LOCATION
UN OCHA Conference Room and Virtual

DATE
14 December 2023

CHAIR
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Australian Defence Force (ADF), Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Cook Islands National Disaster Management Office, Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDRC), International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), RedR Pacific, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS
• RedR to share with partners the registration link for the RedR Surge Roster.

AGENDA
1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Follow-up on action points from the last coordination meeting
3. Exercise LONGREACH – Australian Defence Force
4. Update on RedR Initiative and plans for the Pacific - RedR
5. Partner updates
6. AOB

LONGREACH Exercise – Australia Defence Force (ADF)

This was presented by Major Paul Randall of the Australia Defence Force;

• The LONGREACH exercise is a joint civilian-military and multi-agency training and development event designed to help enhance disaster preparedness and serves as a platform to collaboratively prepare for future Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) events with its Pacific family.
• The exercise consists of a plenary session, table-top and simulation exercises and focuses on Preparation, Response and Recovery phases. The focal point is HADR (Humanitarian Aid Disaster Relief).
• The exercise is co-facilitated by the Australian Defence Forces and the respective National Disaster Management Office, government agencies/clusters, and defence/emergency forces of the country as in the previous exercises in Tonga, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
The exercise enhances interoperability between the Majesty’s Armed Forces of Tonga (HMAF), Australian Defence Forces (ADF), Tonga National Disaster Risk and Management Office (NDRMO), international agencies, and cluster leads through a Table-Top Exercise sharing lessons learned. The exercise focused on a response to a complex HADR, climate change/drought effects and emergencies (with support from international partners).

Lessons learnt from the exercise:
- Coordination, communication and sharing across the Govt Cluster groups, HMAF, Tonga Police and supporting agencies is critical - requires collaborative systems thinking across the board.
- Training for all agencies, must be consistent and include all the outer islands.

Proposed LONGREACH Exercise 2024
- Q1 – Kiribati:
- Q2 – Tuvalu
- Q3 – Regional LONGREACH (location to be verified)
- Q4 – Fiji

Any Pacific Island Country that is interested in implementing the exercise can reach out bilaterally to the Australian High Commission in their country. Note that it is a government-to-government request.

RedR Initiative and Plans for the Pacific

The presentation was delivered by Ms Koila Costello, REDR Regional Manager; RedR is an international NGO whose stated mission is to “rebuild lives in times of disaster by training, supporting, and providing aid workers to relief programmes across the world.” It was originally an acronym for Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief, although it is no longer used as such. In order to improve future response, RedR focuses on capacity building and disaster risk reduction for communities affected by natural and man-made disasters. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RedR)

- RedR Australia is proud to implement the Australia Assists Program, which is the Australian Government’s humanitarian civilian deploying technical specialists to help RedR’s partners prepare for, respond to and recover from natural hazards and conflict. RedR Australia has established three regional offices, with staff in Suva, Fiji; Amman, Jordan; and Bangkok, Thailand.
- The program provides global targeted humanitarian deployments aligned with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) humanitarian, development and foreign policy objectives.
- **Inclusion** has been a key aspect of growth in RedR’s work bolstered by the Gender Action Plan (GAP), Disability Action Plan (DAP) and Localisation Action Plan (LAP). These action plans capture the practical aspects of RedR’s work and commitment led to the hiring of the
Inclusion Advisor in May to guide the process on GAP, DAP and LAP, to implement staff training and ensure inclusion is integrated across all areas of work.

- **RedR Deployment:**
  - RedR has 116 specialists deployed to 29 partners in 37 countries across the Pacific, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe, in 2023 being the largest deployment to date.
  - The Australia Assists program additionally supported the delivery of 15 core humanitarian training programs to 405 participants in Australia, Jordan, Fiji and Tonga.
  - The Australia Assists program continues to focus on key thematic areas of gender equality, disability inclusion and localization of which 33 deployments address these thematic areas aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 5,10 and 16.
  - A new initiative under the Australia Assists Program, to deploy three-person Humanitarian Response Team (HRT) to Vanuatu in the aftermath of twin cyclones Kevin and Judy to undertake needs assessments.
  - Many of these deployments were related to: Elections (14) in PNG: Bougainville, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, assisted with COVID-19 supply chains and general warehousing support for pre-positioning goods ahead of cyclone season.

- **Logistics Roles in the Pacific**
  - Logistics/Procurement/Supply chain
  - Warehouse management
  - Transport
  - Elections Logistics
  - Health logistics

RedR Australia has rostered more than 1,070 professional humanitarians and deployed 135 experts to 32 host organizations in 40 countries in 2023. RedR will be the implementing partner of the Australia Assists Program until the end of June 2024 and continue fundraising and managing deployment and humanitarian training programs.

**Partner Updates**

*Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council*

- One of its initiatives in the printing of student timetables and calendars that will have information and essential emergency contacts and are willing to partner with interested organisations.
- Connecting Business Initiative to engage the private sector strategically before, during and after emergencies, increasing the scale and effectiveness of the response and recovery in a coordinated manner is planning for a regional workshop to bring the private and public sectors together and bridge the gap so that these sectors can work together on climate-
related disasters and response. Planning to include representatives from other Pacific Island Countries.

- Planning to convene a workshop for Fiji Government representatives to share on COP 28 – what was presented, what was the outcome, next steps, etc.

**UNOCHA Pacific**

- Q1 2024, there are planned missions to the ethno-regions of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia it currently supports in conducting training and capacity building in coordination, information management, strengthening existing relationships and establish new ones with partners in the region.
- Refresher training on STOCKHOLM is open to those interested, led by the platform creators with tentative dates from 20 -23 January 2024.

**WFP Pacific**

- MSU (Mobile Storage Units) will be transported to Vanuatu, Nauru and Republic of the Marshall Islands by 1st Quarter 2024.
- Capacity Needs Mapping has been completed for Nauru under its Country Capacity Strengthening strategy
- Tonga LCA has been completed and has yet to be finalised and published.

Next Coordination Meeting: **Thursday, 22 February 2024 at 10 am.**

**Contacts**

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