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ADRA

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Newsletter

ADRA
in
Fiji



ADRA

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ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) FIJI

Newsletter

Justice Compassion Love



JANUARY—JUNE
2024

Welcome to the 1st
Edition of ADRA Fiji
Newsletter 2024

About ADRA Fiji

ADRA Fiji is the humanitarian and development arm of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and is part of ADRA International network in 135 countries worldwide. ADRA works to improve the lives of the People of Fiji since 1985.

ADRA Fiji thematic focus are in Health, Food Security and Livelihood, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience building and Education.

Our Purpose

To serve humanity so all may live as God intended.

Our Motto

Justice. Compassion. Love

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ADRA International in Fiji

The ADRA Fiji and ADRA South Pacific teams were thrilled to welcome Mr. Mario Oliveira, the ADRA International Emergency Director, to Fiji in February.

With a global presence spanning over 140 country offices, it was a true honor to host another esteemed Director from our US headquarters. Mr. Oliveira's visit provided a unique opportunity for him to gain first-hand insights into our country's operations and to witness the impactful work, achievements, and progress we have accomplished over the years.

This visit marks ADRA International's continued commitment to supporting and strengthening our operations in Fiji. Director Mario's expertise in

emergency response undoubtedly provided valuable insights, guidance, and support to further enhance our capabilities in this critical area.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Pastor Maveni Kaufononga, the President of the Trans Pacific Union - Seventh-day Adventist Church, for the invitation to Fiji to conduct and Emergency Management sessions with TPUM leaders in Set-Apart Program.

While in Fiji, Mr. Oliveira visited project sites in the Central and Western Division.

We look forward to leveraging Director Mario's visit to drive continued growth, innovation, and impact in our mission to serve communities in need across Fiji and beyond.

ADRA highlights

ADRA NZ supports new Project
ADRA New Zealand's International Program Director Sahara Anae joined us for an inception workshop on the new Sustainable Health Agriculture Protection Environment - Climate Action Resilience (SHAPE-CAR) project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in February. The workshop brought together key stakeholders and ministries to discuss project objectives and activities. We were honoured to host Ruci Lumelume, Development Program Coordinator at the New Zealand High Commission in Suva, Fiji, for a courtesy visit.

ADRA Australia Facilitates Co-Design Workshop

In a collaborative effort to promote healthier living and combat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Fiji, a Co-Design Workshop for the next phase of the Live More Abundantly (LMA) project was held in Sigatoka in May. Facilitated by ADRA Australia, the workshop serves as a platform for beneficiaries, stakeholders, and the project team to strategise and design the upcoming phase of the initiative, stated to commence later this year.

The workshop marked Olive Orate's second visit to Fiji for the project. She is ADRA Australia's International Programs Director. The FCEHL project targets essential health workers with the goal of addressing NCDs and fostering healthier lifestyles across Fiji. The workshop recognizes and appreciates the invaluable contributions of stakeholders and partners from the Ministry of Health & Medical Services - Fiji, Hope Clinic, 10,000 TOES FIJI community health workers, and Dietitians from various regions.

ADRA Asia hosts training for MERLI Officers

In Bangkok, Thailand, ADRA Fiji's Monitoring & Evaluation Officers participated in a week-long MEAL Technical Learning Lab (TLL) organized by ADRA International in March. The event brought together 25 participants from 20 countries, including ADRA Fiji's three officers - Ms Angelina Taufaga, Ms Losalini Bolatagici, and Mr Viliame Wainiu.

The TLL provided a platform for insightful discussions and knowledge sharing, enhancing the officers' skills in data management

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French Officials Witness Disability Resilience Project

French Government representatives, led by Ms. Lisa Amon, visited Fiji to observe the "Building Resilience for People with Disabilities in the Pacific" project by ADRA Fiji in April. Funded by the Crisis and Support Centre of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the delegation saw firsthand the project's impact in the flood-prone Nakavu village, Nadi.

