

FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme



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Support to disaster recovery efforts

The Pacific is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. The most prevalent are cyclones, which account for 76% of reported disasters, followed by earthquakes, droughts and floods (World Bank 2006). Extreme events in the region since 1950 have affected approximately 9.2 million people and caused 9,811 reported fatalities and \$3.2 billion in damage (World Bank 2012). Disasters setback all the development efforts, however the importance of early recovery, as a way for Pacific communities to transition from emergency relief and establish a foundation for longer term development, has not been fully recognised yet.

In line with a global lead role of early recovery in crisis situations, UNDP has supported Pacific islands countries in planning and coordinating early recovery efforts during times of natural disasters. For effective early recovery, UNDP has practiced and promoted the following principles:

- National ownership
- Efficient coordination of a range of stakeholders
- Incorporating disaster risk reduction measures, such as "Build Back Better"
- Enhancing local and national capacities
- Community participation
- Gender equality

In partnership with government and other partners, UNDP has supported early recovery interventions in a way that brings hope to disaster affected people and assists them in moving forward.

Livelihoods Recovery for Women and Other Most Vulnerable People Affected by Floods in Fiji Islands Project

In early 2012, severe flooding occurred in the Western Division of Fiji twice. To assist the recovery efforts, UNDP launched a post-disaster livelihoods recovery project to restore the lives and livelihoods of the affected population and help them get back on their feet. The project has been

MATTERS OF FACT

- **First time** that Cash-for-Work (CFW) implemented in Fiji
- **1,209** Recipients of Cash-for-Work programme (**74%** women)
- **20-Day** work generated for **343** individuals in Rakiraki and **10-Day** work generated for **865** individuals in Nadi
- **168** participants (**68%** Women) received Agriculture training and **177** participants (**84%** Women) received financial literacy training
- **14** communities out of **29** communities established a small-scale community oriented farming ventures after the programme
- **5** out of **14** communities initiated recovery activities on their own in response to the Cyclone Evan which struck Fiji in December 2012
- **26** CFW beneficiaries (including **24** women) started a small-scale enterprise by accessing small loans (FJD 150-500) provided from an NGO; Empower Pacific
- AUD 90,000 mobilised to expand the Cash for Work project to Nadi benefit 865 individuals

jointly funded by UNDP and Australian AID, and directly implemented by UNDP in partnership with various government agencies as well as UN agencies (ILO, UN Women).

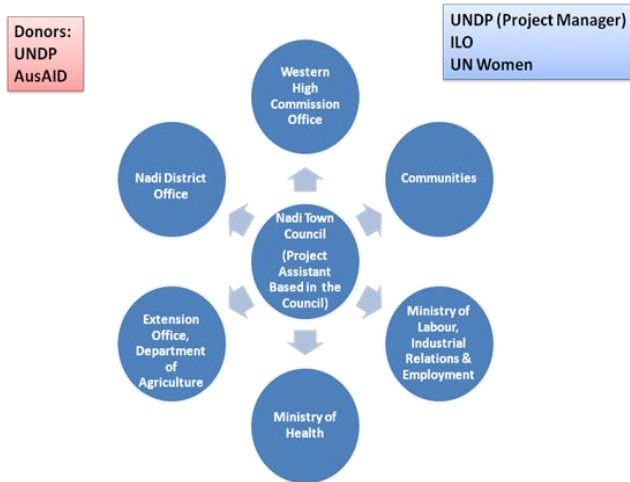
The focus of the project was on women and the most vulnerable groups in light of their higher poverty levels, and the effectiveness of delivering assistance to disaster affected families through women due to their sounder financial choices.

Cash-for- Work Programme: a first in Fiji

The Cash-for-Work programme (CFW) was undertaken as a principal component of the project to provide a temporary source of cash income in exchange for work related to rehabilitation of market and community infrastructure impacted by the floods, reviving livelihoods activities and improving preparedness for future disasters. Two locations in the Western Division; Rakiraki and Nadi were selected for implementation. UNDP partnered with local authorities and technical agencies, and in the CFW in Nadi, the multi-sector team (Figure 1.) was formed at the district level.

At the end of the CFW programme, skills development opportunities were provided to the participants in Nadi to enhance their agriculture and financial literacy skills.

Figure 1. A multi-sector project team



Rebuilding the lives of affected people and communities

Through the CFW programme, the participants were able to spend money earned, on food, health and education addressing their immediate and basic family needs. The programme also resulted in women's empowerment by enabling them to supplement household incomes, bringing nutritious food home and developing their skills for better livelihoods activities. Simultaneously, the programme has contributed to increased sense of cohesiveness among family and community members as well as improved relationships between the two main ethnic groups in Fiji; iTaukei and Indo-Fijian.



During the CFW programme, communities replanting roots crops and vegetables. Photo: Aug 2012, UNDP.

Building community resilience

After the completion of the CFW programme, 14 communities out of 29 communities in two locations who were supported for agriculture farming formed a small-

scale community oriented farming venture. Further, in the aftermath of the Tropical Cyclone Evan in December 2012, 5 out of 14 communities were able to initiate recovery activities by utilizing the money generated from farming activities.

Partnership with NGO in scaling up livelihoods

UNDP has facilitated access by CFW participants to the Income Generation Programme run by an NGO, Empower Pacific. As a result, 26 CFW beneficiaries (including 24 women) participated in the programme and started a small-scale enterprise by obtaining small loans (FJD 150-500). Ms. Sofiya Bibi's story was highlighted in a national daily newspaper, the Fiji Times.



Fiji Times Article: 19/02/2013

Capacity Building of government

UNDP has developed practical tools e.g. CFW Operational Manuals, monitoring and review templates and standard communication products to build the capacity of the government officials to design and implement similar CFW programme in the future. In addition, adopting the Guidance Note developed by UNDP HQ (2013), Operational Guidance Note on Emergency Employment (Cash-for-Work) was also drafted as more comprehensive and simple 'how to' implementation guide for use in the Pacific.

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