

AHP

Disaster READY



DISASTER READY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

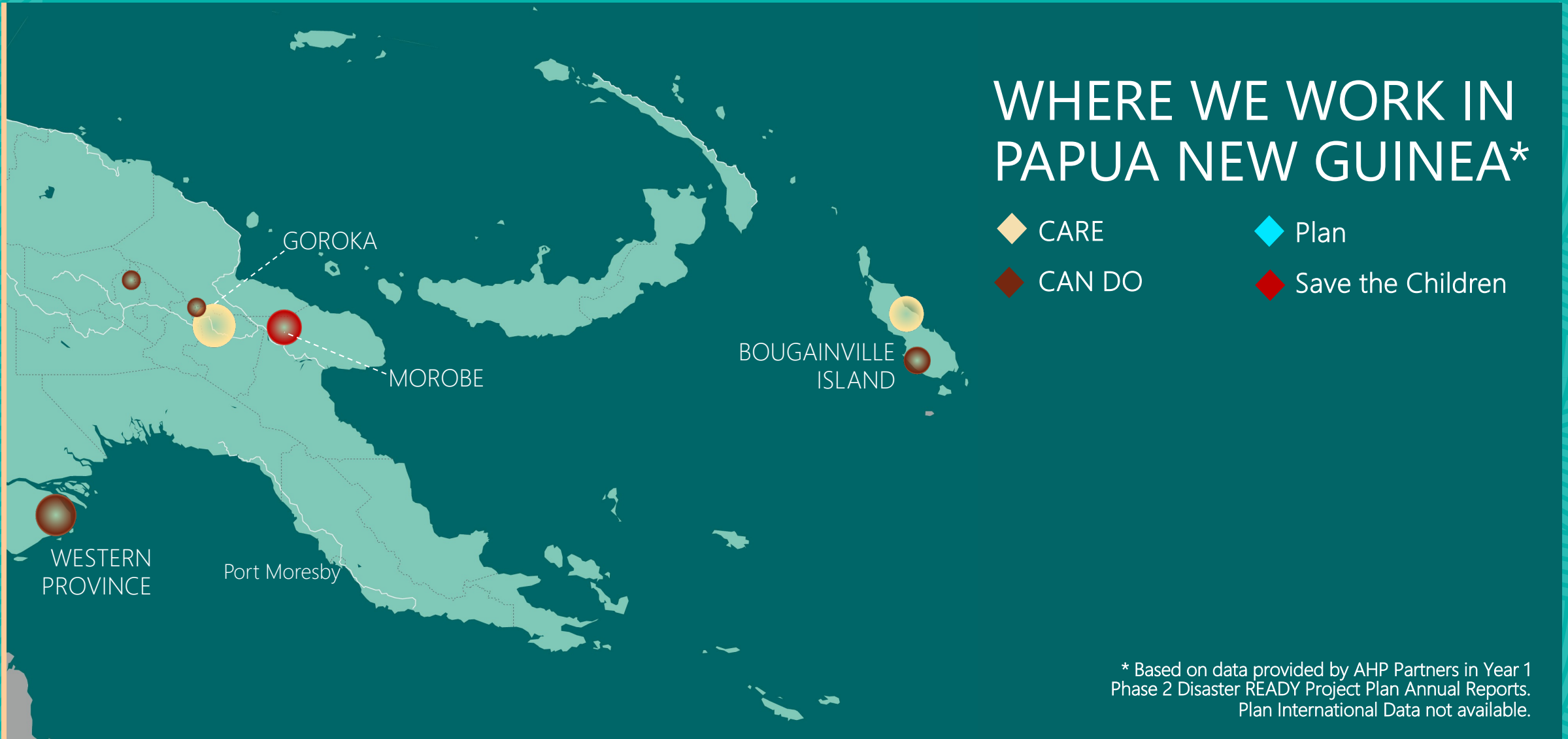
Papua New Guinea



Image: CARE

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INTRODUCTION

Papua New Guinea

Disaster READY aims to improve preparedness, resilience, and the ability to respond to the impacts of disasters and climate change in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The program supports communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and government. Disaster READY emphasises the inclusion of women and girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups as well as the localisation of program design, implementation, and monitoring. Disaster READY in PNG is being implemented by five lead agencies which make up the Disaster READY Country Committee (DRCC): Plan International (partnering with ChildFund), CAN DO, Save the Children, CARE and World Vision (who joins Disaster READY from Year 2). These non-governmental organisations (NGOs) work to deliver Disaster READY in partnership with 11 local CSOs.

