
# Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report 2018

**Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development (TFD)**

**Project Annual Narrative and Financial Progress Report**

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| Project title: | Disaster Resilience in Pacific Small Island States |
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| SDGs supported by the project: | SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts |

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2018 marks the second year of the implementation of the RESPAC project and while there have been significant achievements particularly on the insurance related initiatives under Component 3 of the project, components 1 and 2 on climate early warning and disaster preparedness respectively, have yet to yield the same results. This is due in part to the lack of absorption capacity of beneficiaries and because of the complex environment in which the project is operating. RESPAC's primary objective is to build a platform in which the science of accumulating and analyzing climate data can be better understood by some of the Meteorological Offices and all the end users. As the project activities mature and more products are developed, understanding of climate science across the stakeholders leads to better understanding and demand, yet often different from the indicative activities in the Project Document. Not all products developed by the project will lend itself for easy visibility. Some, such as the installation of Automated Weather Systems (AWS) can easily be communicated to the public whereas other equally important activities such as training of government officials on Post Disaster Needs Assessment needs to be communicated in a different manner. When project results become visible and understood by the public, the efforts of the donor and UNDP is actively demonstrated. However, activities such as the integration of the early warning systems within the national fiscal and preparatory mechanisms to improve preparedness and early recovery may be less visible to the public but is still a significant result. Its benefits may not be immediately seen by all stakeholders but for the target audience, in this case economic planners and government officials entrusted with disaster management, the contribution by the project to support their training and work is appreciated; considered significant and worthwhile. Economic planners with improved understanding will apply their knowledge to reduce the potential impact of disasters by advocating for advanced resilient measures in both development as well as recovery planning. The primary objective is to lower economic losses and protect human life.

In the words of one National Meteorology Director in the Pacific, the science that propels climate research and associated products is still in its nascent stage and cannot be compared to the "tried and tested" models of other scientific disciplines such as Physics or Chemistry. In addition to the notion that climate science is not an "exact science", because of many variables and thus unknowns, most informed citizens are only familiar with weather side of climate. Part of the reason could be that people are more interested in the present and how weather affects them daily or in the days to come rather than understanding and trusting long-term predictions. The past or historical weather patterns where climate research is concentrated is of less value to the average citizen. Looking into the future where climate science is better understood through climate modelling and other advanced techniques, historical data will be better analyzed, and past trends will have more input in the prediction of (near) future events. Until such time, climate science as a discipline will remain secondary in the public's eye and the public interest will continue to focus on short-term forecasting and current weather trends.

One important discussion currently at the global level however that shows that public interest in climate can take centre stage and this is the discussion on climate change on national, regional and global platforms. This discussion shows that there is and will be growing interest in climate trends and patterns. To participate effectively however and to ensure that their contribution is taken seriously, Pacific Island nations must begin to address the uptake of climate science as a critical and vital profession for the sustenance of its economies, social norms and livelihoods. The emphasis on accurate weather forecasting will remain but the public will also demand for meteorologists to prepare simple models so that they can better understand destructive weather phenomenon's such as the development of cyclones or dry weather spells. The effects of climate change are rapidly changing their surrounding

environments and Pacific Island nations are feeling the brunt. The ocean which contributes to and is affected by global climate patterns is increasingly coming under threat and is the main resource for many Pacific Islanders. With advanced understanding of climate and its interplay with the oceans, the PICs can leverage for a level playing field with the more established and well-resourced nations.

Internally within the PICs, there is also a need for "multi-disciplined" intermediaries or experts who are well versed with climate science and a separate field such as transport, communications, economics, agriculture, etc. With knowledge and expertise of these two fields, these intermediaries can package climate data so that it can be retailed to different industries such as agriculture, tourism, aviation, etc. RESPAC is already helping in improving the link between meteorology and aviation and this will hopefully lead to safer and economical air travel across the islands. There is vast untapped potential in the correlation of climate data with those in other social and economic sectors, but the foremost emphasis should be on gathering and storage of quality data on both ends. Building capacity in climate research not only entails a simple investment in the procurement of weather systems or carrying out of training of meteorological professionals. It takes years of astute planning and dedicated approach to the meticulous task of climate data collection, validation, storage, analysis and dissemination for various different groups of stakeholders. PICs now need to overhaul its general stance to climate research, and to make this transition, they find themselves constrained in terms of technical resources and expertise. The RESPAC project design did not realise the differences in expertise in the various Met Offices as it assumed that the climate research and science capacities currently present within the PICs would be sufficient to provide the foundation of multifaceted climate research and development of climate early warning systems. The reality though is that such specialized skills and resources are limited and where complex analysis has been successful, it is largely due to funding and expertise from external sources and donors. Sustainability of such products and models can be compromised without consistent support and backing from national resources and overall skills development across the Met Offices. Constant reliance on donor driven initiatives also mean that there is a lack of consistency in terms of methods and techniques used to better understand climate. The above has caused the project to shift its priorities to a different level of trainings for Met Offices to have wide basic understanding that will thereafter underpin more complex scientific products.

On its part RESPAC, is working with its partners primarily within the Pacific Meteorological Council to ensure that national capacities within the Pacific Region and specifically the 15 countries and territories to support climate research is properly documented and that there is a regional platform on which current and future generations of meteorologists, weather forecasters, and climate scientists can be trained. Through this study and consultative approach, RESPAC has produced 2 significant reports; the first report thoroughly documents the needs of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in terms of technical capacity and human resources currently and for the next decade. The second report looks at the feasibility of a Regional Training Centre (RTC) and how this could be developed as a facility to train both current and future employees of the Meteorological Offices in the Pacific Region.