ADRA Fiji Country Director Iliapi Tuwai highlighted the project's focus on making evacuation centers disability-friendly and

providing disaster preparedness training. He thanked the French Government for their support in Fiji, Vanuatu, and the Solomon Islands.

Ms. Amon, Deputy Head of the Humanitarian Operations and Stabilisation Centre (COHS), Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS), affirmed France's dedication to supporting vulnerable communities. Mr. Alipate Tuidraki, a wheelchair user, praised the project's efforts. Nadi District Officer Alivereti Abenasiga emphasized

the importance of Public-Private Partnerships in addressing community needs, underscoring the collaboration between the government and Civil Society Organizations.

ADRA Australia's Emergency Director Murray Miller emphasized the role of international partnerships in promoting inclusivity and resilience. The French delegation included Ms. Marion Brunel and Ms. Mireille Borne.



LDS Charities visit in Navatuyaba, Toga in Rewa.



Members of the AHP Support Unit at the CAN DO project site in Valelevu

Donor visits

LDS Charities visit Toga, Rewa

A partner monitoring field visit was conducted in February to assess the Food and Nutrition, Community Resilience, Economic Sufficiency (FANCRES) project funded by the Latter-Day Saint Charities. The project, which concluded last year, aimed to enhance food security, nutrition, and economic stability in response to COVID-19.

A visiting delegation from the USA and New Zealand witnessed firsthand the project's impact, including improved food security through sustainable farming, enhanced nutritional awareness, and increased economic sufficiency among families. Despite initial challenges, the project successfully fostered resilience in the community.

ADRA Fiji expresses deep gratitude to LDS Charities for their support and looks forward to continued collaboration in building sustainable futures.

AHP Support Unit visits CAN DO Sites

Members of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Support Unit concluded their activities in Fiji with a visit to a Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) site in Valelevu in April. Thanks to the CAN DO Safe n Redit Project under AHP's Disaster READY program, the Baptist Convention Church has been retrofitted to become a disability-friendly evacuation center.

CAN DO, one of the four Fiji AHP consortiums, comprises nine faith-based organizations with its Secretariat based at ADRA Fiji. Over the past two days,



the AHP Support Unit provided valuable training on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Communications to empower partners to effectively share the impact of Disaster READY 2.0 in Fijian communities.

ADRA Fiji, as a member of the CAN DO consortium, participated in the training alongside other CAN DO partners to enhance their storytelling of resilience and progress. The Fiji AHP's Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, Learning, and Innovation (MERLI) and Communications Officer are also housed under ADRA Fiji, contributing to the consortium's efforts.

UN Women Global Board in Taci

In February, members of the UN Women Global Board and UN Women Pacific team experienced firsthand the impactful work of ADRA Fiji under the Women Resilience to Disasters (WRD) program. Hosted at Taci village, the visit brought

together women from nearby villages Naivilaca and Naqarani, who shared their stories and displayed products developed through resilience-building trainings.

ADRA Fiji was honored to showcase its work and the close collaboration with communities to improve lives. The organization's Sustainable Livelihood, Climate Adaptation, and Disaster Management Programs aim to reduce disaster risks, poverty, and inequality, moving vulnerable communities towards sustainable livelihoods and economic stability.

The 2-year WRD program in Fiji, piloted by ADRA, aims to strengthen women's resilience to disasters and threats, including climate change and COVID-19. The project focuses on adopting gender-responsive decision-making and governance systems and enabling targeted actions to build the resilience of women and girls.

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hosted by ADRA Asia Regional Office.

Technical Learning Lab in Dubai

Amidst challenges faced in humanitarian and development programs worldwide, ADRA remains committed to driving positive change. Despite recent extreme flooding in Dubai in April, the Global Technical Learning Labs in Dubai, organized by ADRA International, brought together members from across the globe.

During the ongoing sessions, ADRA Fiji Program Director Christine Lemau highlighted the significance of data, stating, "Data is the new currency." In today's tech-driven world, understanding the value of data is crucial for quality programming.

