

## 28 International Aid

International aid is assistance given by one nation to another nation. Aid may be humanitarian, but it may also partly be given to extend the donor nation's influence over the receiving nation, or to influence decisions made by the government of the receiving nation. It may also be designed to strengthen the economy of the receiving nation, making it more stable.

### **Australian Aid**

Australia's international aid program is called Australian aid. Its aims are to promote prosperity, reduce poverty and enhance stability in poorer nations, particularly those in our immediate region. The main recipients of Australian aid are two of our closest neighbours: Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Other nations to benefit include Pacific nations such as the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji, and South-East Asian nations such as the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam.

### **Disaster Relief**

When disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes and cyclones (typhoons) strike poorer nations, medical services, shelter, food and water come under great stress. Emergency aid from richer nations such as Australia can help to relieve the emergency after a disaster, and aid in the nation's long-term recovery.

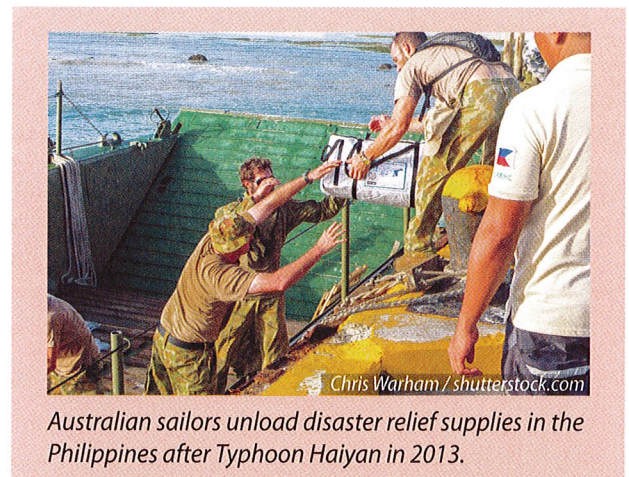
Examples of disaster relief provided by Australia include the Nepal earthquake (2015), Typhoon Haiyan (Philippines, 2013) and the Boxing Day Tsunami (Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, 2004).

Humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross and World Vision also provide aid immediately after a disaster. They also provide long-term assistance to help communities rebuild. Australians donate money to these organisations, and some people volunteer to travel to the disaster areas to give practical help.

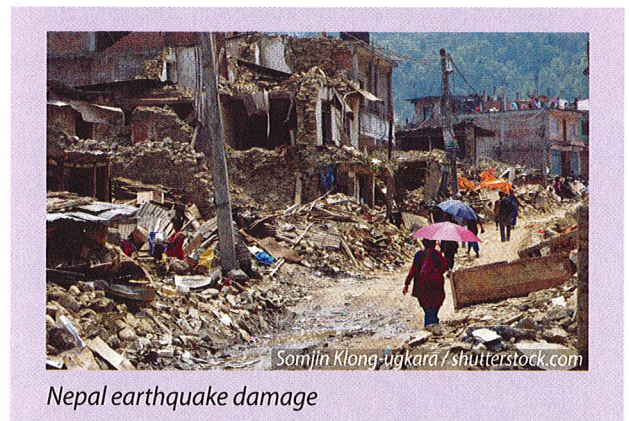
### **Papua New Guinea**

Australia's nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, is currently Australia's largest recipient of international aid. Papua New Guinea was administered as an Australian territory until it gained independence in 1975. Australia is now Papua New Guinea's largest aid donor.

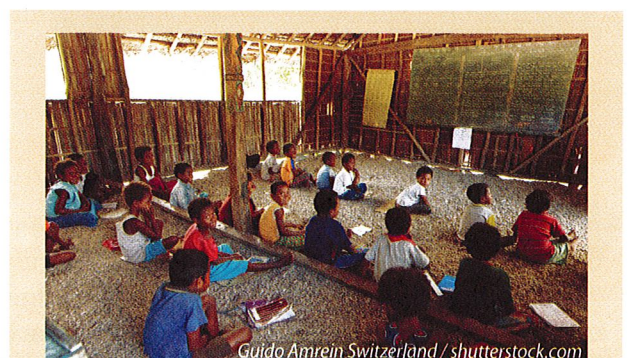
In 2015-16, Australia gave \$549.7 million in aid and other assistance to Papua New Guinea. This aid is used in three areas: promoting economic growth, promoting an effective government and improving health and education services.



*Australian sailors unload disaster relief supplies in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.*



*Nepal earthquake damage*



*Guido Amrein Switzerland / shutterstock.com*

*Many schools in Papua New Guinea are poorly resourced compared to Australian schools. Education is very important for the future of the nation, and Australian aid helps to make sure more Papuan children are able to attend school.*

1 What is international aid?

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2 What is disaster relief?

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3 How are humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross and World Vision funded?

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### Inference Question

4 What is humanitarian aid?

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### Research time!

5 Organisations such as the Red Cross and World Vision are known as **NGOs**. Find out what the term 'NGO' stands for.

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6 Use the Internet to find six Australian NGOs with full accreditation.

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7 Choose one of the NGOs listed above and describe what the organisation does to help people.

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8 If you started your own NGO, who would you help and how?

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9 Design a logo for your NGO.