



# **PACIFIC DISABILITY FORUM**

***"A PARTNERSHIP OF PACIFIC ORGANIZATIONS  
OF AND FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES"***

## Disability Inclusiveness in Disaster and Risk Reduction Mgt in Fiji

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### Progress Report to AUSAID



Australian Government

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AusAID

# **Disability Inclusiveness in Disaster and Risk Reduction Management in Fiji**

## **Progress Report**

### ***1. Outline of activities***

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) in partnership with the Fiji Disabled Peoples Association (FDPA) embarked an innovative project, in June 2011 that will provide opportunity for people with disabilities to be included in Disaster Risk Management process in Fiji. The project is categorised in 4 phases and in the first phase, leaders from Disabled Peoples Organisations from around Fiji met in two separate workshops.

The first workshop was held on the 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> June at the Pacific Theological College in Suva. This workshop attracted leaders from around Viti Levu. (Main Island in the Fiji Group) The second workshop was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June in Savusavu, Vanualevu at Yaroi Community Hall. A total of 33 leaders attended both workshops.

These consultations were convened for leaders of the 20 Disabled Peoples Association around Fiji to be aware of the current practices that government and relevant stakeholders implement before, during and after natural disasters. This was also an opportunity where people with disabilities identified ways that they can be included in the disaster management process by government.

The main objective of the workshops was for DPO leaders in Fiji to

- Have a better understanding of the current practices in disaster preparedness and Risk reduction management in Fiji
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by people with disabilities before, during and after disasters
- Formulate strategies to effectively collate relevant information to develop a disability inclusive approach to disaster preparedness and risk reduction management in Fiji

### ***2. Key outcomes compared with objectives***

To fulfil the objectives of the workshop, participants were able to better their understanding of the current practice in disaster and risk reduction management through presentations by Government and Fiji Red Cross Society representatives. Participants were able to seek more clarification through questions and discussion after the presentations.

Due to the difference challenges faced by people with different disabilities before, during and after disasters, participants were enlightened with personal experiences shared by participants

who are blind, deaf and those who are confined to wheelchairs. This allowed participants to better understand the different challenges people with different disabilities encounter.

The formulation of strategies to collate information, participants were able to develop a draft questionnaire and a draft list of emergency needs for PWD during and after disasters. PDF and FDPA will work on a final list of emergency supplies after contacting counterpart who will supply devices. Please find both documents attached to this report. (Annex 1)

A final outcomes statement was formulated at the end of each workshop as ways forward for disability inclusive in Disaster Risk Management in Fiji. This outcome will be basics of PDF and FDPA's strategy to ensure inclusiveness.

### ***Phase One Outcome Statements***

#### ***Suva workshop***

- FDPA should focus on collating data to share with DISMAC & FRCS and other relevant stakeholders that includes
  - The specific locations and contacts of people with disabilities in Fiji,
  - the type of disability,
  - Their mobility needs
- FDPA to work closely with DISMAC & FRCS to allow for the inclusion of PWD in all aspects of disaster planning & management
- FDPA to work closely with Government to develop disability inclusive government policies and procedures
- Work closely with FRCS and DISMAC training and awareness programme including mental health training – FDPA should be utilized as the technical expert in the area of disability in disaster management
- Work closely with in developing emergency workers (disciplined forces) to be inclusive in disaster awareness strategies
- FDPA to develop good working relationship with the I-Taukei and Multi Ethnic Ministries to better understanding of disability needs in disaster and risk reduction management by district officers and advisory officers
- Mobilise community members to be supportive of people with disabilities in disaster management
- Communication challenge – All stakeholders including DISMAC & FRCS should be more inclusive in its communication regarding disasters in respect to the different disabilities.
- FDPA to work closely with relevant stakeholders in designing disability inclusive assessment forms
- DISMAC to provide fully accessible evacuation centres for people with disabilities during and after disasters.
- Mobility devices should be part of relief assistance to benefit people with disabilities during disasters

- PDF/FDPA to seek advice from AUSAID, SOPAC, etc to develop best strategies to advance workshop outcomes

