factor. By working together they strengthened the overall response. The project evaluation concluded that: “Synergies have been found between the two agencies: Oxfam’s WASH hardware capacity has been complemented by CARE’s health and nutrition expertise.” It also commended the involvement of

local partner organisations in the response. Both agencies collaborated on the development of a consistent approach to livelihoods, providing agricultural inputs and training. Both agencies focused on supporting women: a gender assessment conducted by CARE showed that they were very seriously affected by the drought. A member of the national Disaster Management Team commented:

“CARE was at the forefront with its gender assessment which was the main piece of gender related work pushed out by stakeholders.”



Photo: CARE Sam Bolitho

“ Synergies have been found between the two agencies: Oxfam’s WASH hardware capacity has been complemented by CARE’s health and nutrition expertise. ”



Photo: CARE Sam Bolitho

Cyclone
Winston
Fiji



Photo: Save the Children

3 HPA stories

Disaster Risk Reduction in action



Preparation, response and recovery from tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu

CARE has implemented gender responsive community based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation (DRR & CCA) programs in Tafea Province, Vanuatu, from 2011 onwards and supported the local government to improve its response capacity.

In March 2015, Vanuatu was devastated by a Category 5 Tropical Cyclone and Tafea was amongst the hardest hit. CARE responded and used HPA funds as part of its response. Following the disaster CARE commissioned a study to find out if its DRR program had made a difference to affected communities¹. This study visited communities on three islands and compared the impact of the disasters on communities which had participated in disaster risk reduction with those outside the program. The results

were striking and give a strong indication that such programs can reduce the impact of disasters and help communities to initiate their own recovery:

“ ...it was clear that the communities with whom CARE had worked were far more prepared. Both men and women acted early to prepare houses and the community in a coordinated way... ”

Communities which had participated in DRR training moved their boats away from the shore and protected them before the cyclone hit. They protected their water sources so that they were not damaged or contaminated. Both women and men participated in Community Disaster and Climate Change Committees which took charge of preparation and response, looking after all community members. The study found that:



¹ This case study is based on the summary report: Does gender responsive Disaster Risk Reduction make a difference when a category 5 cyclone strikes? Preparation, response and recovery from Tropical Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu,” J Webb, 2016

“The voices of women were heard more loudly, and women’s membership and leadership... was greater and more respected in the DRR communities than in the no-DRR communities. The greater involvement of women in disaster leadership contributed to more inclusive preparedness and response.”

Each DRR community provided evidence of specific actions taken to seek out and support women, children and people with a disability in preparing, responding to and recovering from TC Pam.”

“Washing with bubbles”

Hygiene and water kit distributions after Typhoon Haiyan



OXFAM

On 8th November 2013 Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines with winds around 195 mph and creating a tsunami like storm surge killing over 6,000 people, displacing over four million and destroying or damaging over a million houses. Overall more than 14 million people were affected. Oxfam’s program focused on three of the worst affected areas - Leyte, Eastern Samar and North Cebu - by providing water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH); livelihoods support; and emergency shelter.

As well as losing their homes, people also lost essential and basic items needed for daily life in the typhoon winds and storm surge. Unsanitary living conditions exposed survivors to serious public health risks particularly young children and the elderly.

Using HPA funds, Oxfam responded by distributing hygiene and water kits to help prevent disease outbreaks.

The hygiene kits contained soap

for personal use, household soap for cleaning clothes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, underwear (pants) for women, men and children, bed sheets, mats, sanitary towels and ‘Malong’, which are lengths of cloth that can be worn but have many other uses.

“ I cried when I opened the bag. There were so many items. So many things we all need. ”
said beneficiary Vergie Ochia

Contaminated water puts people’s health at risk so Oxfam distributed jerry cans and bottles of ‘Hyposol’ for disinfecting the water. Importantly, people are also provided with information about how to use Hyposol. Each 100ml bottle is enough to disinfect water for one family for one month.

