

AHP Disaster READY

DISASTER READY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Fiji

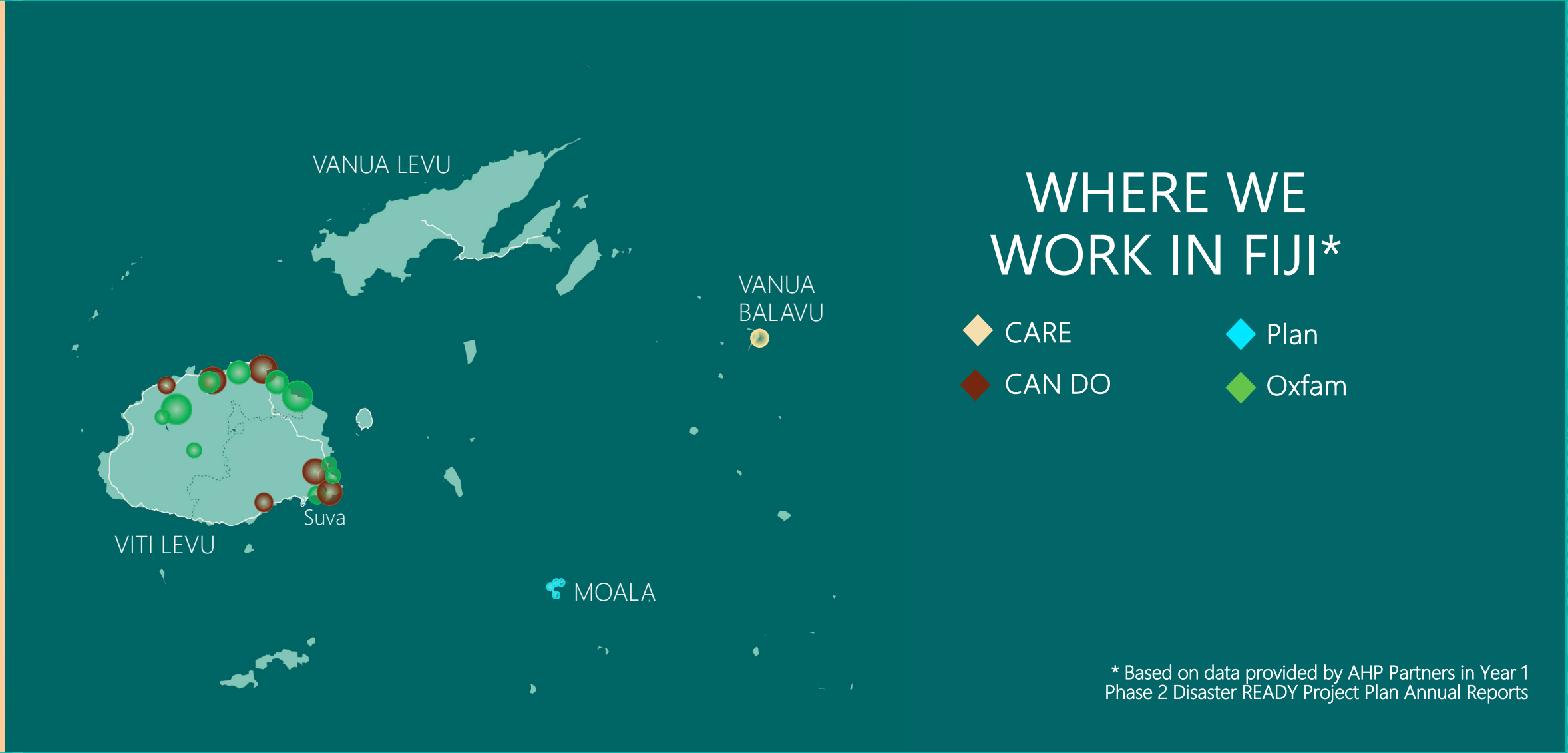


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Image: ADRA

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WHERE WE WORK IN FIJI*

- ◆ CARE
- ◆ CAN DO
- ◆ Plan
- ◆ Oxfam

* Based on data provided by AHP Partners in Year 1 Phase 2 Disaster READY Project Plan Annual Reports

INTRODUCTION

Fiji

Disaster READY aims to improve preparedness, resilience, and the ability to respond to the impacts of disasters and climate change in Fiji. The program supports communities, civil society organisations (CSOs) and government. Disaster READY emphasises the inclusion of women and girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups as well as the localisation of program design, implementation, and monitoring. Disaster READY in Fiji is being implemented by four lead agencies which make up the Disaster READY Country Committee (DRCC): Plan International, Oxfam, CAN DO and CARE. These non-governmental organisations (NGOs) work to deliver Disaster READY in partnership with 17 local CSOs and faith-based organisations.

