

Snapshots

DISASTER REDUCTION PROGRAMME

Snapshot 76

April 2012



The Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) through the Disaster Reduction Programme is committed to working with officials and communities around the Pacific to strengthen the ability of countries to protect people as much as possible from the impact of natural and manmade disasters

From the Managers Desk



Mosese Sikivou

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the April edition of Snapshots. As is usually the there are a number of interesting developments in DRM capacity building across the region that we have been fortunate to be able to contribute to and I hope you enjoy reading about them in this addition.

In addition, we are pleased to advise that good progress is being made on securing €20 million for Pacific ACP States in relation to the EU EDF10 ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility. We're working hard to complete the necessary documentation for the NDF this year so that the funds can flow through to the region to facilitate implementation of country priorities in early 2013. These funds will provide complementary support to a range of funding mechanisms which the region benefits from already through both the 'disaster' lens and as well through Climate Change Adaptation support.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Mosese Sikivou

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Federated States of Micronesia's National Emergency Operations Centre

Construction of FSM's National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) has commenced with the foundation expected to be completed by end of May. The contractor, APSCO Construction, assured that while the foundation will take some time the main structure that include walling and roofing should be in place by end of June.

The new N EOC is being built in Palikir, National Capital, and will house the Office of Environment and Emergency Management. The building is expected to be completed by December 2012 and is estimated to cost around US\$260,000. Funding for the new building has been made available through the European Union Disaster Risk Reduction project (B-Envelope) implemented by the SOPAC Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The Project Manager, George Beck, recently visited the construction site and was happy with progress. The Government is supervising construction work and we are working closely with all parties to ensure that there is minimum disruption to the work schedule. The project will also furnish the building with basic office furniture and install early warning communication equipment. The project will be launching a tender in May 2012 for procurement and installation of early warning communication equipment in all States in FSM.



Construction side of the new NEOC.



Pacific region acknowledged for managing the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility

The 3rd Steering Committee meeting of the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility (NDF) funded under the 9th European Development Fund (EDF9) was held at the ACP Secretariat headquarters in Brussels from April 19th–20th and the SOPAC Division of SPC was represented by Moses Sikivou and Noa Tokavou.

A briefing for the Pacific ACP Ambassadors was organised on Tuesday 17th April aimed at updating them on the progress of the NDF under EDF9 and also the progress of preparation for EDF10. The Ambassador of the Solomon Islands who is their current coordinator of the Pacific ACP group expressed appreciation for the briefing. Similar sentiments were expressed by other Ambassadors present. Countries represented at the briefing were: Solomon Islands, Fiji, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.



Pacific ACP ambassadors.

The progress report detailed the implementation of the Tonga's Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP) as an example of how NDF has been utilised. This includes activities such as the training of community Health workers and the procurement of tents for the Tonga Red Cross to assist in humanitarian response to disasters.

During the Steering Committee meeting the progress of implementation within the six regions of the ACP group was described and Ms Raymond, the Assistant Secretary General of ACP praised the progress made in the Pacific, stating that "the Pacific is the only region with Contribution Agreement status and I am pleased with the progress they are making"

In their presentation Messrs Sikivou and Tokavou discussed the progress made in the three result areas of the NDF.

- Result Area 1 – the development and implementation of JNAPs and especially the Tonga JNAP being the first in the Pacific. .
- Result Area 2 – the strengthening of the Pacific Disaster Net which now holds over 8,000 publications on Disaster Risk Management
- Result Area 3 – the continuing interest in the Pacific Platform for DRM illustrated by the growth in participation in the period 2009–2011

Discussions at the meeting also covered the next round of NDF funding under EDF10 where €20 million is to be allocated to the Pacific. The Pacific is advanced in its preparations with all documentation slated for completion in 2012 to enable implementation in early 2013.



Introduction of Pacific Disaster Net to students of the University of the South Pacific

A Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) “hands-on” introduction was conducted on Saturday, 14th April 2012 for students of the Disaster Risk Management course at the Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, Laucala Campus of the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji. The afternoon session enabled students to familiarise themselves with PDN functionalities and content. The participants learned how to find information of their interest and staying informed about disaster risk management issues with the PDN, throughout their studies and beyond. Lively discussions showed great interest and many students asked to be added to the PDN mailing list to receive further updates in the future.

