

**Regional
Consultation
for the Pacific**

**Auckland
30 June - 2 July 2015**

FINAL REPORT

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The World Humanitarian Summit Regional Steering Group for Pacific would like to thank all individuals, organizations and governments that participated in the regional consultation meeting in Auckland and in the extensive stakeholder consultations leading up to it for their contributions toward a more inclusive and effective approach to humanitarian action.



BACKGROUND TO THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT AND THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE PACIFIC

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), to be held in Istanbul in May 2016, is an initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. It will bring together governments, humanitarian organizations, people affected by humanitarian crises and associated partners, including civil society and the private sector, to propose solutions to our most pressing challenges and set a forward-looking agenda to make humanitarian action fit to meet future needs. It will be the first-ever humanitarian gathering of such a scale.

The preparatory process for the summit has been built on five levels of consultation:

- Eight regional consultations;
- One global consultation;¹
- Thematic consultations, with expert working groups preparing thematic reports, and a global thematic consultation;²
- Online consultations; and
- Linkages to related global processes on disaster risk reduction, climate change and the post-2015 development agenda.

WHS CONSULTATIONS

(1) West and Central Africa, Cote d'Ivoire - June 2014

(2) North and South-East Asia, Japan - July 2014

(3) Eastern and Southern Africa, South Africa - October 2014

(4) Europe and Others, Hungary - February 2015

(5) Middle East and North Africa, Jordan - March 2015

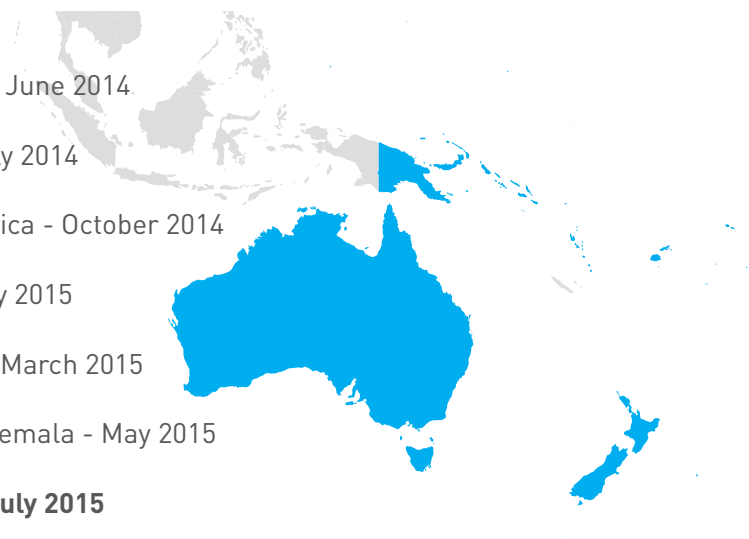
(6) Latin America and the Caribbean, Guatemala - May 2015

(7) Pacific Region³, New Zealand - June-July 2015

(8) South and Central Asia, Tajikistan - July 2015

(9) Thematic Consultation, Germany - September 2015

(10) Global Consultation, Switzerland - October 2015



¹ To be hosted by Switzerland in October 2015

² To be hosted by Germany in September 2015

³ For the purposes of the World Humanitarian Summit, the Pacific region includes American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.



The WHS regional consultation for the Pacific was held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 30 June to 2 July 2015. It was hosted by the Government of New Zealand and co-chaired by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand along with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). In the spirit of the summit's multi-stakeholder approach, the meeting brought together more than 140 participants from the three sub-regions of the Pacific representing Member States of the United Nations including three Heads of State, regional organizations, civil society, affected communities, national and international non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the private sector and academia, as well as observers from five countries⁴ involved in hosting other WHS consultations.

The twin goals of the regional consultation process were to inform the global WHS agenda and outcomes by providing strong regional recommendations that could shape the long-term future of humanitarian action, and to develop more immediate region-specific recommendations that could be implemented in the lead up to the summit.

⁴ Germany, Guatemala, Japan, Switzerland and Turkey.

FORMAL WELCOME (PŌWHIRI)

The regional consultation meeting was formally opened by a *pōwhiri*, a traditional Māori ceremony of encounter and welcome. The *pōwhiri* was conducted by the people of the Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei tribal group of Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland City). Opened by a call of a conch shell horn, the participants were called into the meeting space and were met with a *haka pōwhiri*, a rousing welcome. This was followed by a formal exchange of greetings, speeches, sung poetry and gifts from the participants.

Through words, narrative and metaphor, speakers from the tribal group and the participants set the tone for the event to follow. They drew strength and wisdom from the participants' forebears, and recognized the connections that exist between the people of the region. The speakers urged participants to show strength and courage and 'do the right thing' throughout the World Humanitarian Summit Pacific regional consultation meeting. They touched on the need to remain true to the cause in order to share the insights, expertise and lessons from the Pacific region with each other and the world.

At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, the leaders of the groups engaged in the *hongi*, pressing noses together to exchange the 'breath of life'. The sacredness of the ceremony was then lifted through the sharing of food.



OPENING REMARKS

The Honourable Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand, as the co-host of the World Humanitarian Summit Pacific regional consultation, welcomed the participants to Auckland, the city with the largest Pasifika population in the world. Recognizing the growing costs from violent conflicts in different parts of the world, he highlighted that effective containment of such events could allow use of scarce resources to address the needs of the world's poor. As a member of the United Nations Security Council, he said conflict prevention was a key priority for the Government of New Zealand.



Despite growing humanitarian needs from natural disasters in the Pacific, Mr. McCully highlighted the uneven nature of disaster impacts on economies and people across countries in the region. To address these challenges and to minimize erosion of hard-earned development gains, he emphasized the need to adopt practical solutions to the challenges that confronted the region. The Minister highlighted the need for partnership-based approaches to strengthen preparedness for response, including pre-positioning of supplies, as well as the use of mobile communications and other technologies. Mr. McCully reiterated New Zealand's support to Pacific island countries for effective response and recovery from disasters and climate change impacts, and announced new investments to support the recovery process underway in Vanuatu following Tropical Cyclone Pam.

The Honourable Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, as the co-host of the World Humanitarian Summit Pacific regional consultation, reflected on the scale of humanitarian challenges facing the world while underscoring the international community's responsibility to provide effective and efficient assistance to people affected by conflicts and natural disasters. Ms. Bishop noted that many Pacific island countries were at the highest risk globally of natural disasters and suffered high annual average disaster losses on their economies. She highlighted the value of investment in disaster risk reduction and preparedness in order to save lives and protect economies. The minister reiterated Australia's commitment to helping Pacific island countries prepare for and respond to crises, as it had done recently in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Pam.



Ms. Bishop urged the participants, their governments and organizations to build on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and jointly implement the Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific. Recognizing women as the greatest asset of a community and key to swift re-

covery, Ms. Bishop called for a stronger voice and greater role for women in humanitarian response. She also noted the need to harness the capacities, expertise, innovation and resources of the private sector in the Pacific through long-term partnerships. Ms. Bishop called for innovative ways to meet the needs of disaster-affected people by bringing together government representatives, the private sector, NGOs and communities and identifying new ways of working. Ms. Bishop announced two million Australian dollars for a humanitarian innovation challenge to find creative solutions to the challenges faced by Pacific communities as a result of natural disasters.

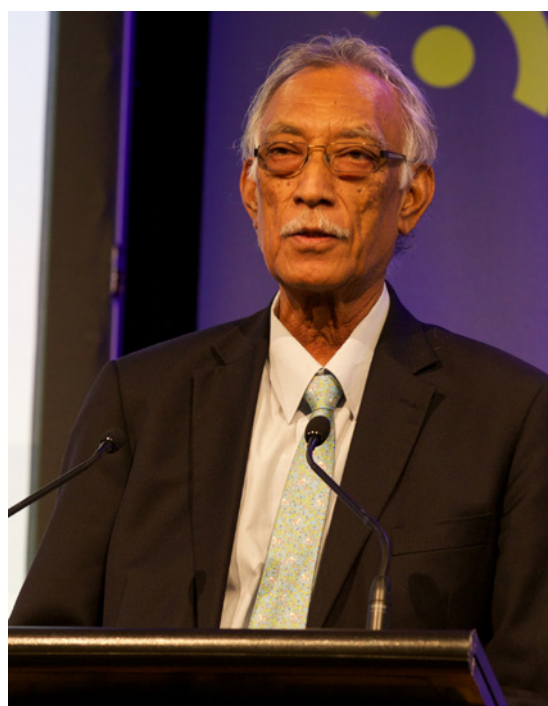
The Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, emphasized that small island developing states in the Pacific were already suffering from the impacts of climate change. He described the recent effects on Tuvalu from Tropical Cyclone Pam and called for concrete action to address the unique vulnerabilities of small island nations. Mr. Sopoaga asked that such recurring events should not be referred to as “natural” disasters and for “climate change deniers” in the region to face the reality that whole islands will be swallowed by oceans.

Discussing the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in Paris in late 2015, Mr. Sopoaga called for re-energized efforts to protect and prepare communities on small island nations, particularly low-lying atoll islands such as Tuvalu. Mr. Sopoaga suggested that emergency funding, as well as loss and damage mechanisms, must be established so that small islands have access to funds to recover from and rehabilitate after disasters. To be sustainable he said that an inclusive approach was required across information sharing, resource distribution and decision-making. He called on the Pacific to learn lessons from other regions which faced similar situations, such as the Caribbean. By the WHS in May 2016, Mr. Sopoaga hoped to be celebrating a successful outcome from COP 21 with an ambitious agreement to help save people living in the Pacific islands.



The Honourable Toke Talagi, Premier of Niue, underscored the importance of trust between affected countries in the Pacific, humanitarian actors and donors. He believed that as a result of the current lack of trust, humanitarian needs were not being sufficiently addressed. Premier Talagi recognized that disasters served to expose a country’s underlying problems. He said it was therefore important to focus on both mitigation and building resilient communities which can cope with recurrent disasters. He called for accountability to run in both directions between donors and humanitarian organizations on the one hand, and affected people and governments on the other. He argued there was limited transparency in how funds were spent and for this reason, Premier Talagi called for greater trust, an acknowledgement of past mistakes and a collective will to correct them in the future.

Premier Talagi called for Pacific governments to strengthen their economies. He said there was a



need for greater efficiency in how funds are used and an increased focus on generating national revenues. He echoed other speakers' concerns about the impact of climate change on the region and regretted that only incremental steps had been taken to mitigate it thus far. He suggested the main impediment to agreement and action on climate change was a lack of preparedness amongst the world's political leaders to work together. He felt this was regrettable and illogical, given that all countries in the world would eventually be affected by climate change. He urged participants to make hard decisions to safeguard the planet for future generations.

Ms. Helen Clark, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, noted that unprecedented disasters were erasing past, present and future development gains in the Pacific, even in places accustomed to managing major disaster risks. As a result, the people of the Pacific faced enormous challenges. They were least responsible for climate change, yet were bearing the greatest cost of its consequences. While expressing concern at the level of humanitarian need, Ms. Clark conveyed a message of hope: that the current year 2015 was an opportunity to conclude major new global agreements on disaster risk reduction, financing for development, sustainable development goals and climate change, all of which the WHS could build on.



Ms. Clark focused on three priority areas for the Pacific. Firstly, she called for disaster risk reduction to be centre stage. She argued that risk reduction was only sustainable if it was led well by all levels of government; delivered through effective institutions which had the capacity to lead complex, long-running processes; and designed and implemented with full community engagement. Secondly, Ms. Clark suggested that the importance of strong communities and inclusive governance should be clearly acknowledged. This included moving towards better use of local systems and coordination structures; building trust in national and local governments as the primary providers of relief after disasters; and addressing the disproportionate impact of disasters on women, girls and other groups made vulnerable by their position in society. Finally, Ms. Clark expressed a need for greater and more flexible funding to be made available to address disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention and early and long-term recovery.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, underscored the importance of Pacific voices being heard in the WHS process from Auckland to the global consultation in October and eventually through to the global summit in 2016. He said the Pacific had valuable lessons to share about resilience in the face of frequent disasters and the increasing impact of climate change. Mr. O'Brien suggested the region could also amplify the call for reducing the risk of recurring disasters and mitigating their human and economic costs. While he noted the key role that Governments, regional organizations and civil society groups played in these efforts, he suggested that innovative partnerships with the private sector were also essential. The Under-Secretary-General reminded participants that all humanitarian partners must be accountable to



affected people, including women and girls, who must be at the heart of all humanitarian and development efforts.

Mr. O'Brien lamented the global scale of humanitarian crises: At the time of speaking, the UN was seeking to provide relief to 79 million people, forced displacement was at a scale unseen since the Second World War and the global humanitarian appeal for 2015 was less funded than any previous appeal at the half-year mark. He said the WHS was an opportunity to create a more coherent approach to humanitarian crises, embracing both sustainable development and investment in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response. Mr. O'Brien told the meeting that the summit in Istanbul needed to be a global rallying call for humanity, putting humanitarian principles and affected people at the centre of response. Mr. O'Brien called for new generations to be re-inspired and commit to humanitarian partnerships around the world to improve and save lives.

Note: The above are summaries of the opening remarks.

Please visit www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_pacific for full video recordings of the opening session.

SETTING THE STAGE: INTRODUCTION TO THE WHS GLOBAL PROCESS AND OVERVIEW OF THE WHS PREPARATORY STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

Mr. Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, reviewed recent changes in the global humanitarian landscape which formed the backdrop for the WHS consultations. He recalled headline figures from the large-scale humanitarian crises in Yemen, Syria and South Sudan and noted that global humanitarian needs were highest in recent memory. He also drew attention to the small-scale recurrent and natural disasters that affected millions of people's lives each year. He said that climate change, environmental degradation and resource scarcity added to the consequences of poverty, underdevelopment and inequality, leaving people – particularly women – increasingly vulnerable to crises.

Mr. O'Brien explained that prior to Auckland, consultations for the WHS had been conducted in 135 countries around the world, including six regional consultations. The Under-Secretary-General noted that people consulted across the world had called for humanitarian actors to meaningfully engage with the communities they aimed to serve and empower them to have a greater voice and choice. He said those consulted placed a heavy emphasis on humanitarian principles, as well as on building new partnerships for effective and inclusive humanitarian action. He noted that linking with other global processes related to resilience was also critical to building on each other's successes.

Finally, Mr. O'Brien outlined four areas where the UN Secretary-General had called on the WHS to deliver transformative change in humanitarian action:

- First, addressing the rising human cost of conflict, persecution and human rights violations through greater commitment to international humanitarian law and strengthened accountability mechanisms.
- Second, moving toward collective crisis management – whether between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors in conflict situations or through strong governance on disaster risk reduction and resilience building in the context of recurrent natural disasters.
- Third, tackling the global financing gap by increasing resources; finding more efficient ways of working; leveraging international, regional and domestic resources in a more co-ordinated way; and sharing the burden among a more diverse set of actors.
- Fourth, creating a global approach to humanitarian action that was more inclusive, diverse, and tailored to different contexts.