Year 1 of Phase 2 of Disaster READY (July 2022-June 2023) included the completion of work under Phase 1 (2017-2022) and associated reporting. Partners also completed the Phase 2 country and project-level design process to support work to be undertaken from 2022 -2026. This involved a country-led and comprehensive redesign of Disaster READY Phase 2 project plans, country level plan and associated deliverables, including a localisation plan and development of a collective learning agenda.

Simultaneously, Disaster READY partners commenced implementation of Phase 2. All projects and country-level plans are designed to support the

achievement of three overarching intermediate outcomes:

Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Communities (especially vulnerable groups) plan and implement effective, inclusive, and integrated disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation (CCA) activities.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Local Civil Society actors — Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), churches, and informal groups — have improved institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their role in effective disaster preparedness and CCA.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3: National and Sub-national governments are supported to lead effective, inclusive and coordinated disaster preparedness, CCA and response activities.

The first year of Disaster READY Phase 2 in Fiji has focussed on laying the groundwork for successful project implementation in new and existing communities. A summary of early results against these intermediate outcomes is outlined in the section below. This report also outlines initiatives and results against the key cross cutting themes of the program including inclusion, localisation and coordination.


CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW

Climate change poses a serious threat to Fiji, which is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Rising sea levels specifically is a cause of concern for communities in coastal areas, as it can erode shorelines and salinise freshwater supplies. Storm surges and king tides are also likely to be more frequent and severe due to climate change.

The cost of climate change-related disasters is expected to rise, as floods and cyclones become more common. Climate change can also damage Fiji's coral reefs and fisheries, which are important sources of food and income. Soil and water quality will decline, making it more difficult to grow crops.

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

- Partners trained over 270 volunteers in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and CCA.
- Partners supported 33 communities and schools with foundational community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) planning and associated activities.
- Partners are strengthening the capacity of civil society actors through workshops, training and strategic planning.
- Partners have endorsed the Fiji Humanitarian Code of Conduct for CSOs.
- Partners have collaborated with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to promote coordinated and inclusive disaster preparedness.
- Partners are supporting the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) to voice DRR/CCA needs to the Government of Fiji.

A tropical sunset over the ocean with palm trees in the foreground. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water. The palm trees are silhouetted against the bright sky.

RESULTS AGAINST INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Intermediate Outcome 1.1: Communities (especially vulnerable groups) plan and implement effective, inclusive, and integrated disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation activities.

Partners progressed community preparedness through training up to 300 locally embedded volunteers in DRR and CCA. CAN DO provided a series of training to 270 community volunteers. Oxfam supported 17 rural fisher women from eight communities across Rewa, Tailevu and Ra provinces to participate in a training of trainers (ToT) workshop focussing on strengthening resilience and DRR approaches affecting their livelihoods. Activities included identifying local adaptation and mitigation activities to incorporate into their community level disaster preparedness and response approaches. Across Fiji, these trained volunteers are embedded in their communities with the improved ability to support disaster responses. This will be carefully monitored in future years to capture the impact of the ToT approach.

Communities were supported to improve their levels of preparedness and resilience through foundational and inclusive DRR activities.

Partners supported the development of 33 Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMCs). Of these

CDMCs, 94 percent were formed with equal gender representation – the highest of any Disaster READY country. However, only 12 percent were formed with participation by people with disabilities and just six percent have developed DRR/CCA action plans. Further information is available in the inclusion section on pages 13 and 14.

Plan International Fiji (PIF) delivered DRR training to eight schools. A total of 54 teachers (50 percent of which were female) participated in this training. As a result, seven schools updated their disaster management plans and one created a disaster management plan. PCDF delivered inclusive climate smart CBDRM training to 4 communities, which enabled them to develop initial damage assessment processes, disaster plans, and simulations exercises. As a result of this training, four simulation exercises were conducted, enabling the communities and CDMCs to test their DRR/CCA action plans.



