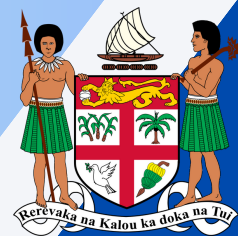


FIJI'S NATIONAL MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DRR 2015-2030



APRIL 2023



Prepared By:
FIJI GOVERNMENT

FOREWORD



The Pacific Small Island Development States (PSIDS), including Fiji, are among the most vulnerable nations in the world to the impacts of climate change and disasters. With increasing extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, and droughts, these island nations are facing severe challenges to their infrastructure, economic development, and social wellbeing. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approaches are therefore critical for Fiji and other PSIDS to build resilience and mitigate climate change impacts.

Fiji is facing a range of climate change impacts, including sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, and changing rainfall patterns. These impacts are leading to increased risks of disasters, including flooding, landslides, and tropical cyclones. Fiji has faced several extreme weather events in recent years that caused significant damage and loss of life. The country's long history of development is characterized by innovative approaches, societal mobilization and adaptation rooted in tradition and continuity. Fiji is adapting and building up the resilience needed to safeguard peoples' lives and economies in the face of intensified climate-related risks. Challenges that our country faced during recent emergency events including Tropical Cyclones (TC) Winston in 2016, TC Harold in 2020, TC Yasa in 2021 and COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need to revise our emergency legislation and policy framework.

Fiji is currently working towards reviewing and updating its national disaster regulatory framework with the aim to bring extensive change to emergency management, DRR and climate change adaptation systems. The endorsement of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (NDRRP) in August 2019 enabled Fiji to achieve Target E of the Sendai Framework. The Policy provides a framework for DRR in Fiji and sets out the country's priorities for disaster preparedness and response. The NDRRP guides all sectors to mainstream DRR approaches into their respective programmes that are envisioned to holistically contribute towards building a smart, resilient and sustainable Fiji at all levels of society.

Also, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) leads the current review of the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 and the National Disaster Management Plan 1995. This regulatory review is guided by our recent experiences, where Fiji faced significant and concurrent events that severely tested our emergency arrangements. The Government successfully facilitated a “paradigm shift” from reactive, response-based approach in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) context to a deeper understanding of systemic risk, being proactive and investing in pre-emptive and anticipatory measures.

Even though Fiji has made significant progress towards achieving the Outcomes and Goals of the Sendai Framework since 2015, the Coalition Government will further improve and scale up investment towards building resilience to disasters, improving early warning systems, and developing DRR strategies at national and local levels. Government's on-going DRR work has also substantially been complemented by CSOs which are also reflected in this report. Fiji's approach is centred on community involvement, institutional strengthening, and international cooperation, all of which are focused on the reduction of risk, strengthening resilience and reducing the impacts of disasters on our people and the economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Raisevu'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are several ways in which Fiji strengthens DRR approaches:

Building resilient infrastructure: Infrastructure such as buildings, roads, bridges, and water supply systems should be designed and built to withstand extreme weather events. This is achieved through risk assessment as part of the planning process and using climate-resilient materials, such as reinforced concrete, and the incorporation of features such as flood-resistant designs and elevated structures. The way Fiji addresses climate risk factors in all new investments in the public and private sectors and how it further mainstreams DRR into current and future policies, plans, programmes and projects will be critical to the nation's wellbeing and serves to shape the outcome of development initiatives. Fiji is now undertaking a review of building codes to address climate change and disaster challenges. Also, Fiji through the NDMO is now coordinating and taking the lead role in the mainstreaming DRR project where one of the key outputs will be the formulation of disaster plan for urban areas with a key focus on infrastructure measures to ensure that our towns and cities are resilient against disasters.

Strengthening early warning systems: Early warning systems help communities to prepare for extreme weather events, such as tropical cyclones and floods. These systems are being strengthened through the use of modern technology, including weather satellites, radar, and mobile phone networks. Public education and awareness campaigns are also very important and help communities to understand the risks and take appropriate actions. Fiji will continue to develop its national meteorological and geohazard services that have substantially contributed to reducing disaster mortality and losses from cyclones, floods and tsunamis so far. The Coalition Government will increasingly invest in developing **impact-based forecasting** and ensuring effective public communication of warnings with a focus on the most vulnerable members of our communities. Fiji is now undertaking the development of a **people-centred Multi-Hazard Early Warning System**.

Enhancing community preparedness: Communities should be empowered to take a proactive approach to disaster preparedness, including the development of evacuation plans and the provision of emergency supplies such as food, water, and medical supplies. Community-based disaster risk management committees help to ensure that all community members are involved in disaster preparedness and response. With these challenges in mind, Fiji has already developed a training Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Manual.

Improving disaster response capacity: Disaster response capacity is being strengthened through the provision of equipment, training, and resources for emergency responders such as police, firefighters, and medical personnel.

Promoting ecosystem-based approaches: Ecosystem-based approaches to DRR can help reduce the impact of extreme weather events on communities, infrastructure and surrounding natural areas.

These approaches include the restoration of mangroves, coral reefs, and other coastal ecosystems, which can provide natural barriers to storm surges and flooding. This also helps to promote biodiversity and sustainable development.

Fiji has been working to improve its ability to understand, measure and evaluate risk, loss and damage, and to generate and utilise the data that underpins developmental and risk reduction initiatives. Some notable developments in this area include:

- **National Disaster Risk Assessment:** Fiji has conducted a comprehensive national disaster risk assessment, which provides a baseline understanding of the country's risk profile. The assessment considers hazards such as cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis, as well as vulnerability and exposure of communities and critical infrastructure. This assessment provides critical data for decision-making, DRR planning, and resource allocation.
- **Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:** Fiji has also conducted a comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessment, which assesses the potential impacts of climate change on the country's economy, environment, and social systems. This assessment provides data on climate-related hazards such as sea-level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storms, and droughts, as well as vulnerability and exposure of communities and critical infrastructure.
- **Loss and Damage Assessment:** Fiji has established a system to monitor and evaluate the loss and damage caused by disasters. The system tracks the economic, social, and environmental impacts of disasters and provides critical data for assessing the effectiveness of DRR measures and for informing post-disaster recovery efforts.
- **Disaster Management Information System:** Fiji has established a disaster management information system, which provides real-time data on hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities, as well as information on emergency response operations. This system enables decision-makers to make informed decisions based on up-to-date and accurate data. However, more effort is still required towards data harmonisation and data sharing among key stakeholders.
- **Utilisation of Data:** Fiji has been working to improve the utilisation of data in decision-making and planning processes. For example, the Government has integrated DRR considerations into its national development planning processes, ensuring that investments in infrastructure and other sectors consider DRR measures. Fiji has also been working to build the capacity of communities and stakeholders to use data for DRR and climate change adaptation in their planning and decision making processes.
- Fiji and other PSIDS are facing significant challenges in these modern times of climate change. However, by strengthening DRR approaches, Fiji builds resilience and mitigates the impacts of climate change. Building resilient infrastructure, strengthening early warning systems, enhancing community preparedness, improving disaster response capacity, and promoting ecosystem-based approaches are all key strategies for achieving this goal. By working together, governments, civil societies, non-government organisations, religious organisations, communities, and international organisations can help to ensure a safer and more sustainable future for the Fijian people and the entire PSIDS region.

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ACRONYMS

ADRC	Asia Disaster Reduction Centre
APMCDRR	Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBDRM	Community-Based Disaster Management
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCDRM	Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSLO	Disaster Services Liaison Officer
EWS	Early Warning System
EOC	Emergency Operation Centre
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
FEMAT	Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area
FPCL	Fiji Ports Corporation Limited
FRC	Fiji Red Cross
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GCF	Green Climate Fund
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
IBF	Impact Based Forecasting
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LTDD	Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue & Diarrhoea
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZ)

ACRONYMS

MTR SF	Midterm Review Report of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
MHEWS	Multi-Hazard Early Warning System
MEOC	Mobile Emergency Operations Centre
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MTR	Midterm Review
NDMC	National Disaster Management Council
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NERT	National Emergency Response and Assessment Team
NEOC	National Emergency Operation Centre
NDRRP	National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PRP	Pacific Resilience Partnership
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSIDS	Pacific Small Island Developing States
SF	Sendai Framework
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TC	Tropical Cyclone
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminals
WAF	Water Authority of Fiji
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WRD	Women's Resilience to Disaster

1.0 MTR SF Methodology and Process

Targeted interviews with Government agencies and other pertinent stakeholders, as well as a desktop study of related documents, are some of the approaches employed in this report. The standard set of questions from the United Nations DRR (UNDRR) draft report template served as the basis for the inquiries, which were then filtered to only include those that applied to the specific organisations interviewed.

Using data from several literature evaluations, this report highlights Fiji's contribution to the Sendai Framework Mid-Term Review. To give a broad overview of Fiji's accomplishments, the report draws from several sources, including Government reports, academic works, and other publications. The report considers factors such as exposure to natural hazards, susceptibility of the population, and Fiji's coping capacities. Government stock-take consultations with 14 Government Ministries and statutory bodies were conducted in May and November 2022, to document and record the progress of activities implemented by the Ministries and statutory bodies that contributed towards the achievement of Sendai Framework priorities and targets.

The Government stock-take was initiated by the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) which comprises of Government ministries that implement programmes related to four broad thematic sectors of Economic, Social, Administration and Infrastructure.

Additionally, workshop dialogues were organised with the CSOs, and NGOs. The purpose of these dialogues was to evaluate the progress made by each CSO stakeholder group and to pinpoint areas that could use improvement.

A consolidated summary of the Government and CSOs progress towards the Sendai targets and priorities are tabulated in the Annexures. Highlighted in this report are achievements of the different TWGs in Government including Economic, Social, Administration and Infrastructure sectors. These achievements are described as case studies throughout this document.



(National DRR Stock-take workshop with Government Ministries in May 2022. Source: NDMO)

2.0 Retrospective Review

2.1 Snapshot of Fiji's progress against the Sendai Framework Priorities (2015- 2023)

Fiji has progressed in its implementation of the Sendai Framework in both the CSOs and Government ministries. The framework has seven global targets and four priorities for action, which focuses on:

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
- Investing in DRR for resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction

Outlined hereunder is a snapshot of Fiji's progress against the Sendai Framework priorities (2015-2023):

1. Understanding disaster risk:

Fiji has made significant progress in understanding disaster risk by conducting national and local risk assessments and mapping exercises, as well as investing in early warning systems, climate monitoring, and scientific research. Measures have been implemented to enhance public awareness of disaster risks and promote risk-informed decision-making.

2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk:

Fiji has taken important steps to strengthen disaster risk governance, including the formulation and launching of the National DRR Policy (NDRRP) and the review of the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998, which provides the legal framework for disaster risk management in the country. Fiji has also improved its coordination mechanisms between national, sub-national, and local governments, as well as with CSOs, private sector, and other stakeholders.

3. Investing in DRR for resilience:

Fiji has invested in various DRR measures, including infrastructure development, building code enforcement, and agricultural investment approaches and Public Private Partnership (PPP). Fiji has also prioritised community-based DRR initiatives, which involve local communities in identifying and addressing their own disaster risks.

4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction:

Fiji has made significant efforts to enhance its disaster preparedness and response capacities, including the establishment of a National Disaster Response Plan and Emergency Operations Centre. Fiji has also invested in disaster response training and simulation exercises, as well as in disaster risk financing mechanisms to support rapid response and post-disaster recovery

2.2 ECONOMIC SECTOR

2.2.1 Introduction

Fiji is susceptible to natural disasters including cyclones, floods, and droughts. These disasters always have a tremendous impact on the nation's economic sector. This mostly affects communities' and those who live in informal settlements. They rely heavily on subsistence farming and fishing, making them vulnerable to economic loss during disasters. Communities economic vulnerability in Fiji are exacerbated by infrastructural damage, livestock and agricultural losses, interruptions in the water and energy supply, loss of income and livelihoods, and elevated health risks. This underlines the need for better disaster risk management measures, such as better pre-disaster planning, early warning systems, and more efficient post-disaster response and recovery activities. Additionally, tackling root causes like poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation will help vulnerable populations become more resilient to natural disasters.

2.2.2 Brief overview of the Sendai Framework for DRR

The Sendai Framework places a strong emphasis on the value of including DRR in economic planning and decision-making procedures. This entails encouraging resilient and sustainable economic growth, enabling the continuation of economic operations in the wake of disasters, and minimising financial losses and damage brought on by disasters. The Sendai Framework specifies several actions that must be taken in order to realise these objectives, including the creation of risk-aware investment and business models, the incorporation of DRR into laws and regulations for both the public and private sectors, and the improvement of financial mechanisms for DRR. A Government policy document that describes the framework for DRR in Fiji is the Fiji National DRR Policy[1]. The goal of the Policy is to encourage a thorough and well-resourced approach to catastrophe risk reduction that encompasses all facets and echelons of society.

The Policy outlines a DRR strategy for Fiji that emphasises resilience-building, catastrophe risk reduction, and sustainable development. It outlines important areas where action is most urgently needed, such as improving disaster preparedness and response and encouraging DRR in vital industries like agriculture, health, and education. The policy also emphasises the significance of community involvement and engagement in DRR, acknowledging the importance of local expertise and community-based activities in fostering resilience and lowering the risk of disaster. The policy outlines several implementation strategies, such as creating institutional structures and mechanisms for DRR, creating national and local DRR plans, and incorporating DRR into development planning and decision-making processes.

The Fiji NDRRP, in its entirety, offers a thorough framework for DRR in Fiji and emphasises the significance of cooperation between various societal levels and sectors in order to achieve the shared objective of lowering disaster risk and fostering resilience.

[1] <https://www.ndmo.gov.fj/ndrrp/>

2.2.3 Economic Sector Achievements

The Sendai Framework emphasises the necessity of creating robust infrastructure in the commercial sphere, including vital buildings like hospitals and schools, as well as integrating DRR strategies into supply chains and manufacturing procedures. It also highlights the necessity of strong risk communication and public-private collaborations to encourage DRR and foster economic sector resilience. Overall, the Sendai Framework emphasises the importance of collaboration between many sectors in order to achieve the joint objective of lowering disaster risk and boosting resilience. It also acknowledges the crucial role that the economic sector plays in DRR.

The Sendai Framework for DRR places a significant emphasis on the economic sector since economic activity has the potential to make a community vulnerable to catastrophes. The Sendai Framework acknowledges the importance of sustainable economic growth in lowering disaster risk and increasing resilience. By encouraging the creation of business continuity plans and aiding the restoration of impacted enterprises, the Sendai Framework highlights the significance of guaranteeing the continuity of economic activity in the wake of disasters. It also acknowledges the need to lessen the financial losses and harms brought on by catastrophes by improving financial systems for DRR and expanding access to finance for disaster risk.

Overall, the Sendai Framework for DRR places a lot of emphasis on the economic sector. It acknowledges the crucial role those economic activities play in lowering disaster risk and fostering resilience while emphasizing the necessity of cooperation between various sectors in order to achieve this common objective.

Highlighted in this report are achievements based on the different working groups in government. The achievements are described as case studies throughout this document.

Case Study 1: Partnership Framework derived from the Proposed Policy-Based Loans Republic of Fiji: Sustainable and Resilient Recovery programme

The post-programme partnership framework (P3F), which the government intends to employ to carry out changes in three areas:

1.[2]The Financial Management (Amendment) Act of 2021 and the new Climate Change Act of 2021 (the Act has yet to commence) will both be taken into account as the government updates financial management and procurement laws under reform area. Additionally, to improve domestic resource mobilization through voluntary tax compliance, identify gaps in the implementation of the tax information system through stakeholder engagement, implement project appraisal frameworks that take climate and disaster risks into account for budgeting and planning, and create regulations for the full operationalisation of the Climate Change Act in 2021.

2.The Government intends to continue the gradual expansion of gender-responsive budgeting, monitoring, and reporting to other ministries and programmes under reform areas in alignment to

[2] <https://www.rbf.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Fiji-Financial-Sector-Development-Plan-2016-2025.pdf>

Fiji's National Gender Policy[3] objectives. It intends to continue rolling out the market-based climate risk parametric micro-insurance product, create a social registry supported by a digital management information system to better target social assistance programmes, approve and start implementing the new [4]National Water Resources Management and Sanitation Policy and new National Energy Policy, and improve service delivery in line with Fiji's commitments to combating climate change.

3. [5]To boost tax collections and aid the recovery of the private sector, the government intends to draft and launch the implementation of a comprehensive tax policy reform package under reform area. Additionally, it intends to pass laws to facilitate SMEs' access to financing as well as a new framework for payment monitoring and guidelines for retail payment products and services.

Case Study 2: Effective preparedness, response and recovery, Strengthened institutional arrangements for DRM and CCA and Improved knowledge, information, public awareness, training and education

The economic vulnerability of small islands such as Fiji, is also addressed by interventions supported by development partners. This includes the the €19.36 million Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP), a project[6] directly addressing the priorities listed in the 2009 European Union (EU) Strategy for supporting DRR in the African Caribbean & Pacific Group of States. The Pacific Community is carrying out the initiative with backing from the EU on phase two of the project.

Through the application of DRR methodologies, the BSRP initiative seeks to assist Pacific Island nations in their preparation for, response to, and recovery from catastrophes. These tactics support risk assessment, save peoples' lives, property, and means of subsistence, as well as lessen the effect on government spending. The project bridges the gap between disaster response and long-term development by working at the national and regional levels with National Disaster Management teams.

With this project, Fiji Government was able to:

Effective preparedness, response and recovery

- The Tukuraki Village relocation continued to receive significant interest, with the village headman being asked to share his experiences in Girdwood, Alaska with participants of the Climate Convention on First People organised by the Unitarian Universal Service Committee which was held from 1st - 4th November[7]
- 5 District EOCs (Nabouwalu, Korovou, Nausori, Vunidawa and Lautoka District) have been refurbished and standardised. Each refurbishment includes the provision of an operation, planning and communication rooms which are key functional areas required for effective response coordination. This is accompanied by capacity building activities for the management of these EOCs
- The National Emergency Operation Centre was refurbished for the National Disaster Management Office.

[3] NATIONAL-GENDER-POLICY-AWARENESS.aspx (fiji.gov.fj)/

[4] <https://waterauthority.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Rural-Water-and-Sanitation-Policy-July-2021.pdf>

[5] <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/55116/55116-001-rrp-en.pdf>

[6] <https://bsrp.gsd.spc.int/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Activity-Report-for-web.pdf>

[7] <https://bsrp.gsd.spc.int/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Activity-Report-for-web.pdf>

- A mobile emergency operations (MEOC) vehicle. NDMO had installed additional features such as Radio so that the MEOC can maintain communication whilst deployed to the districts.

Strengthened institutional arrangements for DRM and CCA

- The BSRP project funded the review of the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 and the National Disaster Management Plan by the Fiji Red Cross and is overseen by a working group comprising of IFRC, Fiji Red Cross, NDMO, SPC and UNISDR,
- Support for BSRP Country Coordinator based at the NDMO continued through until December 2018. This role proved to be effective in increasing the delivery, overcoming procurement and finance challenges, and providing training capacity and increased technical expertise.

