First Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster Forum Summary

Nadi, Fiji, 26 – 28 April, 2017

The first Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) Forum was held in Nadi in April 2017 and it was great to have enthusiastic attendance and participation from the six focus countries of the South Pacific for the rPFSC – Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The expected outcomes for the forum were as follows:

- **Increased collaboration and familiarity between regional food security cluster members**
  - We believe this was a resounding success as evidence of the enthusiastic round-table and group discussions throughout the forum. In particular there were great instances of ideas and sharing of experiences to do with setting up a peacetime or evergreen cluster.

- **The standardisation of best practice for information management and other key food security cluster processes in national food security cluster organisations**
  - The session of Information Management was a success in that it has allowed each national cluster and also the regional cluster to form a picture of what strengths and potential for skills training there are in each country cluster.
This session leveraged a lot of understanding of possibilities of collaboration bilaterally between country’s national disaster management offices and food security clusters.

- Development of a work plan to provide trainings with and improve capability of every national food security cluster
  - Due to the involved and comprehensive participation of each country cluster the regional cluster now has a platform from which to pursue identifying and initiating programs with which to strengthen capability of every NDMO and Food Security Cluster.
  - Over the coming weeks and months the rPFSC will co-ordinate with each national country cluster and NDMO in order to organise and facilitate training on things like maps, data analysis, record keeping (5W) and data collection (kobo collect). Importantly, the forum provided a great basis from which to identify and plan a range of capacity support initiatives.
  - The invaluable information discussed and gathered at the forum gives us a great starting point from which to further consolidate this outcome.

- Improved knowledge and ability of cluster members on how to create compelling advocacy that benefits beneficiaries and stakeholders during a humanitarian crisis
  - The simulation exercise was of great benefit to all participants in that it highlighted the need to collaborate within clusters. Furthermore, putting in to practice communicating and engaging with external partners who are crucial in terms of achieving funding for humanitarian programs, resource mobilisation such as sending surge capacity staff and also to ensure awareness of the situation to the wider world, through the creation of compelling advocacy and communication materials.
  - The round table discussions that took place on methods and ways to engage with various partner organisations also provided insight for participants on the benefits of engagement, advocacy and being proactive in achieving lasting partnerships.
  - In conjunction with the sessions on advocacy and early warning, early action, participants came out of the simulation having put into practice ways to incorporate improved engagement, advocacy and resource mobilisation into their future response planning.

In other sessions at the forum, it was great hear from specific cases of assessments and program activities in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.
We heard about the Church Partnership Program in PNG and how integral it is to have a widely distributed network of focal points in the churches alliance and how important this was to gather data and disseminate information. It certainly raised the question of whether this model can be replicated in other countries.

The Fiji TC Winston Assessment and Solomon Islands Assessment Methodology were very useful insights for participants in seeing a comprehensive assessment methodology the usable results provided in a local context.

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<tr>
<th>AT A GLANCE</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Next steps</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fiji FSC Livelihoods and Recovery Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Identification of areas having high levels of food insecurity and vulnerability to disasters. Provision of key short and medium-term recommendations to inform Government and development partners’ plans and strategies.</td>
<td>Utilising existing data to risk inform the planning processes (policies, budgets, products, tools) for decision makers and actors to effectively build the foundation for resilient development in the agriculture sector.</td>
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<td><strong>PNG Church Partnership Program El Niño Response Program 2015-16</strong></td>
<td>Developed food needs assessment approach. Created momentum for action and raised profile of the drought in the media. Demonstrated the importance of churches to humanitarian actors.</td>
<td>CPP El Niño lessons learned workshop conducted and report fed into CPP Phase III planning. Care International in PNG is conducting a highlands lessons learned workshop in May 2017 in partnership with UNDP and the PNG National Disaster Centre.</td>
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<td><strong>Solomon Islands Makira Earthquake and Tsunami, Rapid Sectoral Assessment</strong></td>
<td>Apart from earthquake, tsunami and landslides, flooding and heavy rain caused damages to the agriculture and livelihood in villages with big rivers. Most people had identified food garden as their main livelihood. Only few identified as civil servants and a few employed in forestry related trade.</td>
<td>Strengthened collaboration between all stakeholders Committee needs formal setup and resourcing i.e RRU arrangement in Vanuatu. Need for Capacity building  - All stages and phases of the DRM cycle  - Information management and data analysis</td>
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These presentations were a great segue into the session on peacetime clusters and all attendees were impressed with the capability of the peacetime cluster in Vanuatu. This cluster has a strong structure of both human resources and funding in order to implement its programs which provided an excellent insight for other countries as a way to form a terms of reference for their own country peacetime clusters.