#### **Savusavu workshop:**

- FRC/FDPA to ensure of quick communication response reaching the rural areas regarding disaster
- Ensuring the establishment of accessible evacuation centers in all villages in the North
- Government to assist in transportation (fiber boats) for outer islands
- FDPA/FRC to continue with the awareness on disaster to assist in the members personal development
- FRC/DISMAL to educate other governments department in ensuring that they are informed about disasters
- Government to assist in the relocation of the houses in the lower lying areas
- FRC to ensure the response in providing relief supplies to the outer islands since they are always isolated
- FRC/Government needs to ensure that the emergency transport (ambulance) is on a standby during emergencies/disasters

### ***3. Development impact***

It is too early in the project life to gauge the development impact on the lives of people with disabilities. However the identified way forward for people with disabilities have inspired the participants to begin developing strategies starting from their respective homes then moving out to their communities.

Another potential impact is the identification of champions for the project. The second workshop held in Savusavu was boosted by the support rendered by the “Roko Tui Cakaudrove” Ro Aca Mataitini (Province Administrator or Government representative to communities). He supported the notion of inclusiveness and gave his assurance that the communities of Cakaudrove will be inclusive for people with disabilities. In order to ensure Government support of being disability inclusive in disaster risk management processes, PDF and FDPA need to identify more champions to fulfil the goal of the project.

### ***4. Sustainability and lessons learned***

Fiji Disabled Peoples Association, together with the Pacific Disability Forum will be working closely with the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in formulating an integrated approach for phase two. Mr. Waisale Naqiolevu of SPC has offered his time to work out the way forward for FDPA/PDF to approach the key stakeholders for inclusion in planning and management process.

The collation of data by participants will be monitored closely by FDPA for better control of funds. This is a potential risk which needs careful monitoring by PDF.

Lessons learnt from completed activities are

1. Government and Fiji Red Cross Society current processes in Disaster preparedness and Risk reduction Management is not disability inclusive
2. There a need for accurate data of PWDs for better disaster risk management services
3. Better understanding of the challenges PWD face during disasters.
4. The need to identify champions to support the work of PDF and FDPA.

## **Annex 1**

### **Collation of Data - DRAFT QUESTIONAIRES**

1. Date of Interview :.....

2. Name: .....  
.....

3.Date of Birth:

4.Address:

.....  
.....

3.Home Phone Contact: .....

4.Phone Contact During Emergencies:

.....

5.Type of Disability: ..... 6. Assistive Devices  
Yes/No:.....

7.Which assistive device:

.....

### **Accessibility:**

8. Home to Evacuation centers:

.....  
.....

.....  
.....  
9. Within the Facilities of the Evacuation

centers:.....  
.....  
.....

10. Transportation:

Boat:.....

Taxi:.....

Bus:.....

11. Service Required / Immediate Needs:

Guide:.....

Personal

Assistance:.....

Interpreters: .....

.....  
.....

Signature

Date

Interviewers Name: .....

Interviewers Signature.....

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!**

## **PARTICIPANT'S PROPOSED SUPPLY LIST DURING DISASTER**

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Uri dome [all sizes] | 22. white cane                  |
| 2. Catheter             | 23. panadol                     |
| 3. Urine bag            | 24. antiseptic cream            |
| 4. Lubricating gel      | 25. bandages                    |
| 5. Plaster [micro pore] | 26. plasters                    |
| 6. Lint, cotton wool,   | 27. collar brace                |
| 7. sterile water        | 28. hoist bed                   |
| 8. gloves               | 29. roho cushion                |
| 9. syringes             | 30. radio                       |
| 10. intermittent        | 31. battery                     |
| 11. suppositories       | 32. light                       |
| 12. savlon              | 33. interpreter                 |
| 13. antiseptic wipes    | 34. carer                       |
| 14. dalcolax            | 35. list of contact emergencies |
| 15. bed pan             | 36. clean water                 |
| 16. urinal- plastic     | 37. soap                        |
| 17. commode             | 38. diapers                     |
| 18. wheelchairs         | 39. torch                       |
| 19. crutches            | 40. kerosene lamp/stove         |
| 20. rubber tip          | 41. kettle/pots                 |
| 21. walker              | 42. lighter                     |
|                         | 43. medical assistant           |