



Pre-Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management Workshop

Summary of Key Findings from Private Sector, Gender, Disability Stakeholders on Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

30 May 2014, Suva, Fiji

To help prepare for discussions at the Pacific Platform, UNISDR hosted a series of pre-platform consultation workshops to enable Pacific stakeholders to discuss the key elements of the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Over 50 Pacific stakeholders had opportunity to focus on three key areas of private sector, gender and disability to provide feedback and contribute to the preparation of the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Presenters included:

- *Mr. Howard Politini*, Vice Chair of Pacific Island Private Sector Organisation, President of Fiji Commerce and Employment Federation.
- *Ms. Cristina Casella*, Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Advisor, Secretariat Pacific Community.
- *Mr. Keutekara Mataroa*, Regional Programs & Disaster Risk Management, Cook Islands Infrastructure
- *Ms. Sarah Whitfield*, Independent Gender Consultant
- *Mr. Sunia Ratulevu*, Principal Disaster Management Officer, Fiji National Disaster Management Office
- *Mr. Katabwena Tawaka*, Program Manager, Pacific Disability Forum
- *Ms. Litia Naitanui*, Rewa Disabled Association Representative

Chaired by: UNISDR Pacific

Key Findings:

Private Sector:

1. Urgent need to improve understanding of what DRR is among the private sector and raise awareness of what risks threaten the private sector in order to build their resilience to natural hazards in the region. Good practices should be shared among the private sector community as well as 'How to' manuals developed for businesses in the region.
2. Need to shift focus to increasing incentives for private sector to invest in reducing risk to their own businesses (e.g. tax breaks, hotel certification)
3. Address the financial barriers preventing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to investing in business risk assessments, business continuity plans and insurance, all of which are generally a lower priority for SMEs in the Pacific. DRR for SMEs should also be aligned with business investment priorities (e.g. short term targets).
4. Local authorities must enforce relevant legislation and regulations.
5. Greater partnerships between the Government and Private Sector should be made. For example: Where insurance is too expensive, Government could subsidise or match dollar for dollar what the private sector invests in insurance policies to make them more accessible.

6. Private Sector's contributions should be recognized and included more in relevant disaster risk reduction decision making processes of the Government.
7. More dialogue between private sector, government and other partners such as CSOs is needed in order to understand that each party uses different terminology and to break down mis-perceptions of how the partners think and work.
8. Expectations of the private sector and government should be made clear during a disaster (e.g. self-sufficiency for first 48 hours).

Gender:

1. Unlike the current HFA, gender should not be a cross-cutting theme that is thought of and implemented separately or as an afterthought, but should be an integral part of the Post-2105 Framework and a dedicated performance indicator on gender is needed to help measure progress towards gender inclusive DRR practices. This indicator will also assist in ensuring greater accountability of nations to ensure progress is made.
2. Must increase participation of women, including younger women and those with a disability, to be included in decision making processes related to risk reduction and as early as possible.
3. The perception of women as vulnerable and weaker needs to be reversed, with recognition that they are able to participate and contribute in many meaningful ways, particularly during disasters.
4. Must engage men in gender awareness activities and not alienate men as gender is about both sexes.
5. Traditional cultural protocols that inhibit women from participating in decision making need to be addressed.
6. Explore how culture can be used as a positive to promote gender inclusive DRR practices.
7. More comprehensive training is needed with leaders at the local and community level with the view of making long-term behavior change for gender inclusive practices and decision making.

Disability:

1. Persons with disabilities need to be recognized as agents for change and experts on disability and what they need during a disaster. They should be empowered to be included in, and influence, decision making as early as possible at all relevant Government and community levels.
2. Recognition that people's impairments are not a disability but that the exclusivity of society and systems creates a disability (e.g. early warning messages not targeted to cater for all peoples such as the hearing and visually impaired).
3. Need to carry out disability awareness to policy makers and establish more partnerships across all sectors (e.g. Health, Education etc.) and not just NDMOs.
4. Greater investment required to ensure effective resources for peoples with a disability (e.g. appropriate facilities at emergency evacuation centres, and creation of Standard Operating Procedures for evacuating people with a disability).
5. Baseline of needs established, particularly in remote outer areas of the Pacific. This will help inform better investment.
6. Mainstreaming of disability in disasters into all disaster education programs and curriculum.