

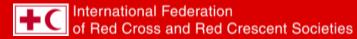
Early Warning Systems:

best practice examples from the Pacific Region

Pacific Delegation Vanuatu Government, Vanuatu Red Cross, IFRC Pacific



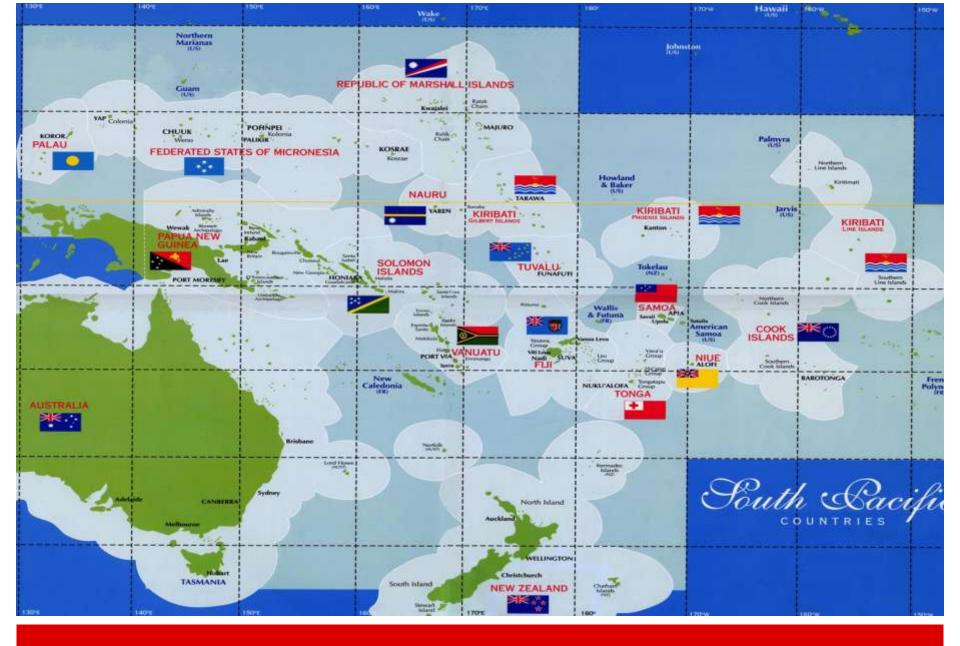






The Pacific context...

- Region is made up of thousands of islands spread over almost 37 million square kilometres of ocean, across five time zones
- Dispersed island geography, remoteness of interior rural areas and outer islands, poor communication systems, limited sea and air ports, complex traditional, cultural, tribal systems
- In the past three years alone, Pacific hit by four category five cyclones (Typhoon Haiyan in Palau; TC Ian in Tonga, TC Pam in Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands; and TC Winston in Fiji)





1. The Finnish Pacific (FINPAC) Project

A project funded by the Finnish Government and implemented through Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific national MET offices, and IFRC and Pacific Red Cross national societies with the objective of:



Improving livelihoods of Pacific island communities by delivering effective weather, climate and early warning services



There are two key components to FINPAC:

- Providing national MET services with the capacity and tools to deliver and communicate accurate, appropriate and timely weather and climate services to rural communities.
- Working with communities to strengthen their ability to use and apply meteorological data and information and to develop appropriate plans to address climate change and disasters.



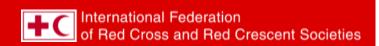


Community engagement:

 Red Cross conducts a community baseline survey on existing early warning systems methodologies

For example:

- What do you understand when you get a weather update?
- Do you know what to do?
- What is the role of traditional knowledge?





- Teone Community has 572 residents living in 84 households (Census 2012)
- Department of Statistics conducted
 Baseline Survey training for Tuvalu Red
 Cross volunteers
- 10 volunteers carried out the Baseline Survey in all the community households
- The Baseline Survey took 2 days to complete







b. Identify knowledge and practice gaps

- Limited understanding of terminology in weather forecasts/updates
 E.g. What is a "knot"? "El Nino southern oscillation index"? "forecast probability"?
- Limited understanding of what actions should be taken when that information is received
 - E.g. the weather forecast says "below average rainfall next month" so how much water should I collect for my household?
- Limited understanding of impact of weather information
 E.g. the difference between a cat 3 and a cat 4 cyclone in TC
 Pam and TC Winston