Under Component 2 of RESPAC, activities that RESPAC conducted included providing support to the Kingdom of Tonga and to Vanuatu in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita) and the Ambae Volcanic eruptions respectively. Technical assistance was mobilized and deployed to both countries and funding resources in the amount of USD200,000 was also raised. The project provided early recovery training in Micronesia and Palau. RESPAC supported Papua New Guinea with in-country technical expertise and supported resource

mobilisation for (early) recovery work, following the earthquake in the Southern Highlands early this year, that affected more than 500,000 people.

The activities related to Pacific Early Recovery Fund (PERF) are covered under Component 3 which seeks to provide quick and flexible funding to support National Governments in their early recovery work in the aftermath of disasters. The central idea of the PERF is that it is a self-generating and sustainable and that any disbursements made to countries are recouped through crowd funding or donor contributions. With the help of the UNDP AltFinLab in Istanbul, RESPAC has conducted a one-week design meeting with regional and national stakeholders in Fiji for crowd funding as one funding stream for the PERF. Amongst one of the more successful accomplishments under RESPAC is the uptake on bundled insurance package that the RESPAC has helped market and research through it partnership with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP). Through RESPAC, start-up funding has been provided to PFIP's local partners such as the Fiji Care (a private insurer) and the Sugar Cane Growers Council. Low income households are now able to purchase insurance at a cost of FJD1.00 (or USD0.50) per week to protect against unexpected loss of property or the untimely death of the head of the family household. It is important to note that this is not subsidised and provides a maximum pay-out of FJD10,000. This scheme has received a major boost with the Fiji Government opting to buy in insurance for social welfare recipients and civil servants that are on the low end of the income bracket. On the insurance collaboration, there is now some precedent for: a) Regional expansion of bundled insurance and b) introduction of climate insurance targeting specific sectors such as agriculture and Small and Micro Entrepreneurs (SMEs).

With the foundation provided by the feasibility study on the setting up of the Regional Training Center (RTC), the outlook for RESPAC in terms of its future activities will be to enhance its collaboration with regional partners to ensure that the proposal for its establishment gathers momentum and obtains preliminary approval from the WMO Congress. The range of issues that need to be coordinated is quite diverse and ranges from funding of a venue, the host country for the RTC, the logistics to get it organized and to provide facilities and services to prospective students, course development, delivery and accreditation. In this regard, it is expected that an amount similar to what was invested in 2018 will be required to support the continuation of work for the RTC.

Another area which RESPAC need to improve is the need to improve communications presence and visibility and this will be carried out in once the Communications Associate has been recruited by the end of October 2018. The first tasks will be to create a common thread through the 3 components and how they are all linked for all stakeholders and the general public to see. All activities of 2018 will be reiterated in the media and distributed widely. In addition a constant channel of communication will be opened with our colleagues in Moscow.

The project will have a Project Associate position filled in the second week of October that will help speed up procurement related issues. Through the funding of the Russian Government, RESPAC will also benefit by having a full-time climate specialist recruited under the United Nations Volunteer Scheme. These 2 positions will complement the RESPAC Project Manager and his 2 Associate Managers; one focusing on climate early warning and the on Disaster Risk Management including early recovery. Technical expertise will be procured when and where needed to ensure fast-tracking delivery.

## 2. RESULTS

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### 2.1 Component 1

**Strengthened early warning systems and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICS;**

AR 1.1.1: Climate Data interface improved through thorough assessment of gaps and collaboration with external partners to meet critical needs in terms of equipment and technical capacity

Under this activity result area, the focus is on developing capacity at both the technical level through provision of latest appropriate equipment, software and other facilities as well as hands on/academic style training that enables meteorologists around the region to further develop their skills while ensuring that the quality of climate data collected is sustained, validated, analysed and stored indefinitely. Activities supported by RESPAC in 2018 include:

**a) Training of Pacific Students at the Bureau of Meteorology – Melbourne**

*Figure 1 Mr. Mauna Eria leading a group discussion with fellow students at the BMTC, Melbourne*

In February 2018, Mr. Mauna Eria, Senior Climate Officer with the Kiribati Met Services, Mr. Shivneel Narayan, Scientific Officer – Forecasting with the Fiji Met Office and Mr. Siaosi Palu, Forecaster with the Tonga Met Service commenced a nine-month Basic Instructional Package course in Meteorology (BIP-M) at the Melbourne Australia based Bureau of Meteorology Training Center. This course just concluded in September 2018. In terms of impact, realistically this can only be measured once the 3 graduates have re-joined their workforce and contribute to overall productivity and a foundation has been laid for more enhanced services. The RTC report shows that out of 584 current employees of in Pacific Met Services, 115 (20%) were employed in a forecasting role and general skillsets need to be improved.

While the overall improvement in forecasting for the entire Pacific region is calculated at 1%, for countries like Kiribati and Tonga the overall improvement is 50% and 20% respectively as the number of qualified forecasters for these countries are limited compared to other neighbouring states like Fiji or PNG. Hence the support under RESPAC has been critical particularly to the smaller countries and the impact will be very significant with the increase in qualified forecasters joining the workforce.

