



Tropical Cyclone Gita Response

Program Evaluation

When Tropical Cyclone Gita, a Category 4 cyclone, struck Tonga on Monday 12 February 2018 it affected 80,000 men, women, boys and girls—roughly 70% of the entire population.

CARE, Live and Learn, and MORDI formed a partnership to respond to the immediate needs of those affected on both 'Eua and Tongatapu. In the response phase, the partnership delivered emergency shelter and hygiene kits. In the recovery phase, the partnership supported communities with shelter, repairs to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and food security and livelihood recovery efforts.

In total the response supported 10,570 individuals (4,946 men and 5,624 women)

The response to Tropical Cyclone Gita focused on best practice approaches:



Women's leadership: Piloting a 'women led recovery' approach enabled groups of women to be proactive in determining and voicing their needs and work together to self-recover from the effects of the cyclone.



Sustainability: Food security and livelihoods components were very well linked into other civil society and community initiatives to promote ongoing sustainability.



Disaster risk reduction: The focus on build back safer (BBS) techniques promoted improved preparedness to mitigate the impacts of future cyclones.



Localisation: CARE's decision to support a local organisation in the response rather than have an operational presence is strongly aligned with the localisation intent 'as local as possible and as international as necessary'.

“Together, the partnership was considered greater than the sum of its parts.”

Tropical Cyclone Gita Response Program Evaluation, Humanitarian Advisory Group



The partnership: an example of localisation best practice

CARE's formal partnership with the wider Live and Learn Network, which started in 2012, promotes improved emergency preparedness and response in the Pacific region. The organisations had worked with MORDI on emergency preparedness planning in 2017 and evolved into a direct contractual agreement after the tropical cyclone struck.



LIVE & LEARN
Environmental Education



The partners: complementary skills for improved reach and quality.



CARE: International NGO

Partnership lead and technical support

- Technical support (across humanitarian response, shelter, finance, logistics, gender and inclusion)
- Access to funding opportunities



Live & Learn: Local NGO in the Pacific region

Long-term partner for emergency preparedness

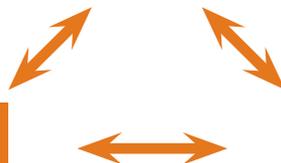
- Support with personnel for assessment and cluster representation



MORDI: Local NGO in Tonga

Primary implementing partner

- In-country experience & reputation
- Pre-existing networks with government and the private sector
- Good understanding of the local market



Benefits of working in partnership

Working in partnership resulted in significant benefit for partners and the effectiveness of the response.

Increased reach: Partnering with a national organisation allowed immediate access to extensive local networks and relationships.

Swift response: The partnership had the ability to work at speed by simultaneously mobilising funding while mobilising staff and community networks.

Efficient administration: Administrative and logistic time and resources were saved by having donors contribute into a coherent response package that facilitated bulk purchasing and consolidated monitoring and reporting processes.

Cost-efficient procurement: Working with a national organisation which had pre-existing networks, good understanding of the local market, and an established reputation which allowed purchases to be made in bulk with credit, all made procuring supplies more cost-efficient

Increased sustainability: Partnering with an organisation with long-term, on-the-ground presence supported community engagement and ensured recovery activities link with ongoing initiatives.

Strengthened national capacity: The partnership increased capacity of the national organisation to take on leadership of a future response.

Localisation learnings

The partnership supported significant national actor engagement and leadership in the response by providing substantial funding and capacity support to MORDI as a national NGO. A number of learnings can be taken from the partnership's application of localisation principles.

- Local actors can significantly contribute to efficiencies in a response operation by accessing networks and relationships that international actors cannot.
- If local partners and communities are to be involved in design processes for humanitarian programming, there needs to be more flexibility with initial proposals to allow field teams to engage in more detailed design and planning processes at a later stage.
- To ensure transparency and accountability in response distributions, local partner insight should be supported by sharing best practice and learning about feedback mechanisms.
- Respect and trust between partners are an important basis for international NGOs to introduce international standards and best practice concepts.
- Respecting and recognising the role of national and local government requires international NGOs to invest resources into processes that may not necessarily promote their own brand.
- Partnerships where one actor is not primarily reliant on the other for its sustainability are more equal and therefore create space for more honest conversations without the possibility of money being used as a bargaining tool.

This response to Tropical Cyclone Gita was evaluated by Kate Sutton of the Humanitarian Advisory Group with Emele Latu. This evaluation was commissioned to assess the assistance provided through the response and recovery program in the first six months (February – August 2018).