Improved knowledge, information, public awareness, training and education

- Capacity building was executed to build on the infrastructure investment and ensure that those who will work in the Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) during a disaster understand their roles and functions of the different areas within the EOC. EOC training and simulation was delivered to 210 participants of which 150 were men and 60 women (Levuka 36, Vunisea 29, Nabouwalu 25, Labasa 24, Nadi 24, Lautoka 23, Tavua 23, Nausori 26),
- The Fijian Get Ready Disasters Happen[8] campaign, which was launched in December 2017 was finalised and handed over with full mainstream media distribution in February 2018. This is now being translated into the two vernacular languages (Vosa Vakaviti and Fijian Bhaat).

Case study 3: Risk-informed investment and business models

Adopting risk-informed investment and business models is a good DRR technique in the Fijian economy. To lessen the chance of disasters and their effects on economic activity, this entails incorporating disaster risk concerns into investment and company choices.

This technique has been put into effect in Fiji through the creation of standards for development and investment based on disaster risk. This led to the formulation of the Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) Policy of 2019. This Policy offer a framework for integrating measures for DRR into the construction of infrastructure, travel, and other commercial endeavours. [9]The creation of PPPs for DRR in the commercial sector is another excellent practice. The Fiji Government's PPP Policy 2019 provides a framework for both the public and private sectors to work together to improve public service delivery through private sector provision of public infrastructure and related services. For instance, the

PPP known as the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDRC) helps private sector become more resilient to disasters by offering advice and support through the provision of Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Trainings. The FBDRC has also been instrumental in implementing mitigation strategies, for instance providing sponsorship during the National Disaster Awareness campaign whereby clean-up campaigns were organised for the four divisions to mitigate flooding.



(School students with disaster awareness materials at the 2022 National Disaster Awareness Week. Source: NDMO)

[8] Get Ready Videos – NDMO

[9] <https://www.economy.gov.fj/images/PublicEnterprise/Revised-PPP-Policy.pdf>

Case Study 4: Parametric Micro- Insurance

[10]In August 2021, Fiji launched a market-based parametric micro-insurance programme for climate risk, making it the first nation in the Pacific and one of the first in the world to do so. The micro-insurance product will be extended to other livelihood sectors and small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) after initially focusing on smallholder farmers, fishers, and market vendors. Two regional insurance companies are assuming the risk, while aggregator partners are facilitating the deployment. The Parliament passed legislation to exempt parametric insurance products from value-added tax in order to make them more accessible for low-income and vulnerable groups. On August 1, 2021, the Value-Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Act 2021 was passed to that effect.

This insurance policy aims to shield women and other vulnerable individuals from the financial effects of natural disasters. Given that it is a form of micro-insurance, it is intended to be affordable and available to those with limited means.

[11]Small-scale farmers, fishermen, and market vendors are the product's first target market. Due to the dependence of these populations' livelihoods on the weather and other environmental conditions, they are especially sensitive to the financial effects of natural catastrophes. The insurance product would subsequently be made available to SMEs and other sources of livelihood to assist private

All things considered; this new insurance policy is a creative solution to assist in defending vulnerable individuals against the financial effects of natural disasters. It is created to be affordable and available to those with low income, while also offering quick and automatic payouts when specific circumstances are satisfied, by utilising a market-based climate risk parametric model.



(Market vendors in Fiji. Source: NDMO)

[10] <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/55116/55116-001-rrp-en.pdf>

[11] The programme contains several reforms that align with the P3F of ADB's previous programme—ADB. Fiji: Sustained Private Sector-Led Growth Reform programme, Subprogramme 3—such as the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2021, the continued rollout of gender-responsive budgeting, and the partial privatization of Energy Fiji Limited in line with the government's privatization policy

Case Study 5: Risk-informing development projects

In order to increase resilience and sustainability, "risk-informing development projects" considers risks and managing any potential hazards related to a project. It is crucial to consider the possible effects of these hazards on development projects in the context of Fiji, where severe weather events including cyclones, floods, and droughts are frequent. The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management and the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) have co-financed 89 risk-informed community development projects, to a total value of FJD\$3.4 million. Around 14,200 people in rural communities are estimated to have benefitted from these projects.

The model of co-financing existing Government investments by UNDP has not only lifted the standard of project implementation, but has also provided an efficient and effective method of channelling needed climate, disaster and inclusive financing to support Government's development mandate.



(Risk informed Development foot-crossing project in the village of Navaka in the province of Rewa. Community members have acknowledged the additional support on disability access ramps and solar lighting for the safety of community members Source: NDMO)

Case Study 6: The REDD-Plus policy (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)

[12] The REDD-Plus (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Policy of Fiji, aims to lessen emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and also illustrates how investments in disaster risk mitigation measures will rise in Fiji from 2016 to 2023. The Policy's goals, which include fostering sustainable forest management, advancing the socioeconomic advancement of local populations and owners of forest resources, and strengthening food security and adaptability capabilities are mainstreamed within.

The frameworks of REDD and DRR can be combined to address climate change and disaster risks. By promoting sustainable land use methods and protecting forests, REDD+ seeks to lower greenhouse gas emissions. By lowering carbon emissions and encouraging biodiversity preservation, this can assist to

[12] <https://www.forestry.gov.fj/docs/policies/REDDPolicy.pdf>

lessen the effects of climate change. DRR, on the other hand, attempts to increase preparedness, response, and recovery efforts in order to lessen the risks and effects of disasters. Both frameworks place a premium on forests. They act as a natural defense against calamities including storms, landslides, and floods. By participating in REDD+ initiatives, we can assist to safeguard forests and communities from disasters' effects. Additionally, by preventing deforestation and lowering vulnerability to climate change, REDD+'s promotion of sustainable land use practices can assist to lower the risks of future disasters. [13]These actions are anticipated to decrease emissions that contribute to climate change while also enhancing the resilience of populations that depend on forests to natural catastrophes like cyclones and floods.

Case Study 7: Community Development Initiatives

The Fiji NDMO conducts Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) trainings at the community level in partnership with NGOs including Partners in Community Development (PCDF), Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), and Live and Lean Fiji. Based on the lessons learnt from TC Winston, the development of a standard CBDRM manual has been developed through Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Disaster Ready Phase 1 programme. Some of the other AHP Disaster Ready initiatives carried out by the local AHP Partners include;

- Worked in more than approximately **80** rural communities and settlements across Fiji to carry out Climate-Smart Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CS-CBDRM) Training.
- Worked with the Fiji NDMO to review the National CS-CBDRM Training Manual which was endorsed in February 2022.
- Worked with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to review the National Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) Training Manual
- Facilitated **17** Psychological First Aid trainings to more than **300** community volunteers across the 3 divisions
- Facilitated **6** PFA Refresher trainings on Child Protection and Prevention of SEAH to more than **95** trained PFA volunteers across the 3 divisions
- Facilitated PFA trainings to EOC staff in Labasa, Lautoka and Suva. More than **65** EOC staff attended the trainings. There were representatives from National Fire Authority (NFA), Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Fiji Police Force, Rural and Maritime Development and the respective District Officers (DOs).
- Facilitated Tele-PFA sessions to more than **350** individuals during the first and second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
- Worked with the Fiji NDMO and other Government agencies on EOC trainings to strengthen their inclusive approaches. FCOSS supported **6 EOCs (1 National, and 5 Districts - Korovou, Nadroga, Navua, Nausori/Central, Kadavu.**

[13] <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/Rep-2010-001.pdf>

In addition, according to the Investment Design Update: AHP Phase II[14], a project funding of AUD 50 million has been allocated to the AHP to implement projects that aims at helping communities become more resilient to disaster threats. Project will focus on empowering local people, enhancing the institutional and technical capabilities of local civil society actors, and providing prompt and effective humanitarian aid. More details of CSO's DRR work is captured in the **Social Sector Update**.

Case study 8: Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)

[15]In order to assess and measure the impacts of climate change and DRR in a more suitable manner, the Government of Fiji has adopted the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA), which will give Fiji the information it needs to decide how to prepare for and respond to the effects of disaster and climate change.

CVAs consider not only the economic and social effects of natural disasters, but also their physical consequences. By developing a planning tool that aims to assess climate and disaster vulnerability and design climate change adaptation and risk management plans and strategies, CVA helps Fiji identify the resources needed to make the nation climate-resilient and lessen the impact of climate change on its development goals.

Case Study 11 – Rural Water Sanitation Policy

[16]In June 2021, the Cabinet approved a new Rural Water and Sanitation Policy, which is being implemented by the Water Authority of Fiji through the Government- subsidised Rural Water Supply programme and NGOs. It ensures the sustainable development of water resources and sewerage systems to benefit rural communities.



(Children of Waiosi in the interior of Navosa celebrate the commissioning of their new water source which will enable them to access safe, clean and quality drinking water. Source: NDMO)

[14] https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/aust-humanitarian-partnership-phase-II_0.pdf

[15] https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/Making%20Fiji%20Climate%20Resilient%20-%20Full%20Report_0.pdf

[16] <https://waterauthority.com.fj/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Rural-Water-and-Sanitation-Policy-July-2021.pdf>

The Policy requires that water supply schemes take a holistic account of water sources and the impact of climate change and be designed to include the careful disposal of wastewater. It also clarifies the responsibilities of the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) and different ministries and provides coordination mechanisms to ensure proper implementation.

The Policy supports Fiji in meeting its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6.33, Sendai Framework Target G and aligns to the NDRRP action plan 30, 45, and 80.

Fiji's new Rural Water and Sanitation Policy ensures sustainable development of water resources and sewerage systems for rural communities, considering climate change and wastewater disposal, and clarifies responsibilities and coordination mechanisms for implementation (Water Authority of Fiji, 2021).

2.2.4 Challenges faced by the economic sector

It may be challenging for people, communities, and the government to invest in DRR measures including generating early warning systems, building disaster-resistant infrastructure, and developing emergency response plans due to limited access to financial resources. Effective disaster planning and response may be difficult without sufficient financial resources.

The effects of disasters on vulnerable communities might also be exacerbated by insufficient social safety nets. For instance, people may be more vulnerable to the consequences of a disaster and may have a harder time recuperating if they are already suffering to meet their fundamental necessities. Strong social safety nets can make sure that people and communities have the means to deal with a disaster's aftermath.

Ineffective governance may potentially be a factor in Fiji's DRR difficulties. To put into effect DRR-prioritising policies and regulations and guarantee resource allocation, effective governance is required. Without effective governance, it would be difficult to coordinate efforts among many stakeholders and sectors and to make sure that everyone is striving for the same objectives.

The impact of disasters on vulnerable groups can be lessened in Fiji by addressing the root causes of limited access to financial resources, inadequate social safety nets, and poor governance.

In Fiji, there are numerous initiatives that try to solve the problems of restricted access to financial resources, inadequate social safety nets, and poor governance. I'll give a few examples below:

1. The government of Fiji has implemented reforms to support and protect women, the poor, and vulnerable people, including gender-responsive budgeting and an overarching social assistance policy. Furthermore, the launched of the market-based climate risk parametric micro-insurance product to increase financial protection for women and vulnerable people from natural disasters[17],
2. [18]A microfinance organisation called the Fiji Microfinance Company Limited (FMCL) offers financial services to low-income people and microbusiness owners who do not have access to traditional banking services. To assist clients in enhancing their standard of living and fostering financial stability, FMCL provides a variety of financial products, including loans, savings accounts, and insurance. Microfinance services in Fiji have been found to attract more women recipients, and most have paid back their borrowings and have utilised the savings service,

[17] <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/55116/55116-001-rrp-en.pdf>

[18] <https://www.findevgateway.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/mfg-en-case-study-developing-micro-finance-in-fiji-challenges-and-successes-aug-2005.pdf>

3. [19]The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation serves as the chair of the Fiji Cash Working Group (CWG). Its main goals are to act as the primary platform for all actors to share information and 1.coordinate efforts, to standardize and harmonize CWG standards and common approaches, to monitor the operation of CWG, to identify appropriate national advocacy strategies, to enable mechanisms for the effective identification of vulnerable communities, and to ensure adequate integration of protection, gender, disability inclusion, and accountability to affected populations,
4. [20]A community-based group called the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Network strives to enhance the oversight and management of marine resources in Fiji. Through initiatives including ecotourism, fisheries management, and seaweed farming, FLMMA encourages the development of sustainable livelihoods and advocates for community-led approaches to natural resource management,
5. The Fiji Women's Fund (FWF) is a grant-making institution that assists women's organisations and groups in enhancing their ability and influence over decision-making. FWF supports women-led initiatives that advance social justice, gender equality, and sustainable development financially and technically[21],
6. Women Resilience to Disaster (WRD) programme that is implemented in partnership with UNWOMEN, Ministry of Women and the NDMO. The programme focus on (1) Prevention, preparedness and recovery systems, plans and tools are gender-responsive through women's leadership in DRR, women's enhanced influence in DRR decision-making, enhanced gender capacity of DRR and climate resilience stakeholders, increased access to knowledge, guidance and expertise on gender-responsive disaster resilience, and strategic partnerships and networks for women's agency and leadership in DRR; (2) Women and girls are prepared to withstand natural hazards, climate change and COVID-19, recover from disasters and increase their resilience to future risks, through gender-responsive early warning systems, gender targeted and mainstreamed services for women's resilience, women's informal and formal climate and disaster resilient businesses, women's increased access to climate and disaster resilient livelihoods and strategic partnerships for resilient livelihoods[22].



(Women market vendors at the Savusavu Municipal Market are being assisted by first responders during a flood drill aimed at educating the vendors on the importance of preparedness for disasters. Source: NDMO)

[19] <https://response.reliefweb.int/pacific-region/pacific-regional-cash-working-group-prcwg/fiji-cash-working-group-0>

[20] https://www.equatorinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/case_1348160544.pdf

[21] <https://womensfundfiji.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/FWF-Report-8Apr2021-Final-WEB.pdf>

[22] <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/programme-brief-Womens-Resilience-to-Disasters-programme-in-the-Pacific-en.pdf>

These are only a few instances of the initiatives being undertaken in Fiji to address the issues of poor governance, insufficient social safety nets, and restricted access to financial resources. Numerous more programmes are being carried out by numerous organisations and stakeholders to support resilience and growth in the nation.

Factors that hinder progress in achieving the Sendai Framework's targets:

The goals of the Sendai Framework are not being met in Fiji due to a number of causes. Some of them consist of:

1. Due to its status as a small island nation with limited financial resources, Fiji faces financial limits as one of its difficulties in reducing disaster risk. This makes it challenging to allocate enough money for early warning systems, infrastructure development, and community-based disaster risk management.
2. Fiji could improve its ability to reduce disaster risk by enhancing its technical capabilities. It is possible for Fiji to better design and implement strategies and plans for mitigating disaster risks by strengthening its technological capacity.
3. The governance and regulatory framework for DRR in Fiji has faced difficulties. The current laws governing environmental protection, land use planning, and building codes need to be more strictly enforced. In order to properly implement and enforce laws and regulations, it will be necessary to work with numerous stakeholders, including government organisations, civil society groups, and the business sector. The country's overall resilience and sustainable development will be enhanced by the strengthening of the governance and regulatory structures.
4. It is important that Fiji's general population understands the importance of mitigating disaster risks. As a result, they may be limited in their ability to participate fully in DRR efforts and to minimise their personal risks.
5. Due to its increased sensitivity to climate change's effects, which include rising sea levels, stronger storms, and more frequent extreme weather occurrences, Fiji confronts substantial hurdles in lowering its disaster risk.

Gaps in knowledge and technical capacity that need to be addressed

According to the 2020 UN Report on the Economic Impacts of Natural Hazards on Vulnerable Populations in Fiji to the states that the Government of Fiji estimates that cyclones and floods cause average annual losses equal to 5.8% of GDP. The Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) also estimates that within the next 50 years, Fiji has a 50% chance of experiencing a loss of more than 25% of GDP due to earthquakes or tropical cyclones, and a 10% chance of a loss exceeding 50% of GDP[23].

2.2.5 Recommendations for improving economic sector's performance

There are two important development plans for Fiji. [24]In the 5–20-year National Development Plan, the Government intends to empower Fijians, create a diverse economy, expand infrastructure, and enhance resilience to promote equitable and sustainable economic growth. Specific targets are set, including

[23]<https://climate-insurance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Fiji-Economic-Impacts-Report-27Nov2020.pdf>

improving tertiary education and establishing facilities for children with disabilities to make education more inclusive. The [25]Fiji Financial Sector Development Plan 2016-2025 is a ten-year strategy plan that focuses on expanding and improving Fiji's financial sector. The plan aims to increase financial literacy, promote financial inclusion, and enhance the regulatory framework. The creation of a National Payment Plan is a primary strategy to promote affordable electronic payment methods to boost the velocity of money. The recommendations and strategies proposed in this plan can help policymakers and financial institutions improve the availability and usage of cost-effective electronic payment methods, offer innovative financial products and services, and strengthen financial capability. Implementation of these strategies can lead to a more inclusive and efficient financial system, supporting economic growth and development.

With the help of the Fiji NDRRP, the nation's infrastructure, economy, and society will be more resilient to the effects of natural catastrophes. The strategy helps to lessen the damage caused by disasters by adopting steps to reduce disaster risk, such as increasing early warning systems, infrastructure, and community resilience. As a result, the performance of the economic sector may be enhanced by lowering disaster-related economic losses and facilitating faster company recovery. The policy promotes sustainable economic growth and works to build a more resilient and stable economy by minimising the effects of disasters on the economy.

2.3 ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR

The Administrative Sector primarily deals with good governance in DRR. This entails the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority in the management of a country's affairs at all levels. One of the four priorities for action in the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, is "Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk." It is imperative to ensure that there are robust linkages to key agencies for maintaining consistency in the administration arrangements for DRR. Without consistency among administrative arrangements, as a rule, governance in DRR would not be effective allowing duplication of activities, delaying required actions and ineffective administrative activities.

2.3.1 Progress made in the Administrative Sector

Case study 1: Development of National level Policies

Fiji has been a strong advocate in strengthening governance arrangements since the adoption of Sendai Framework. At the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul May 2016, Fiji announced its Post-TC Winston Disaster Response Agenda to transform adversity into disaster and climate resilience through the National Humanitarian Policy[26]. This Policy was endorsed by Cabinet in 2017. The Policy objectives included:

- Fulfill the Fiji Government's sovereign and primary responsibility to initiate, organise, coordinate, and implement all aspects of national disaster risk management and humanitarian action on its territory and in line with its international agreements;

[24]<https://www.fiji.gov.fj/getattachment/15b0ba03-825e-47f7-bf69-094ad33004dd/5-Year-20-Year-NATIONAL-DEVELOPMENT-PLAN.aspx>

[25] <https://www.economy.gov.fj/images/Resources/DebtReport/ADB/PPP-Implementation-Guideline-2020.pdf>

- Govern and coordinate humanitarian action within the national disaster risk management cycle, with clear stakeholder roles and responsibilities, accountability, monitoring and reporting procedures, in alignment with Fiji's national development and climate change initiatives;
- Develop strong national information and communication platforms that facilitate rapid collection, analysis, and dispersal of information on disaster risk management and humanitarian action;
- Build Fijian national, institutional, community and individual capacity, resilience, self-reliance and inclusiveness in disaster risk management;
- Strengthen transparent financial monitoring, reporting and accountability mechanisms and access to funding for national humanitarian actors during all phases of the national disaster risk management cycle.