### b) Automated Weather Stations (AWS) Maintenance and Technicians Training for Fiji Met Services

*Figure 2: Mr. Ashnil Kumar, AWS Technician with the Fiji Met Office doing AWS maintenance in Nadarivatu*

In March 2018, Mr. Andrew Harper, Lead Instruments Specialist with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) conducted a 2-week training in which 15 staff of the Fiji Met Services participated of which 6 technicians received certificates of proficiency in terms of fault finding and maintenance of AWS. Prior to this training, around 14 of the 35 AWS used by the Fiji Met Services, or around 35% of all AWS under its network were malfunctioning. As a result of this training and site maintenance, all 35 AWS sites were reporting and overall for Fiji, AWS reporting improved from 73% to 99%.

### c) Handover of AWS Spares for Fiji Met Services

*Figure 3: Former UNDP Resident Rep, Ms. Osnat Lubrani and UNDP Regional Director Asia – Pacific, Mr. Haoliang Xu handing over AWS spare parts to Former Director Fiji Met Services Mr. Ravin Kumar*

Even for countries like Fiji, spending tax payer funds on AWS maintenance can be an expensive affair. In May 2018, Mr. Haoliang Xu, UNDP Regional Director for Asia and Pacific and Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UNDP Resident Representative handed over USD35,000 worth of AWS spares, funded by the RESPAC project to the Fiji Met Services to ensure that continuity is maintained, and AWS malfunctions are quickly fixed. As Fiji and the rest of the Pacific moves into the cyclone season, climate data from AWS sites is critical in predicting impact of volatile weather including low pressure systems and depressions.

### d) Feasibility of the Regional Training Center (RTC) for the Pacific

*Figure 4 Members of the PIETR Panel meet in Nadi to discuss the RTC Feasibility Report*

In May 2018, Mr. Geoff Love, Mr. Jeff Wilson and Ms. Maria Mamaeva were recruited to carry out a feasibility study for a Pacific based RTC. The study was carried out in 3 phases; the first phase was a discussion of the methodology for the study, the second was the actual visits to the countries to collect data and the third phase was the submission and discussion of the feasibility report. The study was documented through 2 reports. The first report was compiled as a thorough assessment of the human resources and capacity requirements at the country and regional level. The second report addressed the issue of sustainability and viable options. Members of the Pacific Island Education, Training and Research (PIETR) panel consisting g of selected national met directors from the region had the opportunity to discuss the report. The main conclusion of the report was that there was some capacity in the Pacific Region to host the Regional Training Center although the focus would initially be on the lower level Basic Instructional Package for Meteorological Technicians (BIP-MT) course. The report recommended that the University of the South Pacific working together with the Pacific Met Council and the Fiji Meteorological Services could be prepared to host the first batch of training recipients. The latter is already hosting such courses with the assistance of the Japanese Government and hence, is quite well positioned to assume the role of an accredited trainer in the future. Subsequent to the development of this report, the Australian Government announced a grant of AUD10million to support a Disaster Management Training Facility in Fiji. The combination of this facility with a Regional Training Center also based in Fiji will be very useful in terms of logistics and cost effectiveness.

### e) Refresher Training on Climate Observations and Reporting Workshop at Fiji Met Services (FMS)

*Figure 3 Participants at the Nadi Climate Workshop*

In August and September 2018, the FMS conducted two trainings with their stakeholders from different sectors such as the Water Authority of Fiji, Energy Fiji Ltd, National Disaster Management Office, Ministry Agriculture, Sugar Research Institute of Fiji, Fiji Sugar Cooperation. The main aim of the workshop was to have a shared understanding of climate science and

based on this collaborate with these partners to improve the quality of climate reporting across the country. Over 60 persons with almost half of them women attended and benefited from this training.

The success of the Nadi and Suva workshops paved the way for further collaboration between Fiji Met office and other sectors , as intended under Activity Result 1.1.3. This will be pursued in 2019.

### f) Installation of AWS in the Northern Islands of Cook Islands.


*Figure 6 AWS installation in Cook Islands*

With funding support from the RESPAC project, five Automated Weather Stations (AWS) were installed in the Northern Cook Islands during the month of September. Additionally, with collaboration of NIWA and the Fiji Meteorological Services (FMS), the installation of the AWSs was carried out in parallel with the installation of the information technology (IT) backbone, comprising of a high-end file server configured to receive and process AWS data from all the sites in Cook Islands.

AWS equipment that were installed in the 5 sites (**Manihiki, Pukapuka, Rakahanga, Penrhyn and Palmerston**) were bought under the funding provided to the Cook Islands by the Adaptation Fund, a vertical funding arm of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). RESPAC funding was to fund installation of the AWS equipment and to provide initial testing. In this regard, Cook Island Met Service paired with up with their Fiji Met Counterparts and this was facilitated through RESPAC and also had a hands-on training component that enables both FMS and the Cook Islands Meteorological Services to confidently install and repair AWS installations without support.