Year 1 of Phase 2 of Disaster READY (July 2022-June 2023) included the completion of Phase 1 (2017-2022) activities and associated reporting. Partners also completed the Phase 2 country and project-level design process to support work to be undertaken from 2022-2026. This involved a country-led and comprehensive redesign of Disaster READY Phase 2 project plans, country level plan and associated deliverables, including a localisation plan and development of a collective learning agenda.

Simultaneously, Disaster READY partners commenced implementation of Phase 2. All projects and country-level plans are designed to support the achievement of three overarching intermediate outcomes:

Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Communities (especially vulnerable groups) plan and implement effective, inclusive, and integrated disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation (CCA) activities.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Local Civil Society actors — Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), churches, and informal groups — have improved institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their role in effective disaster preparedness and CCA.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3: National and Sub-national governments are supported to lead effective, inclusive and coordinated disaster preparedness, CCA and response activities.

The first year of Disaster READY Phase 2 in PNG has focussed on laying the groundwork for successful project implementation in new and existing communities. A summary of early results against the intermediate outcomes is outlined in the section below. This report also outlines initiatives and results against the key cross cutting themes of the program including inclusion, localisation and coordination.

CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW

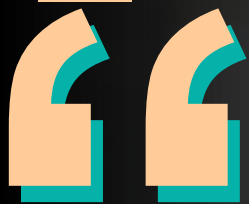
Papua New Guinea is considered at high risk to earthquake, volcano, landslide, cyclone, coastal flooding, wildfire, tsunami and drought. The 2021 World Risk Index ranked PNG as the 9th most at-risk country in the world. With over 85 percent of the population living in rural areas and relying heavily on subsistence agriculture, PNG is also vulnerable to climate change. PNG is the largest of the Pacific islands by land mass and population. In 2023, PNG has experienced a 7.1 magnitude earthquake and a volcanic eruption.

On 18 July 2023, reports emerged from Bougainville indicating several communities in Wakunai and Torokina Community Government areas were affected by ash fall from the Mount Bagana volcanic eruption. Initial assessments indicated that food gardens and water supply were severely affected. Care centres, acting as temporary accommodation and evacuation sites, were established in the affected communities. Disaster READY partners played a crucial role supporting the Autonomous Bougainville Government's response to the disaster. Further detail of partners' actions are outlined under intermediate outcome 1.3. Noting this response has occurred outside of the year 1 reporting period, early details are included in here, and further information will be provided in subsequent annual reports.

In addition to natural disaster, PNG often experiences electoral violence. A national election was held in July 2022. Partners in PNG have cited the prolonged election period and subsequent violence as negatively impacting project implementation. A three-month State of Emergency (SoE) was declared on July 26th, which imposed a curfew prohibiting travel between 6pm and 6am. Partners indicated that planned activities that did not occur in Year 1 because of this violence and upheaval would be moved into Year 2.

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

- Partners have established 21 disaster management committees and are promoting local ownership within them.
- Progress is being made towards gender inclusion in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and CCA activities but the inclusion of people with disabilities and SOGIESC peoples remains low.
- Responsive and adaptive planning has ensured that urgent community needs, like access to water during drought and the pivoting of funding to respond to the Mount Bagana eruption, were prioritised.
- Partners have provided capacity building and support to 11 local civil society actors, which has included training on gender in emergencies and disability inclusive data collection.
- Through the mapping of civil society and non-governmental organisations, partners supported the PNG government to provide an effective and coordinated response to the Mount Bagana eruption.
- Partners held seven collaboration and coordination activities and events to support national and sub-national governments, the highest of any Disaster READY country.



The overall goal of the Disaster READY project is to strengthen provincial disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation by building the capacity of provincial governments, local civil society organizations, and NGOs.

Isimel Tuembe
Humanitarian Manager
Save the Children in Papua New Guinea

Image: Save the Children



A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with soft, golden and orange clouds, with the sun's glow visible near the horizon. The ocean below is a deep, dark blue with gentle ripples. The text 'RESULTS AGAINST INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the right side of the image.

RESULTS AGAINST INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Communities (especially vulnerable groups) plan and implement effective, inclusive, and integrated disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation activities.

