

# PACIFIC RISK RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

## PROGRAMME BRIEF

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### Overview

The Pacific is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world threatened by natural hazards such as cyclones, earthquakes, volcanoes, droughts and floods, as well as to climate change. In light of these threats Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) are increasingly focusing on development processes and how these impact vulnerability and exposure to these threats. At the same time there has been a substantive increase in aid flows to the region, mainly through CCA programming, and an increasing recognition that CCA and DRM need to be aligned, particularly at the community level. Most funds, however, are focused or 'captured' at regional and national level policy and planning, and despite the level of funds 'dispersed' community level activities are often not connected to government structures, not followed up or sustained and are of variable and often unknown quality.

In response to these challenges the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme will focus on strengthening governance mechanisms for DRM and CCA at the sub-national and local levels. The **goal** of the programme is: *to strengthen the resilience of Pacific island communities to disasters and climate change related risk.* The programme will be centered on **two components** that will be implemented under one coordinated and integrated programme: 1) risk governance: supporting mainstreaming of DRM and CCA into development planning and budgeting at all levels of government; and 2) community level risk management: strengthening community resilience through targeted and inclusive community based DRM and CCA (supported through a community small grants scheme) and integration of risk management into local level governance mechanisms.

The programme will be implemented by UNDP with funds from AusAID and will run for an initial period of four years (mid 2012-mid 2016) with an overall budget of approximately USD\$ 4 million per annum. The countries to be initially targeted (selected on their risk profile) are Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Fiji. UNDP will engage an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) to implement the second component of the programme, which includes working at the sub-national level in all four countries.

### Programme Approach & Results

The programme approach focuses squarely on risk-sensitizing and strengthening governance mechanisms, with a particular focus on demonstrating how risk can be integrated into development, planning, governance and decision making at the national and sub-national level. This approach will help to ensure that communities are better prepared for and less vulnerable to future disasters and climate change. The following are the key strategic components for the programme and the basis for achieving this result:

- **Risk governance:** the programme will strengthen both government and civil society structures and systems, and the relationship between them, thus promoting good governance. The management of risk (to both disasters and climate change) will be integrated into development at all levels, with a stronger focus on gender

dimensions and vulnerable groups. As a result, decision-making functions are expected to address disaster and climate change risk across a range of key socio-economic development sectors;

- *Sub-national Level:* in the Pacific, global climate change and disasters have their greatest impact at the community level. This is also where there is the most potential for harmonizing DRM and CCA in Pacific Island countries. The new programme will apply inclusive and gender-sensitive techniques, including community-based adaptation (CBA), ecosystem-based adaptation and community-based DRM (CBDRM) for identifying risks and implementing DRM and CCA measures on the ground. These will be integrated into local level planning and decision-making systems. This will result in communities being better able to influence local level planning so that their vulnerabilities to disasters and climate change are more effectively and sustainably addressed. For instance, the programme are expected to establish platforms for community, local government and CSO platforms to determine their DRM and CCA priorities;
- *Gender and vulnerability dimensions:* the programme will aim to achieve gender mainstreaming in the way in which the programme is developed, managed and implemented. Gender analyses will be conducted during community assessments, with the findings incorporated into action planning and implementation of community-based initiatives. Attention will be paid to the vulnerabilities and capacities of various groups of men and women *vis a vis* disaster and climate change risks, and strategies adopted for empowerment of women and girls under the programme. This will also include cross-cutting aspects such as protection, disability and the environment as core dimensions of vulnerability. The specific needs of marginalized groups will be better addressed through this programme's inclusive approaches to DRM and CCA. For instance, disaster relief systems will have greater focus on the vulnerability and roles of women and girls during and after disaster events;
- *Multi-country approach:* a multi-country approach will allow flexibility to adapt to specific country context, ensuring that the approach taken in each country suits the governance arrangements and capacity of the country. This approach will result in the integration of risk management throughout the entire chain of decision-making, both vertically (from national to local) and / or horizontally (across all relevant sectors). As a consequence DRM and CCA approaches are expected to be more completely integrated into national and community socioeconomic development.

## Implementation Arrangements

UNDP is responsible for the coordination and management of all components of the programme. UNDP will implement the first component of the programme on mainstreaming DRM and CCA, whilst an INGO will be selected to implement the second component of the programme on strengthening community resilience and supporting the integration of community needs and action plans with sub-national development plans. The INGO will also manage small grant facilities for community-based organisations to implement DRM-CCA activities at the local level. A programme board will be established to provide oversight and strategic direction. An inception phase for the programme is taking place between October 2012 and March 2013, and will result in a detailed implementation plan for the programme, including a work-plan and monitoring and evaluation framework for each of the four countries. For further information please contact:

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