Ana Albuquerque, representing the ADRA South Pacific office, contributed to the Program Development Advisory Committee discussions, focusing on strategies to support local offices globally.

Cross learning in Samoa

At ADRA, our commitment to enhancing community service drives us to continuously improve and learn from one another. In partnership with University of Technology Sydney, ADRA Fiji hosted a productive session with ADRA Samoa, focusing on community frameworks, shared lessons, localization, and indigeneity.

The discussions highlighted the importance of localisation and indigeneity in project implementation, emphasizing cultural relevance, community empowerment through decision-making involvement, and sustainability through leveraging local practices. Additionally, a session on Monitoring and Evaluation was conducted to enhance our ability to measure project impacts effectively.

South Pacific Inaugural Regional Partnership Summit

ADRA Fiji was thrilled to be part of the inaugural Regional Partnership Summit hosted by ADRA South Pacific in Avondale, Sydney early in June. This weeklong event brought together regional offices to address cultural differences, foster cross-cultural collaboration, and chart a strategic roadmap for the future. Represented by our Country Director, Program Director, Finance Director, and Emergency Coordinator, ADRA Fiji is committed to enhancing our partnerships and impact. Special thanks to our sponsors: ADRA South Pacific, ADRA Australia, ADRA International, Avondale University, Sanitarium Health Foods, ACA Health Fund, and Adventist Media Centre.

Vinaka Vakalevu Bou!

We bid farewell to Mr. Bou-tuiloma Mawi who has been an integral part of our Management Team. Mr. Mawi, who has been our Finance Director, showcased unwavering commitment and making invaluable contributions to ADRA Fiji. We extend our deepest gratitude to Bou and his family for their steadfast support, and we wish him the very best and pray for God's blessings to be with him always.

Women Voices in Disasters Matter

In Navolau Village in the Ra Province, the voices of women have been given new strength and recognition through the Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) awareness program, conducted by the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) Fiji.

The training was conducted in February and the session was filled with emotion as women were reassured by village elders that their voices are welcome, and their opinions matter in village meetings. Tears flowed as the women felt a newfound acceptance and respect.

Timaleti Ratu, the Women Leadership Coordinator, shared a poignant story from another community. A woman married into a traditional village was told never to raise her voice because she didn't belong. This contrasted sharply with Navolau, where elders and men expressed disappointment that women are treated so poorly elsewhere.

"Women in our village are encouraged to speak up during meetings and to voice their opinion freely," village headman Iliesa Ulutegu said. He then reminded the women participants that when they marry and join their husbands' communities, they become an integral part of those communities.

Ms. Ratu, with six years of experience in training and awareness across Fiji, noted that Navolau is the first community she has encountered where women are fully accepted, with observed gender equality and supportive male role models in the village.

Jay Nasilasila, the Disability Inclusion Officer from the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, also participated in the awareness session, highlighting the inclusive approach of the program.

Empowering Women in Disaster Preparedness

Unaisi Bakewa, a dedicated community worker and volunteer for Tavua Disability Association, has seen firsthand the transformative impact of the Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction program in Tavua. And also as the District Women Representative, she understands the critical role women play in her flood-prone community.

"The training is incredibly useful for us," Unaisi shared.

"We live in a flooding area, and whenever disaster strikes, the low-lying areas of Tavua are always targeted. The recent training sessions (held in May)

have been invaluable, helping us understand how to respond before, during, and after disasters."

Unaisi highlighted how the program has empowered women, giving them the knowledge and confidence to act swiftly and effectively. "A lot of women shared that they enjoyed the training. It empowered them and taught them important lessons on disaster preparedness. We now know what to do when a disaster strikes."

She emphasised the pivotal role of women in disaster response. "As women, we are always the first responders. We

wake up first in the morning and are the last to sleep at night. When disaster strikes, we ensure everything is in place to protect our families and community. When warnings come, we share information and prepare together."

Unaisi's words reflect the strength and resilience of the women in Tavua. The Women Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction program has not only provided them with vital skills but also reinforced their essential role in preparedness and risk reduction and safeguarding their community.



