Summary of Key Findings from Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management

Plenary Discussions on the Key Elements of the Post 2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

2 – 4 June 2014, Suva, Fiji

Following the Pre-Platform consultation workshop on 30 May 2014, UNISDR facilitated plenary discussions at the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management on the key elements of the Post – 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Over 250 Pacific delegates reviewed the key findings of the Pre-Platform stakeholder workshop and engaged in group work activities to discuss and add to the Pre-Platform findings.

Presenters Included:

- *Mr. Timothy Wilcox,* Sub Regional Coordinator of UNISDR Pacific
- *Dr. Helene Jacot Des Combes,* Senior Lecturer, University of South Pacific
- *Mr. Shane Antonio,* Disability Inclusive Development Officer, Pacific Disability Forum
- *Mr. Keutekara Mataroa,* Regional Programs & Disaster Risk Management, Cook Islands Infrastructure

Chaired By: UNISDR

Key Findings:

Private Sector:

1. Reemphasized need to enhance private sector understanding of disaster risk reduction through accessible risk information to influence better informed decision making to reduce hazard risks and build resilience.
2. Whilst the private sector is recognized as fundamental in reducing their own disaster risk there is also capacity to support wider disaster risk reduction activities through Corporate Social Responsibility programs, philanthropy and profit based programs.
3. The private sector is not a singular homogenous entity. Subsectors vary with differing considerations and abilities to support disaster risk reduction. A subsector specific tailored approach is needed to engage micro, small, medium and large organizations.
4. Private sector partnerships to include all sectors eg. community based organizations, academic institutions, faith based organizations, as well as the public sector for a more harmonized integrated approach for better coordination, mutual support, dialogue and consultation processes for resilience.

5. Private sector to be included in national disaster plans and national standards of practice to be developed and implemented to clearly identify roles and responsibilities before, during and after a disaster.

Gender:

1. Focus must be shifted to promote the unique knowledge and skills of women in disaster risk reduction to increase gender balanced participation and meaningful contributions whilst challenging perceived assumption of women's weakness and vulnerability.
2. Need for gender specific progress indicator for countries to clearly monitor progress in gender balanced decision-making processes and outcomes.
3. Gender priorities to be inclusive by being mainstreamed with youth, disability and all other sectors, and include men in gender sensitive awareness education campaigns.
4. Need for in-depth gender sensitive training of local decision makers to complement existing community leadership structures for long term attitude and behavior change for gender inclusive decision making.
5. Gender inclusivity to be integrated into the design of development programs and policies and internally driven by countries with national plans, standards of practice, disaggregated data, development tools and specific policies to address gender sensitive disaster risk reduction.

Disability:

1. Focus on individual capacity to reduce disaster risk, not personal barriers associated with vulnerabilities and accessibility constraints.
2. Disability inclusive disaster risk reduction to be mainstreamed into national disaster management plans with clear national guidelines for minimum standards of practice to address needs of people with disability before, during and after disaster.
3. Persons with disabilities are recognized as the experts in disability to participate meaningfully in community and national disaster risk reduction decision making processes in all stages especially early planning stages.
4. Specialized education, training and awareness of disaster risk reduction is essential for persons with disability to reduce their vulnerability increase capacity to adapt, prepare and respond to disaster.
5. Delivering accessibility for persons with disabilities must be an all-inclusive whole of community approach for effective engagement and implementation of disability inclusive disaster risk reduction.
6. Disability inclusivity to be integrated into development programs and policies with specialized development tools to reduce risk and vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities to impacts of disasters and climate change.