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14 December, 2023

For Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster Coordination Meeting

RedR Australia is proud to implement the Australia Assists Program, which is the Australian Government's humanitarian civilian deployment capability.

The program provides global targeted humanitarian deployments that aligns with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT) humanitarian, development and foreign policy objectives.

RedR Australia collaborates closely with DFAT in the delivery of the Australia Assists Program

In Year 6 of the program with 116 specialist deployed to 29 partners in 37 countries across the Pacific, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe , FY 23 saw the largest volume of deployments to date.

The Australia Assists program additionally supported the delivery of 15 core humanitarian training programs to 405 participants in Australia, Jordan, Fiji and Tonga.

In FY23, the Australia Assists program continued to focus on key thematic areas of gender equality , disability inclusion and localization. We achieved the highest number of targeted deployment than previous years.
33 deployments addressed gender, disability inclusion and protection roles, in harmony with UN Sustainable Development Goals 5,10 and 16.

Our progress on localisation

A total of 20 percent of all deployees were either from the country of or region they deployed to. The Pacific region has the most local deployments with 25 percent from within the country or region.

The Pacific had the largest number of deployments with 51 deployments Assistsing Government Ministries, National Disaster Management offices, and UN Partners across the disaster cycle.

A new initiative under the Australia Assists Program saw a 3 person Humanitarian Response Team(HRT), deploy to Vanuatu in the aftermath of twin cyclones Kevin and Judy to undertake needs assessments.

https://youtu.be/jTPw4BsRHD4?si=ocd0Kfj-INJAp_BT

Inclusion has been a key aspect of growth in our work .

This has been bolstered by the Gender Action Plan(GAP), Disability Action Plan(DAP) and Localisation Action Plan(LAP). These action plans capture the practical aspects of our work.

We hired an inclusion Advisor in May to guide our process on GAP, DAP and LAP, to implement staff training and ensure inclusion is integrated across all areas of work.

Key Partnerships

FY23, saw direct contracting arrangements with UN organisations in which 4 experts to 3 different UN agencies were deployed to the Pacific and Middle East.

These were extensions of previous funded roles under Australia Assists or new contracts.

The Deployments enabled us to fill critical skills gaps , including sexual reproductive health in emergencies, MEL, information management and logistics.

We continued our strong commitment to the UN Standby Partnerships. THE SBP is a network of bilateral arrangements between organisations and the UN.

We have been a member of the SBP since 2003 and has played a key role in its development.

Inclusion

In FY 23, 78 experts were deployed through 12 of our 15 UN Partners, supporting 32 countries with in-person and remote deployments.

The largest number of deployments went to OCHA, UNWomen, UNICEF, UNHCR.

We are on the SBP Network steering committee, and co chair of the MEAL working group.

We are committed to gender equity and 50 percent of UN Deployees in FY23 identified as female.

Logistics roles in the Pacific

We have had 27 roles in 6 years (including 1 on HRT) equating to 127 months of support.

The Skills profile that our deployees worked in are as follows:

- Logistics/Procurement/Supply chain
- Warehouse management
- Transport
- Elections Logistics
- Warehouse management
- Health logistics

Many of these deployments were related to:

- Elections(14) in PNG: Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
- Assisted with COVID 19 Supply chains
- General warehousing support for pre-positioning goods ahead of cyclone season

Logistics in the Pacific

The most common countries receiving logistical support were:
Vanuatu (6) and Fiji and the Solomons(4 each)

The most common host organisations were PNG electoral Commission(6), WFP(6) and Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (4)

For WFP
9 have been deployed into the Pacific

Skill Profiles- Information management, preparedness and resilience logisticians.

WFP Global
35 global deployments, inluding the 9 to the Pacific, the majority have deployed into Asia (13).

Achievements from our Australia Assists Deployees

Franck (NDMO Vanuatu) - Franck invested a lot of intentional effort into trust building with NDMO staff and upper management. He identified logistics as the main area of welcome support, particularly around communication within NEOC, the supply chain and data processing, accuracy and retention. Prior processes lacked transparency with large gaps in tracking supplies, so Franck developed and implemented tools and strategies to improve logistics and operations including a stock movement tracking system , stock inventory and data visualization tools for lessons learned.

Darren Wynn (UNICEF PNG) - Helping to ensure that UNICEF PNG supply and logistics team will be prepared to respond to future emergencies in a cost effective and timely manner, reaching the most remote locations by revising the Preparedness Strategy, drafting SOPs, and helping to establish a Logistics Working Group with representatives from agencies throughout the highland region.

Gail Owen (PNG Electoral Commission - Assisted in the delivery coordination of supplies from the Australian Electoral Commission and customs clearance; provided technical advice on a provincial logistics and a training session on dispatching and receiving sensitive materials; provided advice on polling and security planning for the highlands.

Robert Harvey (UNDP Vanuatu) - Developed standard operating procedures for essential processes including packing ballot boxes, tracking shipments and distribution of materials. Analysed electoral logistics processes and provided recommendations for streamlining processes.

Navjuvon (UNICEF Fiji) - Involved in Covid-19 supply procurement, specifically by assessing existing warehouse capacity, upgrading storage, managing inventories and training local staff. Supported the transportation of 25000kg of relief supplies from Suva and Brisbane to Tonga in support of the Hunga -Hapai Hunga-Tonga dual tsunami-volcano disasters. Conducted stock management training for five MoH warehouse staff so they can confidently record all COVID-19 related items to Pacific Island Countries.

Stephen Aumua (WFP) - Leveraging his previously established network as a local resident in Fiji, Stephen has been able to quickly source the necessary information to ascertain a logistics warehouse. Acting as primary logistics focal point for the Fiji Country Office, has been focused on facilitating an air freight service to transport Covid prevention supplies (e.g. by setting up a warehouse to process freight and negotiating services contracts with local providers).

RedR Australia

- Roster of more than 1070 professional humanitarians
- Deployed 135 experts to 32 host organizations in 40 countries in FY23
- Implementing partner of the Australia Assists Program until end June 2024 and continue fundraising and managing our deployment and humanitarian training programs.

Thank You