



INNOVATION  CHANGE

The Pacific Humanitarian Challenge

Join us in rethinking humanitarian response

Information Handbook

The Pacific Humanitarian Challenge

Introduction

A CALL TO ACTION

Pacific countries are highly exposed to the impacts of climate change and extreme natural events (e.g. tropical cyclones, storm surges, rising sea levels, floods, droughts, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis). In the last 60 years, these events have affected more than 9.2 million people and caused more than US \$3.2 billion in damage (World Bank 2012). The resulting disasters can affect countries' economic, human and physical environment and harm their long-term development. Ten Pacific economies feature in the list of the world's top 30 countries most vulnerable to natural disasters (World Bank 2011).

Disasters have a greater disruptive impact on small, vulnerable communities and economies, such as in the small island states of the Pacific. Resilience to the impacts of climate change and disaster risk reduction are economic imperatives. Losses from major disaster events can easily exceed 100 per cent of gross domestic product, and set back development goals by decades. As such, we need to better our response and build disaster resilience in the Pacific.

Through this \$2 million Challenge we are calling on innovators, entrepreneurs, designers and scientists to rethink humanitarian response.

Take up a challenge

WHY A CHALLENGE?

A Challenge is a new approach to an old problem. In short, it is an open process that expands the pool of talent and creativity to find, create, incubate, and accelerate effective and impactful solutions to complex problems. The result can inspire faster, better and cheaper solutions.

THE CHALLENGES



1. Communications

The Understanding and Interpretation of Needs

By improving the timeliness and needs assessment inputs, such as usefulness and accuracy of information, we will improve outcomes.



2. Logistics

Humanitarian Logistics

By increasing our capacity to reach remote communities we will save lives and reduce the suffering caused by a disaster.



3. Finance

Building Financial Resilience

By increasing financial resilience, we help communities and businesses have access to the resources to fund recovery and reduce disaster risk.



1. Communication

The Communication and Interpretation of Needs

Following a disaster, it is vital to rapidly assess needs so resources can be deployed to save lives and assist in early recovery. By improving the timeliness and needs assessment inputs, such as usefulness and accuracy of information, we will improve outcomes, including communities with low resources and coping capacities. A functional and widely accepted needs assessment would contribute significantly to the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, early recovery and reconstruction.

Understanding and appropriately acting on the needs of disaster-affected communities is a complex challenge with many interdependent parts. First and foremost the needs of the affected communities are required to be understood. Secondly, needs data captured has to be transmitted back to the government. Transmission, through inadequate telecommunications, is often severely compromised in these situations. Thirdly the needs assessment received will usually be combined with other contextual information to assist decision makers in providing appropriate assistance to the affected communities. Moreover, the needs assessment should act as a continuous feedback channel for communication with affected communities and civil society, thereby connecting it to achievable and real outcomes that build trust between all parties.

Sub-Challenge One

Immediate Damage Assessment Product

One central pillar in assessing needs is a rapid assessment of the physical damage. A useful, accessible tool to assess immediate damage could contribute significantly to the coordination and delivery of assistance. Moreover, how could a assessments tool be connected to community self-reporting? This challenge seeks to develop an Immediate Damage Assessment Product for the Pacific that is trustworthy, scalable and produces actionable information.

Examples

- Novel ways to measure damage as a proxy for immediate need, via modelling, remote sensing, or another method.
- Creative ways for communities to self-report needs, for example, simple physical signs viewable via remote sensing, or the establishment of peer-2-peer mobile phone networks.

Sub-Challenge Two

Understanding the data we have

Our situational awareness is often confused by the duplication of needs assessment, or omission of critical data (e.g. private sector needs assessment). How can we readily combine existing baseline data, such as accurate population data, health and education, as well as evacuation centre sites with real-time needs assessments from the field to support response decision-making? Moreover, how do we open up this data to empower decision-making beyond the centralised response effort? This challenge seeks to identify existing solutions outside the Pacific Region and/or prototype new approaches to bring together the data we have in one place to support response decision making.

Examples

- A prototype that uses the latest Big Data techniques to synthesise needs data with other contextual data to support response decision-making.
- Novel ways, such as innovative business models and tools to access and maintain critical public and private data sets.



2. Logistics

Humanitarian Logistics

The task of humanitarian logistics comprises acquiring, transporting, storing and delivering personnel, supplies and services at the places and times they are needed, while ensuring best value for money. In the immediate aftermath of any disaster, these supplies include items that are vital for survival, such as food, water, temporary shelter and medicine, among others.

Cyclone Pam made landfall in Vanuatu on March 12, 2015, affecting more than 188,000 people across 22 islands. In the Pacific, delivering assistance to remote and hard-to-access communities is the most significant logistics challenge. Reaching these communities effectively will save lives and reduce suffering.

Sub-Challenge One

Unlocking existing capabilities and distribution mechanisms

Every Pacific nation transports goods to their communities through their existing supply chain. How can we leverage these supply chains? How can we utilise the sharing economy? This challenge seeks to identify existing solutions outside the Pacific Region and/or prototype new approaches that, in times of a disaster, can better leverage these existing capabilities and mechanisms, to reach remote communities in an affordable and transparent way.

Examples

- 'Uber for emergencies'. An App that allows people to register their private vehicles (such as trucks, boats, helicopters) in times of crisis that could be utilised by governments and NGOs to rapidly procure transportation in a cost effective manner within the region
- Novel commercial agreements that enable special access or usage during a state of emergency, for example, contractual clauses with commercial fishing fleets that allow their use in times of disaster to provide logistical support.

