



Save the Children

NEWSLETTER

CHILD-CENTRED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

April 2018



Greetings from Pender Street, high up on the hills of Suva, where we do not have to worry about tsunamis. This is where most of our Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) project team and other colleagues come to work every day. However, we do also have an office in Labasa and a very new one in Lautoka – and we work with communities all across this beautiful but risk-prone country.

Nobody likes to worry, and it is not our intention to make people worried or nervous, when we talk about disasters in the communities. However, if thinking about risks makes people want to do something about it, as in the case of our Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) clubs (see the story below), our work is worthwhile.

DRR is very multi-sectoral and linked to all different departments, which means that there is always something more to do! It has been wonderful to see the growth of the project and of the team: in one and a half years we have come a long way. Read more about CDRR in this newsletter.

Have a safe day!

Kirsi Peltola

CDRR Project Manager

DRR Clubs Activities

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Photo News



Disaster Risk Reduction Clubs

DRR club activities with children in our 19 targeted high-risk communities and in 11 schools are ongoing.

It is heartening to see children learn and engage actively in reducing the risks by assessing hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities, preparing to respond by participating in mock drill exercises and creating awareness among other children and their families.

Project Officers and Community Facilitators based on all four divisions coordinate DRR sessions in communities and schools where children are supported to be an active agent of change in their spheres of influence – household, school, the community and beyond.

The DRR club members attend sessions twice a month and their age ranges from 10 to 17 years old. Some of the clubs have already started planning and implementing their own activities; without our presence. The name of the club is chosen by the members: for example, we have Champions, Warriors, United, Be Prepared, Lighthouse and Blackrose!



Ants DRR club in Nacula in progress.

“By listing the hazards in our village, we are now aware of the dangers that we could avoid during natural disasters. Most importantly we have identified how we could control and reduce risk in times of emergencies. These risks were always there but we never had a chance to talk about it and to discuss how they can be controlled” – Akanisi Likucali

Resilience Research

How do disasters impact children? What helps them to become resilient? To answer these questions, research is now in progress with the University of Auckland in understanding the best practices to support child-centred DRR by identifying effective, efficient, and scalable interventions and approaches to support risk reduction and resilience.

The three target communities are two informal communities in Lami (Kalekana and Valenicina) and one village on Moturiki Island (Uluibau). These vulnerable communities provide the basis on which the research will identify children’s and communities’ understanding of resilience, foster the agency of children and youth, to work towards making their lives safer and their communities more resilient to disasters.

“Being Resilience (Resilient) can lead us to a good future. With climate change, our village is having the sea reach closer to our houses. To stop this and help reduce this hazard from becoming a disaster, we can build sea walls and plant mangroves” – Poasa, age 12, Uluibau Primary School.



Students of Uluibau Primary School in Moturiki Island participating in resilience research.

School Safety Self-Assessment Survey

The piloting of School Safety Self Assessment Survey (SSSAS) application has started in the 30 targeted schools. The main objective of this assessment is simply to make schools safer for children and staff. Modern technologies can help the school committees analyze their safety and to get feedback on how to improve the level of preparedness. SSSAS is planned to be embedded into Fiji Education Management Information System (FEMIS) later in the year, which means it will be rolled out in all the schools in Fiji.

To strengthen school disaster management and to roll out the SSSAS, we provided a one-day training to the School Disaster, Risk Management and Response Committees in our 30 target primary schools. In this training, the committees reviewed and identified the gaps in their plan. The 23 schools that were trained so far are finalizing their School Disaster Management (SDM) plans.



Student of Nabua Primary School presenting on their School Disaster Management plan.

Prepositioned Stock

800 school bag kits are being procured for Primary and Secondary school students. The school bag kit is meant to be used in case of bigger emergencies to help children return to school and continue with their education. When Save the Children already has them ready in stock, we will be able to respond much quicker in crises.



School bag kits

Photo News - CDRR Project Activities



DRR Club session- Nabukadogo, Macuata



CDRR team work planning meeting, Suva



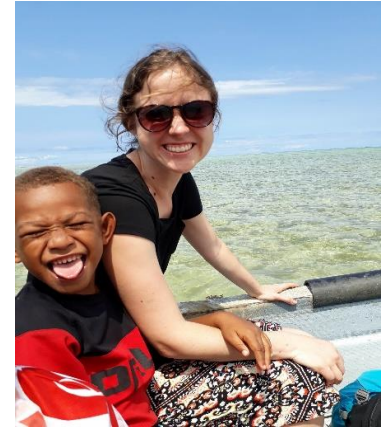
Nacula Community Disaster meeting in progress at Nacula village, Labasa



Tevita Tokalauvere, Project Officer North visiting the DRR activities in Labasa.



Nakavika Child Club Champs show casing the Climate Change adaptation related activities.



Resilience researcher Catherine Hore with Poasa of Uluibau District School. Poasa has contributed a lot in the research activities.



John Wesley Primary School, Suva, presenting on SDM action plan for their school



SDRMRC training completed in Labasa



DRR session in progress at Saravi, Nadi



The DRR club members of Moturiki came to meet us in order to assist in finding the safest route and in carrying learning aids to the school.



DRR members of Nakavika, Ba during their session.



SSSAS questionnaire filled by student in a tablet at Lami Primary School.

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