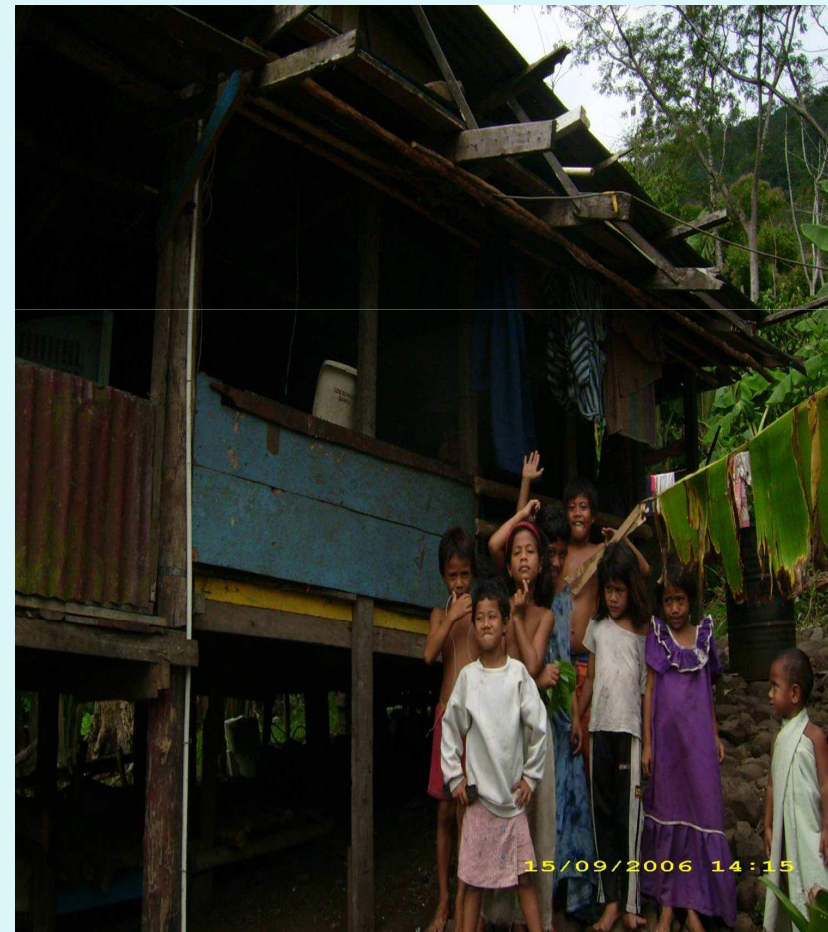


Building Community Resilience in the Pacific



By

*Pacific Disaster Risk
Management Partnership
Network members*





Overview

- Why focus on community based resilience for the Pacific
- Specific case studies
- Lessons learnt
- Way Forward
- Recommendation



Why Focus on Community based Resilience in the Pacific?



Resilience = bouncing back from external shocks

- Unique vulnerability features of the Pacific
- Communities being disproportionately impacted by climate change
- Countries may have fewer adaptation options - practical and feasible options still need to be identified

Focus on Community based resilience in the Pacific: Why? (cont.)..