Government stakeholders and our church partners at the GIS Champions workshop.

GIS champions Trained on Safe n Redi App

CAN DO's Geographic Information System (GIS) team hosted an important training session for GIS champions and volunteers to familiarize them with the Safe n Redi App in March. This innovative tool is designed to enhance evacuation center safety and readiness during disasters.

Government stakeholders and our church partners from the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) were encouraged and empowered to use this cutting-edge technology. The Safe n Redi App provides crucial information and resources that can significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of

disaster response efforts.

The training is a key component of the CAN DO Safe n Redi Project, which falls under the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY program. This initiative aims to build resilience and preparedness among communities vulnerable to natural disasters.

"The session was also supported by the Building Resilience for People with Disabilities in the Pacific Project, funded by the French Government's Crisis and Support Centre of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. This collaboration highlights the commitment of multiple interna-

tional partners to strengthen disaster readiness and ensure the safety and well-being of all community members," GIS Coordinator Etika Naitini said.

"Through these efforts, we are not only enhancing our immediate disaster response capabilities but also fostering long-term resilience and preparedness. By equipping our GIS champions and volunteers with the knowledge and tools they need, we are paving the way for safer, more resilient communities across the Pacific," he added.

Innovative Resilience Building in Rewa with ADRA's WILLRAP

At ADRA, we are committed to fostering resilience in vulnerable communities by harnessing available resources and adding value to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods. Early in February, under our Women Influence and Informative Resilience Action Project (WILLRAP), part of the UN Women Pacific's Women Resilience to Disaster Program, we launched an exciting new initiative in three communities in Noco, Rewa.

The celebrated 'Via ni Tebara' (*Alocasia macrorrhizos* or giant taro), which grows abundantly in Rewa, has been ingeniously transformed into flour. This flour is now being used to bake a variety of delicious and nutritious products.

Uraia Navunicagi of Naivilaca shared his excitement: "We have lots and lots of giant Taro available around us. We harvest them during harvest time and we still have more than enough around. It's life's longevity is quite good, some have been around for the past 50 years and we are happy to be able to learn that we can produce flour from it for daily consumption."

This initiative is not just about creating a new product; it's about providing a reliable food source in times of disaster when food security is most threatened. The communities of Noco can now count on their 'via' to sustain them through challenging times.

This remarkable project exemplifies how traditional resources can be revitalized and utilized to enhance community resilience. We are proud to support the people of Rewa in their journey towards greater food security and sustainable living.

Meanwhile, food processing and value adding Training has been conducted in all project sites in the Western and Central Division.



Meresiana (brown) and other LMA training participants receive their gardening tools. She's pictured here with her son.

Meresiana's journey to Health through lifestyle medicine

Meresiana, a resilient 50-year-old woman from Yavusania village in Nadi, has experienced a remarkable transformation in her health and well-being, thanks to ADRA's Live More Abundantly (LMA) program. Living with asthma for over a decade, Meresiana found new hope through this lifestyle intervention designed to work closely with vitality workers and field experts in communities.

Having worked in the hotel industry for 26 years, Meresiana's asthma developed after 16 years on the job.

"During the LMA program, I learned that three main factors impact our lives and lifestyle: sugar, salt, and oil. The food we consume greatly influences our health as well. Unfortunately, we've moved away from the fresh, garden-grown foods that align with God's intentions, opting instead for processed foods that are detrimental to our well-being," she shares.

Before discovering the LMA program, Meresiana's asthma was so severe that walking long distances was nearly impossible. Her husband and son had to assist her, making multiple stops along the way. "Now, I can go to the hospital three times a month on my own because I have so much more energy. Before, my husband and son used to have sleepless nights taking care of me and rushing me to the hospital, but that's no longer the case. I used to spend \$45-\$60 a month on inhalers, but now one inhaler can last me three months, and I'm really grateful for that."

