

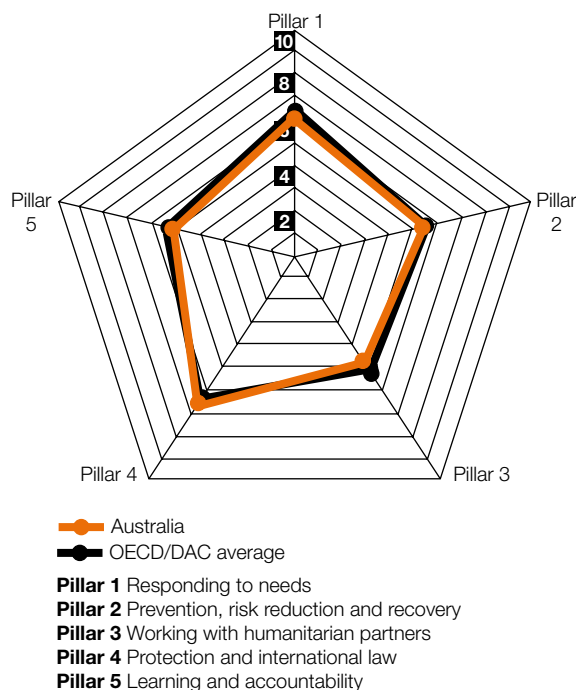
Australia

HRI 2010 ranking: 13th

Policy framework

Australia's humanitarian aid is managed by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), an autonomous agency within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. AusAID's 2005 *Humanitarian Action Policy* increasingly integrates humanitarian action with the broader goals of development, conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. A new or updated policy paper is expected before the end of 2010. Its May 2008 policy statement, *Future Directions for Australia's International Development Assistance Program*, confirms plans to substantially scale up all types of aid. Issued in 2009, *Investing in a Safer Future: A Disaster Risk Reduction policy for the Australian Aid Program* seeks to integrate risk reduction in development programmes and supports implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. Humanitarian aid is part of the country's development budget, which in 2009 was below the OECD/DAC donors' average with an ODA/GNI ratio of 0.29%. Humanitarian assistance represented 9.78% of Australia's ODA and 0.027% of its GNI.

HRI 2010 scores by pillar



*The OECD/DAC average does not include scores for Austria, Greece or Portugal.

Australia does not have a *Good Humanitarian Donorship* (GHD) domestic implementation plan, but its policy is firmly based on *GHD Principles*. Australia was the first country to have humanitarian action included in the OECD/DAC Peer Review in 2005. In the 2008 review it was commended for strong progress towards greater aid effectiveness and accountability.

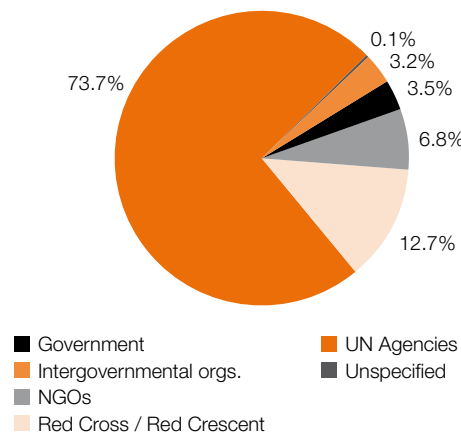
Performance

Australia ranked 13th in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Australia is classified as a Group 2 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform around average in all pillars, with slightly better scores in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), and poorer in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery). Other donors in this group are Canada, European Commission, Germany, Greece (based on quantitative scores only), Ireland, the United Kingdom and United States.

Australia scored close to the OECD/DAC average but below the Group 2 average in Pillar 1. It scored below the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages both in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners) where it received its lowest pillar score. On the other hand, it scored close to the OECD/DAC and above its group average in Pillar 4 (Protection and international law), while it scored close to the OECD/DAC and to its group average in Pillars 2 and 5 (Learning and accountability).

