

Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP)

Working towards resilient communities in the Pacific

Country Brief for Solomon Islands

March 2015



PRRP Solomon Islands National Officer, Adi Galokepoto (far left) assists community members with planning in Temotu.

More than 180 people have been killed in the Solomon Islands and over half the population affected in recent years by disasters such as droughts, earthquakes, floods and storms.¹ As recently as 2014, severe flooding killed 22 people and affected more than 50,000.² The nation's capital, Honiara, was worst hit with entire houses washed away and infrastructure damaged.

To address these challenges the Solomon Islands Government is committed to the better integration of climate change and disaster risk management (CCDRM) into broader socio-economic development processes. This has included: incorporating CCDRM into the five-year Medium-Term Development Planning (MTDP) process of key Ministries; establishing the Recovery Coordination Committee (RCC); moving management of post-disaster recovery to the national development planning agency; drafting national Risk Screening Tools that are also being adapted for Provincial and community level planning; and creating national Geographic Information Systems (GIS) risk maps to highlight most vulnerable areas to guide development decisions (used in the April 2014 flash flood Recovery Action Plan).

FAST FACTS

- 8 Knowledge Hubs have been established
- 21 schools in Temotu Province are being assisted through School Disaster Management Plans
- 1 new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) officer for risk mapping
- 1 new Recovery Coordination Committee (RCC) established
- 1 Public Private Partnership (PPP) is being established in infrastructure development

PRRP APPROACHES

Solomon Islands is a focus country for the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP) to help support and identify new and existing opportunities within these evolving national CCDRM processes. PRRP takes a 'learning by doing' approach involving trialling, or Model Testing, innovative ways of integrating CCDRM into broader socio-economic development. Key Programme approaches are to:

- Focus on **risk governance** to help improve the ways national, sub-national and community structures and systems work together to manage the impacts of climate change and disasters. This involves identifying opportunities to more effectively integrate CCDRM into routine Government and community needs assessments, planning, budgeting, and implementation of development and sectoral activities.
- Promote cooperation and collaboration through **partnerships** to support risk governance approaches. PRRP works with Government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, international and other agencies to align and harmonise approaches across related thematic and geographic areas. In particular, PRRP partners with Government agencies well-placed to integrate CCDRM into Government-wide development planning. Key Government partners include the Ministries for: Environment, Climate Change

¹ Prevention Web data related to human and economic losses from disasters between 1980 and 2010. <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/statistics/?cid=158> (accessed 27/02/2015)

² Solomon Islands Government National Disaster Council, 7 April 2014



Local volunteers from the community of Nemba toil in their Knowledge Hub demonstration plot trialing more resilient crop varieties.

PRRP HIGHLIGHTS

Working with Government and Partners

- Providing criteria and guidelines to assist MDPAC become the first Ministry to integrate CCDRM into its five-year MTDP planning process, including a pilot national Risk Screening Tool. As MDPAC is the central budget approval agency this will encourage other Ministries to include CCDRM in their annual plans.
- Strengthening Geographic Information Systems (GIS) processes (with a new position in MECDM) for developing national risk maps of locations most vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks. These GIS maps are already being used by decision-makers to avoid disaster 'hot spots' for development planning.
- Working with Disaster Management Clusters such as Education and Food Security to ensure that more effective risk reduction is considered within recovery assessment, planning and coordination.

- Establishing the Recovery Coordination Committee (RCC), led by MDPAC, with dedicated capacity to manage its new Secretariat – trialled just two months later with the April 2014 floods. Programme assistance to RCC to draft a national Recovery Action Plan for the flooding event supports a more coordinated national response for recovery (pending Cabinet endorsement).
- Supporting MDPAC, especially through the RCC, to transition responsibility for the coordination of post-disaster recovery from the NDMO to MDPAC – the first time in the country that a national development planning agency has actively taken a lead role in post-disaster recovery.
- Assisting MAL, in partnership with the Kastom Gaden Association (KGA), to strengthen food security for 181 households in flood-affected Guadalcanal Province with the provision of seeds and seedlings, tools and training.