Mr. Sune H. Gudnitz, Head of UNOCHA's Regional Office for the Pacific, reviewed the highlights of the extensive stakeholder consultation process that took place across the Pacific in the months leading up to the Auckland meeting. He applauded the efforts of the Regional Steering Group and its partners in consulting 1,428 people in 17 countries across the Pacific and placed emphasis on over half of those consulted having been from disaster-affected communities. He explained that the objective of these consultations was to identify priority humanitarian challenges and opportunities facing the Pacific and lay the foundation for further discussions and recommendations in Auckland. Consultations were held with representatives of governments; regional organizations; donors; affected communities; diaspora; civil society organizations (CSOs), including faith-based groups and women's, youth and disability organizations; United Nations agencies and inter-governmental organizations; international non-governmental organizations (INGOs); National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; as well as private sector, academia and military actors. In order to capture stakeholder perspectives and accommodate the diverse nature of experiences, skills and competencies of those consulted, methodologies varied, including focus group discussions, individual open-ended interviews, structured questionnaires, webinars and

talanoa⁵. In addition, a four-week online consultation was hosted on the WHS website to allow for humanitarian stakeholders and the general public to share their views and experiences. The Pacific faced two severe natural disasters during the primary stakeholder consultation period – Tropical Cyclone Pam and Typhoon Maysak – impacting five countries in the region. While this affected the number of consultations conducted during the consultation period, the experiences of humanitarian actors, affected people and lessons learned from responding to these events were able to inform the analysis.



Mr. Gudnitz noted how Pacific Island countries were leading the way in developing regional approaches to disaster preparedness, response and recovery; and encouraged the region to share its wealth of knowledge and experience with the world. Mr. Gudnitz recognized that the region was characterized by tradition and solidarity among Pacific governments and people. He suggested that such qualities had the potential to make regional cooperation easier and improved the opportunity to continue building a Pacific humanitarian system that was well prepared to respond to disasters.

Mr. Gudnitz summarized the outcomes of the stakeholder consultations held in the region. An overview of the main findings is presented in the beginning of each thematic section in the report that follows. The key messages from stakeholders consulted in the Pacific in the lead-up to Auckland were:

- Affected people, their capacities and needs should be at the centre of humanitarian action. This included building on traditional knowledge and coping mechanisms, as well as involving communities – including women, youth and people living with disabilities – in decision-making.
- There was a need to realign the humanitarian system so that it was tailored to size, supported Pacific governments in their responsibility to lead humanitarian assistance and strengthened existing local capacities.
- Proactive solutions were needed to address the expected increase in human mobility and displacement, including through climate change mitigation, planned relocations of vulnerable communities, protection of displaced populations and development of legal frameworks that provided long-term solutions to displaced people.
- Investment in preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) paid dividends. There should be a better integration of humanitarian and development approaches to build communities' resilience to disasters.
- In order to meet the changing needs of affected communities, funding should be flexible, predictable and able to be distributed between preparedness, response and early recovery as needed.
- There was potential for improved engagement with the private sector to support disaster preparedness, response and early recovery.

⁵ Talanoa is a Polynesian term referring to storytelling as a means of relating experiences freely and in an informal way.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON TROPICAL CYCLONE PAM



The panel focused on the future of humanitarian action in the Pacific by reflecting on the recent disaster season and, in particular, Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam in Vanuatu. Mirroring the multi-stakeholder nature of the World Humanitarian Summit process, the panel brought together representatives from a disaster-affected community, government, the private sector and an international humanitarian organization. The panelists were encouraged to discuss two priority issues identified during the WHS preparatory stakeholder consultations in the Pacific: placing people at the centre of humanitarian action and realigning the humanitarian system and building on local capacities.

Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, acknowledged that the **intensity of the past disaster season**, and particularly TC Pam, had challenged the Pacific humanitarian community, but at the same time, had demonstrated Pacific Islanders' strengths and resilience. He applauded the efforts of diverse humanitarian partners to conduct preparatory consultations in the region in the lead-up to the Auckland meeting and noted that the National Red Cross Societies in the Pacific had played a key role in consulting people affected by disasters, including TC Pam. He pointed out that one of the key lessons from the consultations conducted by Red Cross was that if humanitarian action was to be more effective, it had to place more emphasis on **enhancing capacity at the local level**. Participants felt that effective disaster risk reduction activities had to be driven by a thorough understanding of existing **community coping capacities and traditional knowledge**. In line with placing people at the centre of humanitarian action, he said that **early warning** was not just about information, but about providing it in an accessible format to allow people to understand the message.



Ms. Nemi Naparau, member of a community affected by TC Pam in Vanuatu, shared the harrowing experience of losing her home and her subsequent displacement as a result of TC Pam. She noted that while the early warning system in Vanuatu had been effective, the lack of emergency shelters, or clear evacuation plans, had been a major problem. While thanking government and humanitarian actors for their assistance to affected communities, she called for greater **collaboration between governments and communities**, stressing “it is important that the government listens to communities.” In addition, Ms. Naparau emphasized the need for **community education** at all levels, both formally and informally, so that communities could better prepare for disasters by developing improved evacuation systems and building back better and safer. She suggested social media could also be used as a channel to raise awareness of disasters and improve responses.



Mr. Jotham Napat, Director General of the Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change and Disaster Management, encouraged the **integration of traditional coping mechanisms with modern day science and technology**. He noted that communities in the Pacific were already resilient and that any assistance should enhance this local capacity rather than overwhelm it. Mr. Napat suggested that the number of technical experts deployed to Vanuatu after TC Pam was unnecessarily high. He said it was crucial that governments drive disaster planning and preparedness. Mr. Napat called on international humanitarian actors to respect the **sovereignty of disaster affected countries** and the existing protocols of the government, because “this is where **trust** is gained.” He further noted the overwhelming challenge of dealing with unsolicited goods, many of which were unusable.



Ms. Jennifer Worthington, Oxfam Australia and the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT), underscored the importance of having in place Memorandums of Understanding with national disaster management offices and Standard Operating Procedures for disaster response. She further stressed the value of investing in **education and community-based disaster risk reduction**, with a need to factor-in the **needs of vulnerable people**, the elderly and people with disabilities during times of crisis. Ms. Worthington then outlined the role of the VHT, a network of locally-based NGOs, the UN and the Red Cross. She highlighted the need for response capacity within the NDMO to support its work. While the VHT ordinarily functioned well, its effectiveness was challenged by TC Pam, bringing to light the



need to examine the **interface between domestic response capacity and international support**. Finally, Ms. Worthington stressed the importance of communication and called for improvements in the way feedback is solicited from affected communities.

Mr. Pepe Christian Fruean, Digicel Pacific, recounted Digicel's experience in the recovery phase of TC Pam. He noted that in times of crisis, **telecommunications** were crucial for **keeping people connected as well as gathering and disseminating information**. Eighty per cent of Digicel's network was lost as a result of the cyclone, but over half was recovered within two days. Mr. Fruean explained that Digicel was able to respond quickly because it had a regional crisis management and deployment plan in place and had pre-positioned critical equipment in neighboring countries. He further noted that all actors had to work on building **trust** with the private sector, particularly in terms of private sector-government relationships. He cited the WHS as the perfect platform for increasing networking and building trust.



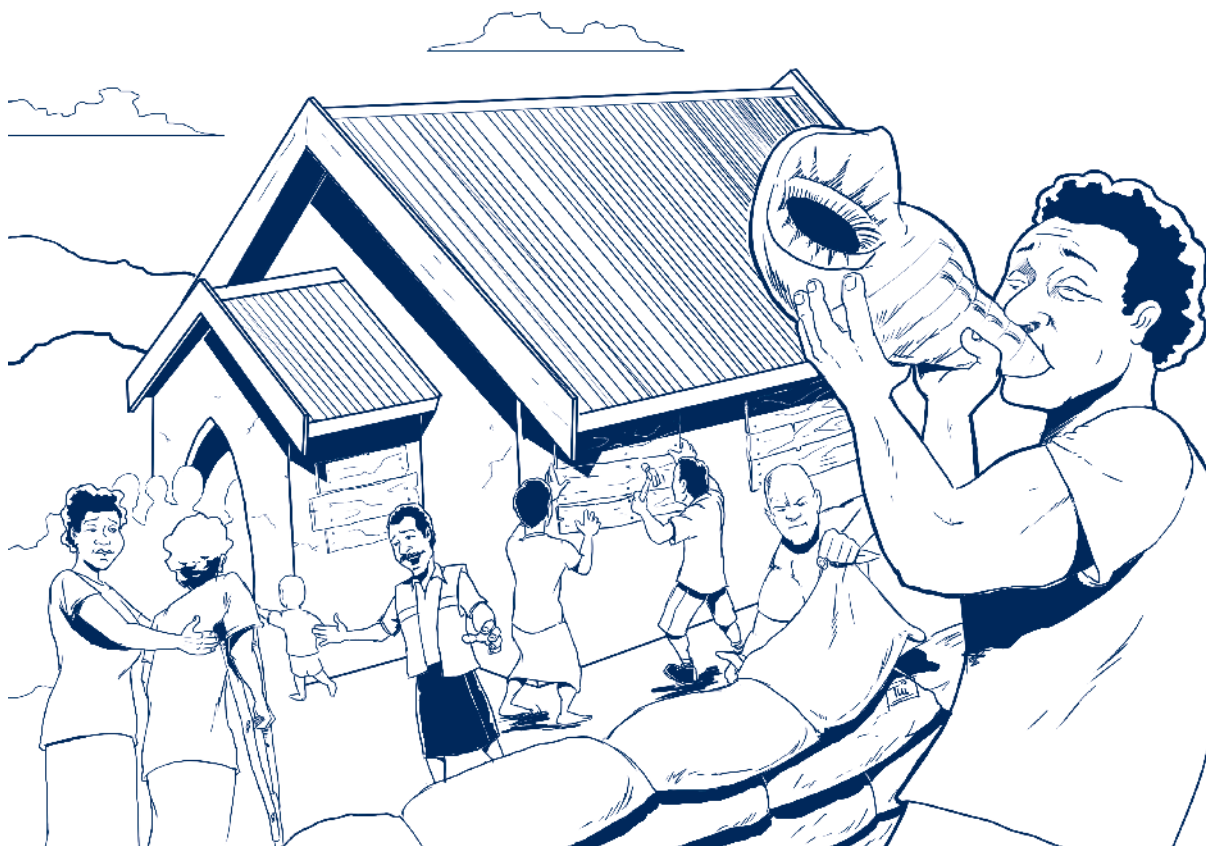
Mr. As Sy returned to thank the panelists for sharing experiences of hope, resilience and leadership. Government leadership, building back better and involving communities were among the key themes raised by the panelists that would be discussed by participants during the regional consultation meeting. Mr. As Sy concluded the session by noting the importance of listening to communities - "nothing for communities without communities."

THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main discussions at the regional consultation were held in thematic group sessions, supported by professional facilitators. Participants first reviewed the findings of the preparatory stakeholder consultations within their constituencies, allowing each group to discuss the analysis from their unique perspectives. Participants were then broken up into more diverse groups made up of different constituencies to discuss and build-on the findings. Plenary discussions then gave the various breakout groups an opportunity to share their feedback with all participants.



Placing people at the centre of humanitarian action



Findings from preparatory stakeholder consultations

There was a resounding call from the 1,428 stakeholders consulted across the Pacific in the lead up to the Auckland meeting that people affected by disasters must always be at the centre of humanitarian action. They will always be the first responders to humanitarian disasters and they will be the last. When the attention, funding and external actors have moved on, those affected will be there to undertake the recovery work. Despite this recognition, people argued that disaster-affected communities are not sufficiently involved in decision-making about humanitarian response. There is room for improvement, particularly when it comes to engaging women, youth, the elderly and those living with disabilities. Consultations also pointed to the need for better acknowledgement of the role of kinship ties, extended families, diaspora and faith-based groups in disaster preparedness, response and early recovery, given their central role in how communities organize themselves in the Pacific. Those consulted advocated for consistent engagement with communities pre- and post-disaster to tailor the efforts of governments and humanitarian organizations to each context. Not all communities need or want the same assistance. There are diverse needs, cultures and traditional coping mechanisms in the region that influence how communities can best be supported before, during and after disasters. Cash-based programmes were among the approaches suggested to give affected communities more choice in the kind of support and assistance they receive, though some acknowledged cash-based approaches could increase local tensions and undermine self-sufficiency if not appropriately adapted to the context.

Building on the outcomes of the stakeholder consultations, participants unanimously agreed on the **importance of reforming humanitarian and disaster response systems to better support community resilience and to recognize and address unique vulnerabilities**. While there was little disagreement, there was a strong awareness of the **need to recognize the challenges** and trade-

offs inherent in this approach, such as the tensions that exist between working through traditional male-led power structures whilst simultaneously working to empower women and marginalized groups.

Particular emphasis was placed on the **need to have a better and more nuanced picture of vulnerability**, especially regarding women, children, people with illnesses and disabilities and the elderly. There was a lack of accurate sex and age disaggregated data in the Pacific, due both to the limited reach of government services and the fact that census data was only collected infrequently. Different sources of information were often not combined, meaning that cumulative vulnerabilities were often missed. Gaps were identified in understanding the vulnerabilities of landless people and other politically marginalized groups. There are also significant rates of **sexual and gender based violence** in many countries, which often become much more acute during disasters. Differences between urban and rural areas were also stark, and participants highlighted that traditional structures were less relevant within communities experiencing rapid urbanization. Participants acknowledged that while acute poverty was less of an issue in the Pacific than in other parts of the world, and per-capita aid contributions were higher, there was a greater **correlation between poverty and extreme vulnerability to disasters** since people on small islands were often isolated from assistance for long periods after emergencies. Building on existing community resilience and avoiding dependency were therefore top priorities.

Participants recognized that much of the work required to obtain better vulnerability data must happen as part of preparing for disasters. Rapid post-disaster assessments were difficult or even impossible in the Pacific, due to the logistical challenges of getting to far flung islands with limited air and sea access. Instead of spending money on fly-over assessments, there was agreement that governments and humanitarian actors should invest in more regular censuses of international standard; better information sharing with development partners; and increased use of open data projects. By building on vulnerability and risk assessments recently undertaken in the region, data could then be analyzed and integrated into targeted contingency response planning to minimize the need for rapid assessments. This would provide for faster and more locally appropriate responses.

