

JOINT MEETING
of the
2013 PACIFIC PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT &
PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE ROUNDTABLE

8th – 11th July
Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji

Side Event 9: Child-centered Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation in the Pacific

Introduction:

Child-centered DRR/CCA is a relatively new concept that builds on previous efforts to protect children in emergencies, promote school safety, and infuse DRR/climate change in education. It fosters child-focused (for children) and child-led (by children) activities that work towards making their lives safer and their communities more resilient to disasters and climate change. Governments, international organizations, NGOs and communities in the Pacific are increasingly committed to address the specific vulnerabilities of children and engage children as a contributor to national risk reduction and adaptation processes. Identified key Issues in the Pacific Region to be addressed:

- The Pacific population is young and children are disproportionately affected by disaster and climate risk.
- Communities, schools, families, youth and children have a central role in reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing capacities to disaster risk and adaptation
- Ensure integration of child vulnerabilities into national and sub-national risk assessments and development plans by overlaying child vulnerability data with natural hazard and climate change information.
- Child-focused, gender-specific and disability-sensitive interventions need to be mainstreamed into all community-based DRR/CCA interventions and into national and sub-national development approaches in the region

Purpose:

The First Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for DRM & Pacific CC Roundtable presents an opportunity to focus the attention of national and local governments and other key stakeholders on the perspectives and capacities of children and youth in order to strengthen local capacity for DRR and CCA. It provides a platform for governments, child-centered organizations, communities and children themselves to take stock of achievements and share guidance and good practices on child-centered and community-based DRR/CCA measures. Furthermore, the session intends to inform the Pacific Integrated Regional Strategy of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change.

This side session will illustrate how children, governments, international agencies, NGOs and communities can support child-centered DRR/CCA through a variety of actions that include advocacy, policies, risk assessments, field action and child participation.

Discussion:

The session to be facilitated by UNICEF Pacific (Dijana Duric, Emergency Specialist). Speakers to be confirmed.

- Introduction to child-centered DRR/CCA – views by Plan International Australia (Suresh Pokharel, Program Manager DRR) and FSPI (Roshni Chand/Jiuta Korovulavula, DRM Programme)
- Child participation and protection: Save the Children & UNICEF (Amanda Bissex/Erik Kjaergaard).
- School safety and education on DRM/CCA in the Pacific: UNICEF Pacific/Education (Simon Molendijk/Wendy Orloff /Volau), SPC/GIZ (Hanna Sabass, Advisor on CC and Education).
- Communities committed to child-centered DRR/CCA in Pacific: Save the Children, Plan International Australia (Suresh Pokharel, Program Manager DRR), UNDP Pacific Center (to be confirmed - Moortaza Jiwani/Karen Bernard)
- Lessons Learned Asia-Pacific Region: UNICEF EAPRO (Erik Kjaergaard, Senior Emergency Advisor) & Plan International Australia (Suresh Pokharel) & World Vision Australia/SI (to be confirmed / Dr. Andrew Catford, Country Program Director)

Intended Outcomes:

List Key Outcomes to be achieved through the session

- Raise awareness and obtain commitment to child-centered DRR/CCA as an integral part of DRM at all levels from Governments, international organizations, NGOs, communities, youth and children in the Pacific.
- Advance the understanding of multi-sectoral and inter-agency initiatives to promote child-centered DRR / CCA in development and humanitarian assistance.
- Inform the Pacific Integrated Regional Strategy of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change.
- Pacific launch of youth-friendly version of the IPCC's Special Report on Managing the Risk of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) produced by Plan International on behalf of the CCC Coalition (Margareta Wahlstrom – to be confirmed)

Format:

Briefly describe how the session will be facilitated, e.g. group work, plenary discussion, presentations etc.

- 10-15 mins presentation of discussion topics
- Discussion to consolidate key priorities and recommendations to the panel.
- Children and Youth experience during Disasters (Idea speaker to be child sharing experience from Fiji, Nadi floods 2012 and youth speaker - Project Survival Pacific) followed by Pacific launch of youth-friendly version of the IPCC's SREX by the Coalition CCC (M. Wahlstrom – tbc)

Session Coordinator:

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Organizers:

Lead: UNICEF on behalf of the Children in a Changing Climate (CCC) Coalition;
Co-leads: Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI),
Plan International Australia,
World Vision
Save the Children (tbc).