

# NEWSLETTER

## PACIFIC ISLANDS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE (PIEMA) PROJECT

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PACIFIC ISLANDS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE



## PIEMA – THE ALLIANCE

Brief background on PIEMA – the Alliance

## PIEMA – THE PROJECT

Brief background on the initial and new phase of the PIEMA project

## PIEMA PROJECT GOAL

Enhanced sustainable development of Pacific countries through the implementation of measures to strengthen preparedness and response for, and recovery from, emergencies and disasters.

*'The drivers behind the establishment of PIEMA are national disaster management offices, police and fire and emergency services. It is these agencies, in particular, that have experienced the challenges first-hand, and the pain and frustration of preparing for, managing and recovering from major disaster events'.* PIEMA Strategic Agenda 2020

## MAJOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN 2019

A summary of planned activities for the PIEMA project in 2019

## PIEMA – the Alliance

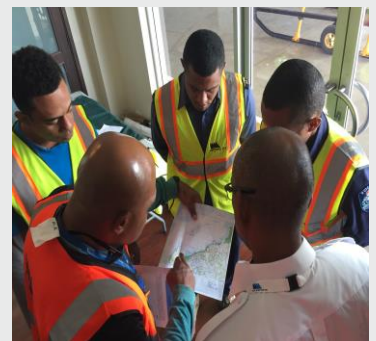
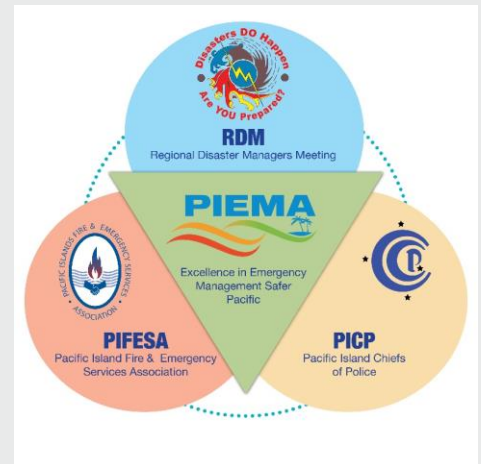
Established in 2013, the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) is a coordinating mechanism that engages directly with Pacific countries to improve resilience and create 'excellence in emergency management for safer Pacific communities'.

PIEMA represents a partnership of key umbrella organisations and emergency management agencies – the National Disaster Management Offices, Fire and Emergency Services and Police. These agencies provide critical response capacity and resources in each country and could therefore work better with common operating procedures and requisite capacities and resources to function as a team.

PIEMA also receives support from partners such as UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and the New Zealand Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM). The need to have a regional coordinating mechanism in emergency management was critical for countries. This led to the development and endorsement by Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) of the [Strategic Agenda 2020](#) (SA 2020) for PIEMA in 2015.

*'While PIEMA recognises that technology, infrastructure and equipment are important, the immediate and pressing emphasis is to strengthen the capacity of emergency management professionals in the Pacific Islands region through programs that have a strong focus on building the less tangible foundations of **TRUST, LEADERSHIP** and **TEAMWORK**'.*

*PIEMA Strategic Agenda 2020*





## PIEMA – the Project

Following the 2013 establishment of the Alliance, the PIEMA project commenced in 2014 and implemented by SPC through the EU-funded [Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific \(BSRP\) project](#), with further financing and technical support from a range of partners such as the AFAC.

The Strategic Agenda 2020 for PIEMA was developed and endorsed by Pacific Island Countries and Territories in 2015 in response to the need to have a regional coordinating mechanism in emergency management.

The current phase (2017 – 2022) of the PIEMA project is co-funded by Australia and New Zealand. It builds on the previous phase and, in line with the original intent of PIEMA, it is more inclusive of Pacific whole of government responders, under the lead of NDMOs.

SPC continues to implement the PIEMA project, bringing experience in emergency and disaster preparedness to deliver a broader strategic direction and improve the sustainability of the investment.



- Henriette Andersen



## MAJOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN 2019

### 01

The Whitelum Group will be working with the PIEMA project on the development of Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management (SREM) and action plans for up to 12 Pacific countries, beginning June 2019. The implementation schedule including sequencing of countries will be confirmed through consultations with relevant countries in the coming month.

### 02

Pacific Incident Management Systems (PacIMS) and Working in Emergency Operation Centre (WEOC) pilot training courses in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands – dates to be confirmed.

### 03

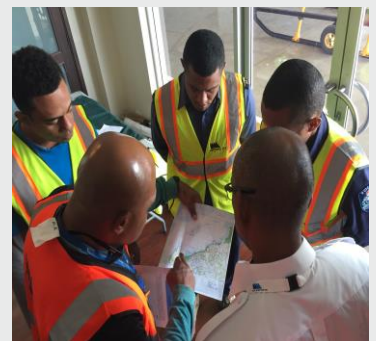
Development of PIEMA project's gender equality and empowerment strategy planned for mid-2019. This will articulate what the PIEMA project aims to achieve in strengthening gender equality in the emergency management space in the Pacific, as well as develop leadership pathways (through training courses, work exchanges, learning opportunities, etc) for identified high-potential female practitioners.

### 04

Review of PIEMA Strategic Agenda 2020 planned for late 2019.

### 05

PIEMA Annual Regional Meeting  
26 July 2019 – Nadi, Fiji



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