

# Na Lali



**can do**

Church Agencies Networks Disaster Operations



CAN DO Fiji Quarterly Newsletter

AHP Disaster READY



  
CAN Do Consortium  
Members: Fiji Council of Churches, Methodist Church in Fiji, Fiji Baptist Convention, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Salvation Army, Caritas, ADRA Fiji and Olafou. CAN DO Fiji also recognizes the following ANGO partners: Act for peace, Uniting World, ADRA Australia & Caritas Australia



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**AHP** Australian Humanitarian Partnership





# Partnership agreement under review

Members of the Church Agencies Network Operations (CAN DO) Fiji are currently reviewing their partnership agreement in order to better serve their communities for the Disaster READY 2.0 program. A 2-day of deliberations was held at the Pearl Resort in Pacific Harbour from November 26-27

where partners discussed their activities and identify their various roles within the consortium and the demarcation of responsibilities. All partners were represented including members of the Fiji Council of Churches. CAN DO Fiji is one of the 4

consortiums under the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY program focusing on disaster preparedness and response. Also part of the meeting at Pacific Harbour were representatives from CAN DO Australia who came in as observers. They were

CAN DO Australia Coordination Unit Manager Mr. Geoff Sheperd, Uniting World CEO and CAN DO Australia Chairperson Ms. Sureka Goringe and ADRA Australia's Emergency Management Mr. Murray Miller. The CAN DO secretariat is based at ADRA Fiji.



## Vakavakarau agreement signed

ADRA Fiji, as the secretariat for the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO), signed the new Vakavakarau Partnership Agreement under the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY 2.0 program for the CAN DO consortium on October 4.

The signing was held at the DRCC office in Suva with the rest of the consortiums. In Fiji, Disaster READY is led

by a country committee made up of four consortium - Plan International, CAN DO, Oxfam and CARE Australia in partnership with Live and Learn. The CAN DO consortium is made up of 9 faith-based organisations who are being supported by AHP to increase their capacity for disaster preparedness and response, enhancing inclusion and saving lives.



## CAN DO strengthens support

The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) will continue to provide support towards its partners.

On October 19, the team supported the Fiji Council of Churches in its fundraising drive to assist in its operations.

CAN DO is not only providing support in disaster management but all works towards strengthening the capacity of its partners.

FCC is one of the 9 members of CAN DO. CAN DO Fiji is one of the four consortiums under the Fiji AHP - Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY program which is made up of churches and faith-based organizations.



Members of the CAN DO consortium celebrate the launch of the TDRCC manual which will now be used to train church leaders who will later upskill members of the public.

## New TDRCC manual launched

The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) Fiji will continue to expand their reach working with churches and faith-based organisations in raising awareness and ensuring collaboration and coordination in disaster management to enhance community resilience to disasters.

And in its continuous quest to enhance disaster management in Fiji, CAN DO Fiji launched the Theology in Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate (TDRCC) training manual – a first of its kind in Fiji and the Pacific on November 30.

Headed by the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma, TDRCC is a program under the CAN DO project which is supported by the Australian Government through

the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's Disaster READY program.

"The manual will be used by church leaders in Fiji to help communities and churches to explore the meaning of resilience, preparedness and suffering during disaster from a biblical point of view," Reverend Tomasi Jale, the TDRCC Coordinator said.

Speaking at the launch, CAN DO Project Manager Daniel Taufaga said he believed this set of documents will guide our people in clearing misconception about God and disasters in order to empower our communities to be better prepared for communities.

"The baseline in 2018 provided the foundation on the work of TDRCC and the findings found

a lot of misconception about our God and disasters. It found that one of the things that went with the wind was love which is the essence of Christianity and definitely of other religions too. It found that minority groups like the LGBTQI were being blamed for disasters. People in Koro were blamed as people claimed that because of their rebellion in not participating fully in God's work they were punished by TC Winston."

He said many more beliefs and misbeliefs were found in the baseline thus 12 theologians came together to formulate the TDRCC to demystify those misconceptions which started the groundwork for the program.

Chief Guest at the launch was

the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma deputy general secretary Reverend Anil Reuben who said he was proud of the effort, and he hopes that the manual will be used in other Pacific Island countries. All CAN DO partners were present at the launch.

Meanwhile, this is the second national document produced by CAN DO Fiji to help enhance disaster preparedness and response in Fiji. The first was the Psychological First Aid (PFA) training manual for responders which was endorsed by the Fiji Government through the National Disaster Management Office and is currently being used nationwide.



TDRCC Coordinator Reverend Tomasi Jale with CAN DO Project Manager Daniel Taufaga and AHP Fiji Coordinator Roshika Chand.

### In brief

#### Risk reduction

Community Based Disaster Risk Management - Building resilience through disaster risk reduction (DRR) training is one of the core focuses for CAN DO Fiji. In Namosi on November 22, a 3-day DRR training ended that was focused on equipping community members on knowledge for better disaster management and response. Lobau is vulnerable to flooding and sea level rise.

#### Capacity building

Capacity Building for Partners - CAN DO Fiji participated in the Learning Meeting hosted by the DRCC Coordinating Office on November 1 that focused on report writing. For three days, CAN DO Fiji was able to share its experiences and mapping its way forward in terms of implementations and reporting.



# Village activates DRR plan for TC Mal

Positive feedback was received from the communities during Tropical Cyclone Mal – a testament to the effectiveness of the disaster risk reduction trainings conducted by CAN DO Fiji.

In Nacavanadi village in Savusavu, the Community Disaster Committee was mobilized and they activated their emergency plan whenever warning was issued by the Fiji Meteorological Office and the Fiji NDMO and taking charge of

the disaster preparedness activities.

Apart from the DRR training conducted in this community, Women Leadership training was also carried out where women were empowered to have a voice and be part of decision making when it comes to disasters.

Mere Cakacaka, who is part of the committee said they were being proactive. She said vulnerable members of the communities were evacuated

and homes were secured with the assistance of the youth.

Although TC Mal didn't cause any damage, Mere said they were still glad they had taken precautionary measures to protect their proper- ties and save lives.

Similar updates were also received from our communities in Naqali, Naitasiri and Taci Village

in Rewa.

## Regional cross learning on evacuation centre management

GIS Coordinator Etika Naitini visited Solomon Island in October for a week to share knowledge and expertise on data collection and data management during disasters. As Coordinator for the regional Safe n Redi project under the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) program, Etika was able to share how this project and the use of Safe n Redi app to collect evacuation centre data has been successful in Fiji through better coordination with the Fiji National Disaster Management Office.

The training concluded with participants better equipped to manage their church agency database and be able to train their church volunteers for data collection of church facilities to be used as evacuation centres in times of disasters. We thank Etika for the success implementation despite staying in the Solomon Islands without his luggage.



## National disaster awareness week

CAN DO Fiji joined the rest of Fiji in celebrating National Disaster Awareness Week at Albert Park on October 17 – an event organised by the National Disaster Management Office.

Once again, CAN DO Fiji had its booth set up where its members used the opportunity to raise awareness on disaster preparedness especially on the work carried out by the CAN DO partners

on the ground. This also included all their activities for disaster response.

This year's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction addressed the connection between disasters and inequality, with the theme, 'Fighting inequality for a resilient future' with CAN DO fully aware that poverty, inequality, and discrimination are consequences of growing disaster risk,

leaving people more exposed and vulnerable to disasters than ever before.

CAN DO Fiji's disaster preparedness program is about inclusivity and we raise awareness, conduct training and response to disasters ensuring we leave no one behind.

CAN DO Fiji was able to share booth with the AHP Coordination team.