The LMA program, part of the Fiji Circu-

lar Economy for Healthy Lifestyle (FCEHL) project, emphasizes the importance of diet in achieving good health. This community-based lifestyle program addresses non-communicable disease risk factors in Fiji, teaching individuals like Meresiana how to improve their health through better dietary choices.

The impact of the LMA program extends beyond Meresiana herself. "Before discovering the LMA program, my husband suffered a mild stroke. Prior to the mild stroke, he experienced an illness affecting his entire legs, from the hip down to his feet. He endured that condition for seven months, and I cared for him until he had another stroke last December."

Through the LMA program, Meresiana and her husband learned to alter their diets, embracing healthy foods from their garden. "After changing his diet, something remarkable occurred within four months: he regained the ability to walk independently, going from being bedridden and using diapers to taking himself to the bathroom and toilet."

Meresiana's story exemplifies the profound impact of the LMA program on individuals and families. By inspiring them to grow their own food and consume healthily, in accordance with God's intentions, the LMA program has brought renewed health and hope to their household.

"We are deeply grateful to ADRA Fiji and ADRA Australia for the LMA program, which continues to enhance the health and well-being of our communities," says Meresiana.



Waste management training to combat LTDD outbreak in Bua

In response to a concerning outbreak of Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue, and Diarrhea (LTDD) in Bua, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Fiji (ADRA Fiji) has partnered with the Ministry of Health and the Bua Provincial Office to implement crucial waste management trainings in the province.

This initiative aims to mitigate the health crisis by addressing the environmental factors contributing to the spread of these diseases supported by ADRA Fiji's Learning Environmental Adaptation Project (LEAP) – a project funded by USAID through the Pacific American Fund.

Project Manager Akanisi Ranadinivugalei said the training, which is set to expand to other priority areas, represents a vital effort to improve public health and sanitation in the province.

The training also included stray animal management, as these animals can be a medium for Leptospirosis transmission.

She said there is an urgency and coordinated response required to combat the LTDD outbreak effectively.

"We are pleased to collaborate with the Ministry of Health and the iTaukei Affairs Office in Bua, especially in supporting the Ministry's efforts to curb the outbreak. This has been a significant concern for them, and alongside the Bua Provincial Council, we are working together to conduct waste management training. Our goal is to tackle these pressing health issues and address environ-

mental concerns as well," Ms Ranadinivugalei said.

Trainings have been conducted in various communities in Bua was conducted in

led by a Health Inspector and the Bua Provincial Conservation Officer which are focused on improving household and communal waste management practices.

Participants were educated on effective waste sorting, hygiene practices, and various disposal methods including burying, burning, composting, and recycling.

"Our training program also includes the development of a comprehensive waste management plan, complete with a

timeline and measurable indicators to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. This plan aims to foster a cleaner and healthier environment, reducing the risk of disease transmission," Ms Ranadinivugalei said.

She said the prioritization of these villages for training was determined with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and the Bua Provincial Office, highlighting a coordinated effort to mitigate the LTDD threat.

ADRA Fiji is committed to working alongside local communities and authorities to enhance waste management practices, contributing to the overall health and well-being of the residents of Bua.



Sustainable Livelihood Support for Asenaca

Vegetables selling business is now thriving for 55-year-old Asenaca Titikula, despite of the remoteness of her community in Nakorotiki in Bua.

It all started from her participation in the Climate Smart Agriculture Training conducted in the area by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji which enhanced her knowledge in agriculture motivating her to invest her time into planting vegetables.

The training, which was part of the Learning Environmental Adaptation Project (LEAP) in Fiji supported by the USAID through the Pacific American Fund, has led to new opportunities for the family to support their livelihood through income generation and food and nutrition security.

"Au vakavinavinaka vei ADRA ena vuli e mai cakava ni tosoya cake na noqu kila. Au dau teitei voli mai ia e sega sara vei au na kila kau sa mai yacova tu ni kua. Na noqu vuli oti mai au mai wasea sara vei neitou Ta ka keirau sa duavata saraga me keirau sa tei kakana draudrau me dua tale vurevure ni neitou lavo me vaka ni taura toka e dua na gauna balavu na tei yaqona kei na dalo."