### g) Installation of AWS in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

In 2018, the PNG National Weather Services (NWS), received a grant of USD0.3 million to upgrade its AWS network and associated infrastructure including computer (IT) equipment and software licenses. This grant was placed under the management of the UNDP PNG Country Office who in turn are responsible to carry out procurement, make financial disbursements and process other requests in support of the NWS. Given the vast size of PNG, moving goods and services across the entire breadth and span of the country is a logistical challenge and UNDP has recently assisted with a flood early warning system in Morobae and Lae provinces. Some delays have been caused by the earthquake that diverted logistical support required. Funding provided under the RESPAC project were intended to improve climate reporting from the following sites:

- Procurement of two new AWS for Chimbu and Telefomin. Both AWS have been procured and installed. The

AWS intended for Telefomin was installed at the NWS headquarters in Port Moresby.

- Upgrades of AWS purchased from Vaisala at sites which include NWS Headquarters in Port Moresby, Tanbul AWS, Misima Island AWS, Aiyura AWS (NARI), Siassi AWS (Por Island).

h) **Installation of AWS for Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Niue, and Tokelau.**

**Solomon Islands:** The procurement plan with the Solomon Islands Meteorological Services for the following work to be carried out has been completed.

- Maintenance of the I-Star AWS located at the Henderson International Airport in Honiara and procurement of spares.
- Installation of Aviation AWS at Munda International Airport and Kirakira Domestic Airport.
- Investment in restoring previous rainfall stations. The project aims to purchase a compact AWS as this has more reporting capabilities when compared to a simple Tipping Bucket Rain Gauge. The SIMS will work with Hydrology to determine the location of the new installations (four sites).

**Kiribati:** The RESPAC project will procure three additional aviation related AWS in Butaritari, Nonouti and Tabuaren as these are some of the islands serviced by Air Kiribati. Additionally, RESPAC will be investing in compact or climate AWS's in three additional sites (Tabuaren, Arorae and Banaban) as per map (figure 6).

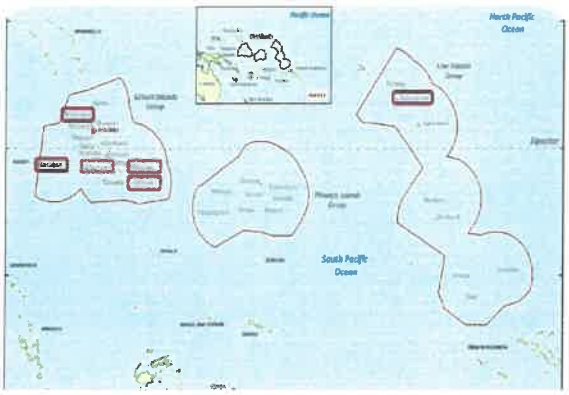

*Figure 4 RESPAC AWS Installation Plan for Kiribati (Islands highlighted in Red*

RESPAC funds will also be used to support the upgrade of the Kiribati Met Office as they seek to expand to accommodate new officers returning from overseas studies/attachments, a classroom/lab and a workshop for repairing and calibrating equipment.

**Niue:** Niue is a single atoll island with a land size of 241 square kilometres, which is about 10 times the size of Nauru but with a tenth of the population numbering at approximately 1,600 persons. The Government has requested for assistance from RESPAC on the funding of a ceilometer and a visibility sensor to be mounted on the aviation AWS in Alofi, the capital and the location of Niue's airport in line with aviation requirements. It is expected that in addition to providing the most reliable and up to date climate data, the aviation industry will be assisted with the most accurate information to assist with landing and take-off.

**Tokelau**: The three atolls that make up the territory of Tokelau are Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofa. Under a New Zealand government grant, an AWS will be installed in Nukunonu, and given the distance between Nukunonu and the other two atolls, RESPAC has been requested to provide two additional AWS. This is currently in the procurement stage.

## 2.2 Component 2 - Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level

Activity Result 2.1.2 Strengthen capacity of selected PIC governments to coordinate and manage disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery

With the delivery of Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF) training regional and national capacities to establish disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery were strengthened. Forty-six (34 males and 12 females) officers have improved capacity in PDNA and DRF. They learned how to determine economic and social costs of disasters which can then inform recovery strategies to help rebuild the physical and social structures of disaster affected communities.

*Figure 7 Participants at the Suva PDNA Training and ToT*

### Regional Support in PDNA and DRF

In collaboration with the World Bank, European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) a regional PDNA and DRF training was conducted from 9-13 April in Suva, Fiji. The PICs that participated include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Representatives from UNDP, ILO, SPC, SPREP, EU, FAO, Pacific Disability Forum and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization.

A training of trainers (ToT) for PDNA and DRF was also conducted. With the ToT participants will be able to support experts while conducting regional or national PDNA and DRF trainings. Twenty-four (19 males and 5 females) officers had their PDNA and DRF knowledge and training skills strengthened.

As a direct result of the ToT, Samoa conducted the first water and sanitation sector PDNA and DRF workshop for the infrastructure sector in country, and without outside support. Twenty participants attended the training. The facilitators for the workshop were Ms. Ruth Ueselani (Sector Coordinator-Water and Sanitation Sector) and Mr. Lepale Aussie Simanu (Principal Officer- Disaster Management Office) who were part of the Regional PDNA and DRF Training and Training of the Trainers (ToT) held in Suva.

### Regional Review of PDNA

Following the global PDNA review, a regional review was conducted, and recommendations and a way forward produced. The review brought to light the challenges and benefits. The challenges among others include data management system in PICs and staff turnover. Among the benefits is the spotlight which the methodology and process sheds on the sectors and the resultant sectorial influence on the recovery planning process. The transparent nature of the process which strengthens governance processes, was advanced as a distinct benefit. There is increased appetite for PDNAs amongst PICs with request for PDNA trainings and adapting the methodology to national assessment frameworks.

