



Disaster READY

Fiji

Progress Update - 2018
June 2019



AHP Disaster READY



Disaster READY is an AUD 50 million disaster preparedness and resilience program that is implemented through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) by AHP partners and their local networks across the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Disaster READY represents Australia's largest ever investment in disaster preparedness in the region, and is an important element of Australia's stepped-up engagement for a more resilient Pacific.

The focus of Disaster READY is to strengthen disaster preparedness and management across what is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to natural disasters, and which is also prone to political instability. Disaster READY draws on the deep networks and partnerships developed by Australian NGOs in the region to support Pacific communities and governments to better prepare for and respond to disasters. The program focuses on ensuring vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities and children, are included and accounted for in disaster preparedness, management and risk reduction activities.

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response is a key priority of action in the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Disaster READY is being implemented in Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

This report was developed by the AHP Support Unit drawing on individual program reports submitted by Disaster READY partners. It presents an overview of Disaster READY progress in Fiji in 2018.

The AHP Support Unit acknowledges the input and review of all partners in the development of this report.

A complete overview of Disaster READY progress across all five countries and at a program level in 2018 can be found on the AHP website (www.australianhumanitarianpartnership.org) or by contacting the AHP support unit at supportunit@ahpsu.com.

Disaster READY

Fiji

2018 Highlights

- 35 of 149 target communities have now established village disaster committees and developed disaster plans.
- Disaster READY partners supported the Ministry of Women to complete a Rapid Gender Analysis following tropical cyclones Josie and Keni in February 2018. This was the first time the Ministry had participated in a post-disaster gender assessment, and the first time the NGOs had conducted a joint gender assessment.
- Findings of a cash feasibility study indicate that cash and voucher assistance can be a feasible aspect of disaster response in Fiji if contextualised to specific communities. A multi-stakeholder group validated the findings of the study, ensuring input from government, the NDMO, the UN, NGOs and civil society.
- Local partners have stepped up their involvement within the Fiji humanitarian cluster system.
- Church partners have identified existing local beliefs and practices about disasters in 28 communities (theology of disaster risk management baseline). This information is an important step to guide future work to improve community preparedness.

Disaster READY Beneficiaries as of December 31, 2018



2018 Partners

ChildFund Australia- AVI- CBM- Habitat for Humanity Fiji- Partners in Community Development Fiji- Fiji Council of Social Services- Fiji Disabled People’s Federation- Save the Children Fiji- Department of Social Welfare- Empower Pacific- Rainbow Pride- Fiji National Disaster Management Office - Fiji Red Cross Society- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies- Divisional Commissioner’s Office (West); Provincial, District and Local Governments- ADRA Fiji- Anglican Church- Fiji Council of Churches- Methodist Church of Fiji- Catholic Church (Justice and Development Commission)- Seventh-Day Adventist Church- Pacific Disability Forum- Field Ready-Ministry of Housing and Community Development- Shelter Cluster Fiji- Oxfam in the Pacific.

Progress against Objectives - 2018

Preparedness

Communities are better prepared for rapid and slow-onset disasters.



- 35 of 149 targeted communities now have disaster plans in place (nine were already in place).
- 23 of these communities have tested their disaster response plans.
- 23 of these communities have implemented action plans to reduce risks.
- Evacuation centre mapping started by church partners, and data will be shared with relevant stakeholders in 2019. A total of 16 of 44 completed centres in Bua Province were found to cater to people with disabilities. This information will help direct resources to where improvements are most needed.
- Work began on the development of the *Fiji Shelter Handbook: Inclusive and Accessible Shelter Planning for Fijian Communities* as part of the Disaster READY Regional program. Community-based research to understand community shelter needs during and after a disaster was completed in 19 communities. Local organisations, including the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF), Diva, Rainbow Pride, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and FemLink Pacific, tested the research methodologies to ensure appropriateness and supported data analysis.

Progress ratings explained

The level of progress has been determined by the AHP Support Unit based on the evidence provided by the NGO partners through the Disaster READY reporting system. The ratings were allocated based on consideration of factors such as:

- What has been achieved to date? For example, training having been provided is less significant than whether there have been changes in products, practices or policies as a result of the training.
- The reach of the change – e.g. considering the number of partners which had achieved the result, and the number of communities involved.
- In some cases early progress is adequate progress to date, given the program was in its inception year etc, and the particular country context.
- The ratings are intended to inform discussion, and to assist the partners to monitor change in following years.