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<th>AT A GLANCE Vanuatu FSAC RRU – A Peacetime Cluster</th>
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<td>Vanuatu Food Security &amp; Agriculture Cluster FSAC established in 2014</td>
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<td>Original TORs focused on integration of CC/DRR as mandated by National CC/DRR Policy, making it an “Evergreen” cluster</td>
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<td>Peace-time cluster enshrined within Agriculture Sector Policy 2016-2030</td>
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<td>Recurrent Gov Budget and Donor Finances for operational costs</td>
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<td>Green Climate Fund Resilient Transformational Agriculture proposal in development</td>
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<tr>
<td>• GoV/FAO/Partners</td>
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<td>• USD 80 million</td>
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<td>• all productive sectors</td>
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Previous to this session was a UNDP PRRP presentation on risk informed development in agriculture and food security which was a great way for participants to further consider their peacetime operations and what their ideals are in this regard.

Finally, probably the most intangible, at least on paper, yet most valuable outcome of the forum was getting our national cluster members and other forum participants from the UN together in the same place for three days. The relationships built, faces put to names and friendships made can only ensure a strengthened Pacific Regional Food Security Cluster.

Thank you!
NEXT STEPS FOR rPFSC:

- Capacity support and training to national clusters and NDMOS
  - Maps, data collection, information management, producing advocacy and enhancing collaboration
- Fostering bilateral partnerships between Pacific Island nations’ clusters and NDMOs
- Providing data sharing and storage capability through partnerships between local Pacific organisations
- Work planning for implementations of lessons learnt
- Support for University South Pacific Cluster involvement

MOBILE DATA COLLECTION: KOBO COLLECT EXERCISE AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1: A map of where groups recorded their locations during the Kobo Collect exercise
Question 1:
*In your country table groups find a consensus on the usefulness of 5W, picking from the options below:*

- Essential
- Mostly Useful
- Too complex

Question 2:
*In your country table groups find a consensus on the usefulness of maps / GIS, picking from the options below:*

The six groups responded:
In your country groups please rank the 5 strategic objectives of the Food Security Cluster, from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)

The overall results of the ranking were as follows:

1. Capacity Support & Training: Reinforce knowledge and capacity of national authorities, staff, and members in country-level clusters to lead and design preparedness, response, and resilience actions in the food security through training and on-call, in country and remote capacity assistance

2. Information Management: Support the effective management, sharing and production of timely and relevant information for and between food security stakeholders in the Pacific region

3. Assessments, Monitoring & Analysis: Build and facilitate access to comprehensive data on food security and vulnerability in the Pacific Region and foster local capacity lead and contribute to assessment and monitoring efforts

4. Regional Coordination & Partnerships: Provide a regional, sector-specific platform for information, exchange, strategic decision-making and research on Food Security in the Pacific, with a strong focus on enhancing preparedness, response and DRR initiatives in national-level clusters

5. Research & Cross-Cutting Issues: At regional level, research, compile and provide general guidance on the integration of cross-cutting issues into food security preparedness, response and resilience initiatives
Selfies and portraits of the country teams at the forum:

Team Fiji
Team Vanuatu
Team Tonga
Team PNG
Team Samoa
Team Solomon Islands