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# Pacific *insight*

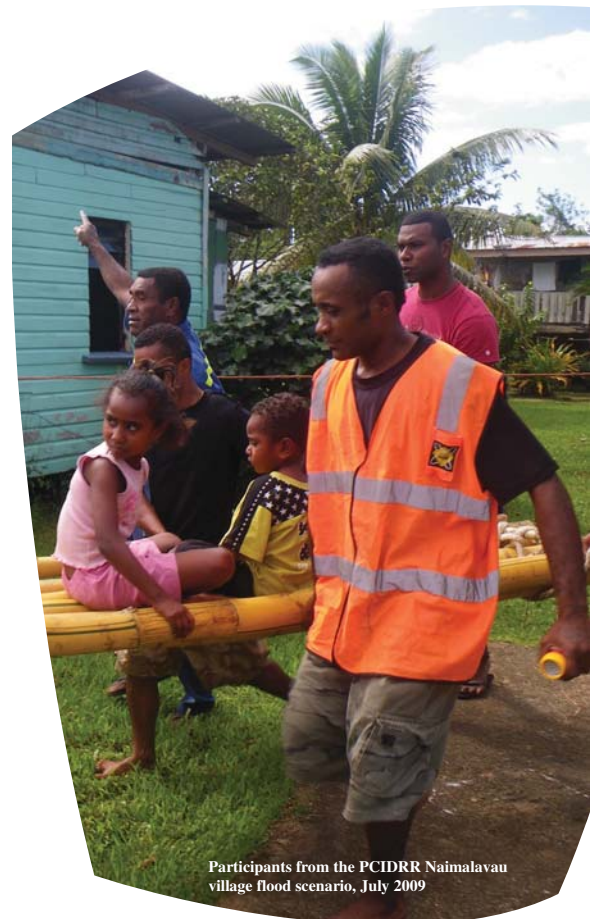
## “INTEGRATING PARTICIPATORY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN THE PACIFIC”

*Welcome to the first monthly update for this project. This newsletter aims to update our partners on the status of the research and to share preliminary findings, as well as to encourage feedback and discussion on the themes and issues, including ...*

“What constitutes disaster risk reduction? What constitutes climate change adaptation? How do these approaches differ, and how are they alike?”

Through the course of our work, we aim to deliver a better practical and conceptual understanding of the relationships and connections between community based disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in the Pacific. The improved knowledge base will enable the development of guidelines and recommendations for integrated community based DRR and CCA in the Pacific to enhance planning and decision making.

With Fiji and Samoa as the case study countries, specific examples of community based projects in DRR and CCA will be targeted to illustrate the similarities and differences within these themes. In addition, consultation with relevant stakeholders—from grassroots NGOs, to government representatives, to donors and development partners—will allow a thorough and comprehensive analysis of issues and themes to emerge.



Participants from the PCIDRR Naimalavau village flood scenario, July 2009



Participants from the PCIDRR Naimalavau village flood scenario, July 2009

## CASE STUDIES

The case studies will closely examine the “who, what, where, how and why?” of DRR and CCA community projects. Who is involved—from the source of funds, to the implementation, partner organisations, to the community participation and beneficiaries. What kind of project is it—DRR, CCA, or both—or a broad development project which implicitly incorporates these issues? Where is it, and is it a pilot, a regional project, or a nationally implemented project? Why is it needed, and did it originate from the bottom up, or top down? These questions will be answered within the scope of the case studies. CASE STUDIES IDENTIFIED SO FAR: PCIDRR Fiji, WWF Climate Witness / GEF Global Adaptation Project, Navua LLRM, Samoa NDMO Village DRR Workshops ... more to come!



# Current status and progress to date

*Beginning in April 2009, this AusAID funded research project will be completed in April 2010*

An ongoing review of the stakeholders and projects / initiatives in community based DRR and CCA in the Pacific has highlighted the fact that these themes are increasingly becoming mainstreamed, cross-cutting development issues. The next issue of "Pacific Focus" will provide details of organisations involved and current initiatives which is proving to be highly dynamic and constantly in need of updating!

