

AHP Disaster READY

DISASTER READY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Solomon Islands



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WHERE WE WORK IN SOLOMON ISLANDS*



* Based on data provided by AHP Partners in Year 1 Phase 2 Disaster READY Project Plan Annual Reports. Plan International Data not available.

INTRODUCTION

Solomon Islands

Disaster READY aims to improve preparedness, resilience, and the ability to respond to the impacts of natural disasters and climate change in Solomon Islands. 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 Solomon Islands is being implemented by six lead agencies: Plan International, Oxfam, CAN DO, Save the Children, World Vision and CARE who form the Disaster READY Country Committee (DRCC). These non-governmental organisations (NGOs) work in partnership with 14 local CSOs and/or faith-based organisations (FBOs).

Year 1 of Phase 2 of Disaster READY (July 2022-June 2023) included the completion of Phase 1 (2017-2022) activities and associated reporting. Partners also completed the Phase 2 country and project-level design process to support work that will be undertaken from 2022-2026. This involved a country-led and comprehensive redesign of Disaster READY Phase 2 project, 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 the Solomon Islands has focussed on laying the groundwork for successful project implementation in new and existing communities. A summary of early results against the intermediate outcomes is outlined in the section below. This report also outlines initiatives and results against the key cross cutting themes of the program: inclusion, localisation and coordination.


CONTEXTUAL OVERVIEW

Second only to Vanuatu on the 2021 World Risk Index, communities in Solomon Islands face disasters, including cyclones, tsunamis, floods, and drought. With a population of approximately 560,000 people spread over 347 inhabited islands, there can be significant coordination, logistics, and communication challenges during emergencies.

In November 2022, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit the Solomon Islands capital of Honiara, triggering a tsunami warning. Thirty minutes later, a second 6.0 magnitude earthquake hit. Phone lines went down, and the nation experienced widespread power outages but there was no major damage to buildings and no deaths or injuries.

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS

- Partners have supported the establishment of 22 new Village Disaster and Climate Risk Committees (VDCRCs) and eight gender inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and CCA plans, (bringing the total 85 community plans supported when including Phase 1 of Disaster READY).
- Partners have assisted communities to identify areas of disaster vulnerability and opportunities for improvement.
- Partners supported the organisational and/or technical capacity of 11 civil society actors. 10 of these civil society actors also participated in collaborative disaster preparedness activities. Partners are supporting civil society actors to identify and address gaps in capacity.
- At the national level, partners are supporting government through engagement with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).
- At the sub-national level, partners are supporting government to identify at-risk communities and provide training on Cash Voucher Assistance (CVA).



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 have achieved early progress in community level preparedness through establishing disaster management committees and providing a range of associated support.

- Partners have supported the establishment of 22 VDCRC which cultivate local leadership to support disaster preparedness based on specific community contexts and priorities. Partners have also supported communities to develop eight DRR/CCA action plans. All (100 percent) of these plans address the specific needs of women and girls, but only 25 percent (2) address the needs of people with disabilities. World Vision conducted gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) awareness sessions in eight communities with 60 participants (37 male and 23 female). 41 percent of VDCRCs were established with equal gender representation, 14 percent with participation by people with disabilities and none with participation by people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Further information is available in the Inclusion section on pages 16 and 17.

- Save the Children and World Vision have conducted vulnerability assessments with 11 communities. Out of the seven communities (141 men, 132 women and 6 people with disabilities) that participated in the assessment and training with World Vision, 100 percent developed hazard maps. Out of the 20 people that participated in vulnerability assessments and Community-based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) training run by Save the Children, the majority of survey respondents indicated an increase in knowledge and understanding of CBDRM tools.
- CAN DO completed training with 18 volunteers across three communities on evacuation centre management, preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), child protection and safeguarding. This training complemented the work CAN DO did to map and assess evacuation centres using the Safe n Redi tool. As a result of this mapping, CAN DO and evacuation centre staff have identified opportunities to retrofit evacuation centres to increase their suitability, safety and accessibility during a disaster.