Communities guiding risk sensitive planning

- Assisting MPGIS develop new Community Development Planning Guidelines integrating CCDRM. These are being trialled in Temotu Province with Community Development Plans (CDPs) developed in two wards, Nevenema and Lata/Luova. The Guidelines are being updated and will be piloted next in Guadalcanal. Work is underway to encourage adoption of the Guidelines across all Provinces.
- Adapting the national Risk Screening Tool (piloted in Temotu) to support Provincial and community planning processes.
- Assisting target communities, through a Direct Support Mechanism, to demonstrate the practical benefits of integrating CCDRM into routine planning processes.



PRRP stakeholders in Solomon Islands gather for the 2015 annual planning meeting in Honiara.



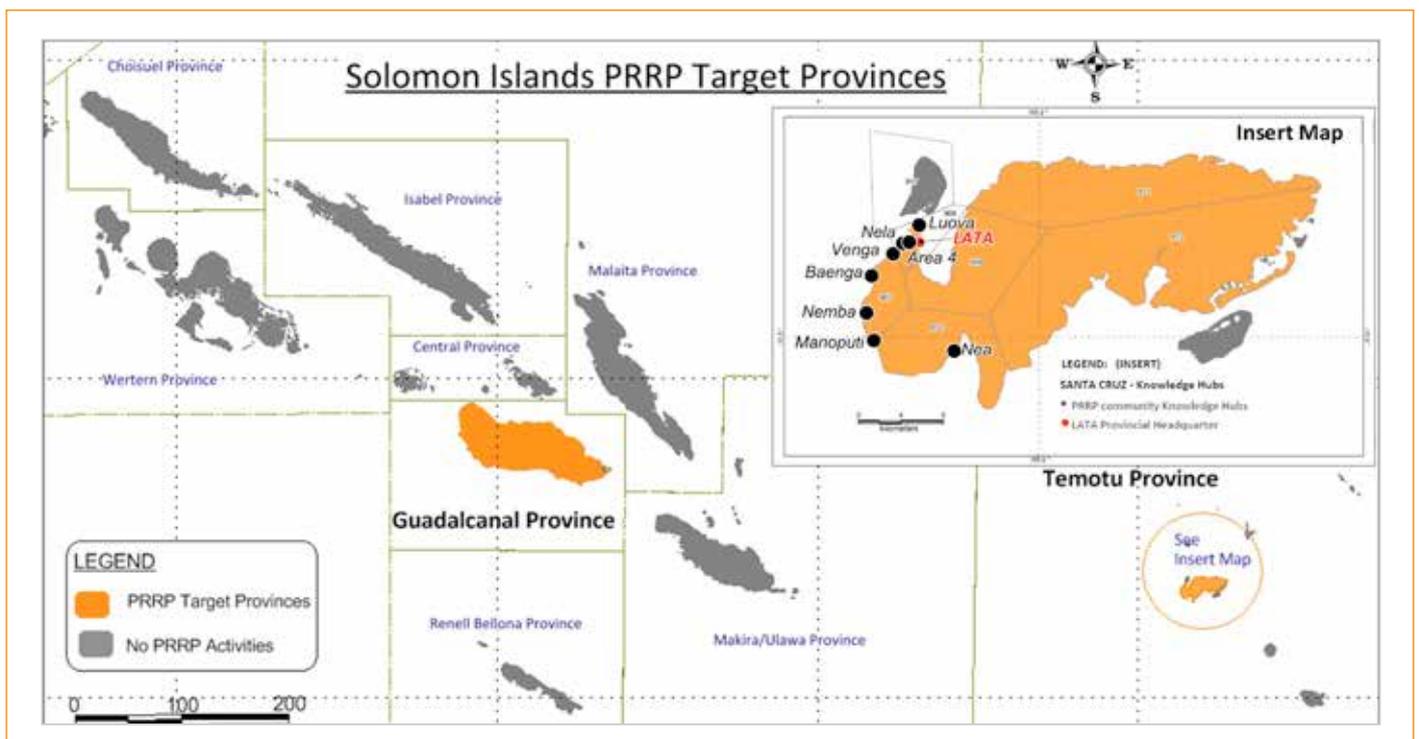
Community development planning meeting in Manaputi, Temotu Province.

and Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM), Development Planning and Aid Coordination (MDPAC), Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening (MPGIS), Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), and Agriculture and Livestock (MAL).

- Facilitate a **strong enabling environment** and building on national processes to empower communities to identify their needs and develop appropriate responses to climate change and disasters. This includes assisting Government with the integration of CCDRM into the five-year MTDP process incorporating a pilot national Risk Screening Tool that is also being adapted for community planning. PRRP is also providing technical capacity to assist with post-disaster recovery work particularly through the NDMO and MDPAC.
- Address **gender equality and social inclusion** (GSI) to ensure CCDRM integration reflects the different priorities and contributions of men and women and other groups (including people with disabilities, youth and older people). Increasing the participation of different social groups, and accounting for traditional knowledge and governance systems, allows better protection for communities and is fundamental for increasing national capacities for building people's resilience to climate change and disaster risks.

This involves working with MDPAC and partners to better incorporate GSI into recovery action plans and national planning processes at national and sub-national level. It also includes building national capacity for the integration of risk into GSI institutions and across sectors.

- Develop **private sector linkages** to encourage the integration of risk into business planning and decision-making and establishing Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) between Government and companies. These are expected to generate cost-efficiencies as well as greater impact for public risk governance initiatives.
- Emphasise **capacity development** for individuals, communities and institutions to strengthen risk management. PRRP works with Solomon Islands partners to identify skills gaps and opportunities and provides, as appropriate, additional staff capacity in key development agencies. This includes recruiting seven CCDRM positions across Government, supported by technical experts, coaching and training for staff in, for example, GIS risk-mapping development and use.
- Share **knowledge and learning** within the Solomon Islands and across the region to expand understanding and approaches to CCDRM in development-focused actions.



Location of PRRP partnerships and initiatives across Solomon Islands.

Communities can become more resilient to climate change and disasters if routine government, community and other planning takes these risks into account. This risk governance approach is delivered through a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and international non-government organisation Live & Learn Environmental Education (LLEE), and supported by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). PRRP is being delivered in four countries: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

- Working with MAL and Temotu Provincial Government to establish eight Knowledge Hubs (KHs). Involving more than 2000 members, the KHs share risk-sensitive farming information and technology such as organic and mixed cropping, climate resilient crop planting materials. This information is already being integrated into MAL's Department of Extension and Training's workplans and budgets.
- Assisting the Temotu Provincial Education Authority and MEHRD to develop School Disaster Management Plans (SDMPs) in 21 schools in Temotu province, while also supporting the monitoring of SDMP implementation in other schools within the Province.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

- Facilitating dialogue between the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the Solomon Islands Built Environment Practitioners Association, comprising private sector construction and engineering firms, to develop preferred supplier arrangements for businesses demonstrating risk integration in their development planning.
- Working with Government to develop guidelines to ensure climate change and disaster risks are considered in pre-development Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).



Farmers from flood-affected areas preparing new crops and crop sites.

Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI)

- Working with MDPAC, with support from the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA) and other partners, to better incorporate GSI into recovery action plans and national planning processes. This involves helping to build national capacity to integrate risk within GSI institutions as well as across sectors.
- Assisting MDPAC develop its MTDP process Risk Screening Tool. Support includes mentoring staff on the use of the Tool as well as the GSI Tool developed by MWYCFA.



Women receiving assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and partners.

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