### National Support in PDNA and DRF

The capacity to establish disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery of Vanuatu government and NGO officials were strengthened following the PDNA and DRF training held from 23-26 April This was conducted in collaboration with the two trainers that had just participated in the Regional PDNA ToT. Twenty -six (9 females and 17 males) officers learned how to determine economic and social costs of disasters. The Vanuatu government has requested UNDP for a technical assistance to adapt the PDNA methodology into their national disaster assessment tools. This activity will be supported in the 2019 workplan.

*Figure 8 Participants at the Vanuatu PDNA Training*

### Early Recovery Training

Participants knowledge on early recovery and understanding on role of UNDP in early recovery were strengthened through the Early Recovery trainings conducted in Palau, Pohnpei and Kosrae. Participants were able to design indicative early recovery approaches and activities that will support long term recovery from disasters.

### Country Preparedness Package

National, regional and international stakeholders will now have a better appreciation of Cook Islands' Disaster Risk Management and Recovery approaches with the establishment of its Country Preparedness Package (CPP). The CPP was launched in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Emergency Management Cook Islands (EMCI). The CPP informs country disaster response and recovery for national, regional and international stakeholders to address roles and responsibilities, in addition to streamlining support in-country after a disaster event. To date the project has supported 3 CPPs including Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The Tuvalu CPP is being finalised and will be published mid-October.

### South - South Cooperation for Disaster Recovery

Capacities of regional and national experts in early recovery planning and coordination were strengthened through South - South Cooperation (SSC) and knowledge exchange. Fijian and Solomon's experts were mobilised to support Tonga on TC Gita early recovery and planning. Achievements from this SSC include harnessing of experts' skills and knowledge, early recovery planning and coordination knowledge transfer to Tongan officials and production of a draft Disaster Recovery Framework.

**AR 2.2.1 Enhanced capacity of UN Country Team to support recovery across relevant sectors**

Increased awareness and ways forward to increase use of existing data and key databases for disaster risk management (DRM) in the Pacific region for UN Country Teams and development partners through regional DRM information workshop held in Suva from 29-30 May.

**Component 3 - Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts**

Activity Result 3.1 - Increased uptake of insurance by individuals, communities, enterprises and government agencies.

*Figure 5 Ms. Kelera Vuiyali, 51 from Ba, Fiji, a beneficiary of the Bundled Insurance Initiative with remains of personal belongings after a fire destroyed her home in 2017*

As indicated in the 2017 Board Meeting, UNDP through collaboration between the Pacific Financial Inclusion Project (PFIP) and the RESPAC project were able to partner with Fiji Care, Fiji Sugar Cane Growers Council, Fiji Dairy Cooperative Ltd and the Fiji Rice Ltd to provide "bundled insurance" with a value of FJD10,000 (USD5,000) for unexpected loss of life and property. Ms. Kelera Vuiyali (pictured above), a cane farmer from Ba was one of the initial beneficiaries when she received a pay out of FJD5,000 to help her rebuild her home in the aftermath of a fire. The scheme received a major boost in the 2018/19 budget announcement where the Fiji Government decided to register 100,000 new users to the scheme. With the premiums paid in bulk, Fiji Care was able to solidify its product services as there are no re-insurers in the scheme and Fiji Care absorbs all the risks. The lost cost in terms of the consumer's ability to participate in this scheme is largely due to the fact the Fiji Care takes the all the risk and does not have to re-insurer the scheme. In 209, the company will try to diversify its products and is looking at the Pacific as a whole although countries such as Vanuatu, PNG, Samoa are more attractive markets for expansion due to consumer awareness and potential for local partnership.

Activity Result 3.2 - Increased use of financial instruments to fund post disaster recovery efforts.

With the partnership from the UNDP AltFinLab from Istanbul and Zagreb, RESPAC held a workshop attracting more than 30 delegates from Fiji and around the region to design "crowd funding" platforms. As mentioned in Section 1 – Executive Summary, the crowd funding is supposed to complement and replenish the USD700,000 Pacific Emergency Fund that RESPAC is trying to introduce. With a very simple criteria, Agencies and INGOs can apply to the PERF and receive quick funding to support early recovery needs in parallel with their normal food-water-shelter support. With crowd funding the PERF is intended to be replenished and also additional financing needs are supported, provided the media campaigns are successful.

## 3. PROJECT RISKS

As the project enters its third year and final year, there are some concerns that the project has not delivered up to expectations particularly given that the overall delivery rates is at 40% and against the 2018 Annual Workplan is at 46%. To guide the project team a mid-term review will start in the 3rd quarter of 2018 and will be concluded with Board Members and Representatives from the Russian Federation's interaction in early 2019. However, given that the project is focused on delivering sustainable results there are a few issues that cannot be overlooked as stated below:

i) **Lack of prior scoping on equipment and staffing** – The PRODOC has overestimated the equipment needs as it seems that most countries already have a core of equipment funding from a combination of different funding sources (parallel + other donor funds) that could be used to develop climate early warning products. Some countries have equipment purchased from donor funds but not sufficient resources to complete installation.