1,241 people reached



51 percent were women and girls



3 percent were people with disabilities



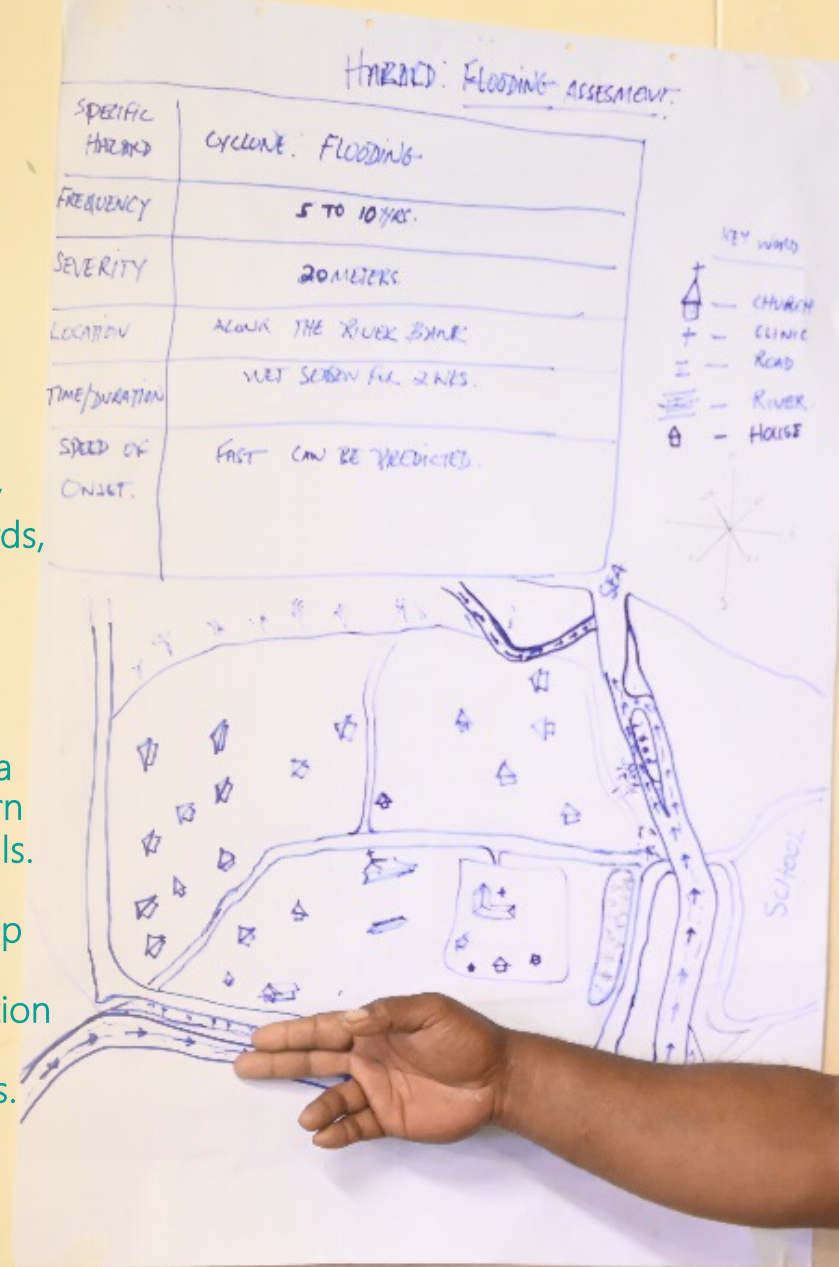
22 new village disaster and climate risk committees were formed

COMMUNITY-LED PREPAREDNESS

In June 2023, members from four communities attended trainings for their Village Disaster Risk Committees (VDRRC) in Isabel province, to learn how to develop their own Disaster Risk Management and Response Plans. The training outlined roles and responsibilities in Community Based Disaster Risk Management, identify hazards, assess vulnerabilities and risks, and to develop action and response plans for preparing for and responding to disaster events.

Isabel Provincial Disaster Management Coordinator, Mr. Oliver Hirusana, said this was a new experience for the VDRRC members to learn new information, build their knowledge, and skills. "The importance of the training is to strengthen the capacity of VDRRCs team members to develop disaster risk management plans and response plans of their own and to increase the participation of women, children and people living with disabilities in Disaster READY plans and activities.

