



Pre-Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management Youth Stakeholder Workshop

Summary of Key Findings from Youth Stakeholders on Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

31 May 2014, Suva, Fiji

In partnership with the UNISDR, "Youth Beyond Disasters" – an international movement focused on young people in disaster risk reduction (DRR) – held the first-ever Pacific youth workshop in Suva, Fiji on Saturday, 31 May 2014 prior to the 6th Pacific Platform on DRM (6PPDRM). Following this, an Intergenerational Dialogue and Youth Thematic Session was held as part of the official conference proceedings at the 6PPDRM, taking place on Monday, 2 June 2014 where the outcomes, youth statement and perspectives from young people from the workshop were presented.

Co-conveners: Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Youth Beyond Disasters

Organised by: UNISDR Sub-regional Office (Pacific)

Key elements of Youth Statement

- Children & Youth of all diversities as a cross-cutting issue in the HFA2 and as agents for resilience building at the community level.
- Improved strategies to prevent and mitigate the risks of disasters by recognising the unique abilities, needs and priorities of youth.
- Full youth participation in the development and monitoring of plans and indicators to reduce community risks and resilience guidelines.
- Integration of DRR education at all levels of the community and school curriculum with particular focus on the creative skills of children and youth.
- A high level intergenerational forum on DRR to be established under the UNISDR that facilitates the dialogue between all stakeholders working in the area, including young people and leaving no one behind.

Collective call from youth

- Support the adoption of a DRR-specific sustainable development goal with clear targets and indicators focused on Children & Youth.
- Ensure children and youth to be included within all decision making processes in DRR efforts from the very beginning.
- Explore and address the effects disasters have on young people and improve strategies to prevent and mitigate the risks of disasters to include youth.

Emerging themes

- **Don't use us, include us** – Build capacity for youth inclusion and accountability.
- **Be a yam!** – Play to each other's strengths and those of the community. A yam in the Pacific is well known for its resilience to flooding and growing back quickly.
- **Survival is not negotiable** - DRR and Climate Change, is a matter of survival for young people and the resilience of our islands.
- **Stop ignoring the risks** – Recognise risks as real by improving research and integrate known science and DRR into planning.
- **Ride the waves** – Integrate DRR everywhere and raise DRR as a key issue.
- **Kill the jargon** – Make DRR understandable and accessible to everyone. Ensure DRR is relatable and flows down to the grassroots level.
- **Change the mindset** – Use social media and PR to make DRR cool to comply with and basically shameful not to be prepared.
- **Embrace the Pacific warrior spirit** – Learn from traditional knowledge, harness cultural roots and seek to apply traditional methods of developing resilience.
- **Youth as partners** – Young people have the numbers, are more aware, are at their peak, and are more resilient. Youth as partners and not just beneficiaries of aid.
- **A united Pacific voice** – Although geographically isolated as islands, the Pacific voice possesses enormous strength when united.