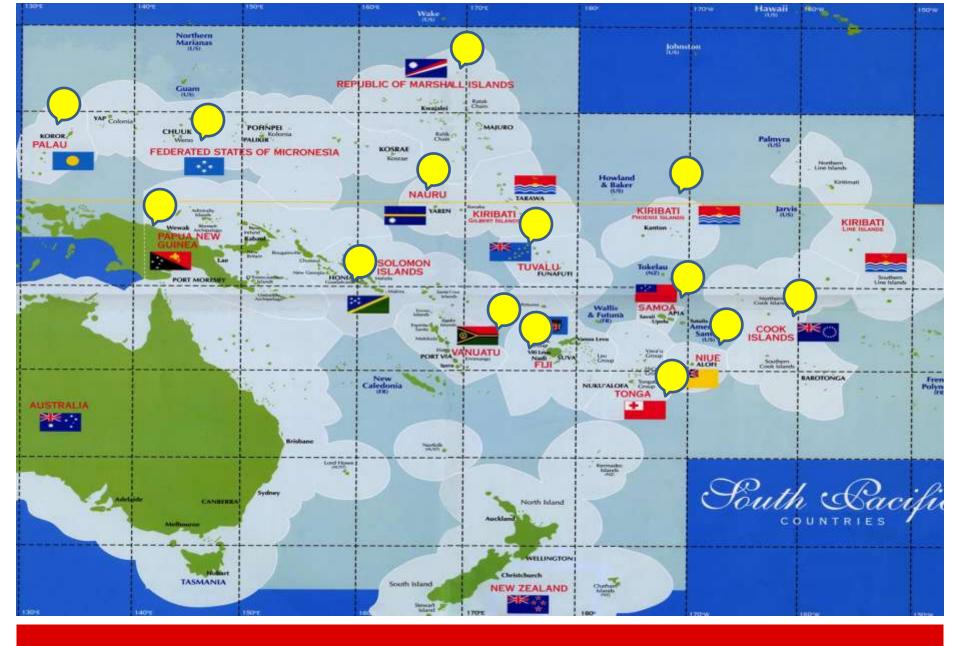


- c) Design the **community workshop**
 - Identify interventions that are sustainable, low cost and low tech
 - Develop action plans





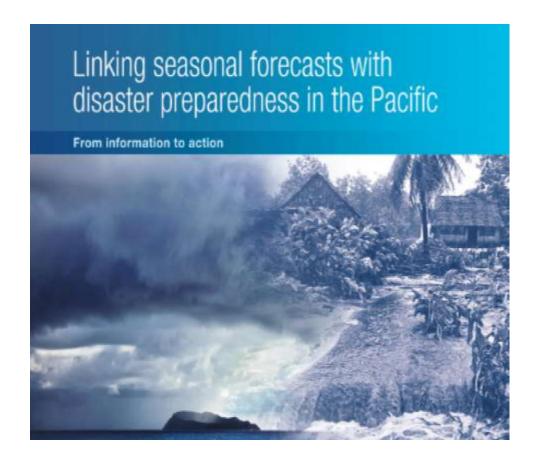






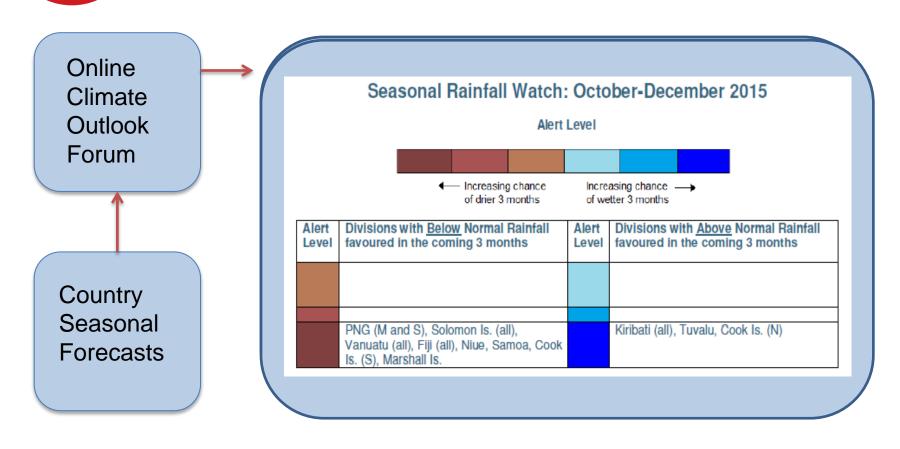
2. Red Cross Seasonal Rainfall Watch

- A tool developed by the IFRC in collaboration with Australian Bureau of Meteorology for Pacific Red Cross.
- Linking seasonal forecasts with disaster preparedness in the Pacific