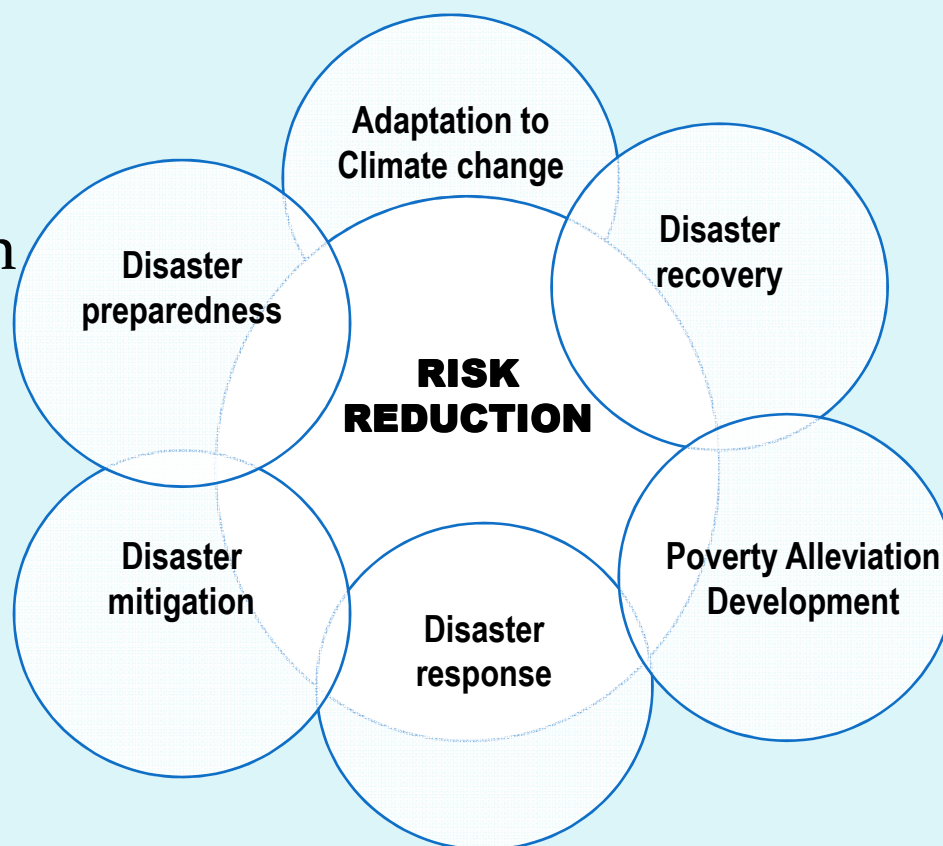


- Existence of traditional –customary social/ resource tenure systems
- Traditional/local knowledge and skills still exist , although rapidly being lost
- New solutions are needed because of rapidly changing lifestyles, including rapid & unplanned urbanisation



How do we do it?

- Through all parts of the disaster risk management **spectrum**
- **Bridging** the gap between development, climate change and disaster risk management
- In policy development, planning, advocacy, awareness, coordination, capacity development, action and implementation





Samoa Red Cross: Integrating CCA & DRR into sectoral program



Planning

Integrating climate change adaptation and DRR into existing community based health and first aid programme

Capacity Development

Helping communities develop skills to identify risks they face and ways of addressing these risks

Awareness

creative ways to raise awareness on climate change and how to address disaster risk

Advocacy

working with government to link community priorities into planning

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE: USING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN TUVALU



Coordination

Implemented by Tuvalu Association For NGOs through Foundations of the Peoples of the South Pacific International

Capacity Development

NGO to work with local communities to build their resilience to natural disasters through application of traditional knowledge

Awareness

Documenting traditional practices, reason for its demise and strengthening it with modern day practice for effective DRR implementation

Advocacy

Promoting the use of traditional knowledge as an effective mechanism for disaster risk reduction to stakeholders & developed local level management plan

Fiji: Strengthening Local Level Risk Management through partnership



Partnership

Implemented by UNDP, Pacific Centre, Pacific Islands Applied Geosciences Commission (SOPAC), Fiji Red Cross Society and Fiji National Disaster Management Office

Capacity Development

of local government to work with communities in identifying and managing risk, VCA, and improving preparedness mechanisms

Awareness

Promoting understanding of DRM basics and linkages between development planning and DRR

Advocacy

Feed community priorities into national level planning and budgetary processes



Vanuatu DRR&DM National Action Plan



Planning

Integrating DRR and climate change adaptation into national action plan and policies at all levels & implemented by SOPAC-PIFS-UNDP in partnership with National Task Force

Capacity Development

Helping stakeholders, including communities develop skills to identify risks, their root causes and ways of addressing these risks through national actions plans and programs

Awareness

Creative ways to raise awareness on climate change adaptation and DRR & its link with national planning, policy & budgetary processes

