Peace and Stability

36 Deployments
♀ 56%
♂ 44%

167 Deployment months

14 Countries

13 Host organisations
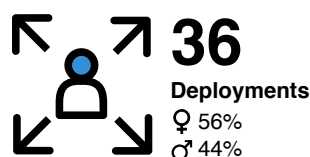
*Australia Assists continues to improve the ability of priority countries and partner agencies to mitigate, stabilise and recover from conflict. As COVID-19 continues to fray social cohesion and stability, Australia Assists remains focused o**n the root causes of conflict, mitigating its impact, and building the foundations for peace through** RedR Australia's gender, disability and localisation action plans.*

Surge capacity in peace and stability settings

Humanitarian access

Two OCHA Civil-Military Coordination Officers in Jordan and Ethiopia, Joseph and David, negotiated access and safe passage to **enable the most impartial, neutral and independent life-saving access and services to reach populations most affected** by the Syrian and Tigray conflicts.

Myanmar

The independent Review of Australia Assists' Support to the Rohingya Crisis 2017-20 confirmed that Australia Assists prioritised providing technical assistance into UN agencies that **improved accountability, participatory processes and visibility** for vulnerable groups. This included validation that the program helped to raise the voices of refugee women to donors and key agencies, leading to increased funding for prevention of gender-based violence and women's empowerment programming. The review also confirmed that Australia Assists raised awareness and good practice disability inclusion programming, including training 200 WFP staff. The review confirmed that the collective efforts focused on social inclusion, including the advice Jess shared with UN Women that resulted in the development of a **Women, Peace and Security Strategy and Operational Plan**, which remains the bedrock of program activity supporting social cohesion. This is a fundamental element required to respond effectively to the priorities of the Australian Government's Partnerships for Recovery.

Bougainville

The program **promoted social and political stability** by supporting elections in Papua New Guinea for the third time. Elections provide a formal mechanism for improving representative governance, the responsiveness of states to their citizens and the peaceful transfer of power.[3] Deploying two election specialists who provided operational and logistics advice to the Office of the Bougainville Electoral Commissioner supported the **delivery of a legitimate local election.**

> *[Barnaby] was able to advise OBEC on factors to consider in logistics planning. This is a good **knowledge transfer**. Through this deployment, the skills shared with the team are important and timely as OBEC focuses on the planning and **delivery of [other] elections in the near future.***
>
> — Director Elections, OBEC, on deployee, Barnaby.

Timor-Leste

As a Civil Protection Policy Advisor at the Timor-Leste Ministry of Interior, Sandra provided technical advice for the drafting of the national Civil Protection Strategy, written in both English and Portuguese, as well as the Secretary of State Civil Protection Strategic Plan. This legislation provides a legal basis to **reinforce civilian, community and protection-led approaches** to social inclusion, and helps to ensure a **peaceful future.**

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*The expertise that Australia Assists has provided in Ethiopia has allowed Australia to **fill critical technical gaps** in the humanitarian sector and provided **timely insights** in a rapidly-changing context.*

— DFAT Post, Ethiopia.

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*Michelle advocates both from the **standpoint of the vulnerable and crisis-affected populations**, but also with an eye to balancing very **real protection concerns** against the p**ragmatic need to deliver humanitarian assistance.***

— Deputy Country Director, WFP Myanmar, on deployee, Michelle.

Jean-Noel, Programme Officer with IOM in Ethiopia, supports site management services for the 70,000+ displaced people living at the Qoloji IDP site in the Somali Region. Photo: supplied