The Policy lays out key humanitarian priorities for Fiji to guide both state and non-state actors. Since the endorsement of the National Humanitarian Policy, other key DRR policies have been developed and are now endorsed. This includes the National DRR Policy 2018-2030 which was endorsed by Cabinet in 2019. This Policy outlines a DRR strategy for Fiji that emphasises resilience-building, catastrophe risk reduction, and sustainable development. It outlines important areas where the action is most urgently needed, such as improving disaster preparedness and response and encouraging DRR in vital industries like agriculture, health, and education. This Policy also emphasises the significance of community involvement and engagement in DRR, acknowledging the importance of local expertise and community-based activities in fostering resilience and lowering the risk of disaster. The Policy outlines several implementation strategies, such as creating institutional structures and mechanisms for DRR, creating national and local DRR plans, and incorporating DRR into development planning and decision-making processes.

The Fiji NDRRP, in its entirety, offers a thorough framework for DRR in Fiji and emphasises the significance of cooperation between various societal levels and sectors to achieve the shared objective of lowering disaster risk and fostering resilience.

Case study 2: Legislative review and establishment of localised coordination systems

It is important for the Government to ensure an enabling environment and to promote an all-of-society approach. Fiji has taken the following initiatives to accomplish;

- Fiji's disaster legislation reinforces the establishment of the National Disaster Management Council which comprises of, among other members, - the Permanent Secretaries of all key Government Ministries, Director of Meteorology, Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Commissioner of Police, FCOSS (as the local representative of the CSOs) and the Fiji Red Cross Society. This membership allows the Disaster Controller and Coordinator to collate and triangulate information from all sectors and make informed decisions. FCOSS has also been instrumental in informing decision makers on community issues & concerns by providing community observation reports which are collated by their District COSS volunteers.

- In addition, the Government established the Fiji Cluster system[27] at the national level to coordinate and collaborate with all key stakeholders involved in DRR. The National Cluster System was instituted following TC Evans in 2012 and was put to test for the first-time during TC Winston in 2016. It was proven to be effective in its ability to coordinate response at the national level and successful in including all of the key humanitarian actors. The Fiji Cluster system is currently led by appropriate Permanent Secretaries of line Government Ministries and co-led by UN and local NGOs. Overall response efforts were well coordinated and seldom showed any duplication.
- We have ventured into creating online data collection platforms to capture real time data more efficiently. We also collate ‘Who’s doing, What and Where’ - commonly known as ‘3Ws update’ from clusters that helps map out areas assisted and identify gaps where Government and partners can strategically direct assistance. This enables us to avoid duplication of resources and ensure equitable distribution of aid. Overall response efforts were well coordinated. A lot of work has also been undertaken by FCOSS in complimenting Government's coordination efforts. Some of these include, but not limited to the following;
 - Development of FCOSS Code of Accountability
 - Development of CSO Protocol and Directory
 - Development of Humanitarian CSO Code of Conduct
 - Development of Fiji National CSO Humanitarian Reporting Form
 - Development of Localisation Framework

Fiji is currently in the process of reviewing its Disaster legislation. One of the main purposes of the review of the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 is to develop a way forward to overcome the overlapping roles in administrative boundaries and to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility for DRR and DRM in Fiji. It also aims to promote disaster risk governance and incorporate emerging issues.

The Rights of Persons with disabilities Act 2018[28]

Improving the readiness and reaction of humanitarian organisations to disasters for people with disabilities is one goal of mainstreaming DRR. Section 31 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 provides that, “All person with disability have the right to reasonable accommodation with regards to the protection and safety of their persons in situation of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and occurrence of natural disasters”.

The Act has mainstreamed DRR into its Implementation Plan and the National DRR Policy acknowledges the need to engage people with disabilities in all facets of DRR since they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of catastrophes. The Policy places a strong emphasis on the need to support an inclusive and accessible DRR strategy that considers the requirements of individuals with disabilities.

[27] Cluster System – NDMO

[28] <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/2461#>

- creating and implementing national and local disaster risk management plans that consider people with disabilities
- delivering training and capacity-building programmes on DRR and emergency preparedness to people with disabilities and others who work with them
- making sure that emergency and evacuation shelters are inclusive of and accessible to individuals with impairments
- creating and implementing accessible communication methods for those with disabilities, such as those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or have low vision
- ensuring inclusiveness and consideration of the unique requirements of those with disabilities in relief and recovery programmes.

The Policy also acknowledges the significance of including individuals with disabilities in the creation and execution of plans and activities for DRR. It highlights the importance of adopting inclusive and participatory strategies that include individuals with disabilities and their organisations in decision-making processes and guarantee that their opinions and needs are considered.

The Fiji NDRRP's overall goal is to guarantee that individuals with disabilities are included in DRR initiatives and that their needs and rights are properly respected and protected.



(A member of the disable community on the island of Taveuni was part of an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training conducted by the Fiji NDMO. Source: NDMO)

Other good examples of good governance and political leadership which demonstrate the buy-in and value of DRR activities in Fiji stipulated in the SIDS SRR Gap report[29] include the following;

- the Government of Fiji applied lessons learned from their experience during Tropical Cyclone

[29] 5- ECOSOC UNDRR- SIDS DRR Gap Assessment Report on MoI Digital Version Final November2022_0 (1).pdf

Winston. They readjusted their warnings to simplify and standardize them, so they could be better understood. Color coding was used to define the intensity of a disaster (different colors for “Alert,” “Take Action,” and “Stand Down”). In addition, the NDMO conducted regular drills with stakeholders representing diverse social groups.

Case study 3: The Fijian Presidency of the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties (COP23)

The Prime Minister of Fiji was the COP23 President in 2017. Fiji became the first Small Island State to take on the presidency of the Conference of Parties of United Nations Conventions on Climate Change. The main agenda issues of the COP23 were endorsed, despite the several hours of negotiations. According to Hon. Prime Minister, “We have done the job we were given to do, which is to advance the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement and prepare for more ambitious action through the Talanoa Dialogue of 2018. We all leave Bonn having notched up some notable achievements, including our Ocean Pathway, the historic agreement on agriculture, an action plan on gender and a decision that benefits local communities and Indigenous peoples. We have also secured more funding for climate adaptation, and I am pleased to note that we have taken the important next step to ensure that the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement. We have also launched a global partnership to provide millions of climate-vulnerable people the world over with affordable access to insurance.”

Case study 4: Governments Commitment to climate action

The Fiji Government’s commitment to climate action will ensure that Fijians are protected from climate change impacts such as sea level rise. The Government has allocated financing towards building community resilience against climate change. One successful project is the construction of the Kumi Village seawall at a cost of FJD 350,000. Kumi village, like many vulnerable communities in Fiji, has been exposed to coastal erosion and inundation brought by storm surges and sea level rise.



(A group of Women from Kumi Village in Tailevu after the commissioning of the Kumi Village Seawall. Source: NDMO)

2.3.2 Challenges faced by the Administrative Sector

The key challenge for Fiji is that while the country may have DRR-responsive governance structure, there is limited enforcement capacity.

Potential governance deficits in decision-making on risk reduction strategy stipulated in the NDRRP[30] are as follows:

- Lack of demarcation of responsibilities between different agencies.
- Lack of responsibility - no entity is legally responsible for failure in managing disaster risk.

- Governance and regulations may ‘fall between the cracks’.
- Lack of accountability - decision-makers are isolated from the impacts of their decision.
- Unsustainability - short-term decisions may lead to future long-term problems.
- Short-term expediency as a response to public pressure - authority decides on an ‘ad hoc’ basis.
- Indecision/lack of timeliness - delays or inaction may make matters worse.
- Inequity - decisions allot the risks and benefits unfairly

Recommendations for improving administrative sector's performance

According to the 2019 Human Costs of Disaster report[31] released by UNDRR, in between 2000 and 2019, more than 7,000 major disasters have impacted all regions of the world, claimed 1.23 million lives and affecting 4.2 billion people, with economic losses estimated at US\$ 2.97 trillion. We are experiencing more complex and interdependent disasters. An increase in its social and economic impacts demands a fundamental shift on how we manage disaster risks. The numbers itself demonstrate the importance of promoting a greater understanding of disaster risk and stresses the need for an all-of-society approach so that appropriate measures can be taken to protect lives and livelihoods.

Leaders of states and disaster practitioners play a crucial role to bridge the gap between government, civil society and citizens, and encourage participation of all sectors of society. During the COVID -19 pandemic, it was evident that in this age of systemic risk, we are not safe until ‘we are all safe’. From policy development to implementation, working in silos has never been a successful approach in this constantly evolving DRR space. A whole-of-society and inclusive approach is a good foundation for creating and prioritising effective DRR policies and strategies. It also provides an opportunity to inform and expand risk knowledge for better DRR decision-making.

In the past 10 years, Fiji has experienced the brunt of over 10 tropical cyclones with these cascading hazards amounting to more than 3-billion USD in damage and 67 fatalities. To tackle these continuous disasters, our partnerships with the broader stakeholder community, particularly with CSOs, had a substantial contribution towards our successful implementation of humanitarian and DRR actions. Therefore, it is important that countries need to take full ownership of fulfilling their sovereign responsibilities pertaining to DRR. Having said that, a whole-of-society approach is equally imperative. Governments cannot do this alone and DRR should be everyone’s responsibility.



(An aerial view of the trail of devastations left behind by TC Yasa at Kia Island in Macuata in 2020. Source: NDMO)

[31] 74124_humancostofdisasters20002019reportu.pdf (preventionweb.net)

2.4 INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR

The Government has made significant investments into Fiji's infrastructure sector to ensure that all citizens have access to clean and safe drinking water, improved sanitation, improved access to transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges and jetties. Furthermore, the Government is working to ensure remote communities have access to reliable electricity sources and telecommunications.

The strides in Fiji's infrastructure development have been hampered by the impacts of extreme weather events and climate change. The impacts of extreme weather events on Fiji's critical infrastructure is significant, for example Tropical Cyclones Harold, Yasa and Ana resulted in over FJD 290 million in damages. This in turn has resulted in the Fiji Government having to re-strategise infrastructure development to ensure its resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events and its long-term sustainability.

2.4.1 Infrastructure Vulnerability to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events

Fiji has four (4) statutory bodies that are responsible for developing, maintaining and operating critical infrastructure. These statutory bodies includes, The Fiji Roads Authority, Water Authority of Fiji, Energy Fiji Limited, and Telecommunication Fiji Limited. Critical infrastructure include roads, bridges, jetties, electricity, water and telecommunications.

Case study 1: Road Infrastructure

The Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is the statutory body responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and jetties around the country. The total length of Fiji's road network is 7,525km, of which 5,818km is unsealed and 1,707km is sealed. In addition, Fiji has 1,251 bridges and 41 jetties.[32]

FRA estimates these assets are worth FJD\$11 billion making the road network, Fiji's most valuable built asset. FRA does not have a specific contingency funding source to repair its infrastructure assets and, therefore, funds from the existing budget are reprioritised to repair damaged assets.[33]

The increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, in particular tropical cyclones and flooding, coupled with the projected impacts of climate change have resulted in the paradigm shift in FRA's planning, design and funding of capital projects. This paradigm shift has been implemented by FRA to account for projected increases in sea-level rise and extreme weather events. In addition, FRA has incorporated disaster management and mitigation measures into planning[34].

Moving forward, the Fiji Government is working with development partners to ensure the long-term sustainability of roads and bridges. This is highlighted by the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) support provided to the Fiji Government in 2022. The Financing Facility will provide FJD\$117 million in financing to support the restoration and upgrade of key roads and bridges in Fiji.

Under the financing package[35],the Government will ensure that upgraded bridges will be climate resilient. In addition, the upgraded assets will have a design life of 100-years and the ability to withstand a one in 100-year rainfall event.

[32] <https://www.fjiroads.org/279-2/>

[33] <https://www.fjiroads.org/279-2/>

[34] FRA Cooperate Planning, 2022-2023

[35] [https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/AIFFP-PROVIDES-\\$117M-FOR-FIJI-ROADS-AND-BRIDGES-UP](https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/AIFFP-PROVIDES-$117M-FOR-FIJI-ROADS-AND-BRIDGES-UP)

Case study 2: Build-back-better approaches

Fiji continues to invest in scientific research and human capital to foster resilience and adaptation. In the aftermath of the TC Winston in 2016, a Category 5 cyclone, Fiji adopted the 'build back better' principle and built more than 350 schools and 30 public buildings. A total of 63 schools, and 77 buildings were in the path of TC Yasa in 2020, also a category 5 cyclone, and withstood destructive winds when the cyclone passed through the Fiji Group. This demonstrated the effectiveness of Government's commitment to building back better and safer approaches.

Additionally, Habitat Fiji's Build Back Safer programme that was introduced to reduce disaster risk and improve resilience won a certificate of merit with a grant of US\$15,000 at the 2017 UN Sasakawa Award for DRR. The Build Back Safer programme was part of Habitat Fiji's efforts to help affected communities recover from Tropical Cyclone Winston that struck on February 20, 2016. The Category 5 cyclone killed 44 people and affected 350,000 people[36].

Case study 3: Relocation Projects

The Fiji Government has deemed more than 800 communities across the country to be "at risk" from the impact of disasters and climate change. Many of these communities will likely need to relocate over the coming years. In 2014, the Fiji Government relocated the community of Vunidogoloa in Vanua Levu, Fiji's second largest island. The community was moved to higher ground because seawalls were no longer able to prevent flooding and coastal erosion.

Landslide disasters due to tropical cyclones have struck Tukuraki Village in Viti Levu's highlands many times. To tackle the difficulty, the Tukuraki Village Relocation Project was developed, and in 2017, 11 houses were built in a new and safer site with the evacuation centre designed to withstand up to a Category 5 cyclone. In the following years, Narikoso Village was also relocated through the support of GIZ. These are typical examples of the Build Back Better (BBB) initiatives. Over the years, there has been a lot of lessons learnt in order to improve relocation initiatives. This includes the development of standard guidelines and SOPs. On 18th April 2023, Fiji launched its National Relocation SOP.



(Narikoso village relocation project was commissioned in 2020. Source: NDMO)

[36] <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/fiji-cyclone-winston-post-disaster-needs-assessment-recovery-framework>

Case study 4: Telecommunication

Our personal and professional lives now revolve increasingly on telecommunications. Access to dependable networks is more critical than ever as the Fiji Government, businesses, and rural communities move toward digital services. In Fiji, over 95% of the population have access to mobile service, yet only a third of the country's land area is covered, depriving many rural and remote areas of acceptable communication options.

The Fiji Government has initiated a programme named "Connect the Unconnected" to give previously unconnected people in rural areas access to the internet. This programme has made it easier for students in schools on outer islands to stay current on local, regional, and global news. It is vital to ensure that consumers have access to digital banking services. [37]95% of Fijians have access to mobile connectivity, and many have benefited from Government incentives offered through digital platforms as a result of Government's liberalization of the telecommunication sector.

Case study 5: Rural Housing Programme

The overall aim of the Rural Housing Programme, administrated by the then Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services, is to eliminate homelessness in rural Fiji through the provision of affordable, durable and cyclone-resistant structures. In an ongoing commitment to alleviate poverty while increasing standards of living in rural communities, the Government has been supporting this project through the allocation of funds for rural housing assistance.

Case study 6: Revision of Fiji's National Building Code

Fiji's Building Code is 40 years old since its initial development, and since 2022 through the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), this legislation is under review [38]. With the housing sector recording significant damages in the aftermath of disasters, incorporating DRR measures into building codes will ensure sturdier building foundations, more damage-resistant building materials, better structural design to withstand strong winds or earthquakes, and making sure that structures have adequate drainage and flood protection. Such actions can lessen the effects of disasters on buildings and the people who inhabit them, as well as lessen the load on emergency services and the price of disaster recovery.

In 2019, the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism (MITT) with technical and financial support from the World Bank and its consultants - Alexander & Lloyd Group, revised some phases of construction, from site selection to roof sheeting, and highlighted the importance of routine maintenance.[39] The National Building Code (NBC) governs the majority of construction in Fiji, but houses in iTaukei lands are exempt from this rule and are instead governed by local government systems connected to the iTaukei Affairs Board. The Guidelines for Improving Building Safety and Resilience of New Single Storey Houses and Schools in Rural Areas of Fiji Report offers recommendations for enhancing housing quality and implementing excellent construction techniques, particularly in rural areas threatened by natural disaster.

[37] <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/BREAKING-BARRIERS-IN-DIGITAL-FINANCE>

[38] <https://www.health.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Fiji-National-Buiding-Code.pdf>

[39] <chrome-extension://cipccbjpjemcnijhcdjmkjhmhniick/pdfViewer.html?file=https%3A%2F%2Fmitt.gov.fj%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2019%2F12%2FMITT-Guideline-single-store-houses-schools-11-12-2019.pdf>

Case Study 7: Improvement of the Water Services in Fiji

The renovation and repair of the Nausori Water Treatment Plant following TC Winston in 2016 is an illustration of DRR in the infrastructure sector of Fiji. Over half of Fiji's population live in the greater Suva area, which depends on the Nausori Water Treatment Plant for drinking water.

The cyclone significantly damaged the treatment facility, interrupting the area's water supply and harming the health and wellness of the surrounding communities. In response, the Fiji Government initiated a project to rebuild and modernise the plant with the help of the ADB, with a focus on enhancing resilience to disasters in the future.

A new water intake structure, a new raw water pump station, new treatment machinery, and pipelines were all built as part of the project, which was finished in 2020. The renovated plant has improved the water delivery system's resistance to upcoming calamities, allowing it to tolerate greater flood levels and continue to provide water during protracted power outages.

The project also included measures to increase stakeholders' capacity to manage catastrophe risk in the water sector and to promote the sustainability of the renovated facility. This includes teaching the WAF about asset management, catastrophe risk reduction, and emergency preparedness.

An illustration of how DRR can be included into infrastructure projects to increase resilience to future disasters is the repair and upgrade of the Nausori Water Treatment Plant. Fiji is better equipped to manage upcoming catastrophes and to preserve crucial services and infrastructure in the wake of disasters by investing in resilient infrastructure and increasing the capacity of important stakeholders.

Case study 8: Fiji International Ports of Entry

There are seven (7) ports of entry on Fiji that are administered by the Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (FPCL). The FPCL launched the Green Port Master Plan, Timeline and Port Sustainability Guidelines. The Plan provides a high level road map to becoming 'The Green Port' of the South Pacific (FPCL, 2019). The initiatives under the Plan of FPCL includes improving waste management for both liquid and solid waste, the use of improved energy efficiency via the installation of LED lights and improved air conditioning system. In addition, FPCL and NDMO conducted a table top tsunami evacuation exercise in 2019 to improve tsunami awareness and preparedness (FPCL, 2019).



(One of Fiji's main ports of entry in its capital city in Suva. Source: Fiji Government)

2.5 SOCIAL SECTOR

DRR is significantly reliant on the social sector. Natural catastrophes like earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes can severely impact communities' infrastructure and result in the death and destruction of valuables. NGOs, Fiji Red Cross, CSOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), and other organisations with a focus on social development and welfare are included in the social sector.

