

Na Lali

CAN DO Fiji Quarterly Newsletter



**can
do**

Church
Agencies
Networks
Disaster
Operations



AHP

Disaster READY



CAN

Do Consortium

Members: Fiji Council of Churches, Methodist Church in Fiji, Fiji Baptist Convention, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Salvation Army, Caritas, ADRA Fiji and Olafou. CAN DO Fiji also recognizes the following ANGO partners: Act for peace, Uniting World, ADRA Australia & Caritas Australia



Caritas

News

CAN DO Fiji joins Fiji Council of Churches week-long forum

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AHP

Australian Humanitarian Partnership

Australian
Aid

Tending to the Forgotten

People with disabilities are generally forgotten or invisible in their uprooted communities. In many cases, the assistance and protection measures designed for the majority very rarely meet their specific needs.

In most of our communities, people with disabilities are too often forgotten when it comes to disasters preparedness. They are specifically vulnerable to it.

At least this was one of the findings from the baseline survey carried out in the Central Division by CAN DO Fiji as part of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Disaster READY 2.0 program.

The Monitoring and Evaluation team visited Lobau in Namosi, Lomanikoro and Burebasaga in Rewa as well as Vunivivi, Manoca and Vunimono in Tailevu.

Findings revealed that most of the properties used as evacuation centers are not being inclusive particularly to people with disabilities.

These evacuation centers do not have the right access into the premises and the lack of privacy in some situations, such as a lack of access to latrines and bathing areas is high.

Through the AHP DR 2.0, CAN DO Fiji works to identifying and attending to the specific needs of the disabled people during disasters and to ensuring that they are included in the decision-making relating to the programming

and planning of protection policies and activities.

Some of these communities will have their evacuation centers retrofitted to have wheelchair access, accessible latrines. These communities will also undergo Community Based Disaster Management trainings so they well versed with inclusion when it comes to disasters.

In phase one of the DR program, CAN DO Fiji collaborated with AHP partner Field Ready using the

Accessibility Retrofitting Kit (The ARK). This is a set of simple to use maker guides and plans that can be used by community members to make items that improve the accessibility of community buildings that are used for sheltering or evacuation in times of disaster making them safer and easier to access for people with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant mothers and small children.

The goal is to make them safer, inclusive and easier to access for people with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant mothers, small children and other vulnerable members of the community

All these items have been designed and developed by Field Ready in Fiji with the support of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership through the Safe and Ready project in partnership with the Church Agencies Network for Disaster Operations (CANDO).



Baseline Survey to enhance Inclusion

AHP Disaster READY is supporting local partners in Fiji to increase their capacity for disaster preparedness and response, enhancing inclusion and saving lives.

The CAN DO consortium conducted its baseline survey in June to ensure implementation in the new phase - Disaster READY 2.0 is in line with the above requirements.

Having a baseline survey is an essential of project implementation which is conducted before an intervention to gather data on the current situation, attitudes, and behaviours of

the target population.

The data collection is a requirement to establish the situation in the community CAN DO will work in before the implementation starts to provide a clear understanding of the current situation, identifies the gaps, and provides valuable insights that guide the development of appropriate interventions and the establishment of indicators to track progress towards achieving desired outcomes.

The CAN DO consortium carried out its survey in the Northern and Central Division

led by its Monitoring Evaluation Research and Learning Innovation (MERLI) Officer Losalini Bolatagici and it was conducted in areas where retrofitting of evacuation centres is planned, sites for Community Based Disaster Risk Management training and where Theology in Disaster Risk in a Changing Climate awareness will be carried out.

In the Central Division, the surveys were carried out in Rewa, Tailevu and Namosi while the team in the Northern Division covered Cakaudrove and Macuata.



The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) Fiji will continue to expand their reach working with churches and faith-based organisations in raising awareness and ensuring collaboration and coordination in disaster management to enhance community resilience to disasters.

CAN DO Fiji is one of the four consortiums under the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY program which is made up of eight churches and faith-based organizations. In June, CAN DO Fiji was invited to have been part of the weeklong conference of the Fiji Council of Churches at Pacific Harbour.

Project Manager Daniel Taufaga said they (CAN DO Fiji) were grateful for the opportunity to work with church leaders. He said they welcome any platform given to share their experience working in the humanitarian space in the

areas of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Mr Taufaga reiterated CAN DO's core role which is to provide support to churches and faith-based organizations by investing in church leadership for disaster management, disaster preparedness and planning capacity as well as in disaster response.

"CAN DO Fiji's participation in the forum is an eye-opener for me. Most of us got to hear about it for the first time and we salute them for the work they have been carrying out with their member churches and organisations in ensuring we are being disaster ready," Reverend Tuiono Tuitaro of the Nadi Inter-denominational Pastors Network said.

He said the presentations made by the CAN DO team served as a reminder for them to look after our resources because God not only created human beings but also our

environment or surroundings that we need to protect.

Reverend Taniela Burekama of the Fiji Evangelic Fellowship said the concept shared by CAN DO was about walking the talk and most of the lessons on preparedness and climate change actions are based on biblical teachings.