Sub-Challenge Two

New approaches to pre-position emergency supplies

If local emergency supplies don't already exist, we have to transport supplies to affected communities. This challenge seeks to identify existing solutions outside the Pacific Region and/or prototype new approaches to re-think the pre-positioning of emergencies supplies throughout the Pacific to meet the needs of remote communities in the first week after a disaster. What new technologies, business models and incentives could be created to affordably and practically ensure supplies are at hand when needed?

Examples

- Innovative business models or other strategies for local store owners, churches or other community-owned structures to maintain emergencies supplies and stimulate local market recovery post-disaster.
- Simple storage technologies that allow for the preservation and protection of foodstuffs, and local staple products.



2. Finance

Improving Financial Resilience

In many Pacific Island communities the drivers of the economy - tourism, agriculture, forestry and fishing - are significantly harmed by disasters. Across the region, there is a lack of capital to fund recovery whether through household savings, insurance or government assistance. As a result, economic impacts are severe and long lasting. The lack of access to available funding sources and the lack of risk diversification instruments reduce the financial resilience of Pacific Island communities. Climate change is exacerbating this as severe weather events are forecasted to increase in frequency and intensity.

There have been some recent examples of creative ways to support the injection of liquidity back into communities. For example during Cyclone Pam, the Government of Vanuatu provided access to a percentage of savings for contributors to the National Provident Fund. The Reserve Bank of Vanuatu adjusted monetary policy settings to provide liquidity and support the banking sector. Also, banks helped families and communities by temporarily waiving remittance fees and suspending loan repayments. However, these examples are limited and more ad-hoc responses to a crisis rather than proactive management of financial risk.

The Challenge

Develop innovative financial products to support affected communities and businesses.

In this new era of innovative tools such as fintech, crowdfunding and weather derivatives, how can we create products and mechanisms to build the financial resilience of hazard-prone communities and businesses and their supply chains? What are targeted solutions that could support, immediate financial need, early recovery and longer term reconstruction, and incentivise the financing of risk management, including risk reduction? This challenge seeks to identify either pre-existing solutions outside the Pacific Region and/or prototype new approaches to building the financial resilience of communities and businesses to disasters in a changing climate.

Examples

- Tools and applications to incentivise or enable small and medium sized enterprises to better prepare for business disruption and reduce losses from disaster events.
- Novel financial products suitable for business that will build financial resilience to a broad range of shocks or stressors.
- Products applications to connect affected communities and businesses to alternative sources of financial support following a disaster event, for example crowdfunding mechanisms.

CHALLENGE TIMELINE

30 NOV 2015 - *Challenge Opens*

Ideate

During this ideation phase, applicants will develop their project ideas to address the challenges. Last day to submit an application is 7 February.

7 FEB 2016 - *Applications Close*

Review

Applications accepted until 7 February at 23:59 Canberra, Australia AEDT (GMT + 11). Applications will be reviewed by a committee made up of partners and advisors. The applicant pool will be narrowed to the first round winners (12 or fewer).

7 MAR 2016 - *Innovators Announced*

Prepare

The applicant pool will be narrowed to the first round winners (12 or less). Notifications will be sent out by 7 March. First round winners prepare for the Design Sprint.

29 - 30 MAR 2016 - *Design Sprint*

Iterate

First round winners will attend a two day design sprint. Winners will present their project ideas and receive several rounds of coaching during impact rotations where advisors will provide feedback to teams in order to help hone their ideas for award consideration. Final submissions are due 11 April.

11 APR 2016 - *Final Submissions*

Review

Final submissions are due on 11 April at 23:59 Canberra, Australia AEDT (GMT + 11). Award winners will be notified of their status on 25 April. Teams will then prepare for the World Humanitarian Summit in May.

23-24 MAY 2016 - *Final Innovators Announced*

Prototype

Award winners projects announced at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey 23-24 May. Then the winning teams will implement their solution and/or prototype within the Pacific over the following year.

AWARDS

First Round Winners

The first round winners will be invited to Australia, all expenses paid, to attend a two day design sprint. Winners will present their project ideas and receive several rounds of coaching during impact rotations where advisors will provide feedback to help hone their ideas for award consideration.

Award Winners

The Award winners will share in the \$2 million (Australian dollars) Challenge Fund. The awards will be distributed in grants of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. The funds will be disbursed based on the quality of the submissions and their financing requirements. We are specifically calling for the following types of outcomes applicable in the Pacific Region.

SOLUTIONS: These are existing solutions that meet all or part of a challenge and are new to the region. For example, they might be solutions that work in East Africa, but not yet tried in the Pacific.

PROTOTYPES: These are new ideas that are yet to be proven, that meet all or part of a challenge, which could be tested in the region.

The winner shall use the funds in partnership with DFAT to implement the solution or run the pilot in the region the year post award.

Future Development

Through the implementation of these solutions and prototypes, we will gain real-world assessment of their applicability to the region, and their technical, organisational and financial viability. If successfully piloted, it is DFAT's intention to support the continued development and scaling of the solution/prototype across the region.

The selection criteria will emphasise ideas that come from the Pacific, and draw on local capacity. During the second round of judging, the advisory council will support ideas originating from the Pacific and connect them with relevant organisations that can improve their submissions. Likewise, they will support ideas from outside the region to better connect locally.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Impact and potential for scale. The application should demonstrate the potential to transform humanitarian response in the Pacific or build resilience.

Technical Feasibility. The application must think big, but equally be able to show that it is technically feasible.

Relevance to the Region. The applicant must demonstrate and understand the particular context present in the Pacific.

The practicality of use. The innovation/solution meets its identified market and customer needs. There is a clear path to initial adoption and broader market adoption.

Team. The applicant has applicable technical background and has the management capability to take this innovation/solution to the implementation phase.

Eligibility Criteria

- Teams must indicate on the application that at least one person from their team can travel to the Pacific Humanitarian Design Sprint.
- Applications must be in English.
- Only complete applications will be reviewed.

CONTACT

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