2,422 people reached



61 percent were male, 39 percent were female, 0.5 percent identified as another gender



2 percent were people with disabilities



33 new community disaster management committees were formed

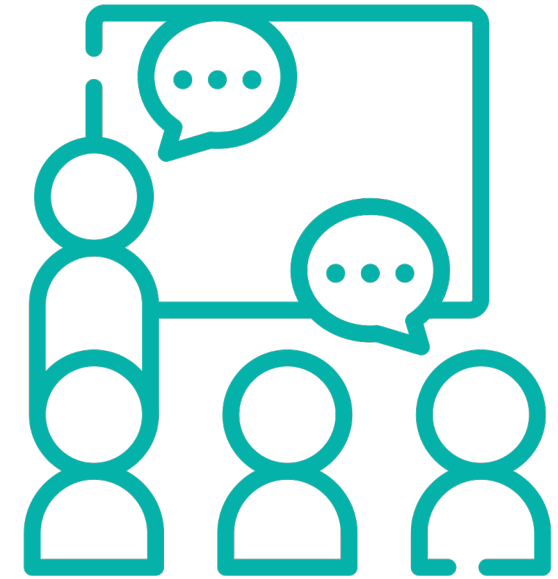
Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Local civil society actors (NGOs, CBOs, OPDs, churches, informal groups) have improved institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their role in effective disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

Partners are strengthening the capacity of civil society actors through workshops, training and strategic planning. Oxfam in the Pacific conducted a three-day organisational training in Suva with two implementing partners, Rise Beyond the Reef (RBTR) and Women in Fisheries Network (WiFN). Training modules included child protection, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), youth safeguarding, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) and digital safeguarding.

Partners have supported development of the Fiji Humanitarian Code of Conduct for CSOs. The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS), in collaboration with ChildFund Australia, facilitated the inclusion of AHP partners in the Fiji Humanitarian Code of Conduct for CSOs development process. They worked with AHP partners to endorse the Code. As a result, 11 FCOSS DRR sub-committees selected focal points in member communities. In Year 2, AHP

partners will engage with FCOSS in a follow-up visit to the DRR sub-committees to help with the development of annual plans and complete community engagement activities. In addition, partners in Fiji have agreed to participate in FCOSS' Contextualised Localisation Framework pilot. The pilot will enable partners to test and measure localisation with the support and guidance of FCOSS.

Plan International continues its long-term partnership and support to Empower Pacific and Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) Plan has focused on providing technical support to enable these civil society actors to lead the implementation of community based DRR/CCA activities. This partnership and ongoing capacity building is important as it helps to ensure that all of Plan's community-based work is delivered by national staff members from local organisations.



FOUR

Civil Society Organisations increased technical or organisational capacity. Two of these organisations also participated in collaborative disaster preparedness activities.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3: National and Sub-national governments are supported to lead effective, inclusive and coordinated disaster preparedness, climate change adaptation and response activities.

Partners have collaborated with the National Disaster Management Office to promote coordinated and inclusive disaster preparedness. CARE, in collaboration with Live & Learn Fiji, delivered Inclusion in Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training to the Eastern Division EOC to improve the knowledge of key personnel across the NDMO, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Rural, Maritime and Disaster Management and the Ministry of Women, Poverty and Social Protection, on community preparedness and response priorities. Further, the CAN DO consortium co-supported the NDMO on its first National Emergency Response Training (NERT). This training increased national preparedness and response capacity to lead effective and coordinated disaster preparedness activities by teaching NDMO staff how to use and access relevant data stored on the Safe n Redi platform –

specifically how to identify church properties that would be suitable evacuation centres. CAN DO are working to integrate the Safe n Redi tool into NDMO decision-making processes and more activities are planned in future years.

Partners are supporting FCOSS to voice DRR/CCA needs to the Government of Fiji.

Partners have also provided ongoing support to and collaboration with FCOSS, government and other partners. Through support from AHP partners, FCOSS is now leading on policy and legislative representations to the Government of Fiji on behalf of its members. For example, FCOSS was approached by the NDMO to assist in the facilitation of CSO dialogues on the Sendai Framework mid-term review and National DRR Policy awareness raising, increasing influence and voice in these global and national platforms.



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collaboration and coordination activities or events on DRR/CCA were held to support national and sub-national government in Fiji

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT FOR GREATER INCLUSION

In May 2023, Disaster READY partner Live and Learn facilitated part of a workshop to promote gender, protection, and inclusion practices in emergencies. The workshop was opened by Assistant Minister for Rural, Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Honorable Jovesa Vocea (below centre), who acknowledged the existing partnership with AHP and the capacity building work on disaster preparedness. In addition, he said the funding support from the Australian Government is essential in preparing the Emergency Operation Centres' operators and managers for the next cyclone season.



