



THE SENATE  
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE

**Inquiry into the implications of climate change for Australia's national security**  
**Public Hearing –Friday, 8 December 2017**  
**Questions Taken on Notice**  
**Ms Lucy Manne, ActionAid Australia**

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**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** I'd like to ask all three of you if you've had any experience in working directly with Australian national security organisations, like the Department of Defence?

**Ms Manne:** I don't believe we have, no.

**Dr Mahli:** I don't directly have experience of working with Defence. I have been to a few roundtables and things that have been organised by Defence, and they've been very informative.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Dr Bradshaw? Would Oxfam have participated in, for example, aid or disaster management, that kind of thing, in our region?

**Dr Bradshaw:** I think, as Lucy mentioned earlier, the defence forces, like ourselves and other actors, play a role in various humanitarian responses. I can't, unfortunately, speak more to our experience there but can certainly take that on notice and seek a better answer from some of our colleagues.

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** The reason I'm asking the question is we've had submissions from other witnesses, including our last witness, Admiral Barrie, who felt Defence needed to work more closely with civil society and aid groups to build resilience and help with mitigation and disaster management in the area. I was wondering if we had any live experiences we could talk to people about, in terms of how they've cooperated with our agencies in the past. Do you know of any other sources that would be useful, any case studies, any examples?

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**Answer from ActionAid Australia**

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ActionAid Australia has interacted with both the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Australia Civil-Military Center through various shared learning platforms. ActionAid has also engaged with the ADF during humanitarian response efforts in Fiji following Cyclone Winston, in Vanuatu in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam, and more recently in the Ambae Volcano response. We have also connected the ADF with local women's organisations through the Australia Fellowship Award program.

Based on this experience, ActionAid sees that the ADF has an important role to play in women's protection during humanitarian response, but this capacity is limited due to the number of female ADF members deployed compared with male, and a lack of systematic analysis of the needs of women and vulnerable groups by working with local organisations. ActionAid would recommend strengthening capacity to meet communities' needs by seeking to increase the number of female ADF members deployed during emergencies and undertaking consistent analysis of the needs of vulnerable groups, working with local women's organisations and community groups.

ActionAid Australia has also been part of consultations with the ADF on their policies and approaches to women, peace and security. We have been encouraged by the ADF's steps to address this agenda, including the review of the National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 in which we took part. We would encourage ADF to regularly review their role in the implementation of both Resolution 1325 and all supporting resolutions through multi-stakeholder fora.

Finally, ActionAid Australia engaged with the ADF through the Transitional Justice Research project, “Making Justice Work for Women”, a collaboration between Sydney University, the University of Technology Sydney and ActionAid Australia that was supported by the Australian Fellowship Award Program. The project included a policy dialogue hosted by ActionAid Australia and the Civil Military Centre, and included a dialogue between civil society, military actors, and women from Africa who had been impacted by conflict and were leading local response efforts. ActionAid Australia sees dialogue with women, who play leadership roles in responding to climate-related humanitarian emergencies, as critical to ensuring effective response and recovery efforts. This led to a recommendation that the ADF do more to ensure women’s needs were assessed and met as part of its response, through dialogue with local women’s organisations.