The Social Sector is important in DRR for the following reasons:

- **Risk assessment and assessment:** The social sector is key in locating and evaluating the hazards that communities face. Social sector actors assist in identifying the infrastructure's weak points and gaps, as well as the social and economic systems that need to be fixed to lower the risk of disasters.
- **Preparedness and Response:** The social sector is essential in helping communities prepare for disasters by developing early warning systems, evacuation routes, and emergency response plans. Social sector actors frequently assist in supplying disaster affected communities with emergency aid, including shelter, food, and medical attention.
- **Advocacy of regulations and procedures that reduce the risks of disasters:** The social sector contributes significantly to raising awareness of the hazards of disasters. In addition to collaborating with the Government to ensure that policies are in place to assist disaster resilience, they can promote investments in measures to reduce disaster risk.
- **Engagement and empowerment of communities:** The social sector actors including Fiji Red Cross and CSOs frequently have strong relationships with communities and can support efforts to involve them in DRR activities. They can collaborate with locals to create solutions that cater to their requirements and increase the community's resilience to future disasters.

In summary, the social sector is a crucial sector in the efforts to reduce disaster risk. Effective risk assessment and management, readiness and response, advocacy and awareness raising, and community engagement and empowerment is key in the social sector.



(An official of the Fiji NDMO conducts an awareness to school students on the different hazards during the celebration of the 2022 World Humanitarian Day. Source: NDMO)

2.5.1 Progress made in the Social Sector

The United Nations member states approved the Sendai Framework for DRR (2015–2030) in March 2015 as a global framework for reducing disaster risk and building resilience. Since its introduction, the social sector has made tremendous progress in measures to reduce the risk of disasters. Examples from the Fiji context are highlighted in the case studies listed below:

- The Sendai Framework places a strong emphasis on community participation in DRR, and the social sector actors have made major efforts to engage communities and give them the tools they need to take the lead in DRR.
- Mainstreaming DRR into development policies and plans: The Sendai Framework calls for the integration of DRR into all aspects of development, and the social sector has been instrumental in advocating for this approach.
- Promoting innovation and technology: The social sector has been instrumental in promoting innovation and technology for DRR.
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration: The Sendai Framework emphasises the importance of partnerships and collaboration for DRR, and the social sector has been actively engaged in forging partnerships across different sectors and stakeholders.

Case study 1: All-of-society engagement and partnership

Local communities are the first in line of defence in preparing for and responding to disasters. This is evident in Fijian communities, whereby within hours after the disaster's impact, search and rescue and basic immediate provisions to the injured and families that lost their homes are almost entirely conducted by relatives, family members, neighbours and CSOs. Therefore, it is crucial that the communities participate in planning and decision-making processes related to DRR, environmental/disaster risk governance and in development of appropriate strategies that can mitigate loss of life and damage to livelihoods and infrastructure.



(National CSO Workshop 2022 Source: NDMO)

In addition, a whole-of-society community-inclusive approach is best fit for creating and prioritising DRR policies and strategies. It helps affected communities to take ownership of their development priorities, builds confidence and strengthens partnership with an opportunity to better understand disaster risks for better DRR decision-making. The membership of the FCOSS in the Disaster Management Council under the Natural Disaster Management Act 1998[40] ensures that the whole-of-society inclusive approach is reflected through the CSO coordination.

Case study 2: Market for Change (M4C)[41]

The UN Women and the UNDP are working together on the Markets for Change (M4C) Programme in Fiji. This six-year project aims to make markets in rural and urban areas of Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands safe, welcoming, and discrimination-free spaces that promote gender equality and women empowerment. In Fiji, this project is implemented in 13 markets: Sigatoka, Nadi, Namaka, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Nausori, Suva, Levuka, Vunisea in Kadavu, Labasa and Savusavu. Marketplaces, where most vendors are women, provide crucial spaces for advancing the social and economic advancement of women. The M4C initiative supports the larger goal of Pacific Women's Economic Empowerment by providing safe, productive, and long-lasting employment options for women by focusing on female market vendors at marketplaces.

Case Study 3: Innovation technologies to manage disasters in Fiji

Find your Evacuation Centre

In 2020, the NDMO launched the “Find your Evacuation Center” messaging platform[42]. The platform will benefit all Fijians. It will help users identify their nearest evacuation centre and will also provide safety measures that can be followed during a disaster.

Family Safety Plan (FSP) Mobile Applications

The FSP Mobile App is a project aimed at promoting risk reduction and resilience at the household level. The project is an initiative of Save the Children (Fiji), which is working closely with the NDMO, Ministry of Education, and communities. The Family Safety Plan is designed with children in mind and is child-friendly. Its goal is to educate and inform the entire family about how to assess and reduce risks, provide guidance on actions to take in response to hazards and threats, and encourage children to actively participate in family safety and resilience. Data collected is aggregated and used to inform decision-making for risk reduction and resilience. The initiative is linked to Priority 4 of the Framework, which is enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and Targets A and B. It also targets Principles 2, 5, and 7 of the National DRR Policy.

Flood Forecasting and Warning System

NDMO is working with the Korea National Disaster Management Institute to develop and implement Flood Forecasting and Warning System. The project includes the installation of Flood Forecasting

[40] NDMA – NDMO

[41] <https://www.undp.org/pacific/projects/markets-change> [42] <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/new-application-to-assist-fijians-during-disaster-ndmo/>

[42] <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/new-application-to-assist-fijians-during-disaster-ndmo/>

Alert System (FFAS), installation of Automatic Rainfall Warning System (ARWS) and Operation of Training and Education programme. This project is implemented in the province of Ba (the largest province in Fiji)[43] with the total budget of FJD\$1million. The aim is to extend this project to other parts of Fiji.

Invitation to join the Asia Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)

Fiji can join the Asia Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). Through this membership, Fiji will benefit from visiting research programmes, information sharing on disasters and DRR, Sentinel Asia Emergency Observation Request (EOR) and sharing lessons learned with member countries who are equally exposed to disasters like we are in Fiji. This opportunity is timely for Fiji as it will provide a platform to learn from other countries and benefit from their resources too. Joining the ADRC will provide excess training and resources for NDMO staff.

In summary, the social sector has made significant achievements in DRR since the adoption of the Sendai Framework. These include strengthening community engagement, mainstreaming DRR into development policies, promoting innovation and technology, and strengthening partnerships and collaboration. These efforts have contributed to building resilience and reducing the impact of disasters on communities and economies.

Case study 4: Inclusive DRR

Fiji's effort in implementing the Sendai Framework is focused on strengthening inclusion as the key pathway to preventing and reducing disaster and climate risks in our most vulnerable and marginalised communities. The Sendai Framework encourages the inclusion and participation of women and people with disabilities, elderly and other vulnerable groups in DRR planning and management

DRR requires a multi-hazard approach and inclusive risk-informed decision-making based on the open exchange and dissemination of disaggregated data, including by sex, age, and disability. Fiji is ensuring that data used by decision makers in crisis situations is easily accessible, up-to-date, science-based, and complemented by traditional knowledge.

Fiji has taken steps to strengthen data collection and analysis to have a better targeted and efficient response. The initiative that was trialed out during the response to TCs Yasa (2020) and Ana (2021) included a development of multisectorial assessment forms on an online platform with an inclusion of disaggregated data. This was Fiji's first online based rapid data collection for a big scale event, and since then, the NDMO has been working towards improving the systems for digital data needs assessment and processing of complex data sets to serve our communities better and ensuring no one is left behind.

Case study 5: Traditional Knowledge and its importance in DRR

Traditional houses in Fiji (*Bure*) play an important role in increasing communities resilience to disasters. The existence of *bure* are scarce in villages and settlements across Fiji. Research has been carried out in collaborations with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and academic institutions (Kyoto University) on the potential for *bures* in creating community resilience. This highlights the roles and importance of conversing and preserving traditional knowledges and practice in communities. *Bure* has a higher comfortability ratio compared to tin houses. Navala Village in Ba, is the only village that has *bure* as

[43] <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/fiji/admin/>

dwelling and the number of *bure* were higher than modern (tin, wooden and cement houses) houses before TC Winston[44]. Research in Navala Village highlighted this change. Traditional housing in the Pacific is also well-adapted to cope with earthquakes because of their ductility, or ability to bend and sway without collapse. This happened in Navala Village and villagers preferred to evacuate to *bure's* in 2016 when TC Winston made landfall in Ba. The houses are well maintained through community cooperation systems (*solesolevaki*), through traditional leadership and coordination[45]. This is similar to the cyclone shelters (*nimalatan*) houses in Vanuatu which play an important role as evacuation center in Tanna Island during TC Pam in 2015[46]. Therefore, it is important to maintain traditional coping mechanisms like the traditional *bure* as a means of mitigating disasters.

2.5.2 Challenges faced by the Social Sector

Discussion of challenges faced by the social sector in implementing DRR strategies included the following:

- Capacity building of disaster risk governance by local government as stated in the NDRRP
- Challenges in the inclusivity of evacuation centers during evacuations, including gender- based violence as highlighted in the NDRRP
- Designing, funding, and implementing gender sensitive DRR policies, plans, and programmes are all essential for effectively managing disaster risks. Adequate capacity building measures must be taken to empower women for preparedness as well as to increase their capacity for alternative means of subsistence in post-disaster situations.

2.5.3 Recommendations for improving social sector's performance

Fiji's NDRRP outlines several social sector improvements that Government seeks to implement to mitigate the impact of disasters on its citizens.

Some key social sector improvements listed in the Policy include:

- **Strengthening community-based disaster risk management:** This involves empowering communities to take ownership of their own DRR efforts, by providing them with the necessary tools, training, and resources.
- **Enhancing disaster preparedness and response capacity:** The policy aims to strengthen the capacity of key government agencies, such as the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), to effectively respond to disasters and emergencies.
- **Promoting gender-sensitive DRR:** The Policy recognises that women and girls are often disproportionately affected by disasters and seeks to ensure that their needs are considered in all DRR efforts.

[44]Miyaji M, Fujieda A, Veitata S, Kobayashi H. Field research on cyclone damage and housing reconstruction in Fijian Village—Case study of Navala Village after tropical cyclone Winston. *Jpn Archit Rev.* 2021;00:1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2475-8876.12230>

[45] Veitata, Sainimere; Miyaji, Mari; Fujieda, Ayako; Kobayashi, Hirohide (2021): Social capital in community response after Cyclone Winston: Case study of three different communities in Fiji. The University of Auckland. Conference contribution. <https://doi.org/10.17608/k6.auckland.13578272.v2>

[46] https://www.irci.jp/wp_files/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/8_Shing_Proceedings_ICH_Disaster-Workshop.pdf

- **Ensuring inclusive DRR:** The Policy recognises that people with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups are often at greater risk during disasters and seeks to ensure that their needs are also considered in all DRR efforts.
- **Strengthening education and awareness:** The Policy recognises the importance of education and awareness in building resilience to disasters and seeks to ensure that all Fijians are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.
- Overall, the National DRR Policy[47] of Fiji seeks to ensure that DRR efforts are people-centred and inclusive, and that all Fijians are equipped with the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources to mitigate the impact of disasters on their lives and livelihoods.

3.0 Progress towards achieving Framework's Outcomes and Goals

Fiji, as a signatory to the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, has made significant progress towards achieving the Outcomes and Goals of the Framework.

Outcome 1: Reduction of disaster mortality

Fiji has made significant progress towards reducing disaster mortality since 2015. In 2016, the country was hit by TC Winston, which resulted in 44 deaths and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and homes. Since then, Fiji has taken steps to improve its disaster preparedness and response, including the establishment and the strengthening of early warning systems. As a result, when TC Harold hit Fiji in 2020, there were no deaths reported.

Outcome 2: Reduction of disaster economic loss

Fiji has also made progress towards reducing disaster economic loss. Following TC Winston, the Government invested in infrastructure upgrades to make them more resilient to future disasters. This includes the construction of a new bridge in Rakiraki, which was built to withstand strong winds and floods. In 2020, when TC Harold hit Fiji, the upgraded infrastructure was able to withstand the storm, minimising economic losses.

Outcome 3: Reduction of disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

Fiji has taken steps to reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services. The Government has invested in building more resilient infrastructure, including upgrading roads and bridges, building sea walls, and improving water supply systems. Additionally, the NDMO has developed contingency plans to ensure that basic services, such as health care and electricity, continue to function during disasters. In addition, FCOSS developed a Fiji CSO Contingency Plan in 2021 as a sectoral plan based on lessons learnt from the multiple crisis that hit the country in 2021.

Outcome 4: Increase in the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020

Fiji has developed a National DRR Policy, which was launched in 2019. The strategy provides a framework for DRR in Fiji and sets out the country's priorities for disaster preparedness and response. Fiji has also developed local DRR plans, which are implemented at the district level. Overall, Fiji has made significant progress towards achieving the Outcomes and Goals of the Sendai Framework since 2015.

[47]<https://www.rcrc-resilience-southeastasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Natural-Disaster-Risk-Reduction-Policy-2018%E2%80%932030.pdf>

The Government has invested in building resilience to disasters, improving early warning systems, and developing DRR strategies. While there is still work to be done, Fiji's efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to strengthening resilience and reducing the impact of disasters on its people and economy.

4.0 Progress in Risk Assessment, Information and Understanding

More than before, the natural hazards, particularly hydro meteorological events, are becoming more frequent and intense. Fiji over the last 5 years has experienced more than five cyclones, which is unprecedented in terms of frequency of occurrences in the country's history. There are more category 4 and 5 cyclone events impacting Fiji with greater frequency, which is a significant step up from the magnitude of events previously experienced.

The Ministry of Economy's Disaster Recovery Framework Tropical Cyclone Winston Report[48] stated that *'integrating resilience into the legal, policy and planning frameworks and institutions to build a stronger and more resilient Fiji is a critical issue from now on.'* As part of its Building Resilient Communities mandate, this includes mainstreaming disaster risk management and climate change and adaptation into the core of government documents and institutions to achieve 'risk informed development'.

Responses during the recent catastrophic tropical cyclones (TC Winston 2016, TC Harold 2020 and TC Yasa 2021) highlighted that the current Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 and the National Disaster Plan 1995 require revision to meet challenges in this current and future Disaster Response, Disaster Risk Management and DRR environments.

Disaster Damage Assessments forms have been improved to ensure that all relevant sectors damage data are collected. The information collected during this stage could prove beneficial for recovery planning and better understanding of disaster risk.

On the climate change front, the physical manifestations of climate change are more prominent and include: rising sea levels that encroach on coastal villages, higher saltwater intrusion, and cascading impacts on flora and fauna more pronounced, changing breeding and migratory patterns for certain species of fish and marine life. This has consequential impacts on traditional livelihood sources for coastal communities. The loss of traditional and predictable patterns in natural biodiversity cycles due to climate change have a corresponding impact also on cultures whose traditional practices and symbols are closely interwoven with nature.

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the linkages and inherent systemic vulnerabilities of an interconnected economic and social system that are now globally prevalent due to the advances of technology and globalisation. Fiji was no exception, with the pandemic leading to crippling economic lows as the tourism sector, Fiji's biggest revenue earner, was particularly affected. Government's revenue earnings in turn were challenged and reliance on overseas assistance to assist in the maintenance of public services and critical infrastructure increased dramatically.

The public health system was also under severe pressure and the response framework stressed as authorities grappled with the scale and magnitude of the resources required to adequately deal with the pandemic. Key lessons learned emphasised on the need for the use of tried and tested response mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels and to eliminate the use of overnight response frameworks that are unfamiliar to stakeholders and do not build on existing strengths.

[48] Ministry of Economy (2016), Disaster Recovery Framework – Tropical Cyclone Winston 2016.

This was also a strong point of advocacy by the CSOs in Fiji in 2020-2021[49]

The importance of the mainstream media's role in public awareness and increasing understanding of disaster risk cannot be stressed enough. Messaging, knowledge, and awareness of disaster risk have been consistently pushed out by relevant stakeholders such as the NDMO and associated organisations such as CSOs and faith based organisations through various platforms, particularly on social media and their respective websites. People are regularly informed of the need to prepare for hazards and most have a solid understanding of the necessary actions to take to prevent damages from events.

However, there seems to be a lack of widespread knowledge and awareness of the various initiatives and products available for risk transfer. Niche markets exist for insurance products and there seems to be growing acceptance of innovative market products such as parametric insurance among Fiji's agriculture sector. Overall, there could be better uptake of hazard insurance schemes amongst the general population.

Because of increased experience, people are aware of the causes of common hazards such as urban flooding due to increased media coverage. However, there exists a need for regulatory guidance that requires the urgent promulgation of development controls to guide development in hazardous areas. People are reliant on Government to advise and inform them on the requirements for risk informed development and while willing to comply with regulations for urban and rural development, will generally continue to move into and develop in hazardous locations unless strictly advised not to do so. Those who have experienced the power and destruction associated with tropical cyclones have an excellent baseline and body of knowledge from which to prepare for and mitigate the risks that cyclones bring. As is to be expected in such cases, communities that have been previously affected tend to take disaster risks more seriously and are more vigilant in their preparedness and risk reduction efforts. At the same time, disasters build up a certain resilience and fortitude amongst people who regularly experience them as in the case of Fiji. The COVID -19 experience, while unique in the length of duration and the measures implemented to contain it (lockdowns, social distancing etc.), was not really a new phenomenon for the people of Fiji in terms of its disruptions to normalcy and the need for extraordinary measures to ensure that people and assets are protected.

Fijians are regularly exposed to measures and impacts of natural hazards such as curfews, disruptions to travel and services, temporary slowdown in economic activities because of floods and cyclones and as such have built up resilience to the impacts of these hazards.

Traditionally the focus on resilience for Fijians has always been how quickly people bounce back from disasters, particularly where the disasters hit the hardest, with slogans like 'Stronger than'.

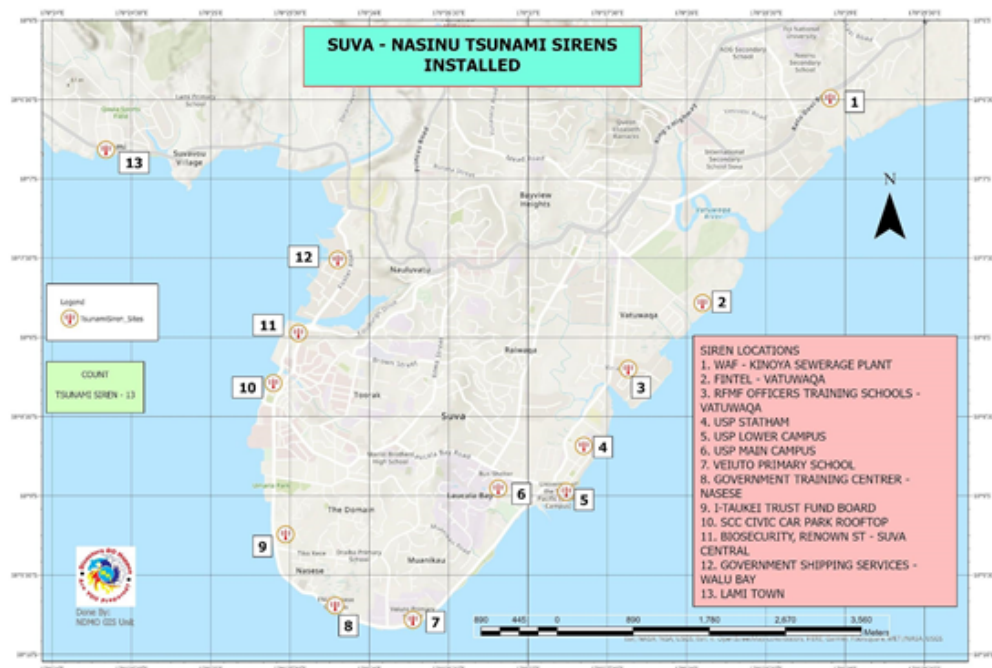
Greater understanding of the risk-impact-points for empirically informed decision making is crucial for enhancing preparedness in terms of decision making at district, provincial, divisional, and national levels. Decisions at these multi levels and across government ministries by associated actors on the land use planning and practices; rural and urban development and asset management and investment; infrastructure design is vital for considering future risks.