With limited resources available from central governments to **analyze social vulnerability, involving people and communities** in the process was considered critical. This could be done, for example, by training church or other community leaders to undertake vulnerability assessments to appropriate standards, which could then be updated and shared in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. **Strengthening telecommunications** and prioritizing restoration of those systems in a crisis was also seen as critical, with some participants emphasizing that access to appropriate communication channels should be considered a right.

“We had a drought and a donor provided us with a large amount of relief items suited for a typhoon. As a result, we spent a lot of time trying to sort equipment which had been donated and we ended up spending more money.”

Participant from Marshall Islands

Communities must also be empowered, through civil society groups or local government to be able to **communicate the kind of assistance required**. For example, some islands had been given canned tuna in the aftermath of TC Pam, when what they really sought was fuel and spare parts to get fishing boats working again. In some cases, humanitarian organizations overestimated vulnerabilities – providing mid-wives and birthing care despite there being very few pregnant women. **Even when more accurate data on vulnerability was collected, it was often not factored into response planning**, with governments and aid agencies often falling back on generic aid packages, such as food that was not nutritionally appropriate for pregnant women. Participants underscored that **“the approach of providing blanket aid to populations was an antiquated business model.”**

“The best decisions are always made when those impacted can contribute to making them.”

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

Cash-based approaches were also considered a viable option for giving people more choice about the kind of assistance they received. Some participants cautioned that cash-based systems needed to be carefully targeted and must not be allowed to increase dependency on outside resources, and act as a disincentive for families preparing for future disasters. This could be done, for example, by providing cash to women, since it had been shown that this tended to have a greater humanitarian impact. Still, there was a concern that cash could undermine resilience by making people more reliant on imported products, which were likely to become unavailable in a crisis. Facilitating access to credit or payments contingent on activities that had benefit for risk reduction and preparedness were suggested as alternative ways of using cash-based approaches that would be more closely linked to achieving sustainable outcomes and reducing vulnerability. Some participants suggested that the benefits of cash-based approaches could be better communicated to those who were skeptical.

Participants argued that community engagement must go beyond simply identifying vulnerabilities to **recognizing the respective roles and responsibilities of women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly within response**. It had to ensure that their respective strengths and contributions to resilience building were reflected. For example, one participant noted that it was the elderly who had most of the traditional knowledge that could be used to support disaster preparedness efforts, but that they were rarely consulted. At the same time, the real risks many groups faced, particularly that of sexual and gender-based violence towards women and children, needed to be addressed and **protection activities mainstreamed** in humanitarian response and recovery plans.

There was also a robust discussion on how to work with **traditional systems and community networks**, particularly in rural areas where they continued to be the dominant model of community



organization. While participants were unanimous in calling for traditional community structures, such as local chiefs or councils, to be more formally integrated in disaster response, they also cautioned that these mechanisms often excluded women, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups. It was suggested that this could be counter-balanced by **increasing the representation of women or marginalized groups** in government, humanitarian organizations and other **decision-making fora**, as well as empowering existing women's groups or other organizations. Similarly, while **faith-based organizations** were identified as a critical part of a response, participants noted that in some cases they were not perceived to provide aid impartially, predominantly supporting their own communities. Therefore, it was important that accountability was two-way: if governments and humanitarian organizations were to work through local organizations, those organizations had to commit to respecting key humanitarian principles and standards, particularly around the impartial distribution of aid.

A 'one-size-fits-all' approach was seen to undermine diversity, leading participants to discuss the importance of **respecting the uniqueness of each of the Pacific island communities as part of any response**. For example, the idea of standardized community disaster committees (CDCs) was rejected by some participants as likely to end up excluding informal networks. To address this, participants suggested that humanitarian partners invest in **mapping of traditional and community structures, which could be used to better understand local capacity** and could be shared with international responders so as to form the basis of any response. There was also a call to recognize the value of **traditional knowledge and approaches** in those areas where it had been proven effective, such as early warning of weather patterns, traditional food production and preservation techniques or traditional cyclone-proof housing.

Participants were clear that while governments and humanitarian organizations had to be accountable to affected people, community organizations similarly had to be accountable as reliable, impartial partners in a disaster. This kind of mutual accountability was critical to ensuring clear understandings of available response capacity on all sides to allow for effective planning. This also included understanding **how communities were linked to diaspora groups and wider support networks**.

Participants suggested that communities' involvement in disaster preparedness and response could be increased by organizing **regular disaster simulation exercises at the local level**. Such exercises could be used to clarify roles and responsibilities and explain what to expect in the event of a major disaster. They would also help to identify critical gaps in the community that could be addressed through better training, pre-positioning of supplies and equipment or building infrastructure, such as multipurpose emergency shelters. With only limited follow-up capacity available from central governments, it was critical that projects be community-led and sustainable mostly from local resources. It was more important for central governments to provide stable, long-term support, even if that support had to be more modest. Participants cited several projects in Papua New Guinea which had initially shown progress but faded away without local buy-in when external support was shifted to a new project.

"Prevention and preparedness are an investment and response and recovery are a cost. Simple contingency planning at community level will save lives and a lot of money."

Participant in a breakout group

Whereas the suggestion related to disaster simulation exercises was seen as important for 'rural' areas and outer islands, participants noted that the **needs were different in 'urban' environments**. 'Rural' in the Pacific often meant islands with strong traditional cultures, requiring significant travel by boat from main centres. 'Urban', on the other hand, signaled fast-growing and multi-cultural cities where traditional networks and kinship systems had often weakened. In the place of these traditional arrangements, newer types of communities had developed, for example, around neighborhoods, diaspora identities or religious institutions. Participants noted that it was critical

to invest in **understanding how information was transmitted among their different communities**, such as via radio, text messages, social media or public meetings. Participants also advocated for government and private sector companies responsible for the services people rely on, such as markets and financial institutions, to work together to ensure they are rapidly restored and accessible to affected communities. It was tentatively suggested that governments could support financial institutions to offer post-disaster 'recovery loans' to people who would not normally qualify.

Finally, a proposal was put forward around the **need to strengthen understanding of DRR through education at all levels**. Existing education initiatives needed to build on, and be grounded in, traditional knowledge and culture, while translating global good practice into the contemporary Pacific context.

In the session on **innovation** on the final day, participants lamented that investments in capacity building were often diluted because of the **separation of communities** – both on different islands or sometimes even in different parts of the same island. With only a few people with key skills and institutional knowledge, it was easy to lose capacity if people left or were hired away by better funded national or international organizations. Participants emphasized the need for ideas and systems which trained a wider base of people in the community in simpler procedures so communities could take on the tasks for liaising with NDMOs, collecting data and working to identify their own issues. It was recognized, however, that doing this effectively would be **as much a cultural challenge as a technical one**.

Drawing on breakout group discussions, it was recommended in the co-chairs' summary that:

- Governments, working jointly with communities and humanitarian partners, seek to better understand traditional structures and community networks in both urban and rural communities.
- Governments and partners organize regular, community-level simulation exercises to better understand informal response structures, clarify responsibilities in the event that national or international support is required and address critical gaps.
- Humanitarian partners work to strengthen community groups that amplify the voices of women, children, youth, older people and people with disabilities and systematically involve them in decision-making. Community groups have a formal role within national and sub-national planning structures.
- Governments and humanitarian partners invest in better analysis of social, economic and human vulnerability to natural hazards. This can draw from more regular and robust census data, economic modelling, or information from local businesses or community groups. Improved data on vulnerability is used to make both risk management and disaster response planning more targeted to local needs.
- Governments and partners work to raise awareness about DRR and preparedness in communities, building on traditional approaches. This is done by including DRR in education curricula at all levels, as well as by working with faith-based groups, private businesses and other parts of the community.
- Governments and humanitarian partners strengthen two-way communication with communities so they can provide feedback and communicate their own humanitarian needs to responders.
- Humanitarian partners actively seek women's leadership in disaster management. All actors work to prevent the perpetuation of existing gender inequalities.
- Humanitarian partners place protection at the centre of all activities with particular attention to women's safety, dignity and security, before, during and in the wake of crises. All actors act to prevent, address and end impunity for violence against women, including sexual and gender based violence.

Realigning the humanitarian system and building on local capacities



Findings from preparatory stakeholder consultations

Respondents endorsed governments as having primary responsibility for leading and coordinating humanitarian assistance and noted how governments in the region have demonstrated strong leadership in many disasters over recent years. However, many also argued that national and international support systems needed to be better tailored to support local capacities. Respondents highlighted the importance of strengthening links between national disaster management offices, central agencies such as the Prime Minister's Office and the Treasury, and line ministries, as a way to ensure an effective whole-of-government approach to humanitarian action. Strengthened disaster response laws were seen as an important element of this. When local capacities are limited or the sheer size of a disaster overwhelms response capacity, respondents called on international partners to provide support in areas where they can add value and come in behind local authorities to fill gaps, not overwhelm existing local strengths. Cooperation between Pacific Island countries, civilian-led military support and deployable capacities were among the regional solutions discussed. Those consulted called for governments and humanitarian partners to strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations, given their proximity to affected people and potential in supporting community-based humanitarian initiatives.

A starting point for discussions was that **the humanitarian system was not broken but certain elements needed to be improved**. The group discussions focused on **four main aspects**: the role of governments; how to maximize coordination arrangements between different actors; how to strengthen CSOs and what support could regional cooperation offer. The discussions highlighted the uniqueness of the Pacific context, with its limited capacities at national level, very isolated countries and communities, complex travel and communications. Participants noted that the geographic **realities of working in a region of far-flung islands** presented a number of challenges

that would require innovation. While some of these were technical, such as the lack of land to place mobile phone towers in low-lying atolls, many were more about **recognizing the limited capacities of small communities**.

Participants recognized the **primary role of governments** in disaster preparedness and response. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) should act as a central point of reference with authority to coordinate with all line ministries as well as national and international actors, pulling expertise and deployable capacities as required. As a participant pointed out, “for responses to be effective, NDMOs need to be in the driving seat and they should be given the authority to coordinate all aspects of government response.” Yet, an NDMO representative explained that NDMO capacity in several countries was very limited – “you often find a one or two person team with no budget line to carry out a range of activities.”

Governments were reminded of their responsibility to clearly articulate their needs, based on analysis of vulnerabilities and capacity gaps. This included identifying **triggers for disaster responses** that require external support, and putting in place national disaster laws, policies and institutions that set out the responsibilities of different actors in their country. Developing **clear rules for managing international assistance** based on the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) guidelines, was seen as critical. **Clarifying roles and responsibilities** of national and international actors in advance of a disaster, in order to have more predictable disaster responses was also seen as important. For example, the NDMO of New Caledonia had forged special agreements with organizations working in the field of disaster management, which were reviewed annually. This was seen as an important part of preparedness, as it enabled the NDMO to know what they could expect from organizations in the event of a disaster. Participants advocated for **regional rather than international emergency deployments**, and called for governments to **expedite entry and transit visas** issued for humanitarian workers to improve timely and effective regional response.

Some participants noted that in emergencies, small nations were sometimes overwhelmed by the large number of international actors. It was therefore important to think about what capacity was available to absorb assistance and to ensure that international support augmented national response, rather than displaced it. Participants highlighted that **international actors had to support, rather than undermine, local and national efforts**. The behaviour of international actors was particularly important: as one participant asked: “Why should people behave in someone else’s country in a manner they wouldn’t in their own home?” Participants argued that due to the small size of many nations and communities in the Pacific and the severe exposure to natural hazards that could potentially devastate entire countries, **international or regional assistance was always going to be needed in certain cases**. However, this should not happen without respect for local communities and authorities.

“For people living in the most fragile places, reform of humanitarian systems is about survival....You don’t need us to dictate to you, you need us to partner with you on disasters.”

Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme

Inter-operability was seen as a critical concept to ensure that different actors worked together using a common incident management system, both within the country, and between the country and bilateral or multilateral aid actors. A particular challenge was the different working methods and working languages of governmental actors, such as the NDMOs, military, police and civil protection, and humanitarian actors.

Participants emphasized the key role of **CSOs as a bridge between local communities and governments**. CSOs often complemented work done by the government, particularly in more remote

areas where there was little national reach or capacity. Coordination with the government, which tended to be ad hoc, needed to be strengthened. Local responders played a critical role in the region, and participants noted the disconnect between local, national, regional and global levels. Participants also emphasized the important role that civil society organizations had in embracing a rights-based approach, as they often advocated for different vulnerable groups' rights.

In addition, **civil-military and police coordination** was stressed as an important aspect of response, given the logistical challenges in the Pacific Region, as experienced after TC Pam in Vanuatu. Military support provided by the Vanuatu Mobile Force (VMF), Vanuatu Police Patrol Boat, FRANZ (France, Australia and New Zealand) partners, the United Kingdom, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Fiji was critical, not only assisting in the rapid delivery of much needed relief supplies, but in supporting assessments. This enabled the Government and its partners to complete field assessments in days rather than weeks and directly contributed to enhancing the speed and quality of the response. The introduction of Pacific-to-Pacific assistance, supported by donor assets, was welcomed as an area of growth for the future. Participants noted the importance of using **existing coordination processes**, rather than making them up on the ground. This was important particularly as military assistance could be highly politicized and therefore needed to be based on existing principles. They called for **greater awareness of existing guidelines** on civil-military-police coordination.