Image: Live and Learn

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES



INCLUSION

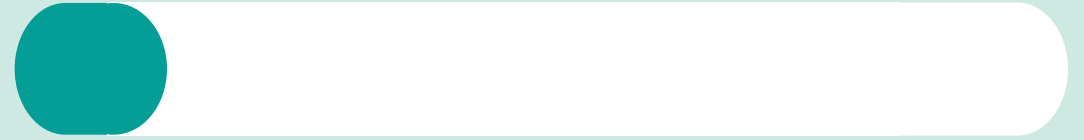
Inclusion is a core and cross cutting area that Disaster READY partners mainstream across all their activities and projects. In Year 1, progress towards inclusion across all activities has been modest with partners laying foundations for improved practices in the program going forward. As part of this, two technical advisors have completed independent reviews of each Fiji project and provided detailed recommendations for each partner to progress towards gender equality and disability inclusion.

At the community level, some notable results are as follows:

- In Fiji, partners will focus on improving meaningful participation of females (currently only 39% of total) and persons with a disability (currently 2%).
- Encouragingly at the community level 94 percent (31) of CDMCs formed to date included equal gender representation.
- However, only 12 percent (4) were formed with participation by people with disabilities.

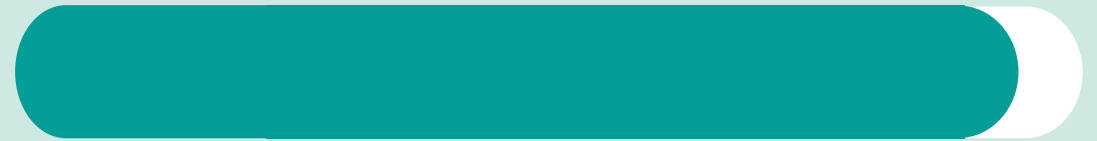
12%

of CDMCs were formed with participation by people with disabilities



94%

of CDMCs formed included equal gender representation



Fiji is the only country across Disaster READY that has supported community DRR/CCA action plans that address the specific needs of diverse SOGIESC peoples.

INCLUSION

To support improved inclusive practices across the partnership, CARE has led on supporting an 'inclusion partners' mechanism. In Year 1, this involved developing partner arrangements with Rainbow Pride Foundation, Save the Children Fiji, Live & Learn and Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF) who are local leaders in their respective areas of SOGIESC, Child Protection, Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion. The mechanism allows all partners to seek support to improve their practices. In Year 1, for example, Save the Children were engaged through this mechanism to support CAN DO partners to update organisational approaches to child protection and with associated training provided to staff members.

The work of the CAN DO consortium includes a clear focus on gender equality through the delivery of women's leadership training and engagement with women's groups.

Partners also seek to advance inclusion outcomes through the DRCC:

The DRCC has achieved gender balance with 50% of the members female.

Moreover, as part of the agreed governance structure for the DRCC, two nominated inclusion representatives for disability, gender, child protection, aged and SOGIESC having voting rights for all decision making through this body.

The DRCC maintains its partnership with the FDPF and continues to fund a key representative as the Disability Officer as part of its core personnel.

LOCAL VOICES INFORMING DISABILITY INCLUSION

Disaster READY teams work alongside Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to bolster inclusive practices across the partnership. In Taveuni, partners attended a four-day training organised by the FDPF with technical support from the Pacific Disability Forum and CBM Australia.

Participants learned about the reality of persons with disabilities in communities, and the diversity of disability in terms impairments, barriers, needs, vulnerabilities and approaches, and developed strategies to the strengthen engagement of the Taveuni FDPF Branch with government and CSO stakeholders through collaborative work and mutual partnership.