(I thank ADRA for bringing this training as it enhanced our agricultural knowledge. In fact,

I have been involved in vegetable farming, but the practical skills and knowledge gained from this training are of another level. After the training my husband and I agreed that we needed to take up vegetable farming as a source of income because of the fast cash return compared to kava and taro which take longer to harvest.)

And this initiative has become a family affair. They now have two vegetable farms – one at their yard and a bigger one located about 20 minutes' walk from their home. Her children, who are both in school, helped with watering and cleaning of vegetable beds while her husband assist with land preparation.

Asenaca shared that the first sale came from 3 plots of cabbage which she harvested which she earned \$95 from it. Living by the roadside, she only placed 3 bundles at a shed they now have for their business – this attracted many buyers who frequent the area going to the nearby school, health centre and post office.

Apart from the income earned, she said her children have been taking healthy lunches to school too.

Her farm has a variety of vegetables including English and Chinese cabbages, cucumber,

capsicum, varieties of beans, eggplants, tomatoes, carrot, cauliflower, and max melon.

"Au sa vulica na kena l walewale ni teitei – mai na vakayagataki ni vakabulabula ni qele me yaco kina veika e vakarautaki me tarova na kana ni manumanu. Keimami vakarautaka saraga l vale – sega tale ni vakayagataki na wainimate mai na sitoa."

(We are now into organic farming. We learnt how to prepare your own composts and liquid manure as well as insect repellents. All these – we prepare at home, and we no longer use chemical fertilizer)

The U.S. Government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), awarded US\$950,000 Pacific American Fund grant to ADRA Fiji's Learning Environmental Adaptation Project (LEAP) to enhance the quality of life for 38 local communities in the northern division.

Supported by USAID's flagship small grant facility, the Pacific American Fund, ADRA Fiji through the LEAP project, works to improve the resilience and adaptive capacities of subsistence farmers, both women and men, in vulnerable communities in Bua and Macuata Provinces.

Emergency Evacuation Drill in Navolau

The village of Navolau 1 in Rakiraki, known for its vulnerability to cyclones, witnessed a significant milestone in its disaster preparedness journey on June 15. A live emergency evacuation drill was conducted as the culmination of a comprehensive three-day Evacuation Centre Management training organized by ADRA Fiji. This initiative aimed to enhance the awareness, preparedness, and response capabilities of the community members.

The event was particularly noteworthy as it was attended by ADRA International Emergency Director, Mario Oliveira, who travelled from the United States to be part of this critical exercise. Addressing the participants, Mr Oliveira underscored the importance of preparedness at all stages of a disaster - before, during, and after. He highlighted the significance of the occasion, noting that it was funded by the French Government, a connection close to his heart as a former Country Director of ADRA France.

This initiative is part of the broader "Building Disaster Resilience for People with Disabilities in the Pacific" project, a partnership between ADRA Fiji and the French Government's Department of Crisis Support Centre of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Navolau 1 is one of nine communities in Fiji benefiting from this project, aimed at preparing communities to operate inclusive evacuation centers.

The recent training in Navolau 1 marks the beginning of ADRA Fiji's efforts to support the community. The next phase included retrofitting the evacuation center to ensure it is accessible and friendly for people with disabilities. This effort is vital, as Navolau 1 was significantly affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, highlighting the need for robust and inclusive disaster preparedness measures.

Through these efforts, ADRA Fiji and its partners are not only enhancing the resilience of Navolau 1 but also setting a benchmark for other communities in the region. The successful completion of the evacuation drill demonstrates the community's commitment to preparedness and resilience, ensuring that they are better equipped to face future disasters.



Empowering Church Leaders for Disaster Preparedness



In a groundbreaking initiative led by ADRA South Pacific's Empower Pacific Leadership project, church leaders in the Pacific region are being equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to take proactive measures in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Through a collaborative effort that fosters sharing of best practices and knowledge, ADRA Fiji co-facilitated a training session for church leaders in Fiji in April, marking a significant step towards building a network of resilient church communities.