   Conversely the prodoc underestimates technical capacity in terms of trained and skilled human resources to maintain AWS and manual observation network. Further as pointed in the first RTC report, only 7% of the Met Staff in the region are devoted to Climate Services and another 9% dedicated to equipment maintenance and repair. Observers on the other hand number around 40% of the total staffing with another 14% devoted to Administration and Finance. In this technology led era, there is scope for retraining and refocusing without increasing staff numbers so that more can be done on data analysis and this is something that RESPAC will need to pursue.

ii) **Sustainability of Training and lack of Accreditation** – Another area which the RTC report clearly demonstrated is the need for a sustainable model anchored with an academic and Met office in the Pacific and that provides regular training with accreditation. The current model of ad-hoc donor driven training is neither sustainable nor a predictable model for the training and upskilling of Met Staff. Hence the RTC study should be given chance to further develop into a practical and self-sustaining model which will help to develop the skills of Pacific Met staff in a consistent manner and allow them the space to gradually build their skillsets.

iii) **Lack of Post Training Follow up and Country Level initiatives** - RESPAC has supported a number of regional training events in all 3 components and the general uptake in terms of national level interventions is very low. There is a need to re-design regional trainings to add a component that will require attendees to comply and to perform back to office assignments following the completion of training. This will help in addressing the question of whether any new ideas or improvements are introduced upon return of the staff from the regional training.

iv) **Mechanisms to support Crowd Funding** – Established as a regional fund, the PERF deals with country level disasters and funding could be obtained at both the national or the regional level. Given that its primary focus is on quick disbursement, UNDP's processes might need to be twinned so that it can support cash flow requirements pertaining to early recovery needs in the event of a disaster. However, the distinction between early recovery and humanitarian support should be clear to avoid co-mingling of funds. Affected communities should be able to distinguish the funding source and activities to be funded.

## 4. LESSONS LEARNT

The recently completed exercise on the Regional Training Center (RTC) feasibility study clearly demonstrates that there is a significant gap in terms of investments and the rate of returns or the return on investment (to borrow relevant economic jargon). Financial investments made in training or buying new equipment, whether funded from national budgets or donors must have a clear and well thought out logic in terms of how the return on investment will manifest itself. In the present times however, we only see few examples of a well thought out and clearly delineated strategies in support of the implementation of climate early warning systems. This is an excellent area in which RESPAC's technical expertise is being used. However, NMHSs must be willing to share data freely, as well as ensure that their priorities are first elaborated in the national budgets and plans; where funding cannot be sourced from national sources, only then the second step will be to source from parallel funding or donor partnerships. Overlapping of projects or duplication must be avoided at all costs as this causes inefficiency and ultimately shows that tax payer dollars are not put to right use.

Another lesson learned is that the collaboration between the larger NMHSs with their other counterparts is an excellent way to provide NMHS staff the opportunities to develop their skills in a "real" and relevant environments. The recent deployment of the Fiji Met Staff to support AWS installation in the Cook Islands was a good example of how twinning could be used to develop staff capacities. As Cook Islands Met recruits more officers in their technical section, Fiji Met could be an ideal training environment given the uniformity in equipment and other meteorological practices. Also, in emergency situations, staff from Fiji Met can be deployed to support restoration work to ensure that the network of AWS is reporting without interruptions in addition to taking over Met tasks as has happened during TC Gita in Tonga when FMS took over the last few bulletins.

## 5. FUTURE PLANS

The implementation of the recommendations from the Regional Training Center features as a key priority for the RESPAC project given that implications for post RESPAC capacity building of Meteorological staff. The current model of ad hoc training without any accreditation is not producing the required skill sets, nor recognition. With the progress of technology, it is particularly relevant to upskill the all Met Staff in Information Management and Technology and this also includes staff in the NDMOs.

Developing more sector friendly interactions such as the recently completed training with the Fiji Met and its partners is a good demonstration of how NMHS can take a lead role to develop the interaction with their key stakeholders. Also, the investment in IBL and the potential for Fiji Met and Airports Fiji Ltd. to interact closely in terms of sharing aviation related data shows excellent scope for meteorological data in use by other sectors. AWS installation with supporting infrastructure will remain a priority. As more regional expertise is developed, countries that were not assisted in the initial round will be considered in terms of upgrading of their AWS networks.

In component 3, the project is eagerly waiting to develop the collaboration between PFIP and the Munich Climate Change Initiative. This promises to be an interesting proposal where communities can benefit from climate insurance.

## 6. PARTNERSHIPS

| | National | | Regional | International |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Component 1** | **CKI** | Cook Islands Met Services | Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme<br>University of the South Pacific | National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)<br>Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)<br>World Meteorological Organization (WMO) |
| | **FIJ** | Fiji Met Services<br>Fiji National University<br>University of Fiji<br>Airports Fiji Ltd. | | |
| | **KIR** | Kiribati Met Services | | |
| | **RMI** | RMI National Weather Office | | |
| | **NAU** | Nauru Emergency Services | | |
| | **NIU** | Niue Met Services | | |
| | **PNG** | PNG National Weather Services<br>University of PNG | | |
| | **TOK** | Tokelau Council of the Ongoing | | |
| | **TON** | Tonga Met Services | | |
| | **TUV** | Tuvalu Met Services | | |
| | **SOI** | Solomon Islands Met Services | | |
| | **VAN** | Vanuatu Meteorological and Geohazards Department | | |
| **Component 2** | CKI | | Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) | |
| | FSM | Office of Environment and Emergency Management | | |
| | FIJ | National Disaster Management Office | | |
| | PAL | Office of the State | | |
| | RMI | National | | |
| | SOI | National Disaster Management Office | | |
| | TON | National Emergency Management Office | | |
| | TUV | | | |
| | VAN | National Disaster Management Office | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Component 3** | Fiji, others TBC | PFIP and the Private Sector | Munich Re and other re-insurers |