Ongoing collaborations with relevant stakeholders, through workshops and trainings, are bootstrapping these crucial components while NDMO concentrates on its core function of emergency response and DRR.

[49] <https://www.abc.net.au/pacific/programmes/pacificbeat/fiji-covid-response-poorly-coordinated-says-ngo/13433252>
<https://www.fijitimes.com/covid-19-fcoss-queries-ministrys-preparedness-and-response-plan/>

5.0 Progress in investment in risk reduction and resilience

Technology - By 2019, Fiji had invested consistently into its Early Warning Systems, with the commissioning of 13 tsunami warning systems in 2019; with more to be installed [see fig. 1]. In 2019, NDMO also created a Geographic Information System (GIS) officer position in recognition of the need for evidence-based decision making based on GIS products. The GIS capacity at NDMO has been systematically growing with the use of new technology such as drones, digital forms, online platforms, with the future aim to develop and further enhance disaster risk assessments at community level.

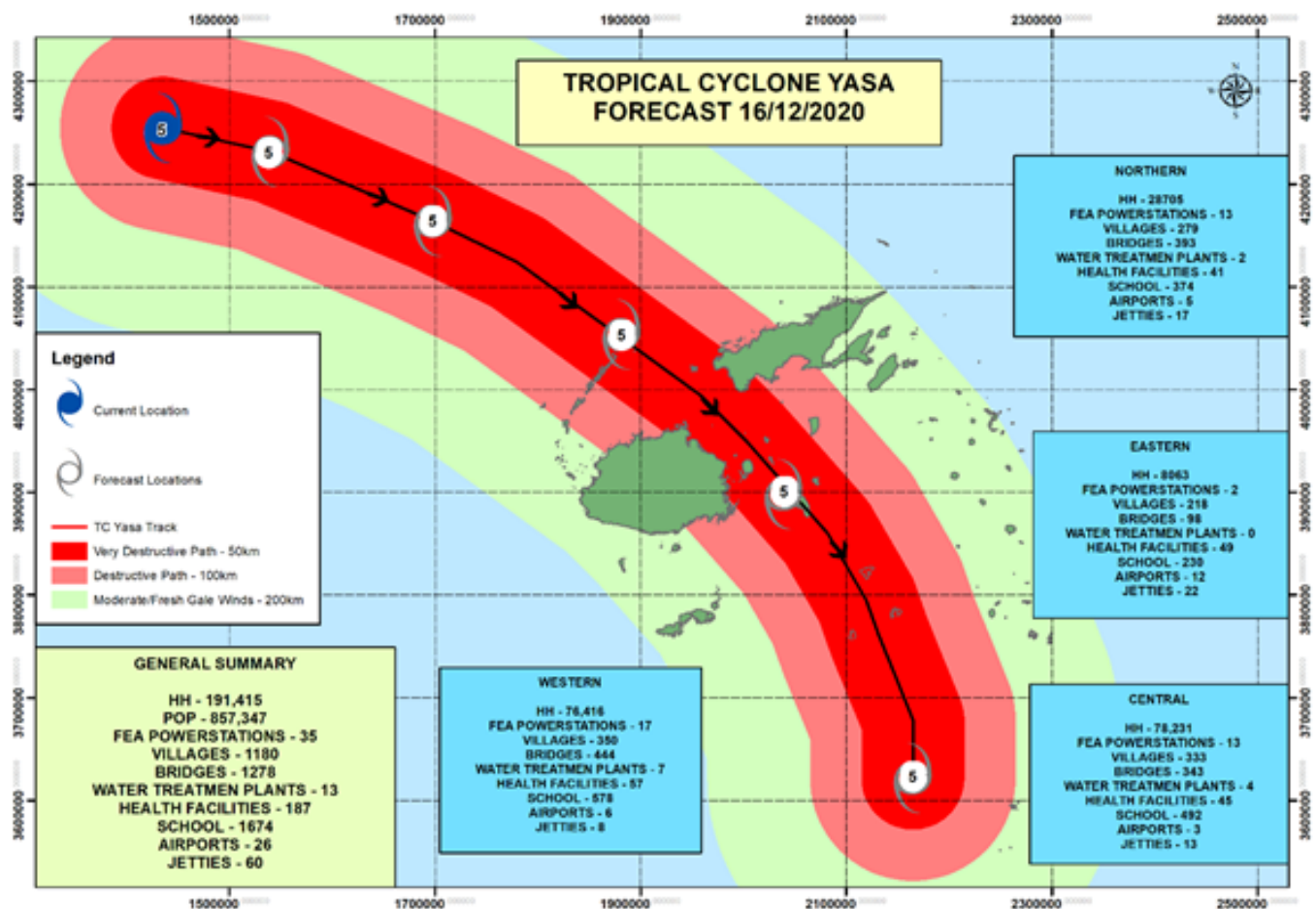


(Figure 1: Tsunami Early Warning Systems locations for parts of the Greater Suva Area, which accounts for nearly 70%[50] of the urban population. Source: NDMO)

Impact-based forecasting (IBF) is essential for assisting with decision-making and reducing risks related to weather and climate events, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). In Fiji, the NDMO conducts IBF modelling to assess the impact hazard of possible weather impacts on the ground. This information helps to identify government buildings, infrastructures, evacuation centers, and communities, etc to plan and respond effectively to the worst affected areas. Furthermore, IBF enables the NDMO to put in place a scientific evidence-based response plan that would have maximum benefit on the ground.

In 2020, prior to TC Yasa making an impact, the NDMO conducted an IBF and was able to forecast the worst affected area. Through this analysis, targeted measures were put in place to minimise risks on the ground. This included the prepositioning of non-food items, early opening of evacuation centers, targeted warnings, and informed decision-making. The NDMO is using IBF to help reduce the risks associated with weather events and improve the ability of individuals and communities to respond to these events in a timely and effective manner.

[50] Fiji Bureau of Statistics (2017), Population Census 2017.



(Figure 2: Impact-Based Forecasting for Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Yasa Source: NDMO)

Capacity building

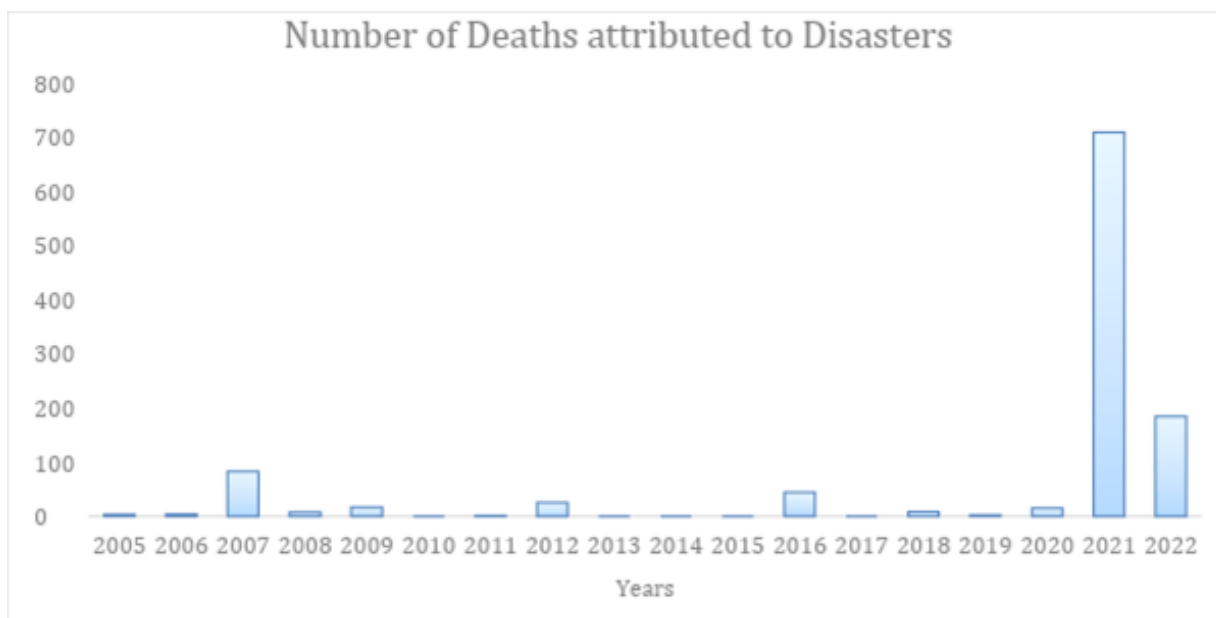
The NDMO developed a Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Manual, a resource for all stakeholders who are involved with training at the community level. The Manual was endorsed in 2022. In recognition of the role that volunteers play during disasters, the NDMO is currently developing a *Disaster Volunteer Manual*. Government responders are limited in numbers so empowering community members with the right training and knowledge will contribute to building resilience at the community level and contribute to saving lives as well.

6.0 Progress in Achieving Targets of the Sendai Framework

Since 2015, Fiji has made progress towards achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework; particularly the publication of the NDRRP in 2018, in fulfilment of Target E. While there is a lot that needs to be done in the coming seven years, several significant initiatives have commenced that will notably change the country's dynamics with risks. These initiatives are integrating both the impacts of urban growth and climate change.

Mortality data since 2005[51] are being incorporated retrospectively in the disaster risk knowledge and management. The increasingly unprecedented nature of risks has notably impacted the population; as seen with COVID-19 mortality in 2021 and 2022.

[51] <http://www.desinventar.net/Desinventar/results.jsp>



(Figure 3. Actual deaths due to disasters from 2005 – 2022. (Sources: Desinventar and NDMO Reports)

Mortality data for Fiji’s natural disasters have been disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity while the deaths for COVID-19 were collected, concurrently with comorbidities.

Fiji has made progress towards reducing disaster economic loss. Following TC Winston, the State invested in infrastructure upgrades to make them more resilient to future disasters. This includes the construction of a new bridge in Rakiraki in 2015 to withstand strong winds and increasing occurrence of flooding. This upgraded bridge was able to withstand the onslaught of Cyclone Harold in 2020, minimising loss.

For the reduction of disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, the state is substantially investing in building more resilient infrastructure. This includes the upgrading of roads and bridges, enhancing and construction of new seawalls and improving water supply systems. Additionally, the NDMO has developed contingency plans to ensure that basic services, such as health care for well-being and electricity supply, continue to function during disasters.

In recent years, Fiji has made significant progress in understanding risk and the processes that lead to risk creation and propagation.

Fiji has also been actively participating in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030. The Fiji NDMO has been working closely with the UNDRR to monitor the progress of implementation of the Sendai Framework at the national level.

Furthermore, Fiji has been working to improve its understanding of the impacts of climate change on the country's vulnerability to disasters. The Government has established a Climate Change Division within the Ministry of Economy, which is responsible for coordinating Fiji's climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts

Overall, Fiji has made significant strides in understanding risk and disaster management. However, the country still faces significant challenges, including limited resources and capacity constraints, and will need continued support and investment to build resilience to disasters and climate change.

Fiji has been working to improve its ability to measure and evaluate risk, loss and damage, and to generate and utilise the data that underpins this. Some notable developments in this area include:

- **National Disaster Risk Assessment:** Fiji has conducted a comprehensive national disaster risk assessment, which provides a baseline understanding of the country's risk profile. The assessment considers hazards such as cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes, and tsunamis, as well as vulnerability and exposure of communities and critical infrastructure. This assessment provides critical data for decision-making, DRR planning, and resource allocation.
- **Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:** Fiji has also conducted a comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessment, which assesses the potential impacts of climate change on the country's economy, environment, and social systems. This assessment provides data on climate-related hazards such as sea-level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storms, and droughts, as well as vulnerability and exposure of communities and critical infrastructure.
- **Loss and Damage Assessment:** Fiji has established a system to monitor and evaluate the loss and damage caused by disasters. The system tracks the economic, social, and environmental impacts of disasters and provides critical data for assessing the effectiveness of DRR measures and for informing post-disaster recovery efforts.
- **Disaster Management Information System:** Fiji has established a disaster management information system, which provides real-time data on hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities, as well as information on emergency response operations. This system enables decision-makers to make informed decisions based on up-to-date and accurate data.
- **Utilisation of Data:** Fiji has been working to utilize data in decision-making and planning processes. For example, the government has integrated DRR considerations into its national development planning processes, ensuring that investments in infrastructure and other sectors consider DRR measures. Fiji has also been working to build the capacity of communities and stakeholders to use data for DRR and climate change adaptation.

Overall, Fiji's efforts to measure and evaluate risk, loss and damage, and to generate and utilise data are critical for building resilience to disasters and climate change. However, continued investment and capacity-building are necessary to strengthen these efforts and ensure that data is effectively used to inform decision-making and planning processes.

7.0 Progress in Risk Governance and Management - Integration of risk reduction in national framework

- Fiji has made significant progress in integrating risk reduction into its national frameworks in recent years. One of the key strategies used by the Fiji Government is the mainstreaming of DRR into national development plans and policies. This has been achieved through the development of the National Framework for Disaster Risk Management, which provides guidance on how to integrate DRR into development planning and implementation.

- The Fiji Government has also prioritised the strengthening of institutional frameworks for disaster risk management. This includes the establishment of the NDMO, which is responsible for the coordination of disaster risk management activities at the national level. The NDMO works closely with other government agencies, as well as with CSOs and the private sector, to ensure a coordinated and effective response to disasters.
- In addition, Fiji has also developed several sector-specific plans and policies that integrate DRR. For example, the Fiji National Water Policy includes measures to ensure the resilience of water supply infrastructure to the impacts of natural disasters, while the National Agriculture Policy include measures to support the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Another important initiative in Fiji is the use of community-based approaches to DRR. This includes the establishment of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), who are trained to respond to emergencies in their communities, as well as the promotion of community-based early warning systems.
- Overall, Fiji's approach to integrating risk reduction into national frameworks is comprehensive and demonstrates a strong commitment to building resilience and reducing the impact of disasters on communities and the economy.

The Fiji National Water Policy is a policy framework developed by the Fiji Government to guide the sustainable management and development of the country's water resources. The Policy was developed in response to the growing challenges facing Fiji's water sector, including increasing demand for water due to population growth and economic development, as well as the impacts of climate change on water availability and quality.

The Fiji National Water Policy has several key objectives, including:

- Ensuring the sustainable management and development of Fiji's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Promoting integrated water resources management to optimize the social, economic, and environmental benefits of water use.
- Ensuring equitable access to safe and reliable water supplies for all Fijians, including those in rural and remote areas.
- Promoting the conservation and protection of water resources to support biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Strengthening the resilience of water supply infrastructure to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

To achieve these objectives, the Fiji National Water Policy includes several strategies and actions, including:

- Developing and implementing a national water resources management plan to guide the sustainable use and development of water resources.

- Promoting the adoption of water-efficient technologies and practices to reduce water demand and increase efficiency.
- Strengthening the institutional and regulatory frameworks for water management, including the establishment of a National Water Authority.
- Encouraging private sector investment in water infrastructure and services to improve access and quality of services.
- Strengthening the capacity of communities to manage their water resources, including the promotion of community-based water management approaches.
- Promoting research and innovation to improve understanding of water resources and support evidence-based decision-making.

Overall, the Fiji National Water Policy provides a comprehensive framework for the sustainable management and development of Fiji's water resources, with a focus on ensuring equitable access to safe and reliable water supplies and building resilience to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change. The SFDRR is a global agreement adopted by the United Nations member states in 2015 to reduce disaster risks and losses. Fiji, being a small island developing state, is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and has prioritised the implementation of SFDRR. The following are the regulatory documents and approaches that contribute to enabling environment in Fiji to implement the SFDRR:

- **National DRR Policy:** Fiji's National DRR Policy provides a framework for a coordinated and integrated approach to DRR. The policy aims to strengthen institutional, legislative, and community-based measures to reduce disaster risks.
- **Natural Disaster Management Act 1998:** The Natural Disaster Management Act of 1998 provides the legal framework for DRR and management in Fiji. The Act established the NDMO, which is responsible for coordinating disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities.
- **Fiji's Strategic Plan:** Fiji's Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2036 has identified DRR as a key priority area. The plan aims to enhance community resilience to disasters through the implementation of DRR strategies.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** Fiji is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which exacerbate disaster risks. The government has prioritized climate change adaptation measures to reduce the country's vulnerability to disasters. The Fiji National Climate Change Policy provides a framework for adaptation and mitigation measures.
- **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management:** Fiji has adopted a community-based disaster risk management approach, which involves engaging communities in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities. This approach promotes community ownership and empowerment in DRR.
- **International Cooperation:** Fiji has established partnerships with international organisations such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Office for DRR (UNDRR) and the UNDP to implement SFDRR. Fiji also participates in regional and international forums on DRR to share experiences and learn best practices.

Overall, Fiji's policy and enabling environment demonstrate the country's commitment to DRR and its implementation of the SFDRR. The country's approach is centred on community involvement, institutional strengthening, and international cooperation, all of which are critical for effective DRR.

Obstacles and potential opportunities

While Fiji has made significant progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for DRR, there are still obstacles and potential opportunities that need to be addressed. These include:

Obstacles:

- **Limited Resources:** Fiji, as a small island developing state, faces resource constraints in implementing the SFDRR. This includes limited funding, infrastructure, and human resources, which can impact the effectiveness of DRR efforts.
- **Climate Change Impacts:** Fiji is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which exacerbate disaster risks. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, such as cyclones and floods, can strain the country's resources and hinder its ability to effectively respond to disasters.
- **Geographic Isolation:** Fiji's remote location in the South Pacific makes it difficult to access resources and support from international partners in disaster response and recovery.

Opportunities:

- **Innovative Technologies:** Fiji can leverage innovative technologies, such as early warning systems and remote sensing, to improve DRR efforts. These technologies can help in predicting and preparing for disasters, and in reducing the impact on affected communities.
- **Community Engagement:** Fiji's community-based disaster risk management approach provides an opportunity for communities to take ownership of DRR efforts. Engaging communities in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery can enhance their resilience to disasters and promote sustainability. This work is supported by FCOSS and Fiji Red Cross whereby community members who are volunteers are embedded in the EOCs to provide surge support.
- **International Cooperation:** Fiji has established partnerships with international organisations to implement SFDRR, providing opportunities for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and resource mobilisation. Fiji's participation in regional and international forums on DRR can also help in learning from best practices and experiences.
- **Climate Change Adaptation:** While climate change poses a significant challenge to DRR in Fiji, it also presents an opportunity for the country to prioritize adaptation measures. By investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable development, Fiji can reduce its vulnerability to disasters and build a more resilient society.