Supported by ADRA Austria, church leaders in the Pacific are benefiting from this initiative, which aims to empower them to lead their communities through crises and disasters effectively. By providing essential

training and resources, ADRA is enabling church leaders to play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and well-being of their congregations during challenging times.

ADRA's gratitude is extended to the leaders of the Trans Pacific Union - Seventh-day Adventist Church and Fiji Mission of Seventh-day Adventists for their unwavering support in this endeavor as we work towards creating a more resilient and prepared community that can effectively navigate and overcome the challenges posed by disasters.

Through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the implementation of best practices, ADRA is proud to be at the forefront of empowering church leaders in the Pacific region.



Embracing Cultural Sensitivity for Effective Community Engagement

To ensure effective community engagement, ADRA Fiji is now focused on equipping its workers on in-depth cultural sensitivity as part of the new Sustainable, Health, Agriculture, Protection & Empowerment - Climate Action Resilience (SHAPE-CAR) project. Funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (NZaid) through ADRA New Zealand, this project is set to make a significant impact in the Central Division of Fiji.

Why Focus on Indigeneity?

Understanding and respecting the cultural context of the communities we serve is paramount to the success of any development project. ADRA Fiji recognizes that meaningful and lasting change can only be achieved when projects resonate deeply with the local populace. This is why the SHAPE-CAR project places a strong emphasis on indigeneity, ensuring that interventions are culturally appropriate and sensitive to the unique identities, spiritualities, customs, and traditions of Fijian communities. Consultant Simone Sevudredre of Sauvaka Consultancy led the cultural sensitivity sessions, which delved into various aspects of Fijian culture, including identity,

spirituality, customs, traditions, and respect. These sessions equipped our staff with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively with the communities we serve, ensuring that our projects are not only accepted but also embraced by local residents. The sessions for the staff was in May while the volunteers were trained in June.

Specialized Volunteer Training

In addition to our staff training, a group of dedicated volunteers received specialized training on indigeneity and survey conduct in Suva. This training will guide their approach in rural communities, fostering meaningful connections with locals and ensuring the collection of valuable information. The indigeneity session was again led by Simone Sevudredre, while ADRA's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) Officer, Angelina Taufaga, conducted a session on data collection for the 18 participants.

Baseline Survey

Our hardworking team of enumerators completed the Baseline Survey of the SHAPE-CAR project in the Rewa province in June. The

purpose of this baseline survey is to gather initial data and information before any interventions or activities are implemented. This data serves as a critical reference point to measure the impact and effectiveness of the project over time.

About SHAPE-CAR

Supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade through ADRA New Zealand, the SHAPE-CAR project aims to promote Sustainable Health, Agriculture, Protection, Environment, and Climate Action Resilience in Fiji's Central Division. By integrating cultural sensitivity into every aspect of the project, ADRA Fiji aims to ensure that the initiatives are sustainable and truly beneficial to the communities.

The SHAPE-CAR project is a collaborative effort to promote sustainable health, agriculture, protection, environment, and climate action resilience in Fiji's Central Division. Funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade through ADRA New Zealand, the project emphasizes cultural sensitivity to ensure effective and lasting community engagement.



Peni excited about SHAPE-CAR

In the village of Nasigatoka, Rewa, Peni Dobui, a resilient person with disability has found a new source of hope and excitement. The upcoming implementation of the Sustainable, Health, Agriculture, Protection & Empowerment - Climate Action Resilience (SHAPE-CAR) project

in his community promises transformative benefits, particularly in the realms of agriculture and climate change adaptation.

He shared his excitement when the team conducted baseline survey in June.

As someone who has faced numerous challenges, Peni sees

the project as a beacon of opportunity.

"I am excited about the learnings on agriculture and climate change adaptation that this project will bring," he shares.

"It will help us improve our practices and better prepare for the future."