## 7. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- *Cooperation with Russian institutions;*

Through the consultancy assignment of Ms. Maria Mamaeva, RESPAC project staff became well acquainted with the processes and developed better appreciation of how the university system in Russia works. In this regard, the RESPAC project will certainly appreciate more collaboration from the ROSHydromet and its affiliated agencies. While the language barrier remains, the priority is to define the terms of engagement so that it is suitable to both the institution providing the engagement and the country receiving the engagement. RESPAC staff will commit more time and resources in developing the terms of reference and also find the most efficient economies of scale. As bringing expertise from Russia is costly due to travel and other factors such as time of travel, the engagement with the Pacific partners has to be very well planned and coordinated.

- *Use of Russian expertise;*

As described above, the engagement is subject to the terms of reference and more emphasis will be placed in 2019. Also with the engagement of Ms. Anna Lobanova as a UN Volunteer, RESPAC staff will have the benefit of someone who already understands the work processes and ethics from the Russian perspective. This will enable the team to write more relevant TORs to bring short term expertise in different fields.

- *Alignment and coordination with other Russia-funded projects in the area of project implementation, including projects implemented by other international organizations.*

Through the United Nations Volunteer Programme, RESPAC engaged a UNV from Russia in October. According to the terms of reference, the UNV will provide technical assistance and support in climate data and modelling.

## 8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Due to the lack of a full-time employee whose primary role would be to focus on communications and visibility, RESPAC has not been able to produce the required visibility for itself and the donor. A communications specialist has been recruited. This person will be responsible to coordinate with the technical experts and produce information, awareness, stories on how RESPAC engagement is supporting climate early warning in the Pacific as well as creating a steady flow of information to our donor and our colleagues in Moscow and around the world.

## 9. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

| OUTPUT | Budgeted for the reported year | Delivered for the reported year | | | (%)[2] | Budgeted for the entire project | Delivered since the project start |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | UNDP1[3] | FJI10[3] | Total | | | |
| **Output 1** | | 2,626.81 | 473.83 | 3,100.64 | | | 3,786.22 |
| Activity 1.1 | 1,301,350.00 | 664.684.00 | 348,325.00 | 993,009.00 | 76% | | 1,563,008.81 |
| Activity 1.2 | 86,063.00 | 8,520.00 | 21,490.00 | 30,010.00 | 35% | | 37,397.87 |
| | | | | | | **3,166,765** | **1,604,192.90** |
| **Output 2** | | | | | | | |
| Activity 2.1 | 417,676.00 | 281,531.00 | 189,933.00 | 471,464.00 | 113% | | 979,832.49 |
| Activity 2.2 | 72,962.00 | 44,295.00 | 2,146.00 | 46,441.00 | 64% | | 50-,960.15 |
| | | | | | | **1,146,765** | **1,030,792.64** |
| **Output 3** | | | | | | | |
| Activity 3.1 | 260,583.00 | 191,771.00 | 53,578.00 | 245,349.00 | 94% | | 452,245.99 |
| Activity 3.2 | 238,000.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | | 14,769.64 |
| | | | | | | **1,556,765** | **467,015.63** |
| **Output 4** | | | | | | | |
| Activity 4.1 | 304,147.00 | 214,942.00 | 191,621.00 | 406,563.00 | 13373% | | 551,419.32 |
| | | | | | | **1,629,705** | **551,419.32** |
| TOTAL: | 2,680,782.00 | 1,385,743.00 | 807,093.00 | 2,192,836.00 | 81% | 7,500,000 | **3,652,734.91** |

[2] - Delivery rate for FY 2018

[3] – The UNDP Pacific Office has undergone a restructure where its regional programmes have not been amalgamated under a single office structure. Prior to this regional programme such as RESPAC were place under the UNDP1 business unit and this has now ceased. There is no financial bearing as expenditures have already been reported and migration to the new project under FJI10 would be inefficient.

*Summary of Annual Delivery (2016, 2017 and 2018)*

| | Annual Delivery | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | | Total Delivery |
| | | | UNDP1 | FJI10 | |
| Output 1 | | 685.58 | 2,626.81 | 473.83 | 3,786.22 |
| Activity 1.1 | 155,013.57 | 622,690.56 | 525,892.58 | 259,412.10 | 1,563,008.81 |
| Activity 1.2 | | 4,712.01 | 8,520.20 | 24,165.66 | 37,397.87 |
| Output 2 | | | | | |
| Activity 2.1 | 8,380.13 | 567,981.66 | 290,388.13 | 113,082.57 | 979,832.49 |
| Activity 2.2 | | 4,689.94 | 44,123.92 | 2,146.29 | 50,960.15 |
| Output 3 | | | | | |
| Activity 3.1 | 1,790.67 | 202,596.17 | 194,247.28 | 53,611.87 | 452,245.99 |
| Activity 3.2 | | 14,769.64 | | | 14,769.64 |
| Output 4 | | | | | |
| Activity 4.1 | 79,063.29 | 108,638.94 | 214,679.29 | 149,037.80 | 551,419.32 |
| **TOTAL:** | **244,247.66** | **1,526,078.92** | **1,280,478.21** | **601,930.12** | **3,652.734.19** |