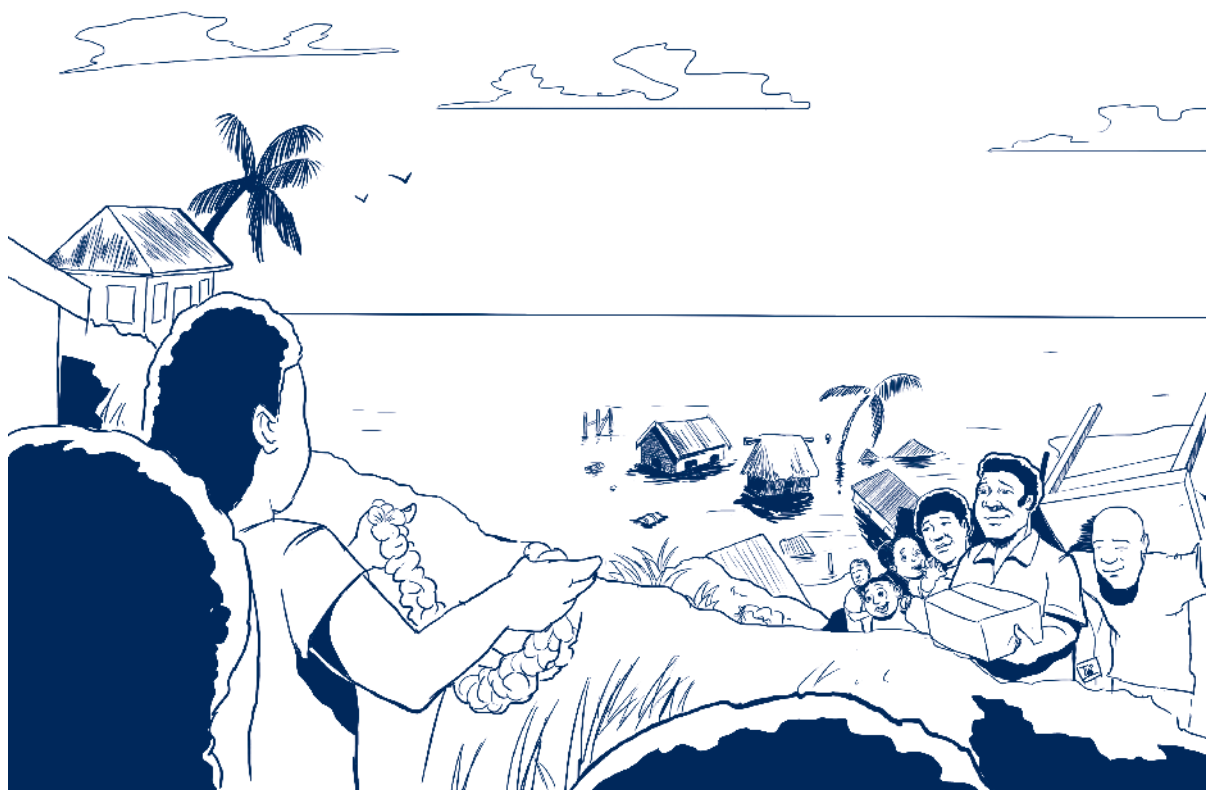


Finally, participants highlighted the important role of **regional organizations** in supporting Pacific countries and territories in disaster risk management. In particular, the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) put a strong focus on climate change and disaster risk management (DRM). While they were perceived to have limited capacities in terms of disaster preparedness and response, there was a suggestion that CROP agencies and related mechanisms could add value as platforms for sharing good practice and experiences across countries. Participants expressed interest in the idea of sharing best practice across different regions. The Pacific Humanitarian Team, which brought together governments, regional organizations and key humanitarian actors, was cited as a model in terms of regional coordination, but with the inclusion of new actors such as civil society organizations. The Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance was mentioned as another mechanism of sharing of experiences and best practice and as a vehicle for strengthening the interoperability of key response agencies at the national level. Participants called for better information sharing about existing regional coordination mechanisms.

Drawing on breakout group discussions, it was recommended in the co-chairs' summary that:

- Governments invest in and strengthen coordination between relevant line ministries and central agencies, such as Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Office of Prime Minister and the National Disaster Management Authority, or equivalent, to ensure a whole-of-government approach to disaster management.
- Governments establish the necessary laws, policies and institutions for disaster management with clear triggers for requesting international assistance, including deployable capacities.
- Building on the International Disaster Response Laws (IDRL), Rules and Principles guidelines, governments expedite entry and transit visas issued for humanitarian workers to improve timely and effective regional response.
- Governments ensure that national and local coordination systems are well equipped and resourced. Governments build systems for assessments, logistics and communications.
- National governments clearly articulate their need for international assistance in a timely way, based on strengthened vulnerability analysis. International organizations respect the nature and timing of those requests.
- Civil society works complement government efforts in community-based disaster preparedness and response, by strengthening national networks and sharing information on capacities with humanitarian partners.
- International partners make their approaches fit for the context and scale of disasters. They work together in advance of a crisis, to ensure assistance is harmonized, delivered with appropriate restraint, and supports national and local coordination mechanisms without adding to their burden during a crisis.
- Governments ensure adherence to existing international guidelines on civil-military as well as police coordination, and Government and partners implement adequate preparedness, coordination planning and regular joint exercises with military partners for appropriate and principled support in disaster response.

Responding to displacement



Findings from preparatory stakeholder consultations

Regional stakeholders' feedback during preparatory consultations recognized that displacement was expected to increase significantly in the Pacific over the coming decades. This was due to a combination of factors including increased frequency and severity of natural disasters, climate change, natural resource extraction, intercommunal tension, as well as poor economic, health and education opportunities. Against this backdrop, they called for proactive and holistic ways to prevent unwanted displacement and manage migration as an adaptation mechanism. Climate change was identified in the consultations as one of the main perceived causes of vulnerability to displacement and a humanitarian threat in the Pacific. As such stakeholders called for proactive solutions, including climate change mitigation, planned relocations of vulnerable communities and legal frameworks that provide long-term solutions to people displaced both internally and across borders. Communities underscored the need to consider Pacific people's connection to ancestral land and traditional land ownership when planning relocations, with attention to cultural and conflict sensitivity of both sending and receiving communities. The relationship between displacement and urbanization was also discussed. The protection of disaster-affected and displaced people was another recurrent theme in the preparatory consultations, with the protection of women seen as a particular concern. Notwithstanding governments' primary responsibility to protect people, including investment in police and social services, stakeholders called for humanitarian partners and donors to also prioritize protection in their programmes. They identified community protection committees as valuable mechanisms for engaging displaced people in raising protection concerns.

Meeting participants in Auckland focused on finding ways to achieve three key objectives related to displacement in the Pacific. First, **avoiding forced displacement** through better mitigation measures. Second, **ensuring that displaced persons are protected** with respect for their rights and

according to their needs and vulnerabilities. Third, **integrating displaced and host communities into humanitarian responses**.

The participants recognized **that forced displacement and planned relocation, as part of disaster mitigation efforts, were already taking place in the region**. This was primarily due to the effects of climate change, which was a core concern across the Pacific. Participants noted that internal displacement, mainly caused by disasters, was significantly more common in the region than cross-border displacement from conflict or protracted crises. However, participants argued that while such forms of displacement were relatively rare in the Pacific, they needed to be openly discussed and addressed.

Seeing further displacement from disasters and climate change-related sea level rise as **inevitable**, participants called for **proactive measures to avoid people being forced to leave their homes against their will**. This message was emphasized by affected people and civil society groups in particular. They advocated for preventing displacement through disaster risk reduction and conflict mitigation, where feasible, but also by empowering people to decide whether they want to move to safer areas or stay where they are.

The issue of **choice** continually reappeared throughout discussions on displacement. Participants called for governments to educate their citizens about risks, so that they could make **informed decisions** about whether to remain where they lived or relocate to safer areas. This could be done by integrating climate change in **education curricula**, as had already been done in the Cook Islands and Kiribati, and by involving communities in **risk mapping**. The role of the **scientific community** in disseminating information in an accessible format was also mentioned. When people could not or chose not to stay where they lived, **governments, community leaders and faith groups** were called to **support voluntary and dignified migration or relocation** in a planned, organized and participatory manner. Affected people and governments should be encouraged to consider durable solutions to displacement to ensure people's safety and dignity in the long term.

Some participants believed that people had the **right to stay** in their places of habitual residence during disasters – even if it meant putting them in danger – as long as they were aware of and were willing to accept the consequences. Others argued, however, that governments should be able to **forcibly evacuate** their citizens to keep them safe, noting examples from South Asian countries where this was routinely done ahead of floods and other disasters. The island geography of the Pacific gave special weight to the implications of this question, since some outer islands could be several days' boat ride away from relief providers.

Value systems were seen as critical determinants of communities' decision to stay or go. Pacific people's strong emotional and spiritual connection to their ancestral land meant that there was often avid resistance to moving away from areas where their families were buried. It was noted that men were more likely to stay on their ancestral lands even during disasters, whereas women were willing to take children out of harm's way. There were also observations of generational differences, where young people considered relocating to higher ground or urban areas a possibility, whereas the elderly less often considered it a real option – both culturally and in terms of physical accessibility.

In some cases, however, it was acknowledged that people would **eventually have no choice but to leave**. Participants lamented the impact of **climate change** in the region and recognized that countries such as Kiribati and the Marshall Islands may not exist in a few decades. Kiribati had already bought land from Fiji to grow food crops, which was seen as the first stage of adapting to their island country becoming uninhabitable. A participant from Tuvalu noted that even internal displacement would not be an option for much longer, since all their islands were facing inundation. Another participant suggested that for the people in low-lying atoll countries, the only options were to move abroad or "go vertical". The region therefore faced major decisions on how to preserve the safety, cultural identity and legal status of its citizens when sea levels rose above their home-

lands. Solutions that tested the solidarity of other sovereign states were required to avoid a large scale humanitarian disaster in the future.

In the immediate term, participants discussed **challenges related to communities relocating to new areas**. A woman from Papua New Guinea told how her community had recently relocated from a low-lying atoll to inland Bougainville due to rising sea levels. The community struggled to integrate into the urban host community and some individuals had returned voluntarily to their home atoll. Others made similar observations, citing examples of **inter-community tension and violence**, particularly but not exclusively in **informal settlements** and on ancestral lands. Addressing **customary and ancestral land rights** was identified as key in helping people move to new locations peacefully and sustainably. It was recognized that the entire concept of “climate refugees” or climate change migration posed a host of **ethical and legal challenges** that fell outside the scope of most international law. Participants struggled, however, to propose concrete recommendations for tackling this sensitive issue. Notwithstanding the



challenges related to land rights, some participants suggested that “the sense of kinship that exists in the Pacific neighbourhood” made relocation of communities relatively easy compared to other regions with more diverse populations. Despite this possibility, participants called for governments and humanitarian organizations to support **conflict mitigation and preparedness measures, including traditional conflict mediation**. Recognizing the impact of displacement on mental health, it was recommended that **culturally appropriate psychosocial support** be provided to displaced communities.

Participants advocated for better **protection of displaced people** in the region and called for governments to develop **regional and national frameworks on the protection of internally displaced persons** (IDPs). While some suggested that the African Union’s Kampala Convention⁶ could be modelled in the Pacific, others argued that the convention was too complicated and conflict-focused for the Pacific context. A displacement expert suggested that the Kenyan IDP Act, however, could offer a more relevant example of a national framework to look into. There was a strong call for the Pacific Islands Forum and governments to form a **consultative working group** and start developing a regional framework. This could be supported by international partners, such as the International Organization for Migration, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Displacement Monitoring Centre. The Geoscience Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community was also suggested as an option to support such an initiative. Some government officials suggested that individual countries could lead the way and have their national policies mirrored in a regional arrangement.

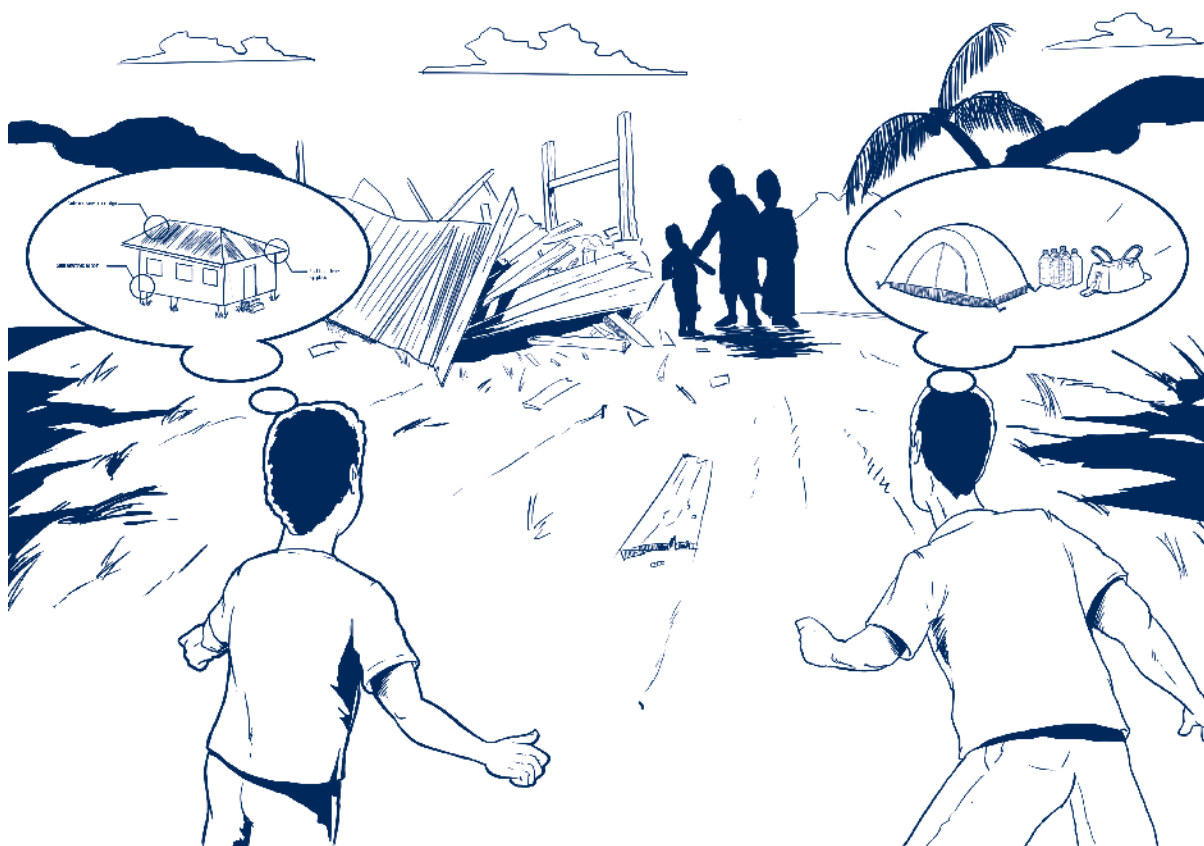
⁶ African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

Discussions pointed to the need to **build capacity at capital, provincial and community levels to manage displacement**. A suggestion was put forward for governments to create a **regional toolkit for addressing displacement**. It could build on lessons learned from other regions and include guidance on gender inclusivity, prevention of gender-based violence and mediation between displaced and host communities. A **task force** could be established to bring together communities, women's and disability organizations and authorities representing health, land, public works, security, agriculture, police and social services. Finally, all **humanitarian partners were called on to mainstream gender and rights-based approaches** into humanitarian assistance and protection provided to displaced people.

Drawing on breakout group discussions, it was recommended in the co-chairs' summary that:

- Governments ensure that people are educated about risks so they can make informed decisions about whether to remain where they live or relocate to safer areas.
- When people cannot or choose not to stay where they live, governments, community leaders and faith groups support voluntary and dignified migration or relocation. This is done in a planned, organized and participatory manner.
- Governments develop and implement national and regional toolkits and policies on the protection of internally displaced persons, including in urban contexts. Durable solutions are needed. This includes addressing customary and ancestral land issues.
- All humanitarian partners mainstream displaced persons' special protection needs, including those related to gender, age and disability, into humanitarian programming.
- Governments and international partners strengthen national, provincial and local capacities and support communities to be better prepared for displacement, including mitigation measures against adverse effects in host communities.
- All humanitarian actors ensure that traditional leadership structures and traditional ways of mediating conflict are drawn upon to support displaced and host communities. This does not undermine the importance of considering gender, age and disability considerations.
- All humanitarian actors offer culturally appropriate psychosocial support to displaced people.