"CBDRM is a tool that can provide skills and knowledge VDRRCs and for people living in communities to strengthening the capacity of communities from risk resilience, preparedness, response and recovery planning and implementation for any disaster events."



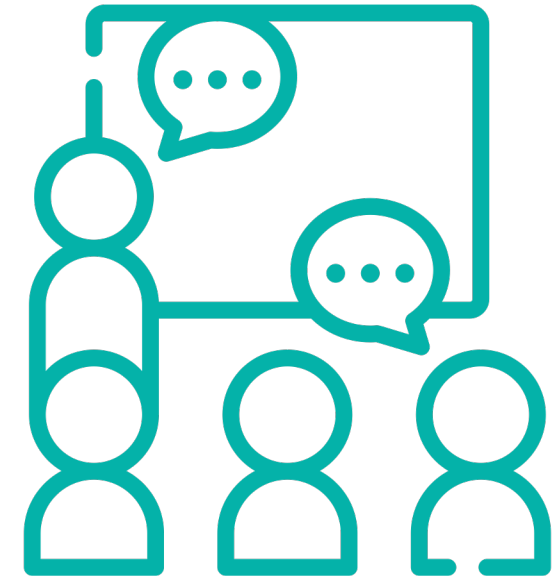
Intermediate Outcome 1.2: Local civil society actors (NGOs, CBOs, OPDs, churches, informal groups) have improved institutional and technical capacity to fulfil their role in effective disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

Partners support the organisational and/or technical capacity of 11 CSOs. 10 of these CSOs also participated in collaborative disaster preparedness activities. Some key examples include:

- Persons With a Disability Solomon Islands (PWDSI) worked with Australian Volunteers International (AVI), funded through the Plan consortium, to develop protection, PSEAH, fraud and corruption policies. PWDSI are also receiving support through the CAN DO team for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) practices, and have signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with CARE and Live and Learn Solomon Islands (LLSI).
- CARE has supported LLSI to undertake a collaborative organisational Emergency

Preparedness Planning process. This has equipped LLSI with organisational process and procedures for emergency response.

- CAN DO is supporting their partner churches with technical support to implement the Theology of Disaster Reduction in a Changing Climate (TDRCC). In Year 1, each of the partner churches produced 'Action Plans' (including specific objectives, activities and timeframes), outlining how they plan to deliver and monitor awareness and advocacy activities in their churches and communities.
- AVI is also working to support Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT). In Year 1, SIDT held workshops to draft a Strategic Plan and undertake a Constitutional review. These documents are in draft form, ready for review and approval once the new Chief Executive Officer is in place.



ELEVEN

Civil Society Organisations increased technical or organisational capacity. 10 of these organisations also participated in collaborative disaster preparedness activities.

- Save the Children is partnering with Mother's Union with a series of support. In Year 1, they undertook a joint process to identify and understand organisational gaps, strengths, and collaboratively agreed on commitments to address the key needs of Mothers Union through a capacity strengthening plan. Based on this work, Save the Children held a series of trainings with Mother's Union. A total of 12 (10 women and 2 men) staff were trained in procurement, supply chain, asset registry, budgeting, and fraud management.
- Oxfam has partnered with the Kustom Gardens Association (KGA). In Year 1, Oxfam and KGA completed an organisational capacity assessment which has enabled them to produce a development plan. A participant from KGA expressed the value of this work.



This workshop was the first of its kind for me and it provided valuable insights into policy development. It was interesting and easy to understand. While we already had some policies in place, we realised that certain key areas, such as policy statements, were missing. We have now include them in our policies."

Mrs Esther, KGA

SOCIALISING PREPAREDNESS

Marking the 2022 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Tsunami Awareness Day, Live & Learn arranged a radio segment on Solomon Islands Broadcasting Cooperation to discuss, among others, the Disaster READY program. During the national public broadcast, the team spoke to the importance of food security and livelihood preparedness, having access to nutritious foods during an emergency, and the importance of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all gender groups in the preparedness phase of disasters.



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 are providing support to sub-national government through embedding staff members in Provincial Disaster Management Offices (in Temotu and Isobel). These project officers play a key role in coordination between government, communities and NGOs.

