

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



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Enhancing Livelihood Recovery through Food Security in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters in Fiji

The agriculture sector was hard hit by the floods in January and March 2012 and tropical cyclone Evan in December. Significant social impact of the natural disasters was borne by the population at large – particularly those whose livelihood depends heavily on subsistence or semi-subsistence agriculture and sale of produce.

Following the twin floods in 2012, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a first-ever cash-for-work programme and assisted the financial recovery of affected women and men, which resulted in successful business and farming enterprises started by some of the participants. An assessment conducted post Cyclone Evan in December, however, showed that nearly all of the farms supported under the programme suffered extensive damage and majority of the beneficiaries needed external support to re-establish their farms.

Based on the findings of the Tropical Cyclone Evan post disaster needs assessment, the project aims to support disaster prone communities to sustain their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience through enhancing food security and reducing disaster risks in community farming. This is a two-year joint project between UNDP and the Government of Fiji started in 2013.

Community groups are the primary beneficiary for assistance

The project targets community groups comprising of selected women's groups, youth groups and cooperatives.

MATTERS OF FACT

- Total 1387 direct beneficiaries (members of participating community groups), over 61% of which are women.
- 39 community groups participate in the project (17 women's groups, 19 youth groups, and 3 cooperatives)
- Total more than 76 acres of land have been cultivated under the project.
- Total budget US\$370,000 funded through Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Government of Fiji and UNDP core resources.

Their farming activities have been implemented in four districts: Nadi, Lautoka (including Yasawa), Ba and Tavua (including Nadarivatu).

Sustainability and resilience

The project aims at communities to sustain their livelihoods and build their resilience against expected disaster risks. Participants are encouraged to take ownership of the project activities and develop strategies to recover their livelihoods in better ways to better condition in the event of adverse extreme weather in future.

Gender balance and support for women and youths

While men make up 96% of "official" farmers, women play an important role in subsistence farming and unpaid farm labour, which contributes to family well-being and food security. This project focuses on the household level where subsistence farming has a much greater presence of women. The project also promotes participation of youth groups and unemployed youths, among others, who are expected to play a key role in

sustainable development of communities particularly in the area of agriculture and food security.



Women preparing farm fencing with palm leaves, Yasawa I Rara.

Transferring knowledge and skills to communities

Trainings have been conducted at community level and provided knowledge of land use, soil management, and good agricultural and poultry practices in conjunction with climate change impact. During the trainings participants learnt the mechanisms of climate change and good practice to reduce adverse impact while practicing in making nurseries, preparing manure and planting seeds on farm. Farm inputs such as seedlings and fertilizers have also been provided to community groups by the Ministry of Agriculture. Community groups were also exposed to the basics of cash flow, budgeting and monitoring and saving to manage their investment, production, marketing and saving for their ventures through financial literacy trainings.



Participants learning financial basics, Ba.

Dratanagu Youth Farm Group

Dratanagu Youth Farm Group is part of the village of Narewa in Nadi district. All five members have actively been implementing their farming venture with support from the project. Four acres of the community owned land have been cultivated for cassava and taro. A nursery has been set up, in which tomatoes, long bean and okra are growing well from dried seeds. Members have harvested *vudi* (plantain), corn and eggplants. They plan to venture into cash cropping such as watermelon, banana, okra, cabbage, *dhania* (coriander), bean, etc.



Farm monitoring with Dratanagu Youth Farm Group, Nadi.

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April 2014



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