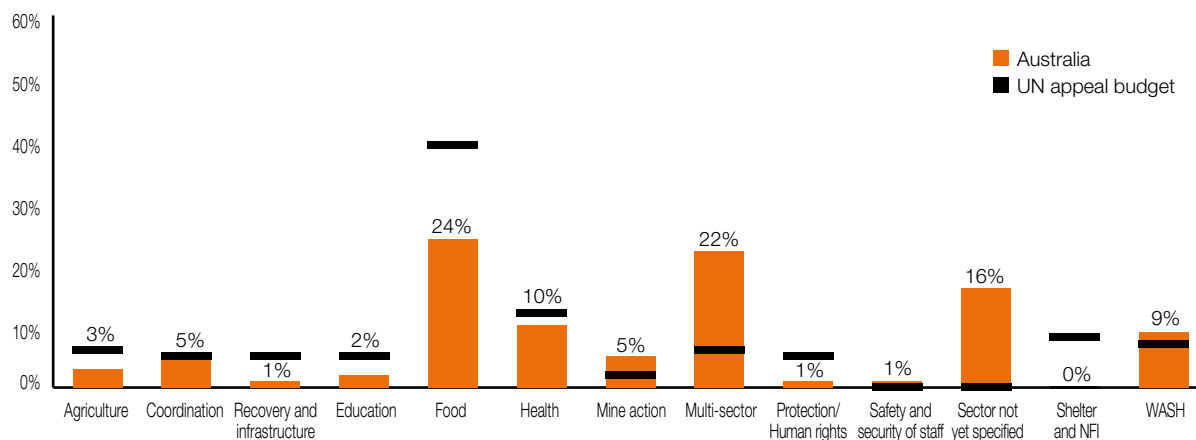
Compared to the OECD/DAC average scores, Australia did best compared to its peers in the indicators on *Funding for reconstruction and prevention*, *Participation in accountability initiatives*, *Refugee law*, *Timely funding to complex emergencies* and *Support for coordination*. It scores were relatively the lowest in the indicators on *Funding for accountability initiatives*, *Reducing climate-related vulnerability*, *Un-earmarked funding*, *Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises* and *Funding to NGOs*.

Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.

Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Recommendations

While Australia actively promotes and participates in accountability initiatives, it is not known for supporting them financially. It allocated 0.014% of its humanitarian aid to support humanitarian accountability initiatives, compared to the OECD/DAC value of 0.46% and to Group 2 average of 0.36%. Group 1, which performs the best in this indicator, allocated an average of 0.71%

- Australia should engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions of its accountability and consider providing greater support for accountability initiatives.

Australia has recently started to cover a broader geographical area in its response. Australia provided 21% of its aid to forgotten emergencies, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 27%, and 26% to crises with high levels of vulnerability, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 53%.

- Australia should review the support it provides to forgotten crises and those with high levels of vulnerability.

Australia’s partners consider it an average donor in terms of flexibility. It was below average, however, in the quantitative indicator *Un-earmarked funding*. Of Australia’s humanitarian aid, 19% was provided without earmarking, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 35%.

- Australia is encouraged to increase the flexibility of its funding and engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions of its performance in this area.

Australia is highly supportive of UN agencies, but allocated 7 percent of its funding to NGOs, while Group 2 allocated an average of 18% to NGOs.

- Australia should consider finding ways to increase support to NGOs, in particular in those emergencies where it does not have any presence.

For more information, please see www.daraint.org.

Strengths

Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% over average
Funding for reconstruction and prevention	7.54	4.12	83%
Participation in accountability initiatives	7.28	4.73	54%
Refugee law	7.32	5.74	28%
Timely funding to complex emergencies	5.04	4.35	16%
Support for coordination	6.14	5.56	10%

Areas for improvement

Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% below average
Funding for accountability initiatives	0.09	2.75	-97%
Reducing climate-related vulnerability	3.06	7.19	-57%
Un-earmarked funding	1.90	3.45	-45%
Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises	3.72	6.11	-39%
Funding to NGOs	3.22	4.40	-27%