‘Having the jerry cans and Hyposol has been a big help for us. Before we had our own tap in the house

but all that was destroyed by the typhoon. Now we have to collect water from elsewhere and it’s not safe to drink.’ said Letty Bulit

Soap is one very simple but critical public health and hygiene intervention. Hand washing with soap is among the most effective and inexpensive ways to prevent diarrhoeal diseases and pneumonia, which together are responsible for the deaths of over 3.5 million children under the age of 5 every

year. On current evidence, washing hands with soap can reduce the risk of diarrhoeal diseases by 42-47%. In an emergency response a bar of soap for washing hands, bathing and washing clothes not only keeps people healthy, but also helps to restore their dignity.

When asked for feedback about the hygiene kits Diego Bermiso laughed and rubbed his arms up and down, *‘We can wash with bubbles!’*



Photo: Oxfam

Lebanon

Protection for refugee women

The Syrian crisis is a humanitarian disaster of massive proportions. Since it began in 2011, around half of the country's pre-war population of 22 million is displaced within Syria or in neighbouring countries. In Lebanon around 1 in 4 people are refugees from the conflict and women and children are amongst the most vulnerable.

Caritas used HPA funds to support a protection program run by Caritas Lebanon and with the support of Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Shelters provide a safe environment for women and children and help them recover and to regain their independence.

30 year old Mayssa is a typical example. She fled from Aleppo with her family when war broke out in 2011. Her family shared a single room in a rented house in Beirut; the stresses of refugee life and a husband who grew increasingly violent caused her to move to the shelter with her children.

According to Maya Boudagher, a Caritas social worker who manages the shelter, many of the women who seek support are from poor, rural parts of Syria who married at a young age.

The shelter, which houses 24 women and children, opened in March of 2013. Beyond living quarters, it provides vulnerable women with other services such as cash assistance, legal assistance, food, counseling, recreational activities and educational support. Women are referred to the shelter by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or by other agencies. Since it opened its doors, the shelter has supported between 250 to 300 women and children.

According to shelter rules, women can come and go based on their needs. Maya says women typically stay for a few months. However some stay for up to a year. The goal is to get each woman well enough to be able to support herself and her family. Job training and English

classes are offered as a means to achieve that goal.

"We want to help each woman stand on her own and lead a normal life," Maya explains.

"What I would like for myself is a peace of mind. I want to be able to take care of myself better," Mayssa says.

When it comes to the support of CRS and Caritas she adds, "I'd like to thank them. They're helping me and other people like me. Everything is available here, like food and comfort. And my kids are happy. I feel safe, and mentally I'm better. I'm more at peace."



ASEAN Safe Schools Initiative (ASSI)



Working together to make children in schools more resilient to disasters

Almost 150 million people in the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, mostly women and children, were affected by disasters in the last decade, killing an estimated 350,000 people. A recent study shows that more than 100 million children in ASEAN countries are at risk in schools located in earthquake-prone ASEAN countries and millions face regular events like flooding, landslides, damaging winds and fire hazards. These children typically spend half of their working hours in school facilities, which are often neither constructed nor maintained to be disaster resilient.

As part of its Disaster Risk Reduction Program, Plan engaged with the ASEAN Secretariat and with members of an associated partner group focused on disaster management. Using HPA funds, Plan designed a two phase approach. In phase one Plan and its partners, including World Vision and Save the Children, conducted consultations on school safety in nine countries

and identified key common problems including:

- An absence of national regulatory frameworks to ensure compliance to standards from school site selection, construction and a monitoring process for implementation and maintenance;
- The lack of dedicated budgetary allocation for all components of school safety;
- School vulnerability assessments were often lacking and did not utilize common standards;
- Lack of technical skills to implement and maintain proposed systems and processes for school safety and the limited attention given to the “inclusion agenda” to reach all children and other vulnerable groups.

Based on this assessment phase two was launched. In addition to HPA funds, the program was able to leverage funds from other donors such as ECHO and compile a USD\$16m budget for a three year program in eight countries through

a consortium of seven NGOs. Its objectives are:

- Regional collaboration on the development of school safety across ASEAN member states is strengthened with prioritised tools and approaches in place by the end of the project;
- Policies, tools and technical capacity are in place and being utilised through inter-agency collaboration to promote Safe Schools at the country and school levels;
- Increase in advocacy and learning initiatives on school safety across Ministries of Education, National Disaster Management Organisations and other stakeholders.