No Progress



Early Progress



Progress



Significant Progress

Inclusion and Protection

The rights and needs of vulnerable groups are being met in disaster preparedness and response at all levels.



Preparedness:

- There has been a 26% increase in the number of women represented on targeted community disaster committees. Increased representation of people with disabilities is to be a focus in 2019.
- For the first time, protection officers have now been included on 12 community disaster committees. Protection officers are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable groups, including children and people living with disabilities.
- The findings of the cash feasibility study were validated by a multi-stakeholder group that included the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Rainbow Pride and FDPF, ensuring the representation and inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- FDPF increased its involvement in disaster preparedness activities following the appointment of a Disaster Risk Reduction Officer with support from the Disaster READY Regional program.
- As part of Habitat for Humanity's *Fiji Shelter Handbook Inclusive and Accessible Shelter Planning for Fijian Communities* development, undertaken through the Disaster READY Regional program, the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) and the FDPF reviewed shelter designs for disability inclusion and access.

Response:

- Disaster READY partners and the Fiji Ministry of Women used a CARE rapid gender assessment tool to assess community needs following TC Josie and TC Keni.
- For the first time the FDPF and Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) were involved in a post-disaster assessment, providing valuable professional development for both organisations.
- The involvement of FDPF and PCDF improved support for vulnerable persons. PCDF were better able to meet the needs of women through knowing what women required and how to best get items (such as dignity kits) to them. A mother with a disability in need of medical support was referred immediately due to the presence of FDPF. This would not have been possible without the coordinated assessment.

Coordination within country systems

Government, NGOs, the private sector and communities coordinate more effectively for inclusive disaster preparedness and response.



- The development of Habitat for Humanity's *Fiji Shelter Handbook: Inclusive and Accessible Shelter Planning for Fijian Communities* through the Disaster READY Regional program was undertaken in close coordination with the Fiji Ministry of Housing and Community Development (Shelter Cluster lead), the Fiji National Disaster Management Office, International Federation of the Red Cross and Fiji Red Cross Society, including the regional Shelter Cluster Coordinator, Field Ready, FDPF, Oxfam in the Pacific and Habitat for Humanity. This group worked together to build understanding and awareness of the Handbook, ensuring its relevance upon release in 2019.
- Communication between Disaster READY's target community committees and government improved, and roles and responsibilities were agreed. Previously, some communities relied on the government-appointed village headman to lead disaster preparedness activities. Now, the committees that received Disaster READY support are providing support to the village headmen.

Strengthening the role of organisations

National NGOs and faith-based organisations have more influence and capacity in the country humanitarian system.



- A Disaster Risk Reduction Officer was recruited and appointed to work within the FDPF, with support from the Disaster READY regional program.
- Church participation in Fiji's humanitarian cluster system improved with the placement of a Disaster READY coordinator within the Fiji Council of Churches.
- Live & Learn played a more active role in the WASH and Food Security and Livelihoods clusters catalysed in part by their involvement in the Disaster READY Country Committee.
- PCDF has now pre-positioned supplies (non-food items) in several districts, allowing for a quicker disaster response when needed.

Collaboration

AHP NGOs work effectively together and with other relevant stakeholders.



- Disaster READY partners worked together to source START funding to respond to tropical cyclones Josie and Keni.
- Disaster READY partners collaborated on the response to tropical cyclones Josie and Keni, for example through the gender assessment utilising the CARE tool.
- Disaster READY Fiji and the DFAT Fiji Program Support Facility have an agreement in place to guide coordination on humanitarian activities.



No Progress



Early Progress



Progress



Significant Progress

Story from the Field:

Fiji Country Committee takes the lead

Fiji experiences natural disasters annually and, on average, is faced with a response to a major disaster event every four years. Given the high disaster risk and vulnerability of the Fijian population, local leadership and improved coordination for disaster management is a priority. In 2018, the first year of Disaster READY in Fiji, the country was hit by two successive tropical cyclones (TC), TC Josie and TC Keni.