Partners are coordinating with the Solomon Islands national government through the Disaster READY Country Committee (DRCC), by providing strategic updates to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The DRCC has begun the process to establish a Disaster READY partner agreement in the Solomon Islands with the Ministry of Environment and other key government stakeholders.

The DRCC has engaged with the NDMO for joint training on the revised CBDRM manual. The DRCC also engaged with the Climate Change Division for a joint training on the Solomon Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment tool. Partners working at the community level, including Save

the Children, Oxfam and CARE and LLSI are utilising the government mandated CBDRM manual.

CARE, in partnership with LLSI, is coordinating with the Honiara City Council to identify communities and schools to support. Moreover, CARE and LLSI collaborated with and supported the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECCDMM) to hold the annual International Day for Disaster Risk Response and related awareness raising activities.

Save the Children is supporting the Provincial Government of Isobel to be equipped to utilise cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for future humanitarian responses. In Year 1, this involved completing a Cash Feasibility and Risk Assessment for the Province and then delivering a preliminary CVA information session with provincial government officials.



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

Australian
Aid 



Australian
High Commission
Solomon Islands

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Disaster READY

Australian Humanitarian Partnership

Disaster READY



The Disaster READY program strengthens the Government's capacity to deal with disasters. It extends our reach to more communities to ensure our people are ready to deal with disasters and climate change issues we are now facing. We are working closely together to find new and innovative ways of dealing with disasters and climate change.

Jonathan Tafiariki, Director,
National Disaster Management Office, Solomon Islands



CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

INCLUSION

Inclusion is a critical component mainstreamed across all Disaster READY partner projects and activities. In Year 1, progress towards inclusion across all activities has been modest with partners laying foundations for improved practices going forward. Two independent technical advisors have completed independent reviews of each of the Solomon Islands projects and provided detailed recommendations for each partner to progress towards improved gender equality and disability inclusion.

Some key inclusion data for the program in Year 1 includes:

Participation figures from the Solomon Islands show that 51 percent (632) of participants in Year 1 are women and three percent (35) are people with disabilities.

Partners helped to establish 22 VDCRCs, of which 41 percent (9) have equal gender representation but only 14 percent (3) were formed with participation by people with disabilities.

All (8) DRR/CCA action plans include actions to address the specific needs of women and girls but only 25 percent (2) address the specific needs of people with disabilities.

51%

of DRR/CCA action plans address the specific needs of women and girls



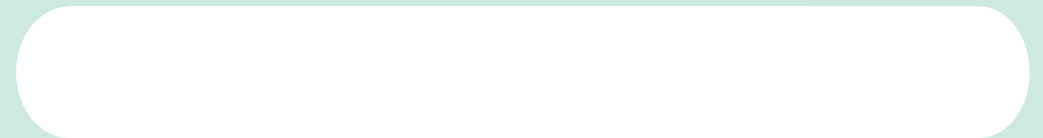
3%

of DRR/CCA actions plans address the specific needs of people with disabilities



0%

of DRR/CCA action plans address the specific needs of diverse SOGIESC peoples



INCLUSION

Disability inclusion in Disaster READY programming in the Solomon Islands is progressing. In addition to the Disability Officer position funded through the DRCC, multiple partners have developed agreements to partner and work with PWDSI. This work includes:

- LLSI and CAN DO have developed agreements with PWDSI. LLSI is supporting a position within PWDSI who is engaged in the design and delivery of all activities to improve disability inclusive programming.
- Oxfam supported PWDSI with safeguarding training. In return, PWDSI has supported Oxfam's CBDRM training, which has resulted in the inclusion of people with disabilities in VDCRCs and improved data collection through the use of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions.
- World Vision has developed a hazard map with the input of 6 people with disabilities and provided training on the Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Tool.
- To support a more comprehensive approach to disability inclusion, in Year 2 CBM will continue its work with Pacific Disability Forum and will support the development of a partnership agreement between PWDSI and all DRCC members.

