



The FRANZ Arrangement



Credit: NZDF

About FRANZ

The Pacific is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards including cyclones, floods, earthquakes, tsunami and volcanic activity. Sometimes the magnitude of an event is greater than a country can respond to on its own.

The FRANZ Arrangement between France, Australia and New Zealand was signed on 22 December 1992. Under the arrangement the three partners agree to coordinate disaster reconnaissance and relief assistance in the Pacific when requested by partner countries. FRANZ is a civilian-led arrangement that is supported by defence forces. FRANZ Partners are committed to good humanitarian donorship principles.

FRANZ Partners recognise and respect the sovereignty and leading role of affected countries in responding to disasters.

FRANZ Partners coordinate closely with the affected countries and with the Pacific Humanitarian Team, which also includes humanitarian and development partners from the UN, the Red Cross movement, NGOs and civil society organisations.

- For France, the FRANZ lead is the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development.
- For Australia, the FRANZ lead is the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- For New Zealand, the FRANZ lead is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

(The point of contact for each FRANZ Partner is their respective High Commission/ Embassy in the affected country.)

A Commitment to Effective Coordination

FRANZ is now in its 22nd year. The strength of the FRANZ Arrangement lies in a commitment by the three partners to coordinate a response. This is crucial in times of crisis and to ensure a good outcome.

Coordination between partners, including each country's respective foreign ministry and defence force, helps to ensure the needs of the affected country can be met.

Partner Countries and Territories in the South Pacific

- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Launched 20 October 2014

Recent FRANZ responses

> 2009



Tsunami relief for Samoa. Visit to Lalomanu Primary School by the Royal New Zealand Army Engineers to thank them for letting NZDF personnel camp there.

Pacific tsunami emergency response

The tsunami that occurred in September 2009 caused significant loss of life and damage in several Pacific countries.

FRANZ cooperation:

- New Zealand and Australia provided immediate assistance to Samoa to support its tsunami response, recovery and reconstruction efforts. France deployed military aircraft and a French navy vessel to take personnel, medical supplies and other emergency response equipment to Tonga. France also transported New Zealand and Australian emergency response personnel and supplies from Nuku'alofa to Niuatoputapu in Tonga.

> 2011



NZ Defence Force soldiers pump salt water into a reservoir for desalination. Credit: New Zealand Defence Force

Alleviating water shortage

Water shortages have been experienced by a number of Pacific countries in recent years. In October 2011, FRANZ partners worked alongside each other to respond to a severe water shortage in Tuvalu.

FRANZ cooperation:

- New Zealand Defence Force and Australian Defence Force worked together to deliver (via air transport) a New Zealand Army desalination unit and maintenance team to Funafuti, Tuvalu. France offered to assist if required.

> 2012



Australian Government Rapid Response Team unloads emergency relief supplies from an Australian C-130 Hercules. Credit: Owen Martin, DFAT

Cyclone Evan response

In December 2012, Cyclone Evan generated extremely strong winds and heavy rainfall. It caused flooding and destruction in a number of Pacific countries, and also resulted in loss of life in Samoa.

FRANZ cooperation:

- France (including the Government of New Caledonia) sent an assistance mission and equipment to affected areas via its CASA aircraft. Australian and New Zealand relief supplies were sent immediately to Samoa and Fiji. France, Australia and New Zealand continued to work closely throughout the response to ensure relief supplies were deployed effectively to both the affected countries.

> 2014



Personnel from a French CASA transport aircraft with Tonga's Deputy Prime Minister, Samiū Vaipulu, and members of His Majesty's Armed Forces.

Cyclone Ian response

Cyclone Ian struck Tonga's remote Ha'apai and Vava'u Island Groups in January 2014 causing significant damage and destruction to infrastructure and housing.

FRANZ cooperation:

- New Zealand sent relief supplies to Tongatapu on a C-130 plane and Australia released pre-positioned supplies held by the Tongan Red Cross. Relief supplies were broken down into light units and loaded onto a French CASA, smaller than a C-130, to be flown to Ha'apai. Supplies were also transported by two Tongan Navy patrol boats, which were funded by the Australian Defence Force.