Neither cyclone triggered a response through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) as the Government of Fiji did not request international assistance, so no Australian government funding was provided to Australian NGOs. However, even though it was early days for Disaster READY Fiji, the Country Committee quickly mobilised to deliver a coordinated response. This was one of the first times that NGOs had collaborated effectively on a significant disaster response in Fiji.

As the Disaster READY Fiji Country Committee lead, ADRA Fiji/CAN DO led coordination efforts, keeping DFAT and the AHP Support Unit updated. Plan International Australia was embedded in the Government of Fiji's National Emergency Operations Centre and other Disaster READY Fiji partners worked closely with national humanitarian clusters, including the WASH, education, food security/livelihoods and shelter clusters.

The consortium then took their efforts a step further. They jointly submitted a proposal to the START Network and were successful in securing FJD 500,000 (approx. AUD 330,000) in funding from this global response funding mechanism for NGOs. Such effective cooperation so early in the Disaster READY program demonstrated what can be achieved through collaborative disaster response and planning.

This coordinated response assisted AHP partners to identify some of the key disaster management gaps and challenges at community and local government levels and to develop their Disaster READY projects accordingly. Strong country-level coordination continues through collaborative work on disability inclusion, gender equality and child protection.



Photo credit: Plan International

Disaster READY FIJI - Detailed Progress against Indicators, 2018

How to read the Progress Tables

Disaster READY was designed around a core set of indicators which are consistent across the five countries. The NGOs selected which of these indicators were relevant for them to report on based on their particular work plans. In the table below, where an indicator is not relevant for a particular NGO, the progress column has been blocked out.

Some target data has been included in this 2018 report. Baseline and target data will be a more prominent focus in the 2019 report for the relevant indicators. It should be noted though that the targets are indicative only, as Disaster READY is designed to be flexible to respond to the changing circumstances and lessons emerging from the program.

Objective: Preparedness

Communities are better prepared for rapid and slow-onset disasters.

 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator	Country Progress	Progress by NGO
A	Number of individuals who directly benefit from AHP activities.	
B	Number and percentage of communities which have disaster plans to reduce and respond to disaster.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International 23 of 140 target communities. 12 of 9 target communities.
C	Number and percentage of communities that have tested their response plan.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International 23 of 140 target communities.
D	Number and percentage of communities that have implemented action plans to reduce risks.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International 23 of 140 target communities.
E	Number of communities seeking financial support for disaster plans from government	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International
F	Number and percentage of communities which are receiving and acting on early warning information for rapid- and slow-onset disasters.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International
G	Examples of early warnings being accessible (considering geographic reach, diversity of methods, e.g. radio, print, SMS, etc., and clarity of message).	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International

Objective: Inclusion and Protection

The rights and needs of vulnerable groups are being met in disaster preparedness and response at all levels.

█ = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator	Country Progress	Progress by NGO
H	Number and percentage of community disaster plans that are inclusive of women, youth, children and people with disabilities.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International 12 of 9 target communities.
I	Number and percentage of disaster assessment tools mandated by national committees that include questions on gender, disability and children.	CARE CARE Rapid Gender Analysis tool used by the Ministry of Women following TC Josie and TC Keni. Government officials participated in data collection with Disaster READY organisations. Caritas / CAN DO
J	Number of disaster committees that have women represented, and the percentage of members that are women (by national or sub-national level).	Plan International CARE Caritas / CAN DO 23 of 140 target communities have women represented on disaster committees. Plan International 12 (9 existing and 3 new) of 9 target communities.
K	Number of people with disabilities on national and sub-national disaster committees.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO
L	Examples of inclusive humanitarian practices by government during a response.	Plan International CARE A team comprising government officials and Disaster READY organisations, including FDPF and PCDF, undertook a rapid gender assessment post TC Josie and Keni. A single mother with a disability in need of medical support was referred immediately due to FDPF's presence, and PCDF better met the needs of women through knowing where to distribute dignity kits. Caritas / CAN DO Plan International
M	Examples of men and boys, church leaders and other community leaders, and government staff addressing barriers to inclusion in disaster preparedness and response.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International

Objective: Coordination within Country Systems

Government, NGOs, the private sector and communities coordinate more effectively for inclusive disaster preparedness and response.