Consultations, meetings to date and review of current literature have identified the following issues which will be explored through the course of this project:

- The importance of relationships and networks within the context of Pacific DRR and CCA
- The differences between a DRR and CCA project are often artificial and irrelevant
- The need to focus on development as a whole, and on the reduction of vulnerability

*"One way we try to integrate DRR and CCA is by reducing the vulnerability of communities by addressing broader development issues."*

RUTH LANE, IFRC

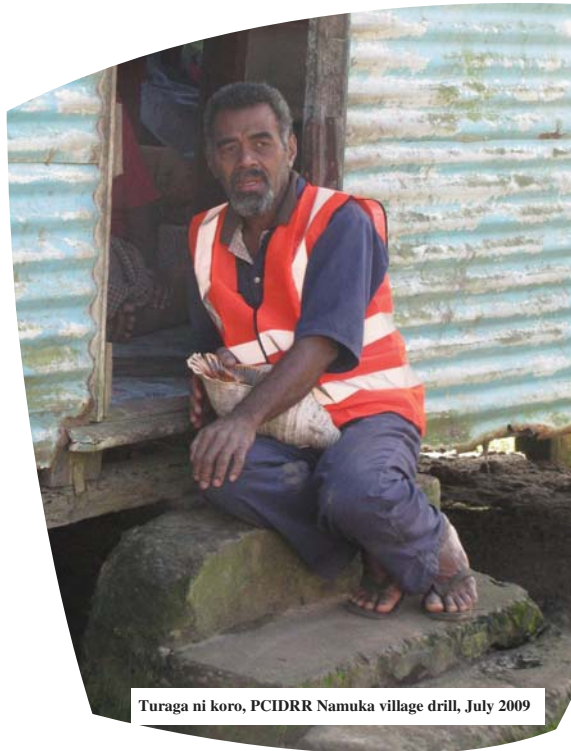
- The complexity of funding and financing and how this creates a compartmentalised view of development
- The multitude of stakeholders involved in DRR and CCA
- The difficulties faced in implementing community projects
- The need to incorporate local and traditional knowledge in any community project
- The use of language and how this can help or hinder a project's success

## Next steps...

With the initial data collection for Fiji recently completed, the next stage is to visit Samoa to learn about the experience of integrating DRR and CCA in the Samoan context. Meetings and consultations will be sought with relevant DRR and CCA partners including SPREP, NDMO, MNRE, Red Cross, GEF Small Grants, UNDP, OLSSI, WIBDI and others which will be identified in-country. Case studies will be selected and field visits arranged where possible. These will feed into research findings from Fiji and together will assist in formulating guidelines for best practice in DRR and CCA at the community level.

## Next issue...

Our next issue will include the "Who's who" of Pacific community-based DRR and CCA, along with a matrix of current community-based DRR and CCA projects and initiatives for the region. Further findings will also be detailed—and please feel free to provide feedback!



Turaga ni koro, PCIDRR Namuka village drill, July 2009

## ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED SO FAR:



PCIDRR Naimalavau scenario debrief, July 2009

During the month of July, 2009, meetings and consultations were held in Suva, Fiji with the following organisations:

- UNDP Pacific Centre
- AusAID
- UNISDR
- SOPAC
- IFRC
- Red Cross
- NZAID
- NDMO
- Fiji Dept. of Environment
- USP and PACE-SD
- FSPI
- Live and Learn
- GEF—Small Grants Program (Fiji)
- Fiji School of Medicine
- TAF/OFDA
- WWF Fiji
- World Bank
- IUCN
- NCCA
- ADRA
- PCIDRR Team

We sincerely thank those for their time and look forward to meeting with DRR and CCA partners in Samoa in August / September 2009. We also invite feedback and encourage discussion around our findings, themes discussed and approach.



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