

PACIFIC REGIONAL NETWORK

For the Training and Support in Disaster Risk Management (DRM)



The Problem and Current Situation

Studies have identified serious deficiencies in the disaster management health services, the medical workforce, and health facilities in the Pacific. The number of trained health personnel is insufficient, with few agreed-upon or clearly defined roles and responsibilities in Disaster Risk Management (DRM). In addition, there is (1) little effort made to carry out drills and to test existing plans, and (2) little information is available on resources⁴ required in disaster situations or on how to access them.

Overall, in the region, there is little support for disaster (risk) management in the health sector. There is little capacity, practice, and need assessment, and no formal training policies and programs. There is also no regional team for health disasters, and limited communication and coordination between agencies. Because of the limited capacity of their health systems, the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) are vulnerable to the impact of future disasters. In this context, it is vital for PICTs to improve the disaster (risk) management capacity of their health sector.

Overall Project Goal

The proposed five-year Regional Network for Training and Support in Disaster Risk Management project (the Network) will cover 22 Pacific Island nations. It will first develop the disaster management competencies, expertise and capacity at the national level. Secondly, it will develop training activities for national and local risk managers. In this way the Network will be better prepared to respond to health emergencies and other PICT health and disaster needs. Regional teamwork will improve the capacity of national health systems to act as required in response to disasters. Thus, this project will result in improving the ability of the PICT countries to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from disaster situations.

Objectives, Activities and Indicators

In order to improve disaster management in health in the Pacific region, the project will increase & improve national capacities in disaster risk management in health. Project objectives and activities will be as follows:

Objective 1: A Project Coordinating Team is established.

1. The "Network" concept will be presented to all Pacific Health Ministers at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee meeting
2. An appropriate and existing regional organization to provide a home for a coordinating body will be identified
3. The structure and composition of the coordinating body will be determined
4. Terms of Reference (TOR) of coordinator, disaster management expert and trainer will be done
5. Expert partners will be identified
6. Expected outcomes: Within 3 months of project initiation
 - 1) a regional organization will have been selected to lead the Network project
 - 2) a project coordinating team of an agreed upon number of members will be establish
 - 3) regular meetings will have been scheduled
 - 4) a list of expert partners and TORs will have been drafted

Objective 2: An Expert Group is established within PICT.

1. The Project Coordination team will
 - 1) Assess the expertise capacity in each PICT
 - 2) Define the methodology of expertise
 - 3) Sign TORs of national experts
2. Expected outcomes: Within 6 months of project initiation an Expert Group will have been identified and established. This will result in country expertise identified (incl. their TORs and the methodology to be used) with clear counterparts in risk disaster management in health.

Objective 3: Assessment and planning capacity (based on existing national standards) is developed.

1. The Project Coordinating Team with the support of the identified Expert Group will:

- 1) Carry out national assessments/situation analysis
 - 2) Identify needs
 - 3) Develop plans to address needs
2. Expected outcomes:
- 1) Within 2 years of project initiation the Project Coordination team will have conducted an assessment of all participating PICTs.
 - 2) Within 3 years, plans will be developed with all participating PICTs to deal with capacity needs. This will result in country needs assessments and capacity development plans in risk disaster management in for the health sector.

Objective 4: Capacity of audit & evaluation is developed and utilized in testing exercises in order to update and validate the plan.

1. Method and criteria of audit/evaluation will be defined
2. Appropriate tools and materials for audit/evaluation will be developed
3. Audit and evaluation activities will be planned
4. Exercises will be conducted to test the plan. A report and analysis of the exercise will be produced.
5. The final plan will be updated according to the results of the test exercise
6. Expected outcomes:
 - 1) By the end of the third year of the project an audit/evaluation toll will have been developed and utilized in the participating PICTs.
 - 2) During year 4 of the project, exercises will be conducted on PICT capacities and the plan will be updated.

Objective 5: An Appropriate training program is set up and implemented within the PICTs (see concept paper "Disaster Risk Management Training in Health in the Pacific").

1. The Project Coordinating Team with the consultation of the Expert Group will
 - 1) Carry out a training needs analysis
 - 2) Develop training curriculum and materials and select the modes of teaching appropriate to location, capacity, available technology, culture and language
 - 3) Identify training partners, and trainers
 - 4) Identify trainees (incl. future trainers)
 - 5) Carry out training activities (incl. training of trainers) for participating PICTs.
2. Expected outcomes: By the end of the Project a region wide capacity assessment, audit, and evaluation will have been conduct and training will have been provided in DRM for all participating PICTs.

Collaborating Agencies

This project will involve different partners, such as international agencies, government institutions, and NGOs.

- * PICT Ministries and Departments of Health: technical counterparty and targets for the project interpretation, and project monitoring through the coordinating body.
- * Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Pacific Emergency Health Initiative (CDC/PEHI): Provision of technical support and expertise
- * Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC): Host the office of RNTSDRM Use of existing network
- * World Health Organization (WHO): Technical support and expertise; Use of existing network
- * South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC): Technical support and expertise
- * Fiji School of Medicine: Provide experts for training
- * Palau Pacific Center for Emergency Health: Provide experts for training
- * Red Cross: Training support
- * Universities of French Polynesia & New Caledonia: Provide experts for training

Monitoring/ Evaluation Methodology

From the beginning of the project and throughout its life, the coordinating body will assess the steps of the project and provide an annual report to each country's ministry of health. The evaluation will focus on:

1. The number and level of qualification of experts being trained in each country
2. The number of countries with an approved and validated plan for disaster risk management in the health sector
3. The report of regular test/exercises done in the region

Results will allow countries to use recommendations from the annual report to improve their risk management in health.

Budget Summary

\$ 5,087,500 USD. Assets (equipment) will be bought in

The project total budget for a 5-year duration is the first year of the project only.

Category	Project Expense	Year 2 and following	Total 3-5 years
1. Personnel:			
- Project: 1 coordinator, 1 disaster management expert, 1 trainer and 1 project assistant	335,000	335,000	1,005,000
- Faculty members	240,000	240,000	720,000
2. Travel (incl. per diem)			
- project personnel	80,000	80,000	240,000
- training consultants	30,000	30,000	90,000
- other experts	120,000	120,000	360,000
In-country training activities	50,000	50,000	150,000
Communication	30,000	30,000	90,000
Admin. Costs			
- office	15,000	15,000	45,000
- stationeries	15,000	15,000	45,000
Equipment (PCs, laptop, mobile and satellite phone , video projector)	50,000		
Total Project Expenses (year 1)	965,000	915,000	4,625,000
Contingency 10%			462,500
		Total	5,087,500

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