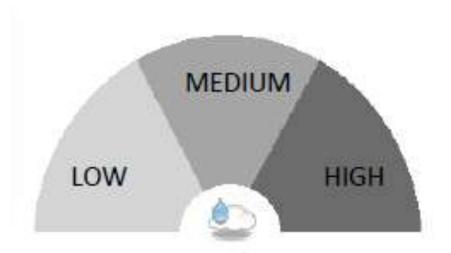
Information...





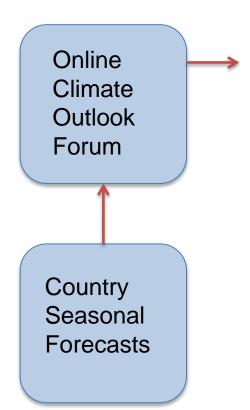
...into Action

Online Climate Outlook Forum Country Seasonal **Forecasts**





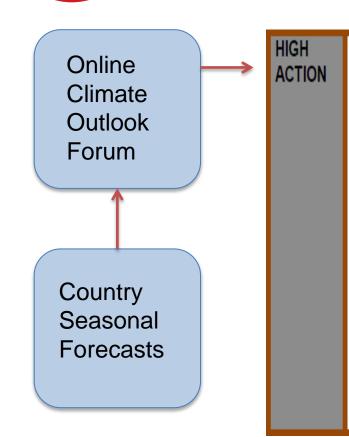
...into Action



ACTION Level	Divisions/ Regions	Recommended actions (predetermined by IFRC office)
LOW ACTION	Samoa	 **Ensure normal preparedness activities are done, and also: Use IFRC low rainfall/drought check list for preparedness activities or use your own adapted one Check that you have sufficient emergency response stocks: for example do you have enough water storage containers like jerrycans, and buckets and that these are available to all the areas you are committed to serve Check that your reverse osmosis/desalination plants are functional, that you have with spare parts (refer to comment in footnote)² and that there are enough qualified staff/volunteers to operate Regularly monitor climate and weather updates from Met Service



...into Action



Fiji (Eastern Division)

- **Ensure previous stage preparedness activities are done, and also:
- Get in touch with Meteorological Office and NDMO to discuss preparing for the low rainfall situation
- Coordinate with NDMO office and responder stakeholders to avoid duplication
- Check availability of your team members, volunteer mobilization capacity and availability, and establish your emergency teams
- Promote health and hygiene with most vulnerable communities and those where you are already working. For example initiate a hand washing and/or wise water use campaign in consultation with government
- Plan for an intervention to meet the needs of the affected population



Lessons and experiences

- The Seasonal Rainfall Watch has institutionalized the use of climate outlook information in Pacific Red Cross Societies programming
- Simple, non-technical language is very important
- Easily adapted for Red Cross branch officers and volunteers



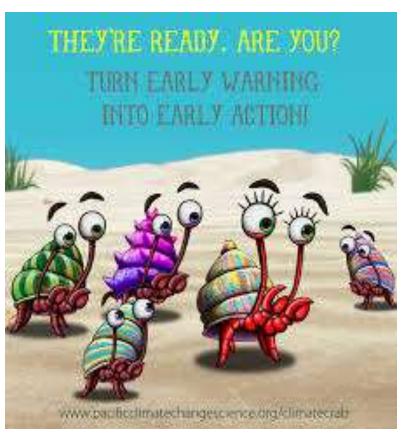
Lessons and experiences

- Initiates discussions between Red Cross and National Met Services (and NDMOs, local government)
- Opens a channel for two-way information flow
- Pre-determined preparedness actions grouped according to alert level are key



3. Climate crab

- demystifying climate events



Using animation to explain EI Nino and La Nina and ensure communities are better informed and prepared for climate change and variability.

Joint project between Red Cross, Australian Government, Vanuatu Government, CSIRO and GIZ.

http://www.pacificclimatechanges cience.org/climatecrab/



Malo 'aupito mo faka'apa'apa lahi atu



For more information please visit:

http://www.ifrc.org/dl

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