Partners are undertaking a series of activities to mainstream gender equality into their workplans. It is acknowledged by partners that this continues to be an area of need, with modest progress to date. Some good examples include:

- Save the Children supported four communities with climate adaptive farming that specifically targeted women and people with disabilities, including caregivers who were provided with training, seeds, and tools to practice sustainable and climate adaptive farming.
- World Vision has supported communities with a support package and training related to gender and social inclusion. Following this training, women were also elected to leadership roles in Tawapuna community to chair their VDCRC.
- The DRCC as a mechanism is also working towards greater gender representation and decision making for the Disaster READY program. Currently 46% of membership are women, and this includes the key position of the DRCC Coordinator.
- Across all Disaster READY countries, including Solomon Islands, the inclusion of persons with diverse SOGIESC has been a significant challenge. In Solomon Islands, the community DRR/CCA action plans, for example, currently have no specific actions to address the needs of diverse SOGIESC peoples. This will become a focus area in future years.



LISTENING TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

As a part of the Solomon Islands Disaster READY community mapping exercise Save the Children interviewed 14-year-old Paulos. Staff were interested in understanding Paulos' experiences as a person with disabilities, including to learn about the disproportionate risks and specific needs people with mobility issues face in disasters.

"I think I am not prepared to run or evacuate if a disaster happens," Paulos said. "I'm not prepared for any natural disaster like cyclone or tsunami."

By sharing his views, Paulos is helping his community map out where they can go during disasters and how they can meet the needs of people with different abilities. With these interviews now complete, Paulos' community is putting together a disaster response plan, as well as establishing a Disaster Risk Coordination Committee.

Paulos is passionate about having his voice heard, and his dreams extend well beyond being safe in a disaster. He says, "as a person with disability, my hope and dream is to have access to education and other services and opportunities like my other friends who are able. For example, I need to go to school, access health care and earn income. I also need to access specific services like rehabilitation and have assistive devices like wheelchair and other equipment's that will help me."

Component	Description	Progress
Partnerships	Equitable and complementary partnerships between local, national and international actors.	All members of the DRCC have taken part in a partnership agreement workshop. This will lead to the development of a partnership agreement between all parties in Year 2 of Disaster READY.
Leadership	National actors define and lead on humanitarian action.	DRCC have appointed a Solomon Islands national to the key Coordinator position.
Coordination and complementarity	Application of and respect for commonly agreed approaches to 'as local as possible and as international as necessary'.	Coordination Unit represents AHP DRCC in the steering committee of the NDMO.
Participation	Communities lead and participate in humanitarian response.	Partners have supported 22 communities to establish disaster committees and 8 community DRR/CCA action plans have been developed. These mechanisms emphasise local leadership and support local priorities for community preparedness and resilience.
Capacity	Local and national organisations are able to respond effectively and efficiently, have targeted and relevant support from international actors.	Partners support the organisational and/or technical capacity of 11 civil society actors. 10 of these civil society actors also participated in collaborative disaster preparedness activities.
Funding	Increased number of national and local organisations describing financial independence that allows them to respond more efficiently.	20 percent of expenditure went to national or local organisations.

LOCALISATION

Year 1 Disaster READY Phase 2 included a country-led 'design refresh'. This process was driven by the country level, with implementing partners coming together with stakeholders including government to develop a shared barrier analysis and a coordinated locally-led approach to creating their project plans. This process culminated in the development of the Solomon Islands Disaster READY Country Plan.

During the refresh process, the DRCC developed a Solomon Islands Localisation Plan that outlined 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 holistically measuring progress on localisation. These are outlined in the table (left), with accompanying notes on country-level progress

COORDINATION AND LEARNING

The program funds a country DRCC with coordination, MEL, communication and disability inclusion positions. The DRCC plays a key 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 and it focuses on roll-out of the NDMO's CBDRM manual and a series of events aimed at improving the coordination mechanism within AHP and with relevant stakeholders for effective implementation. The learning agenda will be promoted from Year 2.

The Solomon Islands Disaster READY partners also begun work to develop a Partnership Agreement. This outlines shared principles and objectives as well as outlines the processes for developing collaborative/joint proposals.

The DRCC leveraged this mechanism to successfully submit a proposal to undertake a joint project for the AHP Anticipatory Action trial. This trial leverages the Disaster READY resilience strengthening activities and will begin being rolled out in early 2024.

GOING FORWARD

With foundational activities in Year 1 complete, across the board partners will seek to increase their level of implementation in line with 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

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