



MINISTRY OF RURAL AND MARITIME DEVELOPMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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CBDRM Trainers workshop concludes



Caption: Deputy Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Mr. Mitieli Cama (front middle) with participants of the Train the Trainers Workshop in Suva this afternoon.

SUVA – A five-day Train the Trainers Workshop on the recently launched Climate Smart Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) concluded in Suva today.

The training is aimed at familiarising participants with the revised CBDRM Manual which will be the baseline document for all community focused disaster risk management (DRM) training which would be coordinated through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) following their endorsement of the Manual.

The Manual outlines a standard guideline for all future community disaster trainings in the country.

In addressing participants during the closing of the workshop this afternoon, Deputy Secretary for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Mr. Mitieli Cama said the workshop was just another critical phase in the implementation of the revised Manual.

“The Ministry has always recognised that a community-based approach must supplement community effort and not replace them and the Manual now provides the enabling environment for the resilience of all rural communities in Fiji,” Mr Cama said.

“Local communities are the first line of defense in preparing for, and responding to disasters. This is evident in communities across Fiji whereby hours after the impact of a disaster, search and rescue and basic immediate provisions to the injured and the homeless are almost entirely carried out by relatives, family members and neighbors. Therefore, it is crucial that the communities are involved in planning and decision-making processes related to disaster risk governance and in the development of appropriate strategies that can mitigate loss of life and damage to livelihoods and infrastructure.”

The NDMO, together with its partner organisations have completed disaster management training in 300 communities around the country and have also helped set-up community disaster committees and community disaster plans for these communities.

“As you all are aware, the NDMO is not the only organisation conducting disaster trainings with communities. Due to various partners engaged in this field, it is critically important to establish a standard methodology to assist in coordination and standardization of training modules that can be used by all partners who conduct DRR trainings in the communities. Most importantly, community disaster plans must be aligned to government’s legislations, plans and procedures.”

Mr Cama added that the NDMO was pleased that it was able to “bridge this gap” by the development of the CBDRM Manual.

He also acknowledged all partners and stakeholders for the technical support they offered during the formulation of the Manual.

With the completion of the training, the NDMO will now work towards developing the accreditation processes for both agencies and trainers who wish to deliver CBDRM trainings using the recently launched Manual.

“In addition, the NDMO will work closely with our Provincial Administrators, District Officers and Roko’s to ensure that communities that need the training based on vulnerabilities are selected to receive the training,” he said.

Participants at the workshop included representatives from the NDMO, the Pacific Community Development Fiji (PCDF), ADRA Fiji and other disaster management stakeholders.

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