Overall, Fiji faces challenges in implementing SFDRR, but there are also opportunities for innovation, community engagement, international cooperation, and climate change adaptation that can help in enhancing DRR efforts.

Institutional mechanisms. The review could provide information on how the institutions and

mechanisms of the State are progressing in their coordination and integration to implement the Sendai Framework and to realise risk-informed sustainable development.

Fiji has several institutions and mechanisms in place to realise risk-informed sustainable development. These institutions and mechanisms include:

- **National Disaster Management Office (NDMO):** The NDMO is responsible for coordinating disaster management activities in Fiji. It provides leadership and direction in the planning, preparedness, response, and recovery phases of disasters. The NDMO also works closely with other government agencies, NGOs, and international partners to ensure a coordinated and effective response to disasters.
- **Climate Change Division (CCD):** The CCD is responsible for coordinating Fiji's response to climate change. It works closely with other government agencies, NGOs, and international partners to develop and implement policies and strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- **Ministry of Agriculture:** The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the development and promotion of sustainable agriculture practices in Fiji. It works to improve productivity, increase the resilience of agricultural systems, and promote sustainable resource management.
- **Fiji Environmental Law Association (FELA):** FELA is a non-governmental organisation that works to promote sustainable development in Fiji. It provides legal and policy advice on environmental issues and advocates for the rights of communities to participate in environmental decision-making processes.
- **National Development Plan (NDP):** The NDP is a strategic planning document that sets out Fiji's development priorities and goals. It includes a focus on sustainable development and includes strategies to reduce disaster risk and promote sustainable resource management.
- **National Climate Change Policy (NCCP):** The NCCP is a policy document that outlines Fiji's approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It includes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change, and promote sustainable development.

These institutions and mechanisms work together to promote risk-informed sustainable development in Fiji. They are essential for ensuring that development is sustainable, resilient, and inclusive, and that Fiji can effectively manage the risks associated with climate change and disasters.

8.0 Implementation of Sendai through NDRRP

National DRR Policy (NDRRP)

The endorsement of the National DRR Policy in August 2019 enabled Fiji to be first in the world to validate the Sendai Framework Target E for 2020. The Policy guides all sectors to mainstream DRR considerations into their respective programmes that are envisioned to holistically contribute towards building a smart, resilient and sustainable Fiji at all levels of society. The policy advocates for proactive action against disasters through its 122 Action Items where Action Item 24 stipulates the review of existing building codes to be suitable for all hazards impacting Fiji including the impact of Climate Change.

The NDMO with the support of development partners and civil societies have collaborated to carry out Community Based DRR trainings in more the 300 communities and in the aftermath of TC Winston in 2016, a build back better training for rural carpenters was conducted to ensure that rehabilitated infrastructures were retrofitted or built to standard to ensure that the impacts of future hazards are minimised and loss to human life is reduced.

Fiji embarked on a Mainstreaming DRR Project where one of the key outputs will be the disaster plan for urban areas which also focuses on infrastructure measures to ensure that towns and cities in Fiji are resilient against disasters.

9.0 Community engagement in DRR

Fiji, like many of other Pacific Island countries, has faced managing dual emergencies amidst COVID 19 pandemic whereby the country was hit by Tropical Cyclone Harold and Yasa in 2020 and TC Ana in 2021. However, Fiji was able to manage such compounded challenges with a whole-of-society approach. Our success in humanitarian action before and during disasters is a result of strong government-led coordination mechanisms, but most importantly the partnerships established with our stakeholders including CSOs. The Fiji Government, through the NDMO and key government ministries implemented a whole-of-society approach to COVID-19 response operations. Under this initiative, a “Community Engagement Team” was formed which was tasked to undertake implementation of awareness programmes, conduct community profiling survey and deliver assistance to vulnerable communities. This intensive community engagement programmes were successful in convincing almost all members of communities in High-Risk zones to be vaccinated.

To promote community engagement and support better coordination, the Fiji NDMO is in the process of developing a Community Based DRR Policy. The community-based approach to disaster risk management ensures that local problems and needs are considered, and appropriate and timely actions are taken. It recognises and values local culture, and local capacity including traditional governance and leadership networks such as chiefs, faith-based organisations, CSOs and women’s groups, as well as local conditions and developmental issues.

This may include cooperation and collaboration emerging since 2015 – at national, regional and international levels – in the context of implementation supporting other international agendas, agreements and frameworks.

10.0 Emerging Issues and Future Contexts

Fiji’s investment in technology to improve disaster preparedness, response and DRR.

Digitalisation has already played a significant role in DRR mainstreaming and disaster relief in Fiji, and significant investment in this area is planned for and mandated under the Fiji National DRR Policy. Improved data collection and analysis, digitalisation in the interaction with disaster-affected persons, cooperation and coordination with partner and donor agencies, disaster risk data sharing and storage, and cyber security are some of the areas where digitalisation trends are bringing significant improvements and efficiencies in disaster management and DRR efforts. The Government and other stakeholders have already embraced these digitalisation trends and will continue to invest in the necessary infrastructure and technology to ensure that DRR and disaster relief efforts are more targeted, efficient, and effective.

Humanitarian relief and mainstreaming of DRR in Fiji have traditionally been challenging due to its geography and scattered populations. However, with the increasing digitalisation trend, there is an opportunity to leverage technology to improve disaster preparedness, response, and DRR in Fiji. Current digitalisation trends highlight five areas where technology is making a significant impact.

Improved Data Collection and Analysis Data: Collection and analysis are crucial components of disaster risk management and DRR. Digitalisation is improving the accuracy, speed, and accessibility of data collection and analysis. For example, drones equipped with cameras and sensors are already used to collect high-resolution imagery and data in disaster-affected areas. New opportunities are arising where drone collected data can be analysed using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms to identify disaster hotspots, assess damage, and estimate the needs of affected populations.

Mobile-based data collection tools are used to gather data from communities and stakeholders, providing real-time information on the impact of disasters and improving decision-making processes.

Digitalisation in the Interaction with Disaster-Affected Persons, including Vulnerable Groups. Digitalisation can also improve the interaction between disaster responders and affected persons, including vulnerable groups. For example, in Fiji context mobile-based apps are used to provide information on disaster risks, evacuation routes, and shelters. In addition, social media platforms are used to share information and communicate with affected populations. Furthermore, digital technologies such as virtual reality and augmented reality can be used to train responders and simulate disaster scenarios, improving their capacity to respond effectively to disasters.

Cooperation and Coordination with Partner and Donor Agencies, including CSOs, UN and Private Sector. Digitalisation assists with the facilitation of the cooperation and coordination among partner and donor agencies, including sub-national level Government, CSOs, UN and the private sector. For example, in Fiji context cloud-based platforms are used to share data and information among stakeholders in real-time, improving decision-making processes and ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently. Also digital tools such as chatbots and automated response systems are used to streamline communication and coordination among stakeholders, reducing response times and improving the effectiveness of disaster relief efforts.

Disaster Risk Data Sharing and Storage: Digitalisation can also improve the sharing and storage of disaster risk data. Cloud-based platforms are used to store and share data, providing stakeholders with easy access to information on disaster risks, vulnerability, and impact. Furthermore, blockchain technology can be used to ensure the integrity and security of data, reducing the risk of data breaches and ensuring that data is accessible only to authorised users. Improved data sharing and storage can improve the accuracy and timeliness of disaster risk assessments, improving the capacity of stakeholders to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Cybersecurity: Finally, digitalisation can also increase the risk of cyber-attacks, which can compromise the security and integrity of sensitive disaster risk data and communication networks. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that cybersecurity measures are integrated into disaster risk management plans. This includes regular vulnerability assessments, training for stakeholders on cybersecurity best practices, and

the implementation of robust security protocols and technologies. Ensuring the security of digital systems and data is critical to the effectiveness of disaster relief efforts in Fiji and elsewhere.

In conclusion, continued investment in digitalisation can provide significant benefits to disaster risk management and DRR mainstreaming in Fiji. Improved data collection and analysis, digitalisation in the interaction with disaster-affected persons, cooperation and coordination with partner and donor agencies, disaster risk data sharing and storage, and cybersecurity are all areas where technology can make a significant impact. However, it is important to ensure that these technologies are used effectively and that cybersecurity measures are integrated into development and disaster risk management plans.

Fiji's engagement in the development of the Pacific Regional Mechanism for Disaster Risk Management

The Pacific region is home to small island nations, which are susceptible to a range of natural disasters, including cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. To address this issue, the Boe Declaration for Regional Security adopted in 2018 by the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders and the Boe Declaration Action Plan adopted in 2019 call for the development of the Pacific Regional Mechanism for Disaster Risk Management to provide a regional coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness, response, and humanitarian assistance.

The Boe Declaration for Regional Security recognises the importance of regional security, particularly in the context of natural disasters, and seeks to promote a collaborative and coordinated approach to disaster preparedness and response. The declaration also emphasises the need for strengthening regional governance and institutions to effectively manage disaster risks.

The Boe Declaration Action Plan outlines the specific actions required to implement the Boe Declaration for Regional Security. The Action Plan identifies four key areas of focus, including regional security, human security, economic security, and environmental security. In the context of disaster risk management, the Action Plan aims to enhance regional cooperation and coordination, build disaster resilience, and promote sustainable development.

The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent: 'Pacific-to-Pacific' assistance plays a critical role in supporting the South Pacific countries' DRM efforts. The PIF member countries have recognised the need for regional cooperation and partnership to address the challenges of DRM. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent is an example of such an effort. The Strategy aims to strengthen regional collaboration, improve DRM governance, and enhance the capacity of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to manage risks associated with climate change and disasters.

Fiji will continue to be engaged in the development of the Pacific Regional Mechanism for Disaster Risk Management to achieve the following:

- Enhance regional cooperation and coordination in disaster risk management;
- Strengthen national and regional capacities for disaster preparedness and response;
- Promote the use of science and technology in disaster risk management;

- Support the development of regional policies and strategies for disaster risk management; and
- Facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of a disaster. Fiji NDMO has successfully provided assistance to other Pacific countries including: (1) Response to the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcan, Tonga in 2022, (2) Response to TC Gabrielle in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2023, and (3) Response to dual impact of Cat 4 cyclones TC Judy and TC Kevin, Vanuatu in 2023.

To achieve these objectives, Fiji is now implementing several initiatives, including:

- Strengthening Fiji's national disaster management through training and capacity building programmes;
- Developing and promoting the use of standardized disaster response procedures, including training and standards for national and regional humanitarian deployment;
- Establishing regional networks for the exchange of information and best practices in disaster risk management; and
- Facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of a disaster.

The Pacific Regional Mechanism for Disaster Risk Management is significant for several reasons. First, it provides a coordinated and collaborative approach to disaster risk management in the region, which is essential given the susceptibility of Pacific island nations to natural disasters. Secondly, the mechanism helps to strengthen national and regional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which is critical for mitigating the impacts of disasters. Thirdly, the mechanism promotes the use of science and technology in disaster risk management, which can improve the accuracy and timeliness of disaster risk assessments and early warning systems. Fourthly, the mechanism supports the development of regional policies and strategies for disaster risk management, which can help to guide national efforts in this area. Finally, the mechanism facilitates the provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of a disaster, which is essential for saving lives and alleviating the suffering of affected communities.

11.0 Prospective Review and Recommendations

Fiji's greatest challenge in achieving the outcomes of the Sendai Framework for DRR is the lack of financial and human resources.

11.1 Financial resources

Although Fiji has a small population and few financial resources, the economic losses from disasters as a percentage of GDP tend to be very high. The amount of money required for proactive investment in DRR and as a percentage of GDP also tends to be very high. Fiji's disaster reduction expenditure needs to be further increased, as the country's DRR efforts are progressing.

11.2 Human resources

Limited human resources are also a major challenge in Fiji. The knowledge and experience of national government officials in DRR is increasing, but there is a strong need to strengthen the capacity of officials at the sub-national and local levels.

Attention must also be paid to actual DRR activities, in particular to private contractors and operators who participate in flood control measures and the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructures, as well as

those involved in the construction of housing and infrastructure facilities. It has not been ascertained whether those contractors and operators have acquired sufficient skills in DRR and whether they are using those skills properly. It has also not been confirmed whether the government officials who supervise and guide those contractors and operators, or who enforce regulations when they construct public facilities that do not meet standards, have acquired the necessary skills and are able to conduct their tasks effectively.

These current conditions need to be monitored and efforts made to strengthen their capacity. Otherwise, even if the necessary budgetary measures are taken, adequate DRR measures will not be implemented.

11.3 Disaster data sharing

A recent Government Stakeholder Meeting recognised that the establishment of a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System is critical to Fiji's National DRR Policy. It recognised the challenges in early warning systems, such as limited monitoring capacity, insufficient tsunami tide gauge locations, and delays in disseminating warnings. There is a need for common alerting protocols, inclusivity in early warning messaging, and the maintenance of traditional knowledge. The outcome statement also emphasised the importance of accurate and up-to-date data and community feedback. Agencies are determined to strengthen cooperation in emergency management and support the development of the Fiji Multi Hazard Early Warning System.

The Report concludes that in order to create early warning systems and catastrophe management, more open data and shared systems controlled by capable technology partners are required. Organisational units that enter the data and those who are impacted must collaborate to design the software, that must also be tailored to the needs of countries that will ultimately own and use it. The development of open data and shared platforms for disaster management and early warning systems should be a priority for governments and relief organisations alike. The organisational units that enter the data and individuals affected should collaborate to build the disaster management software, which should be tailored to the needs of those who will ultimately utilise it. Additionally, there is a need to boost broadband connectivity and fight false information when it comes to disasters. These steps can enhance catastrophe preparedness and response, which could eventually result in lifesaving.

11.4 Capacity of observing natural hazards

As the case of the eruption of the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano on 15 January 2022 and the associated tsunami catastrophes clearly show, there are natural hazards on Earth whose generation mechanisms are not yet fully understood. Strengthening natural hazard observation capacity is essential for their understanding and management. Fiji's capacity to observe meteorological and geological hazards, mainly through the Fiji Meteorological Service and the Mineral Resources Department, is improving, but the number of observation stations is small and inadequate. There is also a need to improve observation equipment and the capacity to make full use of this equipment for disaster response. There is also a need for scientific knowledge among staff involved in disaster management, not just in observation organisations.

11.5 Governance structure at local level

Fiji has established organisational structures such as the National Disaster Management Council and its

subordinate committees and has developed and had also been implementing the National DRR Policy. Fiji has developed governance structures to respond to each of the four disaster cycles: namely, mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

On the other hand, governance at the local level is still not sufficient in some respect. In the near future, it will be necessary to formulate DRR policies or plans at the sub-national level, as well as proactive disaster mitigation and risk reduction efforts in normal times at the local level.

11.6 Integration of climate change adaptation

Furthermore, in the area of climate change adaptation, it is difficult to say that climate change adaptation related projects have been integrated very well with the DRR sector. In the near future, efforts for integration should be made to ensure that both climate change adaptation and DRR activities are to be effective.

11.7 Estimation of the required budget amount

The data and research highlight the escalating economic losses from climate hazards. According to the UNESCAP report, annual economic losses from disasters in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have more than doubled from previous estimates to US\$1.075 billion, or nearly 5% of the combined PSIDS GDP[52]. Reducing Fiji's vulnerability to climate change - through a range of measures such as strengthening cities, improving infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries - would cost an estimated FJ\$9.3 billion (US\$4.5 billion) over 10 years[53].

There are more than 40 communities in Fiji that need to be relocated because of climate change[54]. As the impacts of climate change increase in the future, the number of communities requiring relocation may increase. A risk assessment based on new scientific evidence and an associated analysis of the budgetary requirements will be needed.

11.8 Measuring pre-disaster investment

To allocate the right amount of budget, it is necessary to properly measure how much money is being invested in DRR. The Government of Fiji has recognised the importance of pre-disaster investment and plans are underway to tag the amount of pre-disaster investment used in government programmes so that we can clearly track the level of investment we are making for DRR purposes. Fiji is in the process of tagging investments for climate change, and there is a need to extend this methodology to DRR. An accurate assessment of our current levels of pre-disaster investment will help us to identify which sectors are underfunded and help us to develop a strategy for targeted interventions and funding.

11.9 Funding Resources

Disaster management requires significant funding, and the Government of Fiji alone cannot provide sufficient resources. Therefore, various means need to be considered.

One example that can be used as a reference is the Fiji Government's loan agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

[52] <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf>

[53] <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/163081509454340771/pdf/Climate-Vulnerability-Assessment-Making-Fiji-Climate-Resilient.pdf>

[54] <https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/fiji-and-the-pacific-raise-climate-concerns/>

On 21 February 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Government of the Republic of Fiji in Suva to provide an ODA loan of up to 5-billion Japanese yen (approximately USD 50 million) for the Stand-by Loan for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation. The Stand-by Loan is a rapidly deployable resource of up to US\$50 million at the onset of a natural disaster, provided at a highly concessional interest rate of 0.01%, with a 40-year repayment period and a ten-year grace period[55]. On 8 April, just a month and a half after the loan agreement was signed, Cyclone Harold made landfall in Fiji, destroying 2,000 homes. In addition to emergency aid, JICA provided loans to Fiji under this agreement to help the country recover quickly from the devastating cyclone.

The funds enabled the Fiji Government to quickly allocate large sums of money to areas of need as it saw fit.

11.10 Increased need for International and Regional Cooperation

The support of the international community is essential for a small country like Fiji to implement DRR. In addition to bilateral support, various forms of cooperation have been implemented, including support from regional and international organisations.

However, as discussed above, DRR requires a large amount of funding, but international support in terms of funding has not been sufficient. For example, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is available for climate change adaptation, but it is not an easily accessible fund and is difficult to use due to the complex and time-consuming procedures required.

In addition, in the regional framework for the Pacific, there is a move to establish a regional fund in the PIF Secretariat, but concrete results are not visible and remain unreliable at present.

There is a need to create a framework in the international and Pacific region that will make it easier for countries in need to get the funding they need.

11.11 Long-term Relationship

While bilateral relationships are important, it is also particularly important to continue working together over a longer period of time. This can ensure that the results of the projects implemented do not end up being separate, but that the results of the projects are coordinated and effective.