Collaborating for resilience



Findings from the preparatory stakeholder consultations

The preparatory consultations identified resilience to disasters as a core objective for the region with a call for humanitarian and development approaches to be effectively integrated to further this goal. Respondents highlighted the need for humanitarian and development actors to consider early recovery as an opportunity to respond to life-saving needs, while also addressing underlying risks. This included the application of development principles in a humanitarian setting. Stakeholders also called for better integration of humanitarian, development and climate change considerations into planning and governance structures. Participants noted that the humanitarian-development conversation should centre on affected people's ability to reduce their exposure to risks, prepare for and recover after disasters, as well as ways in which governments can seamlessly strengthen communities' resilience. Many consulted discussed the value of investing in preparedness and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific, noting that fatalities would likely have been higher from recent disasters had the region's governments not invested in early warning systems, as well as national and community level preparedness. It was suggested that mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development policies and planning should be supported through ministerial budgets. Intergovernmental processes, such as those covering disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals were seen as valuable opportunities to bring the humanitarian and development communities closer. Efforts such as the new Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development for the Pacific, which is scheduled to come into effect in 2016, focuses on embedding actions to reduce climate and disaster risks within economic and social development processes. There was a call for legal frameworks to better link preparedness, response and recovery.

Participants in Auckland discussed how humanitarian and development actors could collaborate to build the resilience of communities to future disasters and the impacts of climate change. The discussions focused on the role of governments, as well as international and national humanitarian organizations, in promoting local ownership of preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction initiatives. They also dealt with collective approaches to resilience building by governments and development partners through investment in preparedness as well as mainstreaming DRM and climate change adaptation (CCA) into all development investments. In addition, participants discussed legal frameworks, regional mechanisms and long-term planning for reducing risks and managing crises. They looked at ways regional organizations and the international community could support governments in these efforts.

Participants underscored the need to **build the resilience** of communities and nations **through evidence-based disaster preparedness and risk reduction**. They noted that while all countries across the Pacific were at risk of climate change, some of the low-lying atoll countries, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu, faced much higher risk than others. Participants therefore underscored the need to prioritize as well as fine-tune resilience-building initiatives in accordance with the specific risk contexts within the region.

Participants called for a **new narrative of resilience-building in the Pacific** that recognized the extreme nature of risks faced by people living in remote, dispersed and low-lying atoll countries. As narrated by a participant: “When there is a cyclone warning, people put on their life vests, strap onto it their most valuable belongings and then go to the stadium in the town, if they have access to the stadium. They try to find the highest seat in the stadium, and then wait with their eyes closed, praying that the water doesn’t get to them... but if you are in one of the far off islands, you don’t even have that option.” This was often the reality for many of the communities who could not be evacuated before a cyclone made landfall or a tsunami wave reached their homes.

Participants therefore highlighted that building the resilience of these communities would require durable **long-term solutions**, including relocation to safer places within or outside their countries. These measures would have to be adopted in addition to preparedness and risk reduction measures within the geographical confines of the communities. Participants also called for greater attention to displacement due to potential conflicts emerging from climate change impacts, as well as increased stress on natural resources. They framed them as development, rather than humanitarian, concerns and emphasized the need for all relevant communities to be part of the planning and implementation of measures that addressed these challenges. Participants also called for donors and governments to adopt a **multi-sectoral approach to building community resilience**. They placed emphasis on sectors such as health; water, sanitation and hygiene; agriculture; education; infrastructure and economic development as being vital to resilience-building.

Participants argued that the current architecture related to humanitarian action and development cooperation was not conducive to an integrated approach at either the national or international level. Even though at the community level, the same organizations were engaged in both humanitarian response and development, programmes and funding streams were not well coordinated. Participants called for greater **flexibility in funding procedures and programmatic approaches** by both donors and governments to allow local actors to use funds across preparedness, response and recovery activities in line with the specific needs and risk contexts. They saw this as particularly important given that local communities did not recognize the different terminologies of humanitarian response, recovery, DRR or CCA. As one participant stated: “There is no humanitarian-development divide at the village level.” What mattered to them was how they could withstand and overcome the impacts of disasters and have a decent quality of life.

As noted by a representative from a regional organization in the Pacific, “organizations in the region sometimes wear a development hat and sometimes a humanitarian hat and that there doesn’t seem to be enough communication between agencies. It’s a coordination issue, there needs to be better communication between governments and NGOs.” Participants suggested strengthening **mechanisms for information sharing and coordination between humanitarian and development actors** as a way to collaborate effectively for building resilience. They called for the use of existing

regional forums, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, the PHT, the Pacific Platform for DRM and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for this purpose. Participants also highlighted the need to strengthen understanding, as well as **capacities, at the provincial and local levels** on how to seamlessly integrate humanitarian and development efforts.

“Humanitarian operations are normally a component of the work that we do. For the majority of NGOs that work in the Pacific, development is actually their core business. It’s about supporting communities and people to be more resilient... we need to do this better.”

Representative of an international NGO working in the Pacific

Participants identified **preparedness, for both response and recovery**, as the common ground for humanitarian and development work. However, they emphasized that preparedness needed to be seen not in isolation but in conjunction with response, recovery and risk reduction. They called for adoption of a **multi-stakeholder risk management approach**, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for each actor. Representatives of CSOs and affected community members reiterated that such an approach was critical for strengthening governance for building community resilience to future disasters.

Participants recognized the proactive role that governments played in strengthening resilience by providing support, including dedicated funding to promote local government ownership of preparedness, response and recovery initiatives. They underscored the need for clear **coordination structures** within the government, alongside relevant **information management systems**, and **dedicated focal points** to coordinate with relevant actors, including INGOs and communities. In addition to the NDMOs, participants called for line ministries to embrace their roles and responsibilities in preparedness and response. They highlighted that these government actors should con-



tribute to resilience building efforts through development of their own **contingency plan, budgetary allocations for response and coordination**, and the **appointment of a dedicated focal point** for the above. Participants emphasized the significance of **legal frameworks for resilience-building** which brought together preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction, with clear mandate for each stakeholder in each phase.

While reiterating the responsibility of governments in protecting its citizens from the impacts of disasters, participants noted that due to the small size and limited capacities of most governments in the Pacific, resilience building could not be achieved by governments alone. Therefore, international and national humanitarian organizations were encouraged to engage with and support national and local governments, as well as community-based organizations in **preparedness for response**, including contingency planning and simulation exercises. Elaborating on the nature of this support, a participant noted that: "It's not about more resources for NDMOs, it's about how they are supported. There needs to be a **strategy for strengthening NDMOs**." Such a strategy should be based on the establishment of baseline data, systematic risk assessments, accountability mechanisms, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Participants underscored the need to conduct **contingency planning exercises** that include NGOs, Red Cross Societies and community-based organizations, such as women's groups, who were not traditionally involved in disaster risk management. They saw this as a means to enhance the understanding of these local actors on the overlaps between humanitarian and development work and adjust their programming approaches accordingly. They highlighted that at the community level, **community disaster committees** (CDCs) could function as a useful coordination structure that linked preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction activities. However, recent experiences in the region indicated that for CDCs to be effective in performing these roles, their capacities needed to be strengthened through the provision of equipment, regular training and simulation exercises.

"There is a direct relationship between how quickly a community in the Pacific recovers from a crisis of any kind, and the quality of the development which came before."

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

Participants highlighted that humanitarian actors needed to invest in strengthening preparedness for effective and timely response, as well as in early recovery so that humanitarian needs in the future can be minimized. At the same time, donors and development actors should provide **long-term and integrated support** to governments in addressing the challenges associated with **climate change** and in **mainstreaming DRM** in all forms of development investment.

Participants also underscored that donors and development actors should adhere to the **humanitarian principles** of neutrality and impartiality **when building back better as part of recovery**, as well as in development. It is imperative that vulnerable groups are not side-lined in these efforts. Pacific countries had made progress in identifying and managing their risks, but more needed to be done as part of development initiatives to safeguard vulnerable groups such as women, youth, children and people with disabilities and HIV, against future disasters.

Participants recognized the opportunities presented by existing agreements, including the **Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific** (SRDP) and the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**, although further work is needed at the national level to implement these agreements, including building capacities at the provincial and local levels. They underscored the critical need to have greater involvement of humanitarian actors in these efforts. While the SRDP provided a real opportunity to have a regional approach to resilience building, it required all actors involved to have **clear and open channels for communication and information**

sharing. Participants were troubled by the tendency of the international community to create, what they perceived to be, “parallel processes”. They highlighted that their small island states did not have sufficient capacity to engage in multiple conversations and sought greater development-humanitarian integration at the highest global levels.

Drawing on breakout group discussions, it was recommended in the co-chairs’ summary that:

- Governments and their partners invest in the implementation of SRDP and Sendai Framework. Communities, in particular women, are involved from the start in the design and implementation of initiatives to achieve SRDP and Sendai commitments.
- Governments clearly determine the roles and responsibilities of line ministries and sub-national government in preparedness and response, including through legal frameworks. They appoint a focal point for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation for better coordination.
- Governments and development partners find durable solutions to address climate change, disaster and conflict-induced displacement. They involve communities and help alleviate climate change impacts.
- Donors and governments make their funding more flexible to support DRR, resilience and crisis response to allow communities to access funds for building their community resilience.
- The Pacific Humanitarian Team members, including regional organizations, international NGOs and UN agencies, recognize the growing role of disaster management offices and national clusters and support them.

Financing for preparedness, response and early recovery



Findings from preparatory stakeholder consultations

Regional preparatory consultations, including a dedicated consultation on finance, underlined the importance of sufficient financing for risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery in the Pacific. This was seen to be critical, given the region's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters; the small size of its economies; and the high dependence on external financing for both humanitarian and development initiatives. Contributors strongly emphasized the need to align different funding streams, particularly humanitarian, development and climate change finance, to best serve the needs of affected people. Flexibility in funding, including from government, international donors, remittances from the Pacific diaspora and private sector contributions, are central to these efforts. Stakeholders consulted in the region reiterated that funds must be available to get assistance and resources rapidly off the ground to complement the efforts of first responders. It was suggested that the predictability of humanitarian financing could be enhanced through emergency or contingency funds established by each government. Stakeholders also noted the value of risk transfer mechanisms, such as insurance, for immediate liquidity in the case of predictable, recurrent crises. Catastrophe risk insurance would, however, need to be further investigated, learning from the experience of recent disbursements from the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance pilot scheme. There was also a call for more attention to be paid to the accountability of humanitarian actors to both affected communities and taxpayers.

Participants divided into three sub-groups to discuss supporting preventative action, climate change mitigation and transition from response to recovery; making funding flexible and predictable; and tapping into more diverse sources of funding.

Participants observed that current funding in the Pacific was heavily skewed towards disaster response rather than preparedness and risk reduction. This was despite a clear recognition that **investing in preparedness and risk reduction paid dividends**, as demonstrated by the experience of Vanuatu in the wake of TC Pam. Participants emphasized that more funding must be allocated towards the underlying causes of humanitarian crises in the Pacific. These causes included poverty, economic inequality, climate change impacts, urbanization, over-population, poor soil quality and food insecurity, thus reducing the cost and impact of extreme events. It was currently easier to attract public funding for disaster response that provided an immediate visibility to the donors and the general public. There were some noted exceptions. After Cyclone Heta in 2004, the Government of Niue laid almost all communication and electric cables underground to protect its facilities. These types of investments were not visible but were recognized to be very important for disaster preparedness. Participants urged disaster response fundraisers to use their campaigns to communicate the value of also investing in recovery and resilience to private donors.

There was an agreement that **domestic investment in disaster preparedness and response** was an important prerequisite for governments to be in a leadership role in situations of disasters, even if most governments were likely to need international assistance. Government funding allocations should be provided for in Disaster Management Acts and National Disaster Management Plans. This included setting aside contingency funds as a percentage of national budgets, rather than at a regional level, and being able to rapidly access additional funding when humanitarian needs outstripped national resources. For that to happen, further research and data on how much was spent at domestic level for disaster risk management, as part of the national budget, was necessary. This research needed to be overlaid with improved human, social, economic, built and natural vulnerability baseline data so that decisions could be more targeted and effective.



Participants called for more **transparency and accountability** about where funding originated from, and where it was allocated. This should include all forms of financial support, from donors, international financial institutions and NGOs and should cover the entire humanitarian cycle, from DRR to preparedness, response and early recovery. Participants cited a new initiative by Papua New Guinea's Ministry for Planning and Monitoring in setting up a **database on public and private financing** as a good example for the region to emulate. Participants also suggested that a **web-based platform** should be set up at regional level within an existing entity, such as a regional organization in partnership with UNOCHA and a technology company, so that it could keep track of all public and private financial flows for preparedness, response and early recovery. This should not, however, duplicate monitoring and evaluation frameworks related to the SRDP and the Sendai Framework for DRR. In order to ensure recovery funding was not blocked or delayed, Pacific governments were urged to develop recovery plans in advance of disasters.

Echoing the findings of the stakeholder analysis, participants called for **more flexible and predictable funding**. Funding was often not available when needed, and when available, it was inflexible, disbursed with short timeframes, complex to access, not necessarily targeted to the most vulnerable nor responsive to local priorities, and at times political. As participants noted, this hampered recipient organizations' ability to tailor their approaches to changing contexts. Greater domestic investments in disaster preparedness and response, suggested above, could increase the flexibility, as it would **address liquidity constraints** in the immediate humanitarian response. Stakeholders were urged to explore the full range of options to address funding problems. This includes looking for alternative sources of financing, from crowdfunding or creative new sources of revenue that could be channeled directly to communities and local organizations. Participants also identified a variety of enhancements to humanitarian financing, such as **catastrophe risk insurance mechanisms**. They also highlighted the need to create **fiscal buffers** for dealing with the response to natural disasters through a range of credit, such as pre-arranged lines of credit, and budget support mechanisms. Recognizing weaknesses of fully subsidized insurance premium schemes, participants suggested investigating the benefits of partially subsidized schemes and expanding the **Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance** scheme in terms of: the range of disaster types covered; the number of countries included; and cover for post disaster recovery where there is a funding gap.

Finally, participants noted that the **transaction fees of remittances** were often prohibitively high. A concrete suggestion which received much support was to pre-agree a mechanism for the removal of transaction costs for banks, remittance organizations and telecommunication companies during a defined period of time in the acute phase of a crisis. Participants highlighted, however, that when cash was directly delivered to people, women must be prioritized as direct recipients.