The weeklong conference by FCC attracted church leaders from its 13 members. At the conference, it was revealed that out of the 539,536 total Christian population in Fiji, FCC has 375,000 population comprising of 10 denomination and 3 ministries. The FCC Secretariat is one of the eight partners under CAN DO.

Other members are ADRA Fiji, Fiji Salvation Army, Fiji Baptist Convention, Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, Olafou, Seventh Day Adventist Church and Caritas. ADRA Fiji has been leading the consortium as the secretariat since CAN DO Fiji's inception in 2017.

CAN DO's Main Areas of Focus

For the past 5 years, CAN DO Fiji has been working across Fiji focusing on five main areas.

- **Women in Leadership** – Encourages inclusive participation of women in disaster management where they are capacitated during Community Based Disaster Risk Management Training allowing them to be part of the Community Disaster Committees that will be activated during any disaster.
- **Safe n Redi Project** – Focuses on mapping of church properties as potential evacuation centers while retrofitting of the existing ones to ensure they are disabled friendly.
- **Volunteer Mobilization Program** – Trains youths across Fiji to be on standby to offer help in their communities while and other affected areas when disaster strikes.
- **Psychological First Aid (PFA)** – Focused on training CAN DO members to be able to offer psychosocial support as first responders during any disaster.
- **Theology in Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate (TDRCC) Program** – Develop resources to help communities and churches to explore the meaning of resilience, preparedness and suffering during disaster from a biblical point of view.



Early in June, a visiting delegation from CAN DO Australia arrived in Fiji to meet with CAN DO partners.

This was also an opportunity to familiarize themselves with work on the ground and how CAN DO Fiji operates around Fiji in disaster management and response.

Visiting Fiji were the Chief Execu-

tive Officer (CEO) of ADRA Australia, Mr. Denison Grellmann, CEO of Uniting World Ms. Sureka Goringe and the CEO of Caritas Australia, Ms. Kirsty Robertson.

While in Fiji, they met with the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Fiji, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong who is also the Chairman of the

Fiji Council of Churches, Methodist Church in Fiji Vice President, Mr. Joji Qaranivalu, FCC Secretary Reverend Simone Tugi, President of Fiji Mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Church Pastor Nasoni Lutunaliwa, the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia Secretary and Registrar Reverend Sepiuta Hala'api'api and the Adventist De-

velopment and Relief Agency (ADRA Fiji) Country Director Iliapi Tuwai.

They also heard updates from the CAN DO Project Manager Daniel Taufaga and ADRA Fiji Program Director Christine Lemau. While CAN DO is headed by Caritas Australia, ADRA Fiji acts as the Secretariat for CAN DO Fiji.



Etika showing training participants in Vanuatu how to use the Safe n Redi App on their phone.

Safe n Redi in Vanuatu

CAN DO Fiji GIS (Geographic Information System) Coordinator Etika Naitini visited Vanuatu in June as part of the monitoring visit and cross learning for the Safe n Redi Project implemented by CAN DO.

The Safe n Redi Project is implemented regionally in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands under the Australian Humanitarian Partnership 's Disaster READY program.

ADRA Fiji is lead for this project in the region which focuses on mapping and retrofitting of evacuation centres to become

inclusive for any disasters.

Joining him in Vanuatu is Mr. Murray Miller the Emergency Director for ADRA Australia who is there representing CAN DO Australia.

CAN DO partners who participated in this training were shown how to use the Safe n Redi app during preparedness to collect information about evacuation centres within church compounds.

As part of the Safe n Redi project, CAN DO works closely with the churches to build com-

munities and improve evacuation centres that are inclusive, safe and ready to provide dignity and protection for all in times of disaster.

Etika shared about the work done in Fiji from mapping of church properties to having them retrofitted to be disabled friendly for evacuation during disasters at the Safe n Redi workshop held at the VCC centre in Port Villa.

Interesting to note that the VCC is a functioning non-governmental organization (NGO) with its running program.

Psychosocial Support for partners

A three-day Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) partners in April.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji, as the CAN DO consortium Lead assisted the PFA lead Anglican Archdiocese in implementing the PFA training.

The training was aimed at equipping CAN DO members with PFA skills to better respond to disasters as first responders.

National Advisor Mental Health Dr. Maria Rocio Cabio closed the training and reminded the participants that PFA must start from home with children and families before we reach out to communities.

Consultant Dr Selina Kuruleca facilitated this training.

Awareness in School

Students of Navesau Adventist High School were fortunate to have a team from CAN DO over in April for an awareness session including motivational talks.

Led by the Project Manager Daniel Taufaga, the session on Sabbath was focused on Disaster Preparedness which was carried out by CAN DO.

CAN DO Australia Visits Project Sites

CAN DO Australia's Mr. Andrew Lowry was in Fiji in May visiting project sites CAN DO and to meet with partners.

He visited sites in the Western and Central divisions.

While in Fiji, he also met with CAN DO partners and discuss ways we can collaborate to further improve implementation for DR 2.0.

Disaster Management Training in the North

In June, people of Nagigi and Nacavanadi in Savusavu, Cakaudrove underwent refresher trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction and Women in Leadership.

This was to enhance disaster preparedness for these communities for effective response in times of any disaster.

These two coastal communities were affected by the recent cyclones in the Northern Division and are also at risk of tsunami.