Partners have achieved early progress in community level preparedness through establishing disaster management committees and providing a range of associated support. A total of 21 community disaster management committees (CDMCs) were established in PNG in Year 1 of Disaster READY Phase 2. Of these CDMCs, almost half (48 percent) have developed DRR/CCA plans and have commenced implementation. CARE Australia established 13 CDMCs in the Eastern Highlands Province alone. Some further community level examples of preparedness include:

- Leaders from four villages attended CARE's training of trainers (ToT) in Bougainville on CDMCs and are now taking the lead in supporting CDMC planning in their communities.
- CDMCs established by CARE in the Eastern Highlands Province have proven effective at supporting communities to be more resilient to disasters. For example, 5 communities (Anengu, Miruma, Kwongi 2, Koningi and Komongu) have engaged in crop diversification as a food security initiative. This initiative has involved more than 150 families and included establishing seed gardens to produce seeds for ongoing cultivation and sharing with other community members. This will be important with impending El Nino-induced drought conditions and will be monitored by CARE.
- In Port Moresby, the United Church PNG (UCPNG) completed training of trainers (ToT) on Theology in Disaster

church leaders) from four provinces: Gulf, Central, National Capital District and Western Highlands. This aim of the training was to address religious-based beliefs and behaviours in the face of disasters and risks, and support improved disaster resilience knowledge through a faith-based approach

Progress, albeit modest, is being made towards gender equality and the inclusion of people with disabilities at the community level. Of the 21 CDMCs that have been established in PNG in Year 1, 24 percent have equal gender representation and 48 percent were formed with participation by people with disabilities. The 10 completed DRR/CCA plans include actions to address the specific needs of women and girls and people with disabilities (100 percent). Further information is available in the Inclusion section on pages 15 and 16.

Responsive and adaptive planning has ensured that urgent community needs were prioritised. In one instance, Disaster READY partners began implementation of priority community actions to support preparedness and resilience. Baptiste Union PNG (BUPNG) completed the installation of two rainwater tanks at the church in the Wangumali community in the Baiyer district of Western Highlands Province. This activity was originally planned for Year 3, but BUPNG brought the activity forward due to the drought affecting the highland region. Labourers from the community were engaged for the water tank installation, allowing 1000+ people in the community to easily access water. Women who previously walked between 20 and 30 minutes to fetch water now have easy access to water close to their houses, improving gender equality outcomes and reducing risks of gender-based violence.



1,754 people reached



43 percent were women and girls



2 percent were people with disabilities



21 new community disaster management committees were formed

Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Local civil society actors (NGOs, CBOs, OPDs, churches, informal groups) have improved institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their role in effective disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

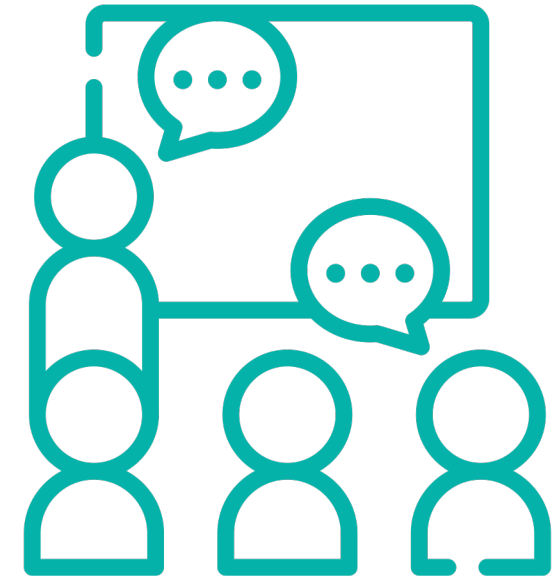
In Year 1, Disaster READY partners supported 11 local CSOs and/or faith-based organisations with trainings and support to improve their technical and institutional capacity to implement disaster preparedness and response activities. CARE has focussed on supporting organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in PNG to become more engaged in DRR/CCA planning. This has included two subnational OPDs being involved in the training of community and government counterparts on disability inclusive data collection practices. In addition, CARE provided administrative support by helping to organise the Eastern Highlands Disabled Peoples Organisation's (EHDPO) annual general meeting and to procure an office space in Buka.

CARE provided the women-led CSO 'Touching the Untouchables' (TTU) and the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons (PNGADP) with gender in emergency training. CARE also supported five local civil society actors (Geki Cooperative, Gotomi Coffee Cooperative, Hege

Cooperative, Goroka District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Agency and Lufa Community Development Agency) with disaster risk management training. As a result of attending this training, Goroka District WASH Agency reported that they were able to put their new knowledge and skills into action by conducting a climate vulnerability and capacity analysis (CVCA) process in Lapegu Ward. This process helped the community to develop action plans to mitigate risks associated with natural disasters.