The program has already supported direct improvements in schools which benefit around 30,000 children and has provided impetus to national regional – and even global initiatives to provide a consistent practical framework for improving school safety. The program is continuing – and expanding with strong interest from donors such as the World Bank, the European Commission and the Swedish International Development Agency.



Photo: Plan International

Surviving Ebola

The Emergency Response in Sierra Leone

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak which struck Sierra Leone in 2014 is estimated to have infected around 14,000 people and around 4,000 are known to have died. It had a catastrophic effect on this small West African country, still recovering from the long term effects of a ten year civil war.

World Vision Sierra Leone has more than twenty years of experience and strong local partnerships, and these provided the basis for its response to the crisis. Drawing on its global resources it assisted 1.56m people and provided direct assistance to 56,000 children and their families.

HPA funds were an important component of the response and were used to provide training on disease prevention, social mobilisation and the provision of personal protective clothes and equipment to those who dealt with this highly infectious disease.

Nurse Sitta Bundu worked at Korkwena Health Centre in Kono district.

At least 8 nurses were infected and died of EVD in the district.

World Vision provided protective clothes for staff dealing with ebola patients as well as key supplies for keeping the clinic clean and avoiding further spread of the disease. The supplies included chlorine and “veronica buckets” which are mounted on a stand with a tap and

basin to facilitate hand washing. Infection Prevention and Control training was provided – for example staff learned how to use chlorine safely and effectively.

Nurse Sitta said that she has been able to pass on her knowledge gained from the training to other staff and that the support and training was timely as it came just

as they started to see Ebola cases in their community. These interventions were life-saving:

By November 2015 the ebola outbreak was defeated in Sierra Leone – thanks in part to dedicated local health workers like Sitta Bundu and her colleagues.



Humanitarian Leadership Programme

Save the Children identified the need to develop a cadre of trained humanitarian leaders in disaster affected countries as a critical success factor. It used HPA Disaster Management funds as a key contribution to the establishment of the Humanitarian Leadership Program (HLP) which was launched in 2011 in partnership with Deakin University.

The program has expanded over the years: it has resulted in the establishment of the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership in 2015 which has grown in scope and reputation across the Asia Pacific region.

The program is based on collaboration: other HPA agencies have made a significant contribution to the design, content and delivery of the HLP and have promoted it through their networks.

The core training provided by the HLP is an 8-month accredited post-graduate certificate designed by humanitarians, academics, and leadership specialists. The course

goes beyond theoretical learning; students learn through distance and online learning, residential workshops, small-group work; scenarios; individual coaching; psychometric assessment and 360° feedback.

Students are usually practising humanitarian agency staff who are in leadership positions - or aspire to be.

The program has been tested and developed through eight iterations and has reached 232 students drawn from 46 different agencies and 51 nationalities. A survey of 30 HLP graduates who participated in the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (2013) found that 100% of graduates believed that the course had made them better leaders in the response to the disaster. One respondent wrote: "The most valuable lesson I took from the course was being more aware of my leadership style and what worked well naturally and what I needed to work on"

Samar from Lebanon was promoted to become Save the Children's Deputy Country Director of Programs after completing the course. She remarked:

"Learning to be a leader under stress was one of the biggest take-aways I had from the course. It gave me the tools to bring out the best in myself and others"

The HLP is evolving rapidly. It has attracted new donors such as the IKEA Foundation and has started training the staff of organisations which respond to disasters in Australia such as the New South Wales Fire and Rescue. It is working on a French language version of the course with its partners, and an Arabic language version is in the early stages of development.



Moving to the Australian Humanitarian Partnership

The HPA has a successful record of responding to disasters and of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management. The original agreement was from 2011-14 but it has been extended until June 2017. Following a review of the HPA in 2015 an enhanced model has been developed – the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP). Key developments included in the new mechanism include:

- A broader membership through consortia which include most Humanitarian Reference Group (HRG) members and some specialist agencies
- A separately resourced Support Unit which now includes a Partnerships Director, plus monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), communications and an operations and grants role

- A separate process for allocating funds to slow onset disasters, allowing more time for review of proposals, conducted by an assessment panel
- A larger, multi-year DRR capacity building program focused on the Pacific, promoting collaboration and learning

“ HPA has taken us to first base; with AHP and a more focused Pacific capacity building initiative hopefully we can get to second or third base. ”