██████████ = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator	Country Progress	Progress by NGO
N	Number and percentage of AHP NGOs who have preparedness and response plans that explicitly prioritise social inclusion and gender.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International 1- Live & Learn 1- PCDF
O	Number and percentage of national and sub-national disaster committees that meet regularly and engage actively with the community.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International
P	Examples of sub-national disaster committees which have improved disaster preparedness practices (e.g. they have mapped evacuation assets or risk profiles for communities).	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International
Q	Number and percentage of evacuation centres that are inclusive of people with disabilities.	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International
R	Examples of improved communication between communities and government (e.g. community assessments have informed government-led responses).	CARE Caritas / CAN DO Plan International Community Disaster Committees collect and verify data on any impending disaster and share with the District Office. Roles and responsibilities within communities have been clarified. Established committees no longer rely on village headman to lead disaster preparation, but provide proactive support.
Sa	Number of CTP assessments and analysis ready to be adapted to other regional specific contexts	Save the Children
Sb	CTP preparedness research results fed into operationalizing CTP during next AHP phase	Save the Children

Objective: Stengthening the Role of Organisations

National NGOs and faith-based organisations have more influence and capacity in the country humanitarian system.

 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator	Country Progress	Progress by NGO
T	Number of CSOs and churches represented on national disaster clusters or coordination committees. 5	<p>CARE</p> <p>Live & Learn are active in WASH and Food Security and Livelihoods clusters. While they were also involved prior to Disaster READY, their participation has increased.</p> <p>Caritas / CAN DO</p> <p>Increase from 1 to 4 churches involved in clusters – WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Education. Improved participation resulting from placement of Disaster READY Coordinator within Fiji Council of Churches.</p> <p>Plan International</p>
U	Number of national NGOs and churches that have improved operational or financial policies or practices that align with humanitarian standards. 2	<p>CARE</p> <p>Live & Learn is demonstrating a disaster preparedness focus and is incorporating into all activities. Prior to Disaster READY, Live and Learn did not engage in preparedness activities.</p> <p>Caritas / CAN DO</p> <p>Plan International</p> <p>Through Disaster READY capacity building initiatives, PCDF has established a PCDF Disaster Management Committee (on standby in case the office closes in times of disasters) and trained staff in first aid and psychological awareness.</p>
V	Examples of increased influence by national NGO offices relative to their headquarters during a disaster response.	<p>CARE</p> <p>In 2018, Live & Learn, for the first time, allocated time and resources to coordinating with other NGOs and participating in the protection clusters.</p> <p>Caritas / CAN DO</p> <p>As the Disaster READY Country Committee Chair, Caritas / CAN DO organised local partners to submit a proposal for START funding to support the TC Keni and TC Josie response. The submission and subsequent implement was led by the national INGO offices.</p> <p>Plan International</p>

Objective: Collaboration

AHP NGOs work effectively together and with other relevant stakeholders.

 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator	Country Progress	Progress by NGO
W Level of satisfaction of key government partners and the Red Cross with AHP coordination.		<p>CARE</p> <p>Caritas / CAN DO</p> <p>Plan International</p>
X Examples of where AHP NGOs have integrated DRR into their other work.		<p>CARE</p> <p>Caritas / CAN DO</p> <p>Plan International</p>

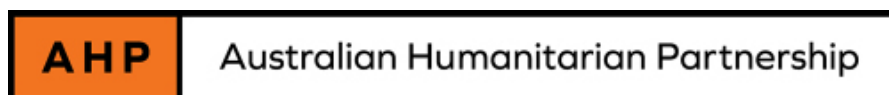
PCDF has pre-positioned supplies (non-food items) at the district level.

Involvement in Disaster READY inspired ADRA to incorporate disaster risk reduction activities into other projects. For example, ADRA adopted disaster preparedness principles on the Pro-Resilience Project, a European Union-funded project in Fiji.

This report has been compiled by the
Australian Humanitarian Partnership Support Unit
on behalf of the Fiji Disaster READY partners.

Front Cover - Photo credit: CAN DO Network.

The Australian Humanitarian Partnership, inclusive
of the Disaster READY program, is an initiative of the
Australian Government.



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