PACIFIC STRONG ≫

STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Stronger Pacific, Safer Communities
2021 -2025

Summary document

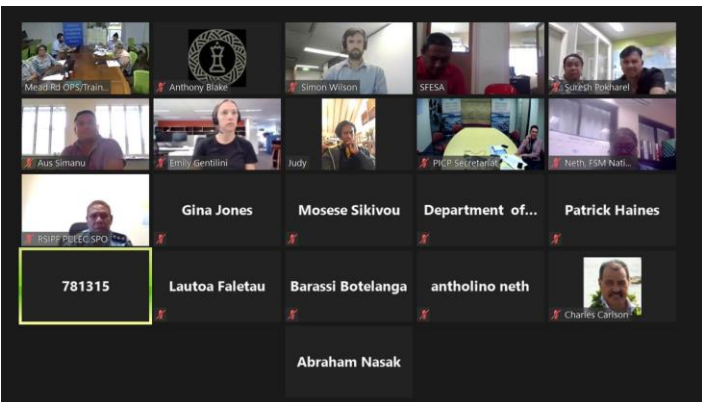*March 2021*

THE REGIONAL SREM »»

The Pacific Islands Regional Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management 2021 – 2025 (henceforth the SREM or Regional SREM) serves as an implementation plan to guide and support efforts to enhance emