



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

THE COASTAL
COMMUNITY
ADAPTATION PROJECT

C-CAP NEWSLETTER

*Helping Pacific
Island Communities
Adapt to a
Changing Climate
July 2015*

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Road to Recovery: Picking Up Pieces After Tropical Cyclone Pam

When Tropical Cyclone Pam hit the South Pacific in March, it was recorded as the most intense storm to hit the southern hemisphere in 2015. While the storm was felt in seven countries, it was Vanuatu that received the brunt of its force and ensuing damage. Pam now carries the label of the worst natural disaster in the history of Vanuatu, displacing families, destroying property and threatening food and water security. Also impacted were the islands of Tuvalu, which suffered extensive damage to food supplies and water storage infrastructure, as well

as to roads, buildings and sanitation systems. To a lesser degree, Kiribati also endured large-scale inundations with the storm surge coincident with the king tides.

While the isolation of some of the outer islands of these nations makes it difficult to come up with an accurate assessment of damages, it is clear that it could take years for these island countries to fully recover from this disaster.

Continues on Page 2...



DAMAGED: University of the South Pacific Vanuatu campus. Photo by C-CAP

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PAM from Page 1...

In the first days and weeks after the storm, aid poured in to Vanuatu and Tuvalu in the form of food, water, medical supplies, and temporary shelters. Four months on, reconstruction efforts are under way, but there are still buildings and homes that remain roofless, gardens that are fallow, banana trees that have blown away, and tourist numbers are down.

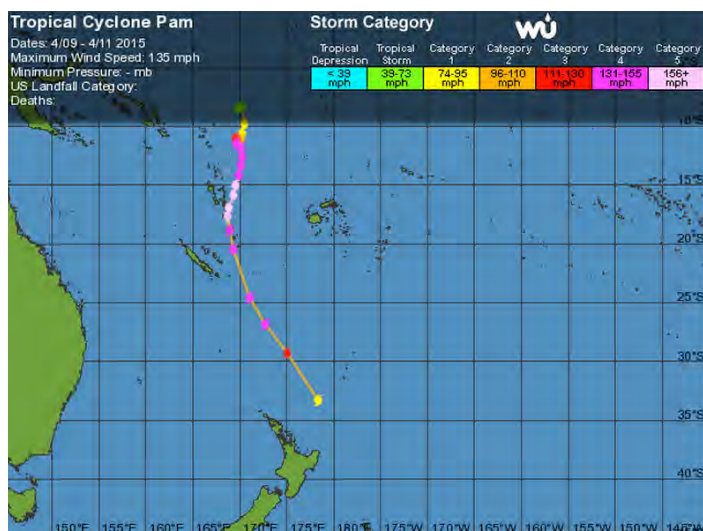
**EXPENSIVE REPAIRS:**

Many buildings lost roofs during Pam. Photo by C-CAP

In an effort to recover, Vanuatu and Tuvalu have developed national plans to help guide rehabilitation and to assist affected communities. On May 19, the government of Tuvalu, with support

from humanitarian groups and the development community, issued the *Tuvalu Tropical Cyclone Pam Recovery and Vulnerability Reduction Plan* addresses short-, medium-, and long-term priorities for rehabilitation of several sectors, including agriculture and food security, environment, public utilities and infrastructure, health, debris/waste removal, electricity, and education. The plan outlines key interventions for the different sectors and sets strategic objectives for recovery and reducing future vulnerability.

Vanuatu also established its *National Development Plan After Cyclone Pam* that the government plans to present at a partners conference in August. The government also established a Recovery Program Committee to coordinate and help implement recovery efforts by both the government and development partners. "At this point



PAM'S PATH: The path and stages of Tropical Cyclone Pam, from April 9 to 11. Source: Weather Underground

USAID/C-CAP is working in 10 Vanuatu communities to provide climate change and disaster resilience (more on page 3):

- **Pele Island:** Rainwater catchment is under contract
- **Tassariki:** Evacuation center/classroom is in design
- **Wiana:** Evacuation center/community hall is in design
- **Nekapa:** Rainwater catchment is under contract
- **Unakapu:** Rainwater catchment is under contract
- **Loanialu:** Spring water collection in design scoping
- **Luanapikruan:** Spring water collection in design scoping
- **Lamanaura:** Spring water collection in design scoping
- **Lanamilo:** Cyclone-proof school/shelter in design scoping
- **Iru:** Cyclone-proof market in design scoping

we are just continuing with our activities on preparedness especially with communities for the cyclone period. We are working with different sectors such as agriculture and education on preparedness programs while waiting for directions from the government," said Mr. Steven Noel of Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

Aid assistance continues to flow into these countries from donor partners and nongovernmental organizations, although the initial humanitarian effort officially ended this month. As the distribution of relief assistance begins to dwindle, the government of Vanuatu encourages people to plant root crops for subsistence use while the Agriculture Department distributes sweet potato stalks, manioc cuttings and island cabbages, crops that are able to grow quickly while the communities settle and make permanent gardens. The government relief also includes suspending application of the Value Added Tax on all goods and services while the Vanuatu National Provident Fund allowed the people to withdraw penalty free up to 20 percent of their savings to use for recovery purposes.

For many, Pam served as a wake-up call in understanding how vulnerable these Pacific Island nations are to the increasingly severe and frequent storms that are the result of climate change. The challenge to governments, partners, and stakeholders will be in taking the steps to help these at-risk nations not only recover and rebuild, but to help them adapt and improve their resilience to future adverse impacts of climate change.

C-CAP Provides Needed Aid in Post-Cyclone Vanuatu and Tuvalu

When Tropical Cyclone Pam hit, USAID/C-CAP had to temporarily put on hold implementation of climate change adaptation activities that had been planned for partner communities in both Vanuatu and Tuvalu until initial recovery activities were completed.

In June, C-CAP engineers returned to Vanuatu to reassess and re-scope all 10 sites in Shefa and Tafea provinces to address potential changes to the existing physical conditions and changing community priorities post-Cyclone Pam. For six communities, water security was still the main priority—even greater now as many water sources were destroyed during the cyclone.

The remaining four communities determined that creating safe, multi-purpose/evacuation centers was now their highest infrastructure priority. The suspended procurement for the initial work in three villages has been redesigned based on community needs, rebid, and awarded. Construction is expected to start in November, providing much need relief to these communities in Vanuatu.

C-CAP is also working rapidly to redesign the remaining seven interventions and plans to have all contracts under construction by the end of year in Vanuatu. C-CAP will also continue with plans for rainwater harvesting and storage projects in two communities in Tuvalu to address their continuing need for additional secure potable water supplies post-cyclone.



NEW DIRECTION: Disaster Risk Reduction discussion takes place on Pele Island above. Below, a technical re-scoping is under way with C-CAP engineers and community members. *Photos by C-CAP*





HELPING OUT: The disabled designated section of the evacuation center has a guide to help those citizens during the disaster drill.

Photo by C-CAP

Disaster Simulation Exercises: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

In the village of Daku, in Fiji, community members are learning how to take care of each other when disaster strikes. USAID's Coastal Community Adaptation Project (C-CAP), collaborating with partner stakeholders Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and the Red Cross Fiji, facilitated a five-day Disaster Risk Management and response workshop and disaster simulation exercise from July 6–10. Also on hand to help monitor and support the drill activity were observers from the Provincial Administration Office, the Provincial Administrator, Director of NDMO, Fiji Police and local health officials.

The entire village was involved in the workshop which focused on understanding the types of disasters

that are most likely to occur in the village, as well as how to prepare and respond to potential disasters. Daku is highly prone to flooding caused by the increasing sea level rise and frequent storm surges.

A key element of the program is the inclusion of all groups in the village, particularly those more vulnerable, such as people living with disabilities, children, the elderly and pregnant women. C-CAP collaboration with local disaster management stakeholders leverages resources and experience to raise community awareness in preparation for disasters as well as how to handle the most vulnerable members of the community.

"I am grateful for this training because during disasters we are at a loss on

how to manage the disabled," said one of the village participants. "We end up hurting them either physically or emotionally, unknowingly. But now we know the types of disabilities and how to care for them while responding to disasters."

Across all of the communities where C-CAP has initiated Disaster Risk Reduction and response (DRR) training, there has been a growing awareness of how to provide special attention to those who may need more time or aid in responding to a disaster. C-CAP's collaboration with a local disaster management stakeholders and advocates for the disabled leverages resources and experience to help and raise community awareness in preparation for disasters, increase community resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change and ensure that the community disaster plans and response are coordinated with local response organizations.



ON THE SAME TEAM: C-CAP collaborates with many stakeholders in its disaster simulation exercises.

Photos by C-CAP





Ambassador Gilbert Visits USAID/C-CAP Site in Samoa

VISIT: At left, Ambassador Gilbert talks to Ganser and Harding. Above, Gilbert is pictured with the community. *Photos by C-CAP*

In early July, the U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa Mark Gilbert was able to take a side trip to visit a USAID/C-CAP climate resilient rainwater harvesting systems in Sapapali'i, Samoa. Ambassador Gilbert was accompanied by U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter Ganser and U.S. Embassy Program Assistant Benjamin Harding.

began work with the Sapapali'i community in early 2014. With access to potable clean water as their main priority C-CAP completed the installment of 22 household and community center rainwater harvesting systems to increase the community's resilience to drought.

Sapapali'i is a village on the northeast coast of Savai'i with a population of approximately 868. USAID/C-CAP

In Sapapali'i, most households rely on collecting scarce water from springs as surface water can be contaminated and underground water quality suffers from salt water intrusion. The

C-CAP intervention improved water collection for the households.

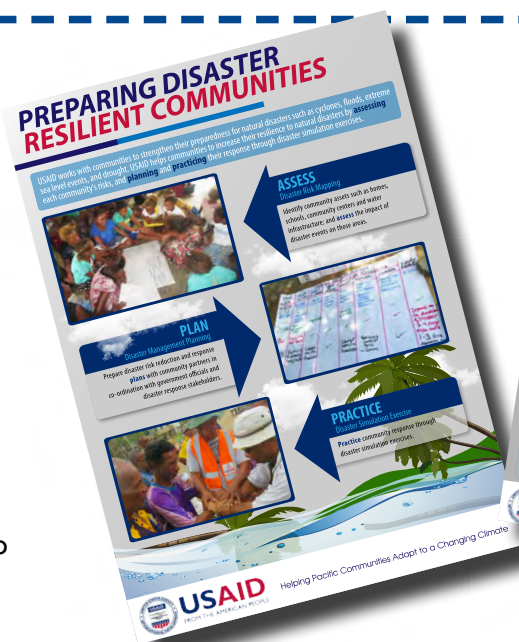
During his visit, Gilbert met with members of the community and saw how the 22 water collection and storage tanks have provided an additional 79,300 liters of potable clean water to the village. The community members expressed their gratitude to the Ambassador for the assistance provided by the American people through USAID in making them more resilient to the adverse effects of climate change.

Posters Now Available

Preparing Disaster Resilient Communities showcases USAID's process for preparing communities for natural disasters.

Building Climate Resilience highlights infrastructure that is environmentally friendly and strengthens communities' resilience to the effects of climate change.

Email C-CAPcommunications@dai.com to obtain a poster.



Meet the New USAID/South Pacific Regional Director, Richard Edwards

The USAID/C-CAP team welcomes Richard L. Edwards in his new role as Regional Director for USAID/Pacific Islands office. Mr. Edwards brings 30 years of international development experience to this position. He is based in the U.S. Embassy in Port Moresby, but travels extensively throughout the region. C-CAP is one of several projects in the USAID/Pacific Islands portfolio.

Mr. Edwards is a senior environment expert and program manager who has served as a USAID Foreign Service Officer, a nongovernmental organization leader, and a consultant in Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East. His expertise includes strategic planning, design, and implementation of major development programs, with a focus on climate change, clean energy, biodiversity conservation, and disaster response and reconstruction.

“I have worked extensively with climate change and energy issues focusing on mitigation strategies,” he said. “What appealed to me about my new role as Pacific Islands Director is the focus that our USAID programs place on adaptation and



WELCOME: Richard Edwards, far right, and Fiji Country Mobilizer Tuverea Tuamoto, left, with Daku Village Headman, center, who expressed his gratitude for tideflex technology in Daku. The headman said that this will help the village to dry out more quickly after flooding events and people will come back from Suva to build their homes again.

Photo by C-CAP

building resiliency, as well as the disaster response and recovery component.”

When asked what made this position different from his previous work he added, “Most recently I was working as a consultant, primarily on the business side of development, but found myself missing the public service element of the work. I am very pleased to be back in a more service-oriented role with USAID.”

Mr. Edwards has lived and worked in several developing countries, including

the Philippines, Morocco, India, Egypt, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. “Having lived and worked in the Asia-Pacific region for over 15 years, I feel a strong affinity for this part of the world and I am looking forward to learning and contributing to development in the 12 Pacific Island countries where USAID is providing assistance.”

He holds a master's degree in natural resources management from Humboldt State University, and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Oregon.

ADAPTATION IN MOTION

CHECKING WITH C-CAP COMMUNITIES: VANUATU, KIRIBATI, PNG, TUVALU, TONGA, FIJI, AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

In this periodic series, the C-CAP team checks in on partner communities that are navigating long-term climate change adaptation.



ALWAYS BE PREPARED:

C-CAP Geo Mapping Technician, at left, explaining the features of the infrastructure map and purpose of the Risk hazard mapping work in Tassariki. *Photo by C-CAP*

In Vanuatu... July was busy for the USAID/C-CAP engineering team, which completed all engineering scoping work in five communities in Tafea Province, and began scoping activities at two sites and awarded contracts to begin construction at three sites in Shefa Province. These projects will provide water catchment and storage structures for existing spring water sources on the island. Also in July, risk hazard mapping was completed for all five communities in Shefa Province to help them plan for natural disasters. The risk hazard mapping exercise helps build the capacity of these communities for effective infrastructure siting and disaster response planning, making the communities more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change.

In Kiribati... This month, USAID/C-CAP completed preparatory work and scoping activities for the implementation of rainwater catchment projects for five sites. These communities identified water collection and security as their priority climate adaptation needs. Construction of these projects is anticipated to commence in August. Also this month, C-CAP conducted Disaster Risk Reduction consultations with communities to prepare them for disaster simulation exercises.



TEAM PREP: Gabagaba disaster and water committee members pictured with USAID Bureau of Environment Officer William Gibson and Julie Hulama of USAID. *Photo by C-CAP*

In Papua New Guinea... During the fourth week of July, USAID/C-CAP technical staff inspected projects in Central and New Ireland Provinces, accompanied by visiting USAID Bureau Environmental Officer William Gibson. Also this month, C-CAP began delivering disaster awareness and simulation exercises in Central Province beginning with Gabagaba. Preparations are being made for four more communities to complete their disaster awareness and simulation exercises in August.

In Tuvalu... USAID/C-CAP has facilitated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and response planning activities with partner communities to



HOME BASE: Community members prepare a site for the base of a rainwater catchment. *Photo by C-CAP*

prepare the communities for more effective response in the event of natural disasters. The disaster simulation exercises, during which the communities will be able to practice the procedures put in place in their DRR plans, have been scheduled for August. This process has assisted the communities in becoming more aware of the potential threats posed by increasingly more frequent and severe disaster event and how they can prepare for them, making the communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change..



NEW HOME: Popua site for new community hall/evacuation center. *Photo by C-CAP*

In Tonga... USAID/C-CAP has lodged the building permit as a first step toward starting work on a new community hall/evacuation shelter in Popua and held a pre-bidders conference to provide poten-

ADAPTATION IN MOTION

CHECKING WITH C-CAP COMMUNITIES: VANUATU, KIRIBATI, PNG, TUVALU, TONGA, FIJI, AND SOLOMON ISLANDS

tial contractors with information about the project. Also this month, C-CAP facilitated Disaster Risk Reduction workshops for the communities of Hunga, Tefisi and Okoa and conducted vulnerability assessments and additional baseline surveys for the communities of Utulei, Hunga, Makave, Okoa, and Tefisi to help these communities identify the risks they face and determine how best to work towards ensuring they are more resilient to climate change effects.



FINE PRINT: The terms of the community agreement are thoroughly discussed and agreed upon prior to signing. *Photo by C-CAP*

In Fiji... USAID/C-CAP signed a community agreement with the village of Vunisavisavi to initiate a unique project in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity. The project will help the village build four new cyclone-resilient homes on higher ground within the village and reinforce seven existing homes with cyclone-resilient materials to better prepare the community for the current and projected impacts of climate change. Also in

July, work was completed on the floodgates in Tailevu and the project has been handed to the community. Tailevu also completed their Disaster Risk Reduction and response plans which have been sent to NDMO for approval and have finished their simulation, making the community better prepared and more climate resilient.



VISIT: A PPI5 team member joins C-CAP in New Kaloka during community consultations. *Photo by C-CAP*

In Solomon Islands... USAID/C-CAP had the opportunity to meet with members of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership 2015 (PPI5) outreach team in July and to brief them on C-CAP's work in Malaita. The PPI5 team accompanied C-CAP to four sites tying in their presentations with the C-CAP Disaster Risk Reduction planning activities. The PPI5 team introduced their mission, which focuses on water and food security, as well as environmental health issues. They ended their presentations by giving out two disaster response kits to the communities of New Kaloka, Radesafu, Lilisian, and

North and South Dala. This collaborative partnership will work toward strengthening the resilience of these communities against adverse effects of climate change, including natural disasters.

How Are We Doing?

Well into the third year of the USAID/C-CAP project, the program has some great news to share! C-CAP prepares a Contract Monitoring Plan (CMP) which tracks progress towards meeting target goals in areas such as increased capacity of communities to adapt to the affects of climate change, training hours delivered, and increased institutional capacity to address climate change. Measured against the projected targets for 2015, C-CAP has exceeded expectations for several key measures, ensuring that the program is bringing needed adaptation infrastructure and disaster preparedness training to at risk communities in the Pacific. We've already delivered more than 26,000 person hours of disaster risk reduction training and developed or improved 59 disaster risk reduction plans!

stay informed

THE COASTAL COMMUNITY ADAPTATION PROJECT

C-CAP

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