END

[55] https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

Table 1: Snapshot of Fiji's progress against the Sendai Framework Priorities (2015- 2023)

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk		
Detailed National Priorities from SFDRR	CSO Achievements	Government Ministries Achievements
<p>(a) Promote the collection, analysis, management and use of relevant data and practical information and ensure its dissemination, taking into account the needs of different categories of users, as appropriate;</p> <p>(b) Encourage the use of and strengthening of baselines and periodically assess disaster risks, vulnerability, capacity, exposure, hazard characteristics and their possible sequential effects at the relevant social and spatial scale on ecosystems, in line with national circumstances;</p> <p>(c) Develop, periodically update and disseminate, as appropriate, location-based disaster risk information, including risk maps, to decision makers, the general public and communities at risk of exposure to</p>	<p>Medical Services Pacific (MSP) Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services on the Gender Based Violence SOP Development for Fiji Health Systems and Planning for TOT</p> <p>Habitat Fiji</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Building of cyclone resilient shelter Build Back Safer (BBS) & vocational carpentry training that build resilient house and train other community members to build/strengthen their homes Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) – Identify risks to disasters. Preparedness & mitigation training and action Resilient WASH system – drinking water and sanitation <p>Empower Pacific</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing and updating of tsunami warning Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Developing Tsunami Siren SOP Reviewing and updating of National Tsunami Response Plan (NTRP) 2017 Developing Earthquake Response Plan Upgrading VSAT Seismic Stations Conducting coastal inundation research works and assessments Constructing landslide susceptibility maps for selected sites Incorporating the approach of disseminating tsunami warnings by Mineral Resource Department (MRD) at the review and update of

<p>disaster in an appropriate format by using, as applicable, geospatial information technology;</p> <p>(d) Systematically evaluate, record, share and publicly account for disaster losses and understand the economic, social, health, education, environmental and cultural heritage impacts, as appropriate, in the context of event-specific hazard-exposure and vulnerability information;</p> <p>(e) Make non-sensitive hazard-exposure, vulnerability, risk, disaster and loss-disaggregated information freely available and accessible, as appropriate;</p> <p>(f) Promote real time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;</p> <p>(g) Build the knowledge of government officials at all levels, civil society, communities and volunteers, as well as the private sector, through sharing experiences, lessons learned, good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Psychological support to empower individuals ii. Trauma counselling iii. Mental health support – help individual understand the connection of mental (thinking) to emotional and physical health iv. Water purifier v. Domestic violence – Gender based violence <p>Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Drinking Water Safety and Security Training (DWSSP) training ii. School WASH program iii. Infrastructure upgrade in school, community and health centres iv. WASH promotion v. community training and awareness on school DRR and community development planning <p>Live and Learn Environmental Education – Fiji (LLEE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Emergency Operation Centre training – AHP ii. CRI Project – Indigenous Knowledge in DRR iii. CBDRM training – AHP/PAF iv. Climate smart agriculture (PAF/USAID) training v. Climate change disease training on leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue, diarrhoea and COVID vi. PSEAH 	<p>the NTRP and Natural Disaster Management Act 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landslide prone areas desktop research and analysis to identify landslide prone areas in Viti Levu • Landslide Susceptibility Map construction (for selected sites) • Coastal Inundation Research works and assessments • Upgrade of seismic database • Tsunami Modelling and Mapping training (TEMPP 1) • Construction of landslide potential map. • Tsunami Modelling and Mapping training (TEMPP 1) • Seismic Map • World Tsunami Awareness Day 2021 • Basic SeiscomP (Seismic) Training • Basic Apollo (Seismic) Training • Public Awareness (TV & Radio talkback show) • Community Awareness (Moala, Vanua Balavu, Lakeba) • Virtual Awareness via Zoom (Revival Fellowship Youths)
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<p>practices and training and education on disaster risk reduction, including the use of existing training and education mechanisms and peer learning;</p> <p>(h) Promote and improve dialogue and cooperation among scientific and technological communities, other relevant stakeholders and policymakers in order to facilitate a science -policy interface for effective decision-making in disaster risk management;</p> <p>(i) Ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sectoral approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;</p> <p>(j) Strengthen technical and scientific capacity to capitalize on and consolidate existing knowledge and to develop and apply methodologies and models to assess disaster risks, vulnerabilities and exposure to all hazards;</p>	<p>vii. DWSSP training under UNDP fund and with support from the Ministry of Health</p> <p>Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF) MSP, LLEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Information education counselling Training on sexual reproductive health and rights Maternal child health Integrated management childhood illness SRHR awareness – HIV, STI, Child Protection & PSEAH Climate Change Disease – leptospirosis, typhoid, dengue, diarrhoea, COVID Drinking water safety plan training <p>Sanatan Fiji</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of training centres Development of SOP/training documents/flyers Collection of data and information – identification of hazards Establishment of Sanatan Foundation Trust Fund to assist in disaster or in emergency needs <p>Save the Children Fiji</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Health – WASH interventions in communities – hardware and software components to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geotechnical and geo-hazard assessments Landslide/ Geo-hazard database population and maintenance Basic Seiscom Training Basic SeisComp Training <p><u>Ministry of iTaukei Affairs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting Traditional Knowledge and its importance in disaster risk reduction <p><u>Ministry of Education, Heritage and Art (MEHA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussion with stakeholders Training paused during COVID 19 crisis since all schools were closed but Tsunami siren testing and drill on-going Arbor week observed in schools where tree planting is encouraged in all schools Collaboration with our Curriculum Sections in the integration of DRR into the curriculum review as well MEHA is part of the National Committee. We have a School
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<p>(k) Promote investments in innovation and technology development in long-term, multi hazard and solution-driven research in disaster risk management to address gaps, obstacles, interdependencies and social, economic, educational and environmental challenges and disaster risks;</p> <p>(l) Promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training;</p> <p>(m) Promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;</p> <p>(n) Apply risk information in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity and exposure of persons, communities, countries and assets, as well as hazard</p>	<p>reduce WASH related mortality in communities</p> <p>ii. Food resilience and livelihood (KANA Project)</p> <p>iii. Climate smart agriculture</p> <p>iv. CDRR training in schools and communities and with stakeholders with kits provided</p> <p>v. Review of school safety context analysis (SSCA) with Ministry of Education</p> <p>vi. Contextualized DRR materials & DRR awareness and training in 11 schools in Fiji including a special school (FSB)</p> <p>vii. safety drill with students</p> <p>viii. Family Safety Plan App – digital platform to prepare families in Fiji to be resilient and prepare better for disasters</p> <p>ix. PHP humanitarian intervention</p> <p>a. WASH Kits</p> <p>b. Family hygiene kits</p> <p>c. COVID food packs</p> <p>d. Water tanks</p> <p>e. Farming tools & seedlings</p> <p>f. HVCA – Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Assessment</p> <p>g. CVA to enhance coping mechanism and ensure that families have access to basic medication</p> <p>x. Child protection training</p>	<p>Broadcasting Unit be little to no mention of disaster. MEHA to strengthen this Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEHA is part of the National Committee. We have a School Broadcasting Unit be little to no mention of disaster. MEHA to strengthen this Area • Broadcasting only happens when there is a Disaster • MEHA has a DRR Hand Book prepare and guide MEHA schools in times of Disasters • We have FEMIS Database in place which capture school data relating to DRR/EIE • MEHA has a DRR Handbook <p><u>Ministry of Infrastructure & Meteorological Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming CCA/DRR into the ministries policies and strategies <p><u>Ministry of Youth and Sports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote CCA/DRR through the inclusion of empowerment training model specifically Model 3 Climate Change. It is part of the Ministry's ongoing empowerment program
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<p>characteristics, to develop and implement disaster risk reduction policies;</p> <p>(o) Enhance collaboration among people at the local level to disseminate disaster risk information through the involvement of community-based organizations and nongovernmental organizations</p>	<p>a. Positive discipline b. Parenting without violence c. CFS kits and training</p> <p>Plan International Fiji</p> <p>i. CBDRM training ii. School DRR training iii. Climate smart CBDRM manual</p> <p>Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)</p> <p>i. Daily community observation reports ii. FCOSS livelihood impact survey under UNDP/PIANGO PFM project 2020-21 iii. FCOSS CSO briefs disseminates Government SITREP to CSO sector as and when it receives it. More than 100 contacts including CBOS & private sector orgs iv. FCOSS Kacivaka Tool & Scorecard project to promote open data with UNDP 2021 v. Humanitarian Coordination workshop at Divisional level and CivMil coordination 2020 - 2021 - AHP</p> <p>AHP support to capacity strengthening</p>	<p>which has been carried out in various youth club both urban and rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting and Implementing of National Certificate in Resilience (DRR & CCA) level 1 <u>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</u> • Introduction to DRM and CC for Health training • The Office through its Wellness, Sports and Social Committee engages in tree planting initiatives across Fiji as well as in community clean-up campaigns. • Tree Planting has been promoted at all levels of the community from national to grass-root level • The Office actively supports the public education work programme for DRR through continuous reminder to communities on the effects of human induced actions such as increasing use of fuel-reliant machinery which contributes to GHG emissions. Ordinary Fijians are reminded through the Noda Prime Minister and <i>Na i Lalakai</i> Radio Talk Back show - updating all Fijians on the effects of disaster and the
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		<p>importance of DRR in their various communities in order to prepare and mitigate against sea level rise, coastal erosion, landslides and so forth</p> <p><u>Fiji Meteorology Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey, observe & gauging of Hydrological Hazards • Meteorological Drought Prediction system & Forest Fire Watch System • Engage experts in hydrology to manage observations & analyze data for DRR plans • Constantly collecting Hydro-Meteorological data, data analysis and development of forecast, warning and advisories. P1,2 and TA, TB • Starting to collect impact data to support our impact-based forecasting & risk-based warning initiatives. • Working with partners to develop risk maps for flooding and coastal inundation (storm surge). • Support search and rescue work with weather information and advice. • Community education and awareness programs on weather & climate related information.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working closely with disaster management and other key stakeholders to ensure that early warning information leads to early action by everyone. • Providing regional weather services for aviation and marine industry including public for some of the countries in the region. • Compliance to international standards and recommended practices. • Fiji Meteorological Service plays important roles within the World Meteorological Organization, Pacific Meteorological Council and other relevant regional organizations. • Developing a Meteorological & Hydrological Act. <p><u>Ministry of Agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training agriculture Officers on the use of Kobo Tool Box • Streaming Social Fundamentals-strengthening MOA database, it was established through the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census Survey
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and Information-Reviving the traditional methods of food preservations • Establishing CCDRM Technical Working Group within the Ministry (2021) • Arranging Institutional Agreement with Fiji Meteorological Services (2020) • Formulating MOA National CCDRM Standard Operating Procedure (2021) • Launching Seed Processing and Storage Unit through the Pacific Seeds for Life program in Sigatoka Research Station with Pacific Community (2021) • Establishing local nurseries to improve food security (2021) • Providing technical support on data collation during and after disasters and training agriculture officers on the use of Kobo Tool Box (2020) • Introducing disaster recovery and protection programs, such as cash for cultivation, provision of home garden seedlings, release of new crop
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		<p>varieties, and release of livestock breeds through embryo transfer for dairy and beef cattle</p> <p><u>Ministry of Forestry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching tree planting campaign to plant 30 million trees in 15 years • Implementing sustainable forest management • Establishing forest management plans at the divisional and district levels • Developing integrated rural land use plans at the district and community levels • Conducting awareness and community outreach • Rehabilitating houses at various communities • Conducting coastal rehabilitation and river bank stabilization • Reviewing Acts and Policies <p><u>Ministry of Sugar Industry</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and assessing risks and formulating DRR and DRM plans (2021)
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		<p><u>Ministry of Fisheries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting fisheries impact assessment (EIA) • Developing marine protected area management plans • Conducting reef reseedling programs, mangrove planting, and fish aggregation device deployment • Providing aquaculture and coastal fishermen assistance through the FAO-funded TC Harold program (2021) <p><u>Department of Government Building and Architecture (Ministry of Infrastructure)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently reviewing Fiji's building code <p><u>Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk informed development for rural projects. <p><u>Climate Change Division (CCD)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a Taskforce co-chaired by the NDMO at the national level for relocation of communities affected by adverse impacts of climate change
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		<p>to review, assess and undertake relocation activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned Relocation Guidelines published as a national framework that guides the relocation process. • Comprehensive Risk Vulnerability Assessment (draft) – 8 step methodology to determine the risk thresholds in community needed for relocation. • A dedicated Trust Fund for communities affected by climate change launched by the CCD to support relocation activities. Cabinet recently endorsed the Standard Operating Procedures and the Financial Guidelines for the Trust Fund on relocation. • Funding proposals and initiatives to support the construction of Nature-Based Seawalls in partnership with the Ministry of Waterways to undertake coastal protection and to mitigate inundation. • The Climate Change Act 2021 which is yet to commence provides a legal framework and means to declare a climate emergency, provide legal
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		<p>grounds for a safe and consulted relocation of communities, undertake disaster risk financing and establish building codes and resilient infrastructure amongst other things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of parametric risk insurance products on cyclone and rainfall with insurance company, Fiji Care to support farmers, fisherfolks and other MSME's and social welfare beneficiaries by the Fiji Government. • Distinct from the PRG, the Displacement Guidelines was also published by CCD to reduce the vulnerabilities associated with displacement and consider durable solutions to prevent and minimize the drivers of displacement in affected communities in Fiji. Recognising that displacement is primarily not a State-led process, this document provides guidance for both state and non-State stakeholders. • National Climate Finance Strategy that provides a list of urgent and priority adaptation and mitigation proposals for Fiji to target a resilient development.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Adaptation Plan - seeks to build adaptive capacity and resilience, and integrate climate change adaptation, into policies, programmes, and processes across all prioritized sectors. • PSIP (The draft Public Sector Investment Programme)/Budget tagging – synergized with the Ministry of Finance, will produce guidelines that provide effective procedures for preparing, appraising, and approving projects and will provide budget sector agencies with greater certainty on resources available for their medium-term investments, thus improving operational efficiency including a tool to screen climate and disaster risks. The climate budget tagging process, similarly, will produce evidence on expenditure related to climate change and identify resources and avenues to further equip the Fiji Government to map the progress of its policies and frameworks to achieve climate resilience.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCCA + SUPA Adaptation Impact Assessment with SPREP - the specific objective of this programme, is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans to avoid maladaptation. The three outputs focus on the following: i) Strengthen strategic planning at national levels; ii) Enhance the capacity of sub-national government stakeholders to build resilient communities; and iii) Scale up resilient development measures in specific sectors. • Donor planning and execution of priority climate change sectorial project pipelines through multilateral financing agencies to implement climate change projects with reference to the Paris Agreement, and the National Development Plan and other climate change policies and frameworks.
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		<p><u>National Disaster Management Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the National Emergency Response Team (NERT) Mechanism • Ongoing update of the Community-Based Disaster Risk Manual • Develop roadmap for Fiji's multi hazard early warning system • Develop community-based disaster management policy • Enhancing impact-based forecast model • Develop disaster risk information tool • Develop evacuation center retrofit guideline • Innovation technologies to manage disasters in Fiji eg find my Evacuation Centre tool, family safety plan app with Save the children Fiji, Flood forecasting & warning systems, Asia Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) partnership
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Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk		
Detailed National Priorities from SFDRR	CSO Achievements	Government Ministries Achievements
<p>a) Mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. addressing disaster risk in publicly owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures; vi. promoting and providing incentives, as relevant, for actions by persons, households, communities and businesses; vii. enhancing relevant mechanisms and initiatives for disaster risk transparency, which may include financial incentives, public awareness-raising and training initiatives, reporting requirements and legal and administrative measures; and 	<p>Sai Prema Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community based social protection initiative b) Strengthening health resilience <p>ADRA & CAN-DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Adopt and implement at local level indicators – preparedness & resilience at community level b) NDRM at local level – co-share budget for simulation awareness c) AHP project 4 years commitment <p>Sai Prema, ADRA & CAN-DO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Courtesy protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Launch of events b. Steering committee c. Exit strategy b) CBDRM, PFA – by practice, everyone in DRR space should have continued capacity strengthening and localization <p>PCDF & Plan International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CBDRM Manual implementation 	<p><u>Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update of tsunami warning SOP • Development of Tsunami Siren SOP • Development of Earthquake Response Plan • Review and update of National Tsunami Response Plan 2017 • Data sharing agreement between Mineral Resource Department and Fiji Meteorological Services • Earthquake SOP • Currently Tsunami warnings are disseminated by MRD. This approach will be incorporated at the review and update of the NTRP and Natural Disaster Management Act 1998 • Reviewed and developed warning threshold table for earthquakes and tsunami. • Earthquake and Tsunami threshold table

