Excellence in Emergency Management
Safer Pacific Communities
All Risks | All Hazards | All Agencies

Partners and Agencies

What is PIEMA – the Alliance

Established in 2013, the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) is a partnership between the key emergency management agencies in the Pacific – the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMO), Police and Fire and Emergency Services – to improve coordination and create ‘excellence in emergency management for safer Pacific communities’. The Strategic Agenda 2020, developed and endorsed by Pacific Island Countries and Territories in 2015, articulates the objective of PIEMA and responds to the need to have a regional coordination mechanism for emergency management. Recent natural disaster events in the Pacific have seen the capacity brought to bear by armed forces (Tonga, Fiji and PNG) to deliver immediate life-saving assistance. In response, PIEMA has evolved to see the armed forces as a core partner of the Alliance, both at the national and regional levels. With governments in the Pacific having limited financial and human resources, pooling the resources from key these agencies is an efficient and effective solution when responding to disasters. PIEMA is unique in its ability to deliver efficiencies through enabling Pacific exchanges, supporting localisation and facilitating regional surge support in line with regional platforms, such as the Boe Declaration and Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

What is PIEMA – the Project

The current phase (2017-2022) of the project is supported by Australia and New Zealand, with SPC bringing experience in emergency and disaster preparedness, to deliver a broad strategic direction and improve the sustainability of the investment. The project is implementing activities that support the intent of the Strategic Agenda 2020 by working with the key emergency management agencies to build better collaboration, strengthen communication and ultimately increase effectiveness when responding to disasters, under the lead of NDMOs. While technology, infrastructure and equipment are important, the emphasis of the project is improving interactions between agencies and their people to influence change that builds TRUST, LEADERSHIP and TEAMWORK. Great value is placed on ‘what we do’ as emergency management professionals, however the focus of PIEMA is on ‘how we do it’. This includes the promotion of gender diversity and empowerment in the emergency management sector.