For more images from the training please see: <http://picasaweb.google.com/pacificdisasternet>



Introduction to Disaster Management and Initial Damage Assessment Training Course – Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE)

In early April, the Training and Capacity Building team supported the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to provide disaster risk management training to 71 students from the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) and personnel from other key agencies such as Red Cross, Save the Children Fund, Oxfam, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. This training marked the sixth year of a capacity building partnership between the NDMO, SICHE, the Ministry of Health and SPC/SOPAC to mainstream understanding of disaster risk management and decentralise post disaster initial damage and needs assessment at provincial and community level.

In previous years, the primary target group for this training was final year students in SICHE's Diploma of Nursing programme, which incorporates disaster risk management training within its curriculum. This year, the participation was widened to include students enrolled in SICHE's Bachelor Degree of Nursing Programme. In May and June this training will be conducted for nursing schools in the Malaita and Western Provinces.

A team of national trainers with extensive disaster risk management experience facilitated the training, many of who have been involved with the training at SICHE for the past three years. Through this training, the NDMO demonstrated its capacity to organise and produce the relevant training materials and conduct disaster risk management training after acquiring the skills, techniques, and knowledge through their attendance at regional training and capacity building initiatives under the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Programme (PDRMP) implemented by the Disaster Reduction Programme (DRP).

Loti Yates, Director of the Solomon Islands NDMO stated "as public officials, the participants from the training will take the knowledge and skills they gained to their province of assignment where they will be able to provide much needed guidance to community leaders to support informed decisions about development and associated risks." Mr Yates added "because of the wide distribution of islands that we have in the Solomons, a simple risk reduction activity such as raising awareness on disaster risk becomes an onerous task for our stakeholders. More importantly, during disasters, the nursing students provide a vital link between the National Emergency Operations Centre and the communities in facilitating fast and efficient response information to cater appropriately for the needs of disaster affected communities. This is why we are focusing more on this form of mainstreaming and it augers well with the outcomes of the recent review in the disaster risk management arrangements of the Solomon Islands in which the health sector now plays a major role in the national health cluster in promoting public health awareness and ensuring quick medical and public health support to the disaster affected population" said NDMO Director Yates.



Brian Tom (Provincial Disaster Officer/ Isabel Province) facilitates a session at the SICHE IDM/ IDA Training.

Nauru: Emergency Operations Centres Training

Building on the Introduction to Disaster Management training conducted in November 2011, the Nauru National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO) recently organised Emergency Operations Centres training targeting key stakeholder personnel from the Nauru Police Force, Fire and Rescue Service, Department of Health, the Utilities Corporation, Civil Aviation, Department of Marine and Fisheries, Department of Commerce, Environment and Industry and the Phosphate Corporation (RonPhos). The Emergency Operations Centres training, held from the 25th of April to the 1st of May was requested by the NDRMO and the National Disaster Risk Management Council as part of the process towards the development of Nauru's National DRM Action Plan.

During the opening for the training, Acting Chief Secretary Mr. Bernard Grundler, stressed the importance of raising the level of disaster preparedness in Nauru and paying due attention to the underlying risk factors that contribute to the island's vulnerability to hazards. He added that an increase in natural hazards equates to increased risk of disasters for Pacific Island countries and Nauru is no exception.

Mr Grundler was one of the twenty-one (21) officials who successfully completed the training, developing a clearer understanding of their roles in the establishment and management of Emergency Operations Centres in Nauru. In closing the five-day course, the National Disaster Controller and Commissioner of the Nauru Police Force, Mr Richard Britten, said that this training was an important element in the national DRM capacity building process. He added that the National Disaster Risk Management Council of Nauru is confident that the participants will apply the skills and knowledge gained from the course in their workplaces and when required will provide support to the NDRMO to manage the National EOC.

The training was facilitated by regional trainers from the Pacific Disaster Risk Management Training Programme based in Suva, Fiji assisted by Roy Harris, Nauru's Deputy National Disaster Controller. Support for this training course was provided by the AusAID funded National Disaster Facility at SPC/SOPAC and The Asia Foundation with support from the USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).



Participants practice the use of forms and information displays during an exercise at the EOC training.



Participants and facilitators of the Emergency Operations Centre training that was conducted in Nauru from 25th April to 1st May, 2012.

Upcoming Events

- 14 – 19 May: Ba Topographic Survey, Fiji
- 18 May: Initial Damage Assessment Training, Port Vila, Vanuatu
- 21–25 May: Emergency Operations Centres Training, Port Vila Vanuatu
- 22 May: PDN hands on training at IFRC's Pacific Regional Disaster Management Meeting
- 27 May – 14 June: Intervention to improving access to water for Pitcairn Islanders, Pitcairn Island



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