<p>viii. putting in place coordination and organizational structures;</p> <p>(b) Adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience;</p> <p>(c) Carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;</p> <p>(d) Encourage the establishment of necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure high levels of compliance with the existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations, including those addressing land use and urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards, and update them, where needed, to ensure an adequate focus on disaster risk management;</p> <p>(e) Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up,</p>	<p>b) Developing community development plan</p> <p>c) Community response plan</p> <p>d) Hazard specific response plan – Tsunami Ready Program</p> <p>RFHAF & MSP</p> <p>a) Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Awareness</p> <p>b) Sexual Reproductive Health in Emergency</p> <p>c) CPiE</p> <p>d) Pre & Post MISP</p> <p>e) EVAWG – Pre & Post response</p> <p>Save the Children Fiji</p> <p>a) Distribute crop calendar</p> <p>b) Enhance and pass on traditional methods and presentation</p> <p>c) Crop diversification</p> <p>d) Maintaining and encouraging string support system within communities</p> <p>e) Solesolevaki concept – especially in vanua or iTaukei setting (iTAB)</p> <p>f) Safe school project – CDRR</p> <p>g) KANA – enhancing food resilience in agriculture through knowledge and action</p> <p>h) Evacuation Centres guideline – in collaboration with NDMO and IOM</p> <p>i) Child Protection – Referrals pathways & National Child Safeguarding Policy (CSG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria table for tsunami warning <p><u>Ministry of Agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of CCDRM Technical Working Group within the Ministry Arrangement of Institutional Agreement with Fiji Meteorological Services Formulation of MOA National CCDRM Standard Operating Procedure Mainstreaming CCA/DRR to all Agriculture Projects and Activities Emergency Response- through meetings and trainings for both Ministry staff and Food Security Cluster System <p><u>Ministry of Education, Heritage and Art (MEHA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education In Emergency, DRR Policy Review Unit Exists in MEHA with Officer in Place Working in partnership with MOE, Health etc in terms of Government building standards in place for schools to adhere Fiji Institute of Engineer Cat 5 cyclone. <p><u>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</u></p>
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<p>periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans; and promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;</p> <p>(f) Assign, as appropriate, clear roles and tasks to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes and decision-making through relevant legal frameworks, and undertake comprehensive public and community consultations during the development of such laws and regulations to support their implementation;</p> <p>(g) Establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. It is necessary for such mechanisms to have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority to, inter alia, identify sectoral and multisectoral</p>	<p>j) Child Protection training k) Child friendly spaces l) WASH Facility training m) Back to School education assistance n) School safety context analysis o) DRR items for schools and communities (go-bag kits, radio, fire extinguisher) and training p) Family Safety Plan App q) Climate smart agriculture – KANA r) HVCA training – KANA s) Simulation drills t) Emergency preparedness for CDC and communities, e.g. procuring resilient crops u) Training on financial literacy to boost savings and resilience so they can bounce back after disasters v) Capacity developing farmers w) Linking to markets prior disaster for sustenance of livelihood x) Training women on food additive value to preserve food and focus not just on farming but different economic activities to provide secondary streams of livelihoods. y) Enhancing community resilience to better mitigate and adapt to climate induced disasters.</p> <p>MSP & RFHAF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Nutrition Cluster TOR and Safety and Protection Cluster mandate <u>Office of the Prime Minister</u> • Policy structures, plans and updating legislations to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Local Government for the alignment of international standards to housing materials to be used in home construction in Fiji • Supporting the shift of jurisdiction of Building Codes from Ministry of Health and Medical Services to the Ministry of Local Government pending Cabinet endorsement • Successfully incorporation of DRR in the ministries Annual Work Plan, policies, programmes and strategic working documents • Drafting and providing policy comments and recommendations towards Fiji Climate Change Act 2021 which guides and mainstreamed most of DRR work in Fiji • Support NDMO monitoring the progress items if the NDRRP - either through active participation in DSLOs technical group deliberations, reviewing of
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<p>disaster risk, build awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing and dissemination of non-sensitive disaster risk information and data, contribute to and coordinate reports on local and national disaster risk, coordinate public awareness campaigns on disaster risk, facilitate and support local multi sectoral cooperation (e.g. among local governments) and contribute to the determination of and reporting on national and local disaster risk management plans and all policies relevant for disaster risk management. These responsibilities should be established through laws, regulations, standards and procedures;</p> <p>(h) Empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;</p> <p>(i) Encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;</p>	<p>a) Part of the MoH FEMAT team as first responders to maritime communities after TC Harold, TC Yasa and TC Ana.</p> <p>Empower Pacific</p> <p>a) Providing and training on PFA</p> <p>b) Community awareness on different topics including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health Gender Based Violence Strengthen and encourage referral pathways <p>Habitat Fiji</p> <p>a) The construction of resilient housing and WASH infrastructure that withstand damage of hazard support the economic loss as there is less cost to rebuild</p> <p>b) Initial cost to build resilient housing is the main barrier for low-income households.</p> <p>c) Robust WASH – water supply/sanitation systems are more resilient to hazard construction & maintenance of these systems reduces impacts on communities’ post disasters.</p> <p>LLEE</p> <p>a) NDRM at local level (AHP 4yrs & 3yrs)</p>	<p>policies and criteria and stakeholder engagements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support by way of including DRR in all bilateral discussions with international development partners for donor funding towards administrative and infrastructural development. • Supported the development of the Open Data Information System (ODIMS) - a online information system that enhances Government to track, monitor and coordinate foreign aid flows and coordinate humanitarian efforts effectively (in planning, monitoring, coordinating, tracking and reporting on international aid flows) during times of natural disasters and global crisis • Supported the Oceania Regional Seismic Network Data Sharing for Tsunami Early warning in the South-West Pacific - Fiji • Participation in technical working groups towards development of policies and strategies • Donor funding from international development partners in order to finance DRR priority areas by sector and matching it foreign policies to the work undertaken in Fiji.
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<p>(j) Promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the United Nations;</p> <p>(k) Formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.</p>	<p>b) CBDRM – emergency operating centres training</p> <p>c) Partnership with UNDP & MRMD Gov4Res project – RID component</p> <p>Sanatan Fiji</p> <p>a) Establishment and strengthen of government coordination forum</p> <p>b) Carrying out assessment on the technical and financial aspect of the properties</p> <p>c) Development of appropriate mechanism (SOPs) & follow up on the progress</p> <p>d) Frequent meeting with property administrators and tenants/occupants</p> <p>FCOSS</p> <p>a) People’s Resolution for EDC promoting DRR mainstreaming into EDC, Kacivaka Tool, National Budget submissions (UNDP - PIANGO)</p> <p>b) FCOSS - UNICEF project on WASH distribution 2021, third party monitoring of UNICEF WASH distribution TC Harold</p> <p>c) Establishment of DCOSS, CSO Code of Conduct, National SOP submissions</p> <p>d) Divisional and National Budget Submissions</p> <p>e) CSO Protocol, CSO Coordination Unit in NDMO, Disaster Ready</p> <p>f) PFM Project 2020-21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support cabinet submission in re-diverting budgeted allocation for recovery and construction work, actively participating in its technical group deliberations, review and devising of policies and criteria for fund dissemination and stakeholder engagements • Active participation in planned relocation, displacement and migration technical working group discussion - on policy advise, review of existing mechanisms and criterion, consultation with the ordinary people affected and setting up of funding mechanism • Policy advice on how loan and grant funding are to be utilised and review of existing policies and criteria - across to all respective Government Agency. • Policy interventions to the Ministry of Housing, Reserve Bank and Vodafone Fiji on the parametric micro-insurance product intended for immediate relief following a disaster. • Support the Ministry of Housing and Community Development in partnering with the UN - Habitat in implementing the resilient informal settlement
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	Sautu Award for Women in DRR	<p>programme - in terms of relocation work and housing construction, upgrade of housing plans and on transportation and funding arrangement between rural dwellers, hardware companies and government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of a National Earthquake Response Plan in solidifying its actions towards Building of Resilient Communities susceptible to climate change related effects - August 2021 • Assist the TLTB and Ministry of <i>Itaukei</i> Affairs in providing support to their various DRR policies and plans, actively participate in its technical group deliberations and updating of policies and criteria and engaging in stakeholder engagements <p><u>NDMO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Gender Action Plan for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy • Review of the Natural Disaster Management Act and Plan • Review the National Humanitarian Policy
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		<p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fijian Presidency of the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties (COP23) <p><u>Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts taken by the Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics ('MoFSPNDS') to strengthen Public Financial Management through the promoting fiscal discipline, strategic allocation of resources, and efficient service delivery. Through technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the MoFSPNDS has undertaken a review of existing front-end procedures for the preparation, appraisal, and approval of projects under the government Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) to ensure effective and efficient allocating of scarce public investment funds to optimise development outcomes for the people of Fiji. A formal Guideline and User Manual for the preparation, appraisal, and approval of public investment
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		<p>projects ('Guidelines') is an outcome of this review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recognising that planning and budgeting can support disaster risk reduction and resilience, the new Guidelines ensures the integration of disaster risk and disaster response into investment project identification, appraisal and selection. Under the Guidelines, the appraisal of government financed projects will be required to include climate change adaptation and disaster resilience analysis including detailed assessment of medium and high climate and disaster risks, and an assessment of resilience building opportunities. To enable ministries to implement these new requirements, particularly with regards to climate and disaster risk assessments, a Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment tool has been developed to provide consistency in the climate and disaster risk assessments required for screening and detailed budget submissions as per the Guidelines.
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Priority 3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience		
Detailed National Priorities from SFDRR	CSO Achievements	Government Ministries Achievements
<p>(a) Allocate the necessary resources, including finance and logistics, as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors; ‘</p> <p>(b) Promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on Governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;</p> <p>(c) Strengthen, as appropriate, disaster-resilient public and private investments, particularly through structural, non-structural and functional disaster risk prevention and reduction measures in critical facilities, in particular schools and hospitals and physical infrastructures; building better from the start to withstand hazards through proper design and construction, including the use of the principles of universal design and the</p>	<p>Habitat Fiji</p> <p>a) All programmes – indirect funding in invested into community resilient</p> <p>MSP & RFHAF</p> <p>a) Strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanism including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes and access to basic health care services, including maternal, new born and child health, sexual reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solution in the post disaster phase.</p> <p>b) Provide capacity building to other parties especially clinical on MISP, SRHR for pre disaster and post disaster</p> <p>c) Providing capacity building on sexual reproductive health and rights in emergency (SRHRiE) to communities</p> <p>d) Child protection training</p> <p>e) GBV training</p>	<p><u>Fiji Meteorological Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid service of Hydro-meteorological data used by researchers, businessman and development partners • Strengthening the engagement of public institutions that will fulfil special roles in case of disasters, such as the Republic of the Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), the Fiji Police Force (FPF), the National Fire Authority (NFA), Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), Fiji Roads Authority (FRA), Water Authority of Fiji (WAF), Fiji Corrections Services (FCS), Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL), Airport Fiji Limited (AFL), Land Transport Authority (LTA), the Fiji Ports Cooperation Limited (FPCL) and the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF). This includes the establishment of financial support mechanism <p><u>Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of six (6) Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) seismic stations for the Seismology Section to analyse,

<p>standardization of building materials; retrofitting and rebuilding; nurturing a culture of maintenance; and taking into account economic, social, structural, technological and environmental impact assessments;</p> <p>(d) Protect or support the protection of cultural and collecting institutions and other sites of historical, cultural heritage and religious interest;</p> <p>(e) Promote the disaster risk resilience of workplaces through structural and non-structural measures;</p> <p>(f) Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;</p> <p>(g) Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other</p>	<p>f) Promoting the national child help-line 1325 in communities which they can use during disasters</p> <p>Save the Children</p> <p>a) Investing through training and capacity enhancement in schools and communities, students through training, family safety app plan, DRR CBDRM, IEC, provision of go back kits, school equipped with safety equipment</p> <p>b) Channeling of donor funds as investment through school, community-based interventions to enhance community resilience, prevent loss of lives and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.</p> <p>c) investing in DRR for resilience</p> <p>d) KANA - enhancing community resilience through training on HUCA, provision of farming tools, seedlings, adaptive mechanism, connecting farmers and women to markets and secondary sources of income</p> <p>e) FINCAP - recovery - enabling 196,000 individuals through cash voucher assistance for immediate recovery efforts post COVID</p> <p>LLEE</p> <p>a) EOC training - under the AHP LL works with NDMO to facilitate training to EOC</p>	<p>verify, research, and provide accurate and timely earthquake information</p> <p><u>Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of livestock multiplication farms at community level, making it readily available for farmers • Conservation works for the Environment through the Ridge to Reef Projects, MOA is part of the Technical Working Group • Disaster Protection Programmes-Release of livestock breeds through embryo transfer for dairy and Beef Cattles • Container Arrangement Plan- Launching of the Seed Processing and Storage Unit through the Pacific Seeds for Life programme in Sigatoka Research Station with Pacific Community • Disaster Protection Programmes-Release of new crop varieties which includes taro (<i>tarova loa & tarova vula</i>), rice (<i>sitara & Cagivou</i>), mung beans and <i>Juncao</i> Grass • Expansion of Seed Nurseries at local communities readily made available for farmers <p><u>Ministry of Defence, National Security and Policing</u></p>
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<p>areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;</p> <p>(h) Encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards and rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, with the aim of making them more applicable within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;</p> <p>(i) Enhance the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary health care, especially at the local level; developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk and applying and implementing disaster risk reduction approaches in health work; promoting and enhancing the training capacities in the field of disaster medicine; and supporting and training community health groups in disaster risk reduction approaches in health</p>	<p>on response and on inclusive approach. The resourcing of EOC</p> <p>b) SEAH training and capacity building for EOC workers and LL response team</p> <p>PCDF</p> <p>a) Community development planning training</p> <p>Sanatan Fiji</p> <p>a) Allocation of resources to respective recipients and monitoring matrix (development)</p> <p>b) Strengthen appropriate disaster resilient plan</p> <p>c) Promote mechanism for disaster risk transfer and reporting</p> <p>d) Promotion of disaster risk resilient workplace</p> <p>Sai Prema</p> <p>a) preposition at community level (relief, capacity building)</p> <p>b) Health awareness in school</p> <p>c) Heart Hospital</p> <p>d) access to basic health services & food security</p> <p>ADRA & CAN-DO</p> <p>a) preposition at community level (relief, capacity building)</p> <p>b) LMA livelihood project</p> <p>c) farming tools and seeds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful establishment of Blackrock Camp that could also be used for Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief Camp (HADR) purposes <p><u>Ministry of Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency Fund with the Head 50 – activated once a Declaration of Natural Disaster is made • Partnership Framework derived from the Proposed Policy-Based Loans Republic of Fiji: Sustainable and Resilient Recovery Programme <p><u>Ministry of Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with UNESCO in the renovation/restoration of historical buildings <p><u>Ministry of Housing & Community Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Housing Programme <p><u>Ministry of Women Children & Poverty Alleviation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parametric Climate Risk Insurance- Launched on 21/4/22 • Women's resilience to Disasters Programme • Market for Change (M4C) programme
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<p>programmes, in collaboration with other sectors, as well as in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization;</p> <p>(j) Strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, new-born and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;</p> <p>(k) People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;</p> <p>(l) Encourage the adoption of policies and programmes addressing disaster-induced human mobility to strengthen the resilience of affected people and that of</p>	<p>d) retrofitting in evacuation centers e) CAN DO partners land development</p> <p>Empower Pacific provide training for health care workers (PFA), implementing and enhancing capacity in the field</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT) has been verified in 2019 <p><u>Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM Recovery Fund – MOE is the custodian and activated during Natural Disaster – send to international donors, development partners and friend for funding requests and deposits <p><u>Rural and Maritime Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Informed Development - Risk-informed investment and business models <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government's Commitment to climate action
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<p>host communities, in accordance with national laws and circumstances;</p> <p>(m) Promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;</p> <p>(n) Strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;</p> <p>(o) Increase business resilience and protection of livelihoods and productive assets throughout the supply chains, ensure continuity of services and integrate disaster risk management into business models and practices;</p> <p>(p) Strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;</p> <p>(q) Promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.</p>		
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Priority 4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Detailed National Priorities from SFDRR	CSO Achievements	Government Ministries Achievements
<p>(a) Prepare or review and periodically update disaster preparedness and contingency policies, plans and programmes with the involvement of the relevant institutions, considering climate change scenarios and their impact on disaster risk, and facilitating, as appropriate, the participation of all sectors and relevant stakeholders;</p> <p>(b) Invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multisectoral forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;</p>	<p><u>Save the Children</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) psychosocial support b) child-friendly spaces training c) parenting without violence d) positive discipline training e) promoting children as health advocate and as food heroes to promote safe schools f) women are trained to provide secondary streams of income g) enhancing disaster preparedness h) livelihood training i) HVCA training with communities on food preservation and crop diversification j) linking farmers to markets prior disasters for sustenance of livelihood k) training on financial literacy to boost savings and resilience so they can bounce back after disaster <p><u>RFHAF & MSP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) MISP b) BEMONC 	<p><u>Fiji Meteorological Service</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Color Cording System, method of notation for disaster risk levels according to warning criteria • Multi-hazard Early Warning System • Install a storm surge and coastal inundation prediction system (wave/tidal gauges) • Upgrade catchment monitoring & develop flood prediction system • Consignment Observation System from Hydro-Meteorological Observation (RF & WL) • Direct dissemination of hazard warnings from FMS to Media <p><u>Mineral Resources Department</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tsunami Warning • National Tsunami Warning Centre) Dissemination of Earthquake Information and Tsunami Alert Products)

<p>(c) Promote the resilience of new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, to ensure that they remain safe, effective and operational during and after disasters in order to provide life-saving and essential services;</p> <p>(d) Establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;</p> <p>(e) Adopt public policies and actions that support the role of public service workers to establish or strengthen coordination and funding mechanisms and procedures for relief assistance and plan and prepare for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction;</p> <p>(f) Train the existing workforce and voluntary workers in disaster response and strengthen technical and logistical capacities to ensure better response in emergencies;</p> <p>(g) Ensure the continuity of operations and planning, including social and economic recovery, and the provision of basic services in the post-disaster phase;</p>	<p>c) developing the capacity of health workers in understanding disaster risk reduction approaches in health work</p> <p>d) Part of WASH, FNN & protection cluster</p> <p><u>Sanatan Fiji</u></p> <p>a) prepare and review disaster preparedness and relevant policies/plans</p> <p>b) Promotion of regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises</p> <p>c) training of voluntary workers in disaster response</p> <p><u>LLEE</u></p> <p>a) Governance for resilience project that focuses on integrating risk into the design of water infrastructure to be resilient against disaster - UNDP funded</p> <p>b) RISE Project</p> <p>c) Stakeholders meeting & consultation</p> <p>d) Shelter programme: build back safer training - TC Harold & TC Yasa</p> <p><u>Empower Pacific</u></p> <p>a) provide training on PFA within our organization and volunteers for deployment post disaster and/or response</p> <p>b) training health care workers on PFA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Monitoring of Earthquake and Tsunami • Tsunami Warning & Cancellation • <u>Ministry of Agriculture</u> • Disaster Recovery Programs- MoA introduced a few initiatives including Cash for Cultivation, provision of home garden seedlings <p><u>Ministry of Education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Disaster Drill – Tsunami Alarm testing <p><u>Ministry of Housing & Community Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Habitat Fiji Resilience Informal Settlement (FRIS) Programme • Revitalising Informal Settlement & their Environment (RISE) Programme <p><u>Ministry of Infrastructure & Meteorological Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifications of Building Materials • Price control programme on Building Materials
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<p>(h) Promote regular disaster preparedness, response and recovery exercises, including evacuation drills, training and the establishment of area-based support systems, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to safe shelter, essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs;</p> <p>(i) Promote the cooperation of diverse institutions, multiple authorities and related stakeholders at all levels, including affected communities and business, in view of the complex and costly nature of post-disaster reconstruction, under the coordination of national authorities;</p> <p>(j) Promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land-use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable</p>	<p>c) Follow-up on ensuring the effectiveness of the response to the continuity of care.</p> <p><u>Plan International & PCDF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community disaster plans b) Inclusion of climate change into CBDRM Manual c) Community awareness on climate change, natural resources, tsunami ready and DRR d) community disaster response plan e) Hazard mapping f) School DRR g) preposition items h) community drills i) organization response plan j) business continuity plan k) set-up of emergency response team l) develop IEC materials m) Tsunami Ready programme n) Household preparedness plan <p><u>Habitat Fiji</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PASSP training - preparedness + BBB pre disaster & post disaster recovery b) prepositioning of emergency kits - shelter & WASH c) Organizational training disaster response d) all designs - housing & WASH are not a universal design and accessible to all 	<p><u>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Climate Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities Guide • Supporting our emergency response system (PHECCC), Home in the Hospital Initiative and partners (First Responders, INSARG) <p><u>Office of the Prime Minister</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office provided input and policy interventions to the Ministry of Housing through its National Housing Policy and Rural Housing Development update. <p><u>NDMO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation projects
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<p>development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;</p> <p>(k) Develop guidance for preparedness for disaster reconstruction, such as on land-use planning and structural standards improvement, including by learning from the recovery and reconstruction programmes over the decade since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and exchanging experiences, knowledge and lessons learned;</p> <p>(l) Consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;</p> <p>(m) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to evacuate persons living in disaster-prone areas;</p> <p>(n) Establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;</p> <p>(o) Enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;</p>	<p><u>Field Ready & CAN DO</u></p> <p>a) retrofitting on ECs</p> <p><u>Sai Prema</u></p> <p>a) materials to implement relief b) basic health services after disaster</p> <p><u>ADRA & CAN-DO partners (FCC - Salvation Army)</u></p> <p>a) stock preposition b) PFA</p>	
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<p>(l) Consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;</p> <p>(m) Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to evacuate persons living in disaster-prone areas;</p> <p>(n) Establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;</p> <p>(o) Enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;</p> <p>(p) Review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.</p>	<p>a) retrofitting on ECs</p> <p>Sai Prema</p> <p>a) materials to implement relief</p> <p>b) basic health services after disaster</p> <p>ADRA & CAN-DO partners (FCC - Salvation Army)</p> <p>a) stock preposition</p> <p>b) PFA</p>	
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