

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

*8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July  
Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa, Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji*

**THEMATIC SESSION 5:  
VULNERABLE GROUPS -THE NEED FOR INCLUSIVITY**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2005-2015 both emphasize the importance of participation of all stakeholders: government agencies, private sector and communities in adopting and applying risk reduction/climate change adaptation tools and sharing of risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation information.

A key national activity is to support and enhance the capacity of social and planning systems of government to ensure vulnerable populations are less exposed to disaster and climate risks and disaster and climate change impacts.

*Vulnerable Groups refer to groups and individuals who will be disproportionately affected by disaster and climate change, who have the least access to information and resources to prepare and respond, and who have less opportunities to participate in planning and response.*

By this definition, the most vulnerable to impacts of climate change (CC) and disaster in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) include children, people with disabilities, women, migrants, displaced communities, the elderly and isolated communities (due to poverty or geography) who will face the highest levels of mortality, illness, injury and psychological stress. Yet, they are the social groups least likely to be actively involved in risk reduction planning and implementation.

Inclusion of the most vulnerable is right in principle and in practice. It is not just out of respect for human rights that the most vulnerable groups should be included in risk assessment, planning and programming of DRM and CC initiatives. It also makes DRM and CCA interventions more effective and efficient at all levels.

Participation of the most vulnerable groups must be ensured at all levels (community, local, sub-national and national level) and across sectors to inform vulnerability reduction planning and applications such as risks reduction and climate change adaptation tools that will equip practitioners and organizations who work with vulnerable groups. There is also the need for these stakeholders to work together through a common national community resilience framework that links their DRR/CCA programs and promote sharing of lessons learned.

Organizations and practitioners working with the most vulnerable groups in our communities have a crucial role to carve an inclusion strategy that will provide a safe space to integrate their priorities in

decision-making mechanisms that will ensure communities of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT) are more resilient to impacts of climate change and disaster.

## **PURPOSE**

This session provides the opportunity for community practitioners to share their experiences in working with the most vulnerable groups in addressing climate and disaster risk in PICTs. Good practices and lessons learned will be shared along with challenges of various approaches to ensure inclusivity dimension in DRR and CCA will be identified.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. Why is it important to involve most vulnerable groups in DRM/CC decision making and planning at regional & national policy & plans (regional frameworks, JNAPS, national DRM & CCA policies); national & sector-based programmes & plans; community-based adaptation & preparedness? What is the benefit of these approaches in the integration of DRM and CC in PICTs?
2. What are some of the challenges of inclusiveness at all level and across sectors? How can these challenges be addressed?
3. What are some of the main steps in achieving inclusiveness at all levels and across sectors?
4. Are there any good practice examples that could be replicated in other countries?
5. What is the role of development partners in ensuring inclusivity in DRR and CC efforts?
6. What is a standard Community resilience definition and what are its characteristics for the Pacific?

## **INTENDED OUTCOMES**

- Shared lessons learned and experiences on how to successfully integrate inclusiveness in DRM and CC initiatives at 3 levels/ angles: regional & national policy & plans (regional frameworks, JNAPS, national DRM & CCA policies); national & sector-based programmes & plans; community-based adaptation & preparedness
- Best practices of inclusivity and benefits are identified for above 3 levels
- Key message on how the new integrated strategy on DRM and CC should ensure inclusivity is formalized
- Defined Community resilience and its characteristics

## **FORMAT**

The session will include plenary presentations/ discussion and group discussions revolving around the discussion questions outlined above.

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