"We need to look at the financing problem as a whole and have a collective crisis management approach so there is no divide between humanitarian and development financing."

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Chief, WHS secretariat

Improving access to flexible and consistent financing was identified as an area that would require **innovation** as current models were seen as inadequate. While the fundamental challenge of aid dependency in the Pacific was noted, participants also often saw the issue not as a lack of funds but the fact that different sources of funding, particularly between CCA, DRR and humanitarian assistance, were not well aligned. Again, projects in all three areas often overlapped in the same communities without adequate coordination or joint planning. One participant noted that CCA funds were available to promote solar panels, which could be greener and more resilient than diesel generators, but only if the roofs were storm-proofed and also used to collect rainwater. Bringing together funding and projects **to identify key synergies between CCA and DRR** was crucial to realizing lasting benefits.

Drawing on breakout group discussions, it was recommended in the co-chairs' summary that:

- Banks, remittance organizations and telecommunications companies consider waiving fees in an emergency, for a defined time in the wake of disaster (determined by the scale of the disaster). More investment in disaster resilient infrastructure, including mobile technology, will help to ensure remote communities can access their services when needed.
- All relevant stakeholders support systems that mean women are direct recipients of money transfers, as well as men. Systems to improve financial inclusion involve women and people living with disabilities in their design.
- Governments and donors develop better national maps of vulnerability reflecting social, economic and structural exposure to natural hazards. Funding is conditional upon meaningful consideration of human, social and physical infrastructure vulnerability indicators.
- Ministries of Finance work with banks, remittance agencies and telecommunications companies to develop a widely and publicly accessible format for reporting all sources and destinations of financing for disaster preparedness and response. This includes remittances, private flows and international aid, as a means to increase accountability to affected people and assist aid providers target their funds better.
- All stakeholders to capitalize on the presence of new avenues for digital communication, data capture and data management technologies that have the capacity to boost outcomes in communicating need, allocating resources, and improving the assessment of the impact of assistance provided in crisis, leading to strengthened financing for resilience.
- Governments, with the support of technical experts, address the barriers to immediate liquidity for governments to lead disaster response and recovery. This includes exploring the comparative merits of various approaches, such as catastrophe risk insurance mechanisms, credit, budget support and increasing the size of domestically funded national contingency funds. Participants noted that regional pooled funds are not necessarily the best approach to address response and recovery.
- Insurance companies consider how they can develop low cost premiums for families to encourage greater take-up of individual and family insurance in the Pacific. Within this, incentives are built to encourage better building standards, for example for lower premiums.
- All domestic and international development actors establish and adopt national benchmarks for investment in all phases of the disaster risk cycle. Donors initiate multi-year predictable funding for NDMOs and local organizations – particularly women's organizations – to build greater capacity to plan for and respond to disasters.
- The business sector and communities be involved in the development of local and national early recovery plans. NDMOs or other relevant ministries are empowered, including through legislation, to enact early recovery plans quickly. This will also help donor funding to flow more quickly.

Partnering with the private sector



Findings from the preparatory stakeholder consultations

The consultations held prior to the Auckland meeting revealed that the private sector was increasingly seen as a powerful ally in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian response. As partners they had the potential to provide innovative approaches to solve issues that governments and traditional humanitarian partners have been grappling with for many years. A range of sectors were identified as having the potential to improve humanitarian outcomes including transport, data, logistics, communication technologies, pre-positioning of supplies, technical advisory services and using Corporate Social Responsibility programmes to build resilience. Respondents in the region noted the reality that businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, form part of affected communities and there is a need to strengthen business planning for early recovery. Those involved in the consultation process felt it was important for businesses to be tasked with problems to solve, rather than to establish partnerships for partnerships' sake. Stakeholders urged governments to recognize and clarify the role of private sector in crisis response efforts in their national emergency response policy and preparedness plans. How to best leverage the available skills and resources of the private sector remained a work in progress and required cultural and behavioural changes on all parts. This included recognition by traditional humanitarian partners that they did not have the monopoly on humanitarian action. Contributors felt that effective collaboration between the private sector, governments and humanitarian organizations required dialogue, understanding and a willingness to change.

There was recognition by participants that the **private sector was already an integral part of the community and an active contributor in disaster response**. There were many examples where the private sector had played a key role as a first responder alongside affected communities in

disasters. A civil society participant from Palau talked about the use of private sector equipment to clear roads of debris after two recent typhoons. It was noted that in small island nations without militaries, there was a greater need for private sector collaboration to access much needed equipment and assets. It was also discussed that often the language used by the humanitarian sector to talk about the private sector, for example as an external or new actor, created an artificial separation that did not in fact exist on an operational level. It was suggested that discussions on the role of private sector should focus on the common intents and values of partners rather than the differences.

Participants suggested that there had been a **“misfit” between the government and the private sector** and that it was time to **bridge this gap**. Governments could not be expected to do everything in a disaster and the private sector “had to be part of it”. There were calls for agreements with the private sector to provide assets, skills and expertise to facilitate a rapid response. However, these relationships needed to be **cultivated prior to disasters and initiated and formalized by government** through Memorandums of Understanding or public-private partnerships. Governments also had to identify and communicate their needs in disasters to ensure that offers of assistance were handled adequately.

Private sector organizations were called upon to **establish national platforms for private sector engagement in preparedness and response**, for example by using local Chambers of Commerce. It was suggested that local government could facilitate Chambers of Commerce and community groups to map, record and make information available online regarding local business services, community or volunteer capabilities and how to engage with them. It was further suggested that Chambers of Commerce could be appropriate forums for **business-to-business education on preparedness and response**, particularly the sharing of documents such as crisis management plans between businesses. The private sector indicated a need to learn from the experiences of other organizations and should be actively invited to participate in knowledge sharing around disaster preparedness and response. Existing platforms should also be made more open to including learnings from the private sector themselves.



In terms of preparedness, it was suggested that the **private sector could sponsor preparedness activities in schools or community settings** in a similar manner to which they currently sponsor sporting or other community events. This was seen as an opportunity for Corporate Social Responsibility budgets in terms of aligning brands with community safety.

It was recognized that getting businesses, markets and livelihoods up and running again following disasters contributes to humanitarian recovery. However, there was some disagreement among participants around the prioritization of saving lives versus restoring business operations. Participants expressed the private sector's role as a key part of society and the economy of a nation. As part of the affected community, participants stated the importance of re-establishing businesses so the broader community could bounce back. Private sector actors felt strongly that **having recovery resources included as part of first response was critical to avoiding downstream economic downturn when the initial response was withdrawn.** Fast tracking recovery was seen as a critical factor in rebuilding community functions and they suggested governments should prioritize this. However, this was not easily accepted during discussion with non-private sector actors who did not share the view of the importance of local economic recovery relative to the primary purpose of humanitarian response – to save lives. It was agreed by all participants that economic recovery could be an indirect outcome but consensus was not reached on whether this should be the primary goal of private sector actors in a response.

Participants stressed the need for a clearer differentiation between the **recovery of essential services** and the wider business community. For this reason, it was recommended that governments **implemented a framework** for essential services that communities needed to function, such as power, water, finance, telecommunication and waste. It was recommended that governments and the public and private sector providers of these essential services should **integrate their business continuity planning** (BCP). Plans should be developed and aligned with national disaster management plans and be tested and exercised in simulations on an annual basis. It was also important that the private sector was invited to planning and coordination meetings and was more involved in disaster preparedness. It was also suggested that private sector **BCP approaches could be implemented by governments and communities at government, village and family levels.** This would need to be implemented in a straightforward manner with adapted messaging at each level. The result would be vertical integration of BCP with DRR policies from village through to national government level.

There was a range of discussions on how **collaborating with the private sector could build resilience.** A key part of resilience was ensuring that **building codes and standards** were adhered to and that building materials were of a high standard. It was suggested that community buildings used as shelters in disasters could include risk reduction and resilience as part of the construction tender process. Governments, CSOs and businesses were called on to establish a **post-disaster procurement strategy** that prioritized local private sector capabilities in reconstruction, focusing on innovation and opportunities to build back better.

“It is attitude change we need. Having private sector onboard is very important – it is the way forward for all of us. Need to build more relationships.”

Government participant in a breakout group

Participants acknowledged that the **private sector was strong in the area of communication** and there was even a suggestion that a Communication Cluster be formed to work more closely with mobile phone, internet, television and radio providers in emergencies. There was also a call for the involvement of the scientific community in early warning systems, and for the private sector to be engaged in pre-positioning communications units in strategic locations across the region. The need to **setup reliable and resilient networks and infrastructure for communications in the Pa-**

cific was highlighted, particularly in remote locations. Participants advocated for developing networks comprised of multiple integrated government and private sector options that would provide additional capacity and redundancy. It was also noted that when state assets are privatized, often one of the first actions taken is to remove redundancy capacity as a cost saving measure, exposing systems to much greater risk of failure during a disaster.

The **strength of governance** within the private sector was highlighted as a key asset and it was acknowledged that the private sector could share lessons and experience of good governance with governments and NGOs. This was particularly discussed in reference to localizing funding and improving accountability to donors or partners. It was suggested that an easy-to-use accounting system, based on business industry standards, should be implemented broadly across all humanitarian partners and that the local private sector be engaged to provide training to other organizations in maintaining good reporting standards.

Further, some participants called for the **integration of government and private sector infrastructure** as a way to increase the cost-efficiency and timeliness of response. This was extended in discussions to include having access to locally trained staff, as the costs of rapidly moving people are partly responsible for the high cost of humanitarian response. Training staff available locally increases local response capacity and utilizes local resources, increasing local economic benefit both to businesses and to government.

Due to the prevalence of **small and medium-size enterprises** (SMEs) in Pacific island nations, their recovery was seen as important to the local economy. SMEs were encouraged to have business continuity plans and there was an expectation that local disaster planning should integrate local businesses. Participants suggested that national disaster management plans could align with local plans and include **disaster training for local businesses**. Local governments should also provide a mechanism for local businesses to collect situational data to collate and feed into disaster assessment and analysis. Another key recommendation put forward was for **governments and the financial sector to establish pre-existing mechanisms to support local businesses during disaster recovery**, such as insurance, bridging finance, debt restructuring, tax relief and the deferred payment of fees.

Some participants raised **ethical concerns around the involvement of the private sector and the relevance of humanitarian principles**. Some participants said they were uneasy about certain food and beverage companies donating items which contradicted efforts to reduce the high prevalence of diabetes and obesity in the Pacific. For this reason, it was suggested the principle of 'do no harm' be consistently applied across all relief efforts. It was suggested that a code of conduct certification be developed to guide private sector behaviour in humanitarian response, with governments to incentivize its membership and adherence.

There was also concern around the idea of 'profit' and **private sector motivations** behind humanitarian action. Participants outlined the importance of adhering to ethical principles, inclusiveness and the use of accurate data. It was recognized that "data is the currency of the private sector" and has intrinsic value. Participants advocated for agreed standards to be developed for humanitarian data integrity and security. A platform could be built which allows partners to securely share information while retaining ownership and privacy rights.

Drawing on breakout group discussions, it was recommended in the co-chairs' summary that:

- Government policies for engaging the private sector clearly differentiate between suppliers of the essential services that communities need to function – such as power, water, finance, telecommunications and waste – the rest of the local private sector and private sector responders.
- Governments and essential services integrate business continuity planning and disaster risk reduction as combined disaster preparedness plans and conduct regular joint testing and simulation exercises.
- Governments facilitate business and community networks to record and share online information regarding local business services and community and volunteer capabilities that are available during disaster preparedness or response and how to engage with them.
- Governments formalize the representation of the private sector – both essential services and local businesses – during disaster planning, training and simulation, response and recovery.
- Governments, civil society organizations and businesses establish a joint post-disaster procurement strategy that prioritizes local private sector capabilities in reconstruction, focusing on innovation and opportunities to build back better.
- Government and the financial sector establish pre-existing support mechanisms that will trigger in the instance of a disaster, including insurance, bridging finance, debt restructuring, tax relief and deferred payments of fees.
- Private sector representatives develop a certification, backed by a code of conduct, for behaviour in humanitarian response that is appropriate to different industries. Governments consider incentivizing membership and adherence to this code, for example through tax breaks.

INNOVATION EXERCISE



Following the breakout discussions on the six priority issues, participants worked through an analytical exercise to identify areas where new thinking and innovation was required. They revisited the key findings identified during the stakeholder consultations and the breakout discussions, prioritizing specific challenges and identifying areas for collaboration. They first ranked the 22 sub-issues presented in the stakeholder analysis report based on what they estimated the improvement in the effectiveness of humanitarian response in the region would be if ways were found to address some of the problem areas through innovation.⁷ This did not necessarily reflect the relative importance or value of the other challenges, but indicated where participants saw the greatest opportunities to transform the humanitarian system. As seen in the graph, the areas with most potential were around localizing the humanitarian system, making funding more flexible and predictable and enhancing resilience through preparedness and risk reduction.

In a second exercise, participants identified the areas with the most intractable problems – those where fundamentally new thinking and ways of working were required to make progress. These focused heavily on the practical challenges around how to actually empower and engage local communities, while building local resilience. A number of groups also looked at challenges related to flexible financing and the limits of current international law with regard to displacement in the context of climate change.

Many of these challenges **required entirely new approaches and a rethink of some of the core assumptions of how the international humanitarian system worked in the region.** While the exercise was not designed to provide concrete recommendations, **some clear themes emerged:**

⁷ Participants were allowed to mark their top three choices casting a total of 554 votes. For reference, the top sub theme received 39 votes.

- Rethinking the approach to capacity building in small communities through use of e-learning, gamification or other approaches to involve the wider community in disaster preparedness.
- Re-examining the incentives for private sector engagement in small markets and how to move beyond Corporate Social Responsibility towards win-win partnerships.
- Developing a legal framework for addressing climate refugees, issues around forced relocation and how to preserve cultures in the event of the loss of entire countries.
- Looking for alternative sources of financing, from crowdfunding or creative new sources of revenue that could be channeled directly to communities and local organizations.
- Better integrating different funding streams to find innovative solutions that address both CCA and DRR, such as saline resistant plants and the use of traditional building materials. These could often be developed at the regional level by pooling funds to better support research and development.

Top ten sub-themes ranked by likely impact on humanitarian action if innovation was applied



CLOSING REMARKS

Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, highlighted the crucial role of communities in humanitarian action and the importance of their inclusion in the WHS dialogue and outcomes. She acknowledged the resilience of the Pacific region, which had faced 500 disasters in the last 100 years alone, and called on the world to learn from the region and not ignore Pacific voices. Ms. Cousin noted that climate change had become the defining challenge for the region, testing people's traditional ways of coping. She said collective efforts were therefore required at the local, regional and international levels.