Submitted by AG, Leenders

Date 15/02/2019

*Recommended length of the report – up to 15 pages (exclusive of the annexes).*

## 10. ANNEXES

### 10.1 Project performance data

*Indicator data disaggregated by gender when applicable can be organized in a table form following the results framework format:*

| Expected outputs | Output indicators | Data source | Baseline | | Value for the previous year if different from baseline | Target for the reported year | Actual value for the reported year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Value | Year | | | |
| **Output 1**<br><br>Strengthened Gender-Sensitized early warning and climate monitoring capacity in selected PICs | ***1.1*** # of NMS-sector working groups that have established sector-climate data correlation to support EWSs | | 1<br>Vanuatu MoH & Met Services | 2017 | 0 | 1<br>Fiji or Samoa | In progress |
| | ***1.2*** # of countries with National Met Officers on improved CLEWS and monitoring capacity (*disaggregated by gender*) | | 4<br>Kiribati, Tonga SOI & Vanuatu | 2017 | 0 | 2 | 4<br>Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Nauru |
| | ***1.3*** # of countries with improved technical capacity in CLEWS equipment | | 0 | 2017 | 0 | 3 | 2<br>Fiji, PNG<br><br>In progress<br>Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Kiribati & Vanuatu |
| **Output 2** | ***2.1*** # of regional experts that have improved capacity in Post Disaster Recovery as part of | | 1<br>Fiji | 2017 | 0 | 5 | 46 (34 males and 12 females -FSM, Fiji, RMI, |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Preparedness and planning mechanisms and tools to manage disaster recovery processes strengthened at regional, national and local level | South to South Cooperation (disaggregated by Gender) | | | | | | SOI, Tonga, VUV, UNDP, ILO, SPC, SPREP, EU, FAO, Pacific Disability Forum and Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization |
| | # Country preparedness packages (CPP) informing country disaster response and recovery in PICT | | 1<br>RMI | 2017 | 0 | 2 | 1<br>Cook Islands completed.<br><br>Tuvalu in progress |
| **Output 3.0**<br><br>Increased use of financial instruments to manage and share disaster related risk and fund post disaster recovery efforts | # of innovative climate related insurance-based solutions designed and shared with the Insurance Industry | | 0 | 2017 | 0 | 1 | 1<br>Fiji |
| | # of countries with SMEs that have improved knowledge of climate related insurance cover | | 8<br>Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu | 2017 | 0 | 1 | 1<br>Vanuatu |
| | # of countries that have access RESPAC Early Recovery Fund (Pacific Early Recovery Fund – PERF) | | 0 | 2017 | 0 | 2 | In progress<br><br>Vanuatu & Fiji |

Annexes

10.2 **Combined Delivery Report** for the reported year.

UNDP1 CDR 2018

FJI10 CDR 2018

10.3 **Media coverage report** with links to main publications

**Component 1**

http://www.fijitimes.com/weather-stations-receive-equipment/

http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/05/16/undp-re-affirms-technical-and-capacity-support-for-the-reporting-of-weather-and-climate-data.html

https://undp-adaptation.exposure.co/moving-with-the-times

**Component 2**

https://bit.ly/2Ho5Gix

http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/04/10/training-for-regional-stakeholders-on-post-disaster-needs-assessment-and-implementing-recovery-strategies0.html

https://twitter.com/RESPACatUNDP/status/983187807257505798

https://flickr.com/photos/81657412@N05/sets/72157665593488337

https://twitter.com/RESPACatUNDP/status/983924954755317761http://dailypost.vu/news/experts-for-most-vulnerable-country/article_a90bd1bf-7af8-52b8-8dad-9617430306ff.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=user-share

https://reliefweb.int/node/2516764

http://cookislandsnews.com/national/environment/item/68332-step-forward-in-preparing-for-disasters:

http://reliefweb.int/node/2173729

https://www.mnre.gov.ws/first-post-disaster-needs-assessment-pdna-and-disaster-recovery-framework-drf-workshop-conducted-for-the-water-and-sanitation-sector/

https://flickr.com/photos/81657412@N05/sets/72157665593488337

**Component 3**

http://www.fijitimes.com/good-news-for-farmers/
http://www.fbc.com.fj/fiji/65406/family-insurance-for-all-civil-servants

http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/06/29/farmer-rebuilds-life-with-new-insurance-payout.html

http://fijisun.com.fj/2018/10/31/families-grateful-for-payout/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUvhDtfjvEc&t=95s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaqRac86eIk&t=9s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXnYO9MIjH0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F4qoH1FkLM&t=41s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G_FfnOCfF4&t=26s

https://www.rbf.gov.fj/getattachment/Publications-(1)/Insurance-Annual-Reports/RBF-Insurance-Annual-Report-13-07-18-(1).pdf?lang=en-US

10.4 - … **Any other annexes** can be added if deemed necessary by the project team. Examples may include personal stories of project beneficiaries, outline of main projects supported under the area-based programmes, etc.