Component	Description	Progress
Partnerships	Equitable and complementary partnerships between local, national and international actors.	AHP partners in Fiji have endorsed the CSO Code of Conduct developed by District Community of Social Services (DCOSS) and committed to participating in the Contextualised Localisation Framework pilot. Disaster READY partners have developed a partnership agreement.
Leadership	National actors define and lead on humanitarian action.	Through the DRCC, voting rights for decision making sits with local partners, with ANGOs taking part in the meetings as observers only. The DRCC positions are filled with 100% Fijian National Staff members. DRCC led on development of the baseline survey methodology as well as the finalisation of the Partnership Agreement, Learning Agenda and Localisation Plan.
Coordination and complementarity	Application of and respect for commonly agreed approaches to 'as local as possible and as international as necessary'.	Strong and wider network of competent local NGOs working in partnership, collaboration and complementarity with NDMO. This was evident through the DRCC support for the NDMO's NERT training and the support provided to the NDMO during the National Disaster Awareness Week held in October 2022.
Participation	Communities lead and participate in preparedness and humanitarian response.	33 CDMCs have been established in Year 1 and 2 have developed community DRR/CCA action plans. These mechanisms emphasise local leadership and support local priorities for community preparedness and resilience.
Policy influence and advocacy	Humanitarian action reflects the priorities of affected communities and national actors.	AHP partners have supported FCOSS to voice DRR/CCA needs to the Government of Fiji.
Capacity	Local and national organisations are able to respond effectively and efficiently, have targeted and relevant support from international actors.	In Year 1, 4 CSO partners have been supported with technical and/or organisational capacity building activities. This support emphasises the shift to local actors implementing preparedness and response activities and a strong and sustainable thriving local civil society.
Funding	Increased number of national and local organisations describing financial independence that allows them to respond more efficiently.	48 percent of expenditure went to national or local organisations.

LOCALISATION

Year 1 of Phase 2 of Disaster READY included partners undertaking a country led 'design refresh'. This process was driven at the country level with a Fijian expert facilitator. Implementing partners came together with stakeholders including government to develop a shared barriers analysis and a coordinated locally led approach to creating their project plans. This process culminated in the development of the Fiji Disaster READY Country Plan.

During this refresh process, the DRCC developed a Fiji Localisation Plan that outlines collective goals and measurement approaches to progress towards locally led humanitarian action. Partners developed these and integrated their approaches with the Disaster READY intermediate outcomes and use of tools from the PIANGO/Humanitarian Advisory Group's (HAG) localisation framework. The framework consists of seven core components for measuring progress on localisation in a holistic way. These are outlined in the table (left), with accompanying notes on country-level progress.

LOCALLY LED HUMANITARIAN ACTION: A CASE STUDY

The approach to shifting to more locally led humanitarian action includes roles and responsibilities for all actors: community, local CSOs, Government and international NGOs as intermediaries. Plan International plays the role of interfacing with the donor and to support organisational and technical capacity of local partners Empower Pacific and PCDF. This has enabled these local CSOs to take on the role of directly implementing community-based preparedness work. This work is strengthened by ensuring strong coordination with government. For example, they are utilising the NDMO Climate Smart CBDRM toolkit. This toolkit was updated in Phase 1 of Disaster READY with support of AHP partners. To further compliment the community work in Moala Islands, Empower Pacific and Plan facilitated the Fiji Mineral Resource Department to come to the communities to undertake Tsunami Ready awareness sessions. This is the first time the target communities and schools of Moala Island received integrated support for inclusive preparedness and DRR/CCA activities.

COORDINATION AND LEARNING

The program funds a country DRCC with key positions related to coordination, monitoring and evaluation, communication and disability inclusion. This plays a key a role in supporting coordination of the program and has a dedicated budget for joint learning activities. In Year 1, the DRCC coordinated the development of this learning agenda, which focuses on:

1. best practice related use of the Climate Smart CBDRM toolkit
2. a study into models of pre-position supplies, and
3. some research into the ability to use cash and vouchers for responses. The learning agenda will be rolled out in Year 2.

A further key initiative of the Fiji DRCC in Year 1 was to bring all partners together to develop a Partnership Agreement. This agreement is signed by all Disaster READY partners and outlines shared principles and collective objectives. It also provides standard operating procedures for developing collaborative/joint proposals for AHP response activations.

GOING FORWARD

With foundational activities in Year 1 complete, across the board partners will seek to increase their level of implementation according to their workplans. For the DRCC, the learning agenda will play a key role in supporting partners' cross learning and moving towards best practice. Moving from output to outcome focussed reporting, with emphasis on capturing qualitative and quantitative data that tell the 'so what?' story of Disaster READY, is also a key area for future improvement.

AHP

Disaster READY

DISASTER READY IS SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIP.

THIS REPORT WAS COMPILED BY THE AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT UNIT BASED ON INFORMATION AND DATA PROVIDED BY PARTNERS IMPLEMENTING DISASTER READY PROGRAMS IN FIJI. ALL INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION.