CAN DO established three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between local church partners to inform the ongoing work with these partners throughout the Phase 2 program, enabling institutional and technical support.

Outside of the above listed initiatives, other partners had limited progress in supporting this intermediate outcome and will refocus efforts in Year 2, including providing support to selected CSOs in on cash and voucher assistance (CVA).



ELEVEN

Civil Society Organisations increased technical or organisational capacity. Six of these organisations also participated in collaborative disaster preparedness activities.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3: National and Sub-national governments are supported to lead effective, inclusive and coordinated disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation and response activities.

Partners supported government to provide an effective and coordinated response to the Mount Bagana eruption. CARE's support to the Bougainville Disaster and Emergency Directorate (BDED) was highly important for the Autonomous Bougainville Government's response to the Mount Bagana eruption. CARE completed mapping of civil society and non-government organisations, which allowed the government to identify which organisations were best placed to provide support. As a result, CARE was engaged to support rapid needs assessments and rapid gender analysis and coordination, Plan International was engaged for WASH support, and Save the Children assisted with market impact assessments.

Partners held seven collaboration and coordination activities and events to support national and sub-national governments. In addition to the support provided to the Autonomous Bougainville Government in response to the eruption of Mount Bagana, ADRA successfully completed their partnership agreement requirements with the South Fly District and Western provincial-level government. Save the Children co-facilitated three national cash working groups, completed a cash feasibility and risk assessment in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARoB), and held CVA training.



7

collaboration and coordination activities or events on DRR/CCA were held to support national and sub-national government in PNG

PARTNERING WITH GOVERNMENT TO EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In early 2023, Save the Children conducted cash feasibility risk assessments under Disaster READY. The assessments aimed to determine whether it was possible and suitable to implement cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AOB).

The assessment surveyed 100 males, 78 females and covered 178 households in six communities in central and north Bougainville, of which about seven percent were classified as experiencing vulnerability. The findings of the assessment showed a high level of community and political acceptance and market actors who are eager to support the rollout of CVA. The benefits of CVA identified by the two communities include the opportunity to purchase basic household needs, the assistance in the reconstruction of damaged community infrastructure and the opportunity to improve financial flows within communities.



Image: Save the Children



Image: Save the Children

(...continued) Catherine Welbia, Director of Economic Policy and Research with the Autonomous Bougainville Government's Department of Commerce (pictured), expressed that while CVA is a new form of disaster assistance for the department, she believes it would mean that people could have some level of economic independence even in a crisis.

"Under the Department of Commerce's Economic policy, a big thing for us here is ensuring that there is economic independence and making sure people will still have the opportunity to do business despite a disaster," she said.

"For instance, if a major cash crop community in Bougainville is affected by a disaster, having CVA in place means they can rebound and are not in a state where they can't completely recover production of cocoa, copra or the marine sector.

"In Bougainville our thinking is to be independent and if we can empower our people through that system before the disaster strikes then it gives us the potential to keep our status as economically independent."



CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

INCLUSION

Inclusion is a critical component mainstreamed across all Disaster READY partner projects and activities. In Year 1, progress towards inclusion across all activities has been modest with partners laying foundations for improved practices going forward. Two independent technical advisors have completed independent reviews of each of the PNG projects and provided detailed recommendations for each partner to progress towards gender equality and disability inclusion.

Participation figures from Year 1 in PNG indicate that 43 percent of beneficiaries are female and 2 percent are people with disabilities. In Year 2, partners will seek to improve inclusive practices to with a focus on gender equality and disability inclusion. For example, it will build on the CVCA training in Bougainville and the Eastern Highlands by CARE. The training guided locally led projects to ensure that community preparedness work and other resilience-building initiatives includes the needs of vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

100%

of DRR/CCA action plans address the specific needs of people with disabilities



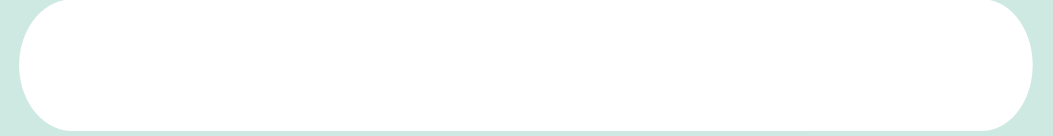
100%

of DRR/CCA actions plans address the specific needs of women and girls



0%

of DRR/CCA action plans address the specific needs of diverse SOGIESC peoples



INCLUSION

At the community level, some notable inclusion-focused results included:

- Of the 21 CDMCs established in Year 1, 24 percent (5) were formed with equal gender representation.
- Almost 50 percent (10) of CDMCs were formed with participation of people with disabilities.
- 100 percent of DRR/CCA action plans were developed with actions to address the specific needs of women and girls as well as people with disabilities.