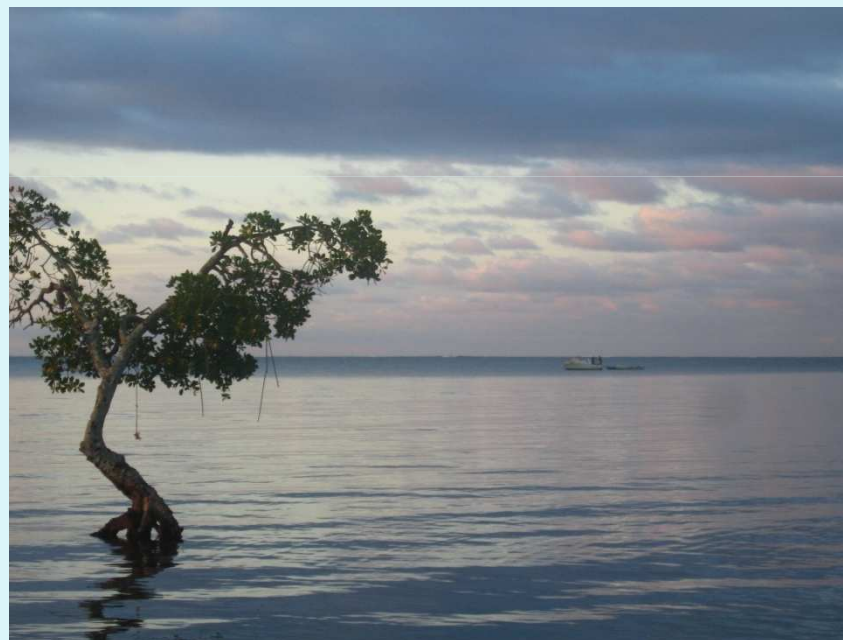
Advocacy and integration

Working with government and communities to link community priorities into planning and budgetary processes



Investing in Natural Capital

- Locally Managed Marine Areas - several
- Ecosystem based fisheries & forestry management -several
- Rehabilitation of coastal resources – mangrove replanting, reseeded of reefs , etc - few





Key lessons learnt

- Importance of political buy-in and commitments at all levels
- Partnerships & complementarity of skills, knowledge & perspective between communities, government and civil society
- Using and respecting existing social and political structures as entry points to engage communities
- Acknowledging, valuing and integrating local knowledge & scientific information in DRR & CCA
- Importance of addressing community needs and priorities, especially livelihoods concerns, when addressing DRR

More targeted, coordinated & integrated. CCA & DRR & livelihood needs





Challenges.....

- Scaling up localised initiatives to achieve national level resilience
- Operationalising national / sectoral action to make a difference on the ground
- Separate institutional and funding arrangements for CCA and DRR
- Limited baseline information and knowledge about local vulnerability & planning and decision-making processes
- At the community /stakeholder level demystifying DRR and CCA



Challenges (2)...



- Adopting integrated perspective when dealing with risk reduction
- Context/ priority specific – but bringing together principles, concepts and approaches emphasised in various international instruments
- Coordinating demands from external stakeholders, project based funding

Challenges (3).. global



- Scale of events in the Pacific often not large to feature globally although impact significant locally
- Limited diversity of donors & funding windows too restrictive, resource intensive and time consuming – limited capacity to take advantage
- International best practices need local adaptation



Way forward.....

- Support countries to integrate DRR, CCA, Livelihood concerns, at all levels & identify appropriate and **targeted** context specific initiatives **addressing specific vulnerabilities**
- Train **new leaders** at all levels that also treats risk reduction as part of the development issue
- **Share lessons** learnt across Pacific and adapt international best practices & develop 'Pacific Best practice(s) to suit Pacific needs
- Provide **flexible, accessible and results based funding** for the Pacific , consolidating CCA & DRR and other funding instruments at the global level;



Key recommendations

DRR&CCA challenges in the Pacific are multifaceted

- Global partners must appreciate Pacific DRR&CCA challenges are particularly significant relative to their economic, social and environmental context;
- Consolidate DRR, CCA, EBM approaches across different levels , and document and share lessons learnt & develop ‘best practices for the pacific
- Consolidate, harmonise, and or coordinate development partner resources to increase aid effectiveness & improve their accessibility



Thank you tumas