Ms. Cousin stated that TC Pam demonstrated the region's specific challenges and highlighted the need for humanitarian partners to engage and work differently. She called for a reset of the humanitarian and development architecture and a focus on people to drive humanitarian action: "It's the people, not our mandates that must provide the rationale for what we do and how we do it." She argued that women's full participation and role in decision-making was key. Ms. Cousin noted that the burden of climate change had to be shared. She suggested this required long-term commitments and multi-sectoral approaches, backed by predictable, flexible, multi-year funding. Ms. Cousin concluded with a Māori proverb translated as "by many, by thousands, the work will be accomplished. [There is] unity in strength."



Mr. Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, reminded the participants that the WHS in Istanbul was a departure point to a new way of delivering humanitarian action, rather than an end point. He emphasized the need to work together in making humanitarian action more effective and efficient while continuing with the broad engagement with development partners. Mr. O'Brien thanked participants and speakers for their powerful narrations of the every-day challenges of thousands of Pacific Islanders. Recognizing the leadership of the WHS secretariat, Mr. O'Brien remarked that many processes in the future would draw upon the complex but uniquely inclusive consultation process.

Mr. O'Brien reiterated the fundamental role of women as leaders and first responders, not just as victims, and of the importance of making humanitarian action inclusive of all vulnerable and marginalized groups, including older people, youth, children and people living with disabilities. He emphasized the responsibility of international actors to build on existing local systems and skills. Mr. O'Brien also



highlighted the significance of strong risk governance and investments in disaster risk preparedness and risk reduction, with joint financing and planning between climate, development and humanitarian actors. In conclusion, Mr. O'Brien urged the participants to make the most of the networks and partnerships formed during the consultation meeting to begin implementing some of the recommendations and to develop actions and commitments that they could bring to the WHS in 2016. He gave assurance that the Pacific voice would be carried through to Geneva, Istanbul and beyond.

His Excellency Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, drew on a famous Māori proverb "*He at ate mea nui? He tangata. He tangata. He tangata*", which translated as "What is the most important thing? It is people, it is people, it is people". The Pacific had a unique tradition of putting people first and President Tong called for it to be shared with the rest of the world. He said climate change was the most fundamental moral challenge for humanity. As he was leaving the presidential office at the end of 2015, Mr. Tong reflected on his many years campaigning about climate change, even when few had wanted to listen. He argued that climate change was not about the science, but about the people, and that Pacific island nations had been sitting on the side line as the rest of the world had sought profit and rising gross domestic products. The President paid tribute to the UN Secretary-General for shedding light on climate change and placing it at the top of the UN agenda. However, he said there was too much talk about climate change and that it was time to act.



The President called for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015 to reach an agreement on how to move forward with climate change. He warned that unless the global community came forward with credible and concrete solutions to address climate change, no agreement would be able to radically improve the future prospects of low-lying countries in the region. As sea levels would continue to rise, the people of Kiribati would need to relocate. Despite coining the term "migration with dignity", President Tong understood that in reality no one wanted to leave their home. Kiribati had prepared for the inevitable by buying land in Fiji as an "investment in the future." The President called on those countries with means to help small low-lying islands and their future generations to survive.

Ms. Davene Vroon, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as the host nation thanked participants for coming to New Zealand to share their thoughts and challenges, and for being willing to stand on the shoulders of those who had come before.

The Pacific regional consultation was closed with a blessing by **Ms. Ipul Powaseu** from the Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons and followed by the Fijian farewell song, *Isa Lei*, led by **Ms. Emele Duituturaga** from the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations.

Note: The above are summaries of the closing remarks.

Please visit www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_pacific for full video recordings of the closing session.

WAY FORWARD

The feedback from the participants in Auckland and the 1,428 persons consulted before the regional consultation meeting offered an important evidence base to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action in the Pacific. It was rooted in the experiences of communities that were affected by disasters, lived on the frontlines of climate change and were targeted for disaster risk reduction activities. The recommendations put forward during the consultations should be heard and acted upon by the diverse humanitarian community in the region.

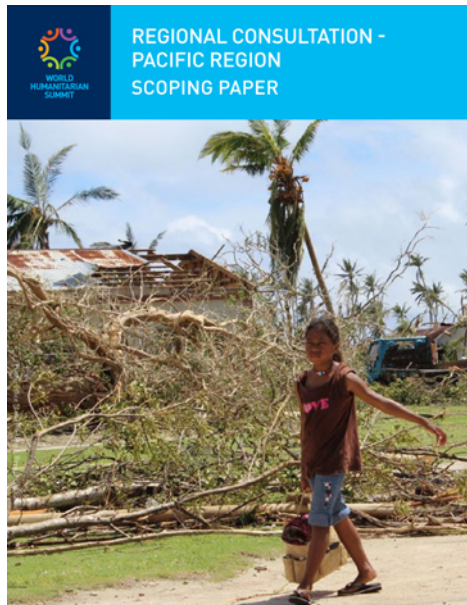
Taking forward the recommendations from the regional consultation cannot be entrusted with a single entity or group of people. The recommendations were the result of a commitment to change from the many Pacific representatives present in Auckland and beyond. A number of the recommendations were initially targeted at governments. Yet communities, humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and other partners also played a central role in improving the effectiveness of humanitarian action. They should therefore independently identify key actions that would support bringing affected people to the centre of the decision-making process in preparedness, response and recovery.

The WHS Regional Steering Group for the Pacific will remain active to help guide the implementation of recommendations, including through the global consultation in late 2015 in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The Pacific Humanitarian Team meeting in October 2015 will serve as another platform to further concretize the implementation of recommendations. Other relevant meetings led by local, regional and international partners in the Pacific were encouraged to equally dedicate time to explore how to take the Auckland recommendations forward through organizations, networks and communities. Changing the course of humanitarian action in the Pacific was a shared responsibility.

ANNEX 1: REFERENCES TO BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Four key supporting documents were prepared to inform the regional consultation and to capture the findings of the extensive stakeholder consultations that preceded the final meeting in Auckland. They can be accessed through the following links:

Initial scoping paper



whsummit.org/file/491365/view/535441

Stakeholder analysis



whsummit.org/file/497849/view/542285

Stakeholder analysis summary



whsummit.org/file/497817/view/542251

ODI: Humanitarian Trends and Challenges for the Pacific Region



whsummit.org/file/497843/view/542279

ANNEX 2: CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY

The WHS regional consultation for the Pacific was held in Auckland, New Zealand, from 30 June to 2 July 2015. It was hosted by the Government of New Zealand and co-chaired by the Government of Australia, the Government of New Zealand and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In the spirit of the summit's multi-stakeholder approach, the meeting brought together nearly 170 participants from the three sub-regions of the Pacific representing Member States of the United Nations including three Heads of States, regional organizations, civil society, affected communities, national and international non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the private sector and academia, as well as observers from three countries involved in hosting WHS consultations.

The discussions in Auckland reflected the culture, strength and diversity of the Pacific. The participants were honoured by the pōwhiri, a formal welcome from the local Ngāti Whātua tribe. Several leaders from across the region, the UN and the Red Cross Movement demonstrated their commitment to work together as regional partners and learn from the people of the Pacific about their capacities, needs and where support should be provided. All participants focused particularly on the lessons learned from recent crises, most prominently the response to Tropical Cyclone Pam, the largest weather event to occur in the Pacific in recorded history. Particular emphasis was given to the lessons from the cyclone demonstrating that investing in preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR) pays dividends.

Participants in the regional consultation noted that communities in the Pacific have grown resilient by having lived with tropical cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes and other disasters for hundreds of years. The region is highly exposed to severe natural disasters. Four of the top 10 countries listed on the 2014 World Risk Index are Pacific island nations. Eight are among the top 20 countries in the world experiencing the greatest average economic losses from disasters as a proportion of GDP. Disasters are exacerbated by the effects of climate change. Climate change is a severe concern for the region, most urgently for the low-lying atoll countries.

In this context, investing in disaster risk reduction, preparedness and strengthening resilience are paramount: an investment which eventually saves lives and money. This became evident through focused discussions on the recent response to Tropical Cyclone Pam. The discussions also revealed lessons about how the structures of local communities and governments could be overwhelmed by an international system that, despite best efforts, does not adapt itself to effectively support local contexts. There was also recognition that there are ongoing capacity development needs in local national disaster management offices (NDMOs) that need sustained support from international and regional organisations. In that context, long-term relationships of trust and cooperation between partners were highlighted as critical for effective response.

The meeting in Auckland was preceded by 92 preparatory stakeholder consultations involving 1,428 individuals in 17 countries representing their wider constituencies. The consultation findings were captured in a stakeholder analysis report¹ which formed the basis for the discussions in Auckland. The report captured a wide array of issues and constitutes a part of the Pacific contribution to the WHS preparations.

The discussions in Auckland focused on six key issues that had emerged from the preparatory stakeholder consultations. An additional cross-cutting issue that emerged was the need for better data, including scientific and economic models to support Pacific humanitarian action and decision making. The main conclusions and recommendations are summarized below. A full consultation report, which will be released in the coming weeks, will capture the complete array of discussions and outcomes. The co-chairs of the regional consultation encourage all stakeholders to start turning these recommendations into action.

1. Placing affected people at the centre of humanitarian action

There is widespread recognition that humanitarian response needs to be **tailored to people's specific needs and to local contexts**. However, participants cited many examples in the region where responses had failed to account for the **specific requirements** and build on the strengths of women and youth, or to recognize the **unique needs of communities and individuals, including children, older people and people with disabilities**. While participants emphasized the need for disaster responders to **work through traditional and existing community networks**, they also cautioned that those networks could exclude women and vulnerable people and sometimes exacerbate existing inequalities. Information on specific needs at the community level was often either unavailable or not incorporated into response planning, which meant that too **often responses ended up being "one-size fits all."** To address these issues, participants focused on ways to make local communities more resilient and to provide them with the skills and opportunities to tell national and international responders what assistance was required. They also identified the need for better data, better understanding of how communities organize themselves and more investment in education and training around disaster risk reduction and first response. It was recommended that:

- Governments, working jointly with communities and humanitarian partners, seek to better understand traditional structures and community networks in both urban and rural communities.
- Governments and partners organize regular, community-level simulation exercises to better understand informal response structures, clarify responsibilities in the event that national or international support is required and address critical gaps.
- Humanitarian partners work to strengthen community groups that amplify the voices of women, children, youth, older people and people with disabilities and systematically involve them in decision-making. Community groups have a formal role within national and sub-national planning structures.
- Governments and humanitarian partners invest in better analysis of social, economic and human vulnerability to natural hazards. This can draw from more regular and robust census data, economic modelling, or information from local businesses or community groups. Improved data on vulnerability is used to make both risk management and disaster response planning more targeted to local needs.
- Governments and partners work to raise awareness about DRR and preparedness in communities, building on traditional approaches. This is done by including DRR in education curricula at all levels, as well as by working with faith-based groups, private businesses and other parts of the community.
- Governments and humanitarian partners strengthen two-way communication with communities so they can provide feedback and communicate their own humanitarian needs to responders.
- Humanitarian partners actively seek women's leadership in disaster management. All actors work to prevent the perpetuation of existing gender inequalities.
- Humanitarian partners place protection at the centre of all activities with particular attention to women's safety, dignity and security, before, during and in the wake of crises. All actors act to prevent, address and end impunity for violence against women, including sexual and gender based violence.

2. Realigning the humanitarian system and building on local capacities

Participants noted that communities, civil society groups and governments are **the first responders** in disasters, and remain when any surge of additional assistance wanes. The discussion focused largely on the interaction between local, national and international actors, highlighting some of the tensions when **international actors "parachute in" during and after disasters** without

paying sufficient attention to local dynamics and coordination arrangements. Governments and local communities need **to take the lead** in defining what they need and providing information about what is available. New technology has provided the opportunity to enhance the involvement of remote communities in this process more effectively and quickly.

Participants focused their discussions on the role of governments in disaster management, the role of civil society actors, coordination and the role of regional organizations. It was recommended that:

- Governments invest in and strengthen coordination between relevant line ministries and central agencies, such as Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Office of Prime Minister and the national disaster management authority, or equivalent, to ensure a whole-of-government approach to disaster management.
- Governments establish the necessary laws, policies and institutions for disaster management with clear triggers for requesting international assistance, including deployable capacities.
- Building on the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) guidelines, governments expedite entry and transit visa issue for humanitarian workers to improve timely and effective regional response.
- Governments ensure that national and local coordination systems are well equipped and resourced. Governments build systems for assessments, logistics and communications.
- National governments clearly articulate their need for international assistance in a timely way, based on strengthened vulnerability analysis. International organizations respect the nature and timing of those requests.
- Civil society works to complement government efforts in community-based disaster preparedness and response, by strengthening national networks and sharing information on capacities with humanitarian partners.
- International partners make their approaches fit for context and scale of disasters. They work together in advance of a crisis, to ensure assistance is harmonised and delivered with appropriate restraint and in support of national and local coordination mechanisms and does not add to their burden during crisis.
- Governments ensure adherence to existing international guidelines on civil-military as well as police coordination, and Government and partners implement adequate preparedness, coordination planning and regular joint exercises with military partners for appropriate and principled support in disaster response.

3. Responding to displacement

Participants recognized that forced **displacement** and voluntary and planned **relocation** were **already taking** place in the region. This was the case particularly in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change, but also related to inter-community conflicts and violence. **Climate change is expected to worsen** these challenges, with the result that people will continue to move inside their countries and across borders. This creates challenges for both displaced and host communities. The importance of customary and ancestral land rights was identified as key in helping people move to new locations peacefully and sustainably.

The discussions focused on finding ways to achieve three key objectives related to people's movement in the Pacific. First, **avoiding forced displacement** through better mitigation measures. Second, **ensuring that displaced persons are protected** with respect for their rights and according to their needs and vulnerabilities. Third, **integrating displaced and host communities into humanitarian responses**. It was recommended that:

- Governments ensure that people are educated about risks so they can make informed decisions about whether to remain where they live or relocate to safer areas.

- When people cannot or choose not to stay where they live, governments, community leaders and faith groups support voluntary and dignified migration or relocation. This is done in a planned, organized and participatory manner.
- Governments develop and implement national and regional toolkits and policies on the protection of internally displaced persons, including in urban contexts. Durable solutions are needed. This includes addressing customary and ancestral land issues.
- All humanitarian partners mainstream displaced persons' special protection needs, including those related to gender, age and disability, into humanitarian programming.
- Governments and international partners strengthen national, provincial and local capacities and support communities to be better prepared for displacement, including mitigation measures against adverse effects in host communities.
- All humanitarian actors ensure that traditional leadership structures and traditional ways of mediating conflict are drawn upon to support displaced and host communities. This does not undermine the importance of considering gender, age and disability considerations.
- All humanitarian actors offer culturally appropriate psychosocial support to displaced people.