CARE has collaborated closely with subnational OPD partners in Eastern Highlands Province and Bougainville. Both EHDPO and the Bougainville Disabled Persons Organisation were actively involved in the baseline process as well as the training of community and government recorders on disability inclusive data collection

practices.

Partners have re-engaged with the national level OPD PNGADP – which includes funding for a disability officer as a part of the core personnel in the Disaster READY Coordination Committee (DRCC) team. These initiatives lay the foundation for further work on disability inclusion in PNG in Year 2.

Across all Disaster READY countries, including PNG, the inclusion of persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) has been a significant challenge. In PNG, the community DRR/CCA action plans, for example, currently have not included specific actions to address the needs of diverse SOGIESC peoples. This will become a focus area in future years.

Component	Description	Progress
Partnerships	Equitable and complementary partnerships between local, national and international actors.	11 CSO partners have been supported with institutional or technical support. This support emphasises the shift to local actors implementing preparedness and response activities. Three CAN DO church partners signed MoUs with Caritas Australia. Through the DRCC, PNGADP has been re-engaged.
Leadership	National actors define and lead on humanitarian action.	21 CDMCs have been established in Year 1. These mechanisms emphasise local leadership and support local priorities for community preparedness and resilience.
Coordination and complementarity	Application of and respect for commonly agreed approaches to 'as local as possible and as international as necessary'.	Better coordination and complementarity amongst partners have been supported through mapping of humanitarian actors in Bougainville and EHP. Partners held seven collaboration and coordination activities and events to support national and sub-national governments.
Participation	Communities lead and participate in humanitarian response.	Partners have progressed inclusive participation across their work. This has been supported through GiE, GEDSI, disability inclusion, and other sensitisation trainings and workshops.
Capacity	Local and national organisations are able to respond effectively and efficiently, have targeted and relevant support from international actors.	Local CSOs are being supported with office space, administrative support, logistics support and technical capacity strengthening in CCA, DRR, and Gender.
Funding	Increased number of national and local organisations describing financial independence that allows them to respond more efficiently.	27 percent of expenditure went to national or local organisations.

LOCALISATION

Year 1 of Phase 2 of Disaster READY included partners undertaking a country-led 'design refresh'. This process was driven at the country level, with implementing partners coming together with stakeholders including government to develop a shared barrier analysis and a coordinated locally-led approach to creating their project plans. This process culminated in the development of the PNG Disaster READY Country Plan.

During the refresh process, the DRCC developed a PNG Localisation Plan that outlined collective goals and measurement approaches to progress towards locally led humanitarian action. Partners developed these and integrated their approaches with the Disaster READY intermediate outcomes and use of tools from the PIANGO/Humanitarian Advisory Group's (HAG) localisation framework. The framework consists of seven core components for measuring progress on localisation in a holistic way. These are outlined in the table (left), with accompanying notes on country-level progress.

COORDINATION AND LEARNING

The program funds a country DRCC with positions related to coordination, monitoring & evaluation, communication and disability inclusion. This plays a key role to support coordination of the program and also has a dedicated budget for joint learning activities. In Year 1, the DRCC coordinated the development of this learning agenda which will focus best practice of CCA and integration of community-based preparedness work. This research will be rolled out in Year 2.

The PNG Disaster READY partners also began the process to develop a Partnership Agreement. This outlines shared principles and objectives as well as outlines the processes for developing collaborative/joint proposals for AHP activations. This will be finalised in Year 2.

PNG partners were successful in leveraging their existing projects to gain additional funding through the DFAT Bilateral Budget for PNG. The funds will compliment partners' existing projects but will focus on implementation of community level drought preparedness activities and seek to mitigate the impact of changes to weather patterns due to El Nino.

The DRCC also leveraged this mechanism to successfully submit a concept proposal to undertake a joint project for Anticipatory Action. The PNG partners will begin development and implementation of the proposal from early 2024.

GOING FORWARD

With foundational activities in Year 1 complete, across the board partners will seek to increase their level of implementation according to their workplans. For the DRCC, the learning agenda will play a key role in supporting partners' cross learning and moving towards best practice. Moving from output to outcome focussed reporting, with emphasis on capturing qualitative and quantitative data that tell the 'so what?' story of Disaster READY, is also a key area for future improvement.

AHP

Disaster READY

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