4. Collaborating for resilience

Participants recognized the opportunities presented by existing agreements including the Strategy for Climate for Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, although further work is needed at the national level **to implement these agreements**. It is critical that communities, and **particularly women**, are empowered to support resilience building. Pacific countries have made progress in identifying and managing their risks, but more needs to be done to **safeguard vulnerable groups**, especially given that climate change is **driving sea-level rise** and changes in weather patterns with unpredictable effects. It was recommended that:

- Governments and their partners invest in the implementation of SRDP and Sendai Framework. Communities, in particular women, are involved from the start in the design and implementation of initiatives to achieve SRDP and Sendai commitments.
- Governments clearly determine the roles and responsibilities of line ministries and sub-national government in preparedness and response, including through legal frameworks. They appoint a focal point for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation for better coordination.
- Governments and development partners find durable solutions to address climate change, disaster and conflict-induced displacement. They involve communities and to help alleviate climate change impacts.
- Donors and governments make their funding more flexible to support DRR, resilience and crisis response to allow communities to access funds for building their community resilience.
- The Pacific Humanitarian Team members, including regional organizations, international NGOs and UN agencies, recognize the growing role of disaster management offices and national clusters and support them.

5. Financing for preparedness, response and early recovery

The discussions revealed a strong desire to mitigate climate change, to reflect the work done over the past several years to develop the Pacific Strategy for Climate Resilient Development, and the strong push for local responders to be **empowered to lead response**. There was a strong feeling that funding was skewed towards disaster response, rather than preparedness and risk reduction, despite a recognition that **investing in preparedness and risk reduction paid dividends**, as

demonstrated by the experience of Vanuatu in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Pam. There was also recognition of diverse sources of funding – not simply aid from donors. It was recommended that:

- Banks, remittance organizations and telecommunications companies consider waiving fees in an emergency, for a defined time in the wake of disaster (determined by the scale of the disaster). More investment in disaster resilient infrastructure, including mobile technology, will help to ensure remote communities can access their services when needed.
- All relevant stakeholders support systems that mean women are direct recipients of money transfers, as well as men. Systems to improve financial inclusion involve women and people living with disabilities in their design.
- Governments and donors develop better national maps of vulnerability reflecting social, economic and structural exposure to natural hazards. Funding is conditional upon meaningful consideration of human, social and physical infrastructure vulnerability indicators.
- Ministries of Finance work with banks, remittance agencies and telecommunications companies to develop a widely and publicly accessible format for reporting all sources and destinations of financing for disaster preparedness and response, including remittances, private flows and international aid, as a means to increase accountability to affected people and assist aid providers target their funds better.
- All stakeholders to capitalize on the presence of new avenues for digital communication, data capture and data management technologies that have the capacity to boost outcomes in communicating need, allocating resources, and improving the assessment of the impact of assistance provided in crisis, leading to strengthened financing for resilience.
- Governments, with the support of technical experts, address the barriers to immediate liquidity for governments to lead disaster response and recovery. This includes exploring the comparative merits of various approaches, such as catastrophe risk insurance mechanisms, credit, budget support and increasing the size of domestically funded national contingency funds. Participants noted that regional pooled funds are not necessarily the best approach to address response and recovery.
- Insurance companies consider how they can develop low cost premiums for families to encourage greater take-up of individual and family insurance in the Pacific. Within this, incentives are built to encourage better building standards, for example for lower premiums.
- All domestic and international development actors establish and adopt national benchmarks for investment in all phase of the disaster risk cycle. Donors initiate multi-year predictable funding for NDMOs and local organisations – particularly women's organisations – to build greater capacity to plan for and respond to disasters.
- The business sector and communities be involved in the development of local and national early recovery plans. NDMOs or other relevant ministries are empowered, including through legislation, to enact early recovery plans quickly. This will also help donor funding to flow more quickly.

6. Partnering with the private sector

Participants recognized that the private sector is part of the community, including as part of the disaster affected community and as **an actor in disaster response**. It should therefore not be treated as an external or 'new' actor. Preparedness through **business continuity planning**, particularly for those businesses that provided essential services, was critical to the effectiveness of a disaster response. Participants recognized the overwhelming importance of **small and medium-sized enterprises** in the Pacific and emphasized the need to develop protocols for engagement between government, civil society and the private sector. It was recommended that:

- Government policies for engaging private sector clearly differentiate between suppliers of the essential services the community needs to function – such as power, water, finance, telecommunications and waste – the rest of the local private sector and private sector responders.

- Governments and essential services integrate business continuity planning and disaster risk reduction as combined disaster preparedness plans and conduct regular joint testing and simulation exercises.
- Governments facilitate business and community networks to record and share online information regarding local business services and community and volunteer capabilities that are available during disaster preparedness or response and how to engage with them.
- Governments formalize the representation of the private sector – both essential services and local businesses – during disaster planning, training and simulation, response and recovery.
- Governments, civil society organizations and businesses establish a joint post-disaster procurement strategy that prioritizes local private sector capabilities in reconstruction, focusing on innovation and opportunities to build back better.
- Government and the financial sector establish pre-existing support mechanisms that will trigger in the instance of a disaster, including insurance, bridging finance, debt restructuring, tax relief and deferred payments of fees.
- Private sector representatives develop a certification backed by a code of conduct for behaviour in humanitarian response appropriate to different industries. Governments consider incentivizing membership and adherence to this code, for example through tax breaks.

ANNEX 3: REGIONAL CONSULTATION AGENDA

DAY 1: TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2015

07:00 – 08:30

Participant registration

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

08:30 – 09:45

Pōwhiri (formal welcome) and morning tea

The **pōwhiri** is a traditional Māori ceremony of encounter and welcome. Participants assembled outside the plenary room at 8.30am and awaited the call to enter the room.

09:45 – 10:00

Welcome and overview of the agenda

The Master of Ceremonies, **Mr. Laulu Mac Leauanae**, welcomed participants and provided an overview of the agenda.

10:00 – 10:45

Opening remarks

- **Hon. Murray McCully**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand
- **Hon. Julie Bishop**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia
- **Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga**, Prime Minister of Tuvalu
- **Hon. Toke Talangi**, Premier of Niue
- **Ms. Helen Clark**, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Mr. Stephen O'Brien**, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and Emergency Relief Coordinator

10:45 – 11:00

Group photograph

11:00 – 11:30

World Humanitarian Summit: Setting the stage

- Introduction to the WHS global process – **Mr. Stephen O'Brien**, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNOCHA
- Overview of the WHS preparatory consultations in the Pacific – **Mr. Sune Gudnitz**, Head of UNOCHA Regional Office for the Pacific

11:30 – 12:50

Panel discussion on the future humanitarian context in the Pacific, reflecting on the recent disaster season and particularly Tropical Cyclone Pam

Introduction and moderation by **Mr. Elhadj As Sy**, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

- **Ms. Nemi Naparau**, resident of Port Vila
- **Mr. Jotham Napat**, Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change and Disaster Management
- **Mr. Christian Fruean**, Digicel Pacific
- **Ms. Jennifer Worthington**, Oxfam and Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

12:50 – 13:00	Briefing on breakout session methodology
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
BREAKOUT SESSION	
14:00 – 17:30 <i>Afternoon tea served during the session</i>	Reviewing the stakeholder analysis and defining ideal humanitarian action Participants reviewed the proposed recommendations that emerged from the stakeholder consultations as constituent groups.
18:00 – 20:00	Cocktail reception

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2015

PLENARY SESSION	
08:30 – 09:30	Feedback from day 1 breakout session Representatives of each breakout group from day 1 presented the main outcomes of their discussions. After the feedback, Dr. Jemilah Mahmood , chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat, outlined regional links to the global process and the next steps after the Auckland meeting.
BREAKOUT SESSION	
09:30 – 12:00 <i>Morning tea served during the session</i>	Recommendations to ensure effective, accountable and inclusive humanitarian action in the Pacific Participants were pre-assigned into mixed groups, consisting of a balance between different constituencies. Each breakout group focused on one of the key humanitarian issues and proposed concrete recommendations.
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
BREAKOUT SESSION	
13:00 – 16:00 <i>Afternoon tea served during the session</i>	Recommendations to ensure effective, accountable and inclusive humanitarian action in the Pacific (continued) Breakout groups rotated to other issues of their choice. They then refined and added to recommendations developed by the original group during the morning session.
PLENARY SESSION	
16:15 – 17:30	Feedback from day 2 breakout sessions Facilitators presented the main issues and recommendations that emerged during the day, followed by a brief Q&A moderated by Dr. Jemilah Mahmood , chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat.

DAY 3: THURSDAY 2 JULY 2015

PLENARY SESSION

09:00 – 11:00	Rethinking response: innovation in humanitarian action Building on input from preparatory consultations and discussions over the past two days, the session prioritized areas for innovation in humanitarian action in the Pacific.
11:00 – 11:45	Morning tea
11:45 – 12:30	Presentation and discussion of co-chairs' summary The co-chairs of the Regional Steering Group - Australia, New Zealand and UNOCHA - presented the draft summary of the regional consultation findings and recommendations for discussion and endorsement by the participants. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Jemilah Mahmood.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

12:30 – 13:00	Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director, World Food Programme • Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNOCHA • His Excellency Anote Tong, President of Kiribati
13:00 – 13:05	Karakia (blessing) by Ms. Ipul Powaseu , Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons
13:05 – 14:00	Lunch

ANNEX 4: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Governments

Country	Organization	Constituency
Australia	Australian Civil-Military Centre	Member State
Australia	Australian Defence Force	Member State
Australia	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Member State
Australia	Emergency Management Australia	Member State
Cook Islands	Cook Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration	Member State
Cook Islands	Emergency Management Cook Islands	Member State
Europe	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection	WHS partner
Federated States of Micronesia	Federated States of Micronesia Department of Health and Social Affairs	Member State
Fiji	Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management	Member State
Fiji	Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Member State
Fiji	Fiji National Disaster Management Office	Member State
French Polynesia	Presidency of French Polynesia	Member State
Germany	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	WHS consultation host
Guatemala	Guatemala National Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction	WHS consultation host
Japan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan	WHS consultation host
Kiribati	Kiribati National Disaster Management Office	Member State
Kiribati	Kiribati Office of the President	Member State
Nauru	Nauru Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Member State
Nauru	Nauru National Emergency Services	Member State
New Caledonia	Government of New Caledonia	Member State
New Caledonia	New Caledonia Department of Civil Security and Disaster Risk Management	Member State
New Zealand	New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management	Member State
New Zealand	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Member State
Niue	Niue Office of the Secretary to Government	Member State
Niue	Niue Police	Member State
Palau	Palau Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs	Member State
Palau	Palau National Emergency Management Office	Member State
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea Department of Defence	Member State

Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea Department of Foreign Affairs	Member State
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea National Disaster Centre	Member State
Republic of Marshall Islands	Marshall Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member State
Republic of Turkey	Embassy of the Republic of Turkey	WHS consultation host
Republic of Turkey	Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority	WHS consultation host
Samoa	Samoa Disaster Management Office	Member State
Samoa	Samoa Ministry of Finance	Member State
Solomon Islands	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology	Member State
Solomon Islands	National Disaster Management Office	Member State
Switzerland	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	WHS consultation host
Tokelau	Government of Tokelau	Member State
Tonga	Tonga Ministry of Health	Member State
Tonga	Tonga Ministry of Internal Affairs	Member State
Tonga	Tonga National Disaster Management Office	Member State
Tuvalu	Tuvalu National Disaster Management Office	Member State
Tuvalu	Tuvalu Office of the Prime Minister	Member State
Vanuatu	Department of Women, Ministry for Justice	Member State
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Ministry of Climate Change and Disaster Management	Member State
Vanuatu	Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office	Member State
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Office of Women's Affairs	Member State

Regional Organizations

Organization	Constituency
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Regional organization
Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Regional organization
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme	Regional organization

Civil Society Organizations

Country	Organization
Cook Islands	Cook Islands National Disability Council
Fiji	National Youth Council of Fiji
Kiribati	Kiribati Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Kiribati	Te Toa Matoi Kiribati
New Zealand	Auckland Tuvalu Community Trust

Palau	Ebiil Society Palau
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons
Regional	FemLINK Pacific
Regional	Pacific Disability Forum
Regional	Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Republic of Marshall Islands	Women United Together Marshall Islands
Samoa	Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations
Solomon Islands	Development Services Exchange Solomon Islands
Tonga	Act for Peace
Tonga	Civil Society Forum of Tonga
Tuvalu	Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

International Organizations

Organization	Constituency
ActionAid Australia	INGO
ADRA New Zealand	INGO
Australian Council for International Development	INGO
Caritas Australia	INGO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	United Nations
International Organization for Migration	Intergovernmental organization
Islamic Relief Australia	INGO
Nansen Initiative	Intergovernmental organization
New Zealand Council for International Development	INGO
Oxfam Australia	INGO
Oxfam New Zealand	INGO
RedR Australia	INGO
Save the Children Australia	INGO
Save the Children New Zealand	INGO
TEAR Fund New Zealand	INGO
UN Women	United Nations
United Nations Children's Fund	United Nations
United Nations Development Programme	United Nations
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	United Nations
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	United Nations
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	United Nations
United Nations Population Fund	United Nations
World Bank	International Financial Institution
World Food Programme	United Nations
World Health Organization	United Nations

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Country	Organization
Australia	Australian Red Cross
Cook Islands	Cook Islands Red Cross Society
Federated States of Micronesia	Micronesia Red Cross Society
Fiji	Fiji Red Cross Society
New Zealand	New Zealand Red Cross
Regional	International Committee of the Red Cross
Regional	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Samoa	Samoa Red Cross Society
Vanuatu	Vanuatu Red Cross Society

Associated Partners

Country	Organization	Constituency
New Zealand	Air New Zealand	Private sector
Australia	Australian National University	Academia
Australia	Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Private sector
New Zealand	DHL Express New Zealand	Private sector
Regional	Digicel Pacific	Private sector
Australia	Humanitarian Advisory Group	Academia
New Zealand	Lincoln University	Academia
New Zealand	Massey University	Academia
Regional	Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation	Private Sector
New Zealand	Swire Shipping	Private sector
Papua New Guinea	University of Papua New Guinea	Academia
Australia	URS Corporation	Private sector
New Zealand	World Humanitarian Summit Youth Working Group	Youth

Affected communities

Country	Constituency
Kiribati	Affected community
Papua New Guinea	Affected community
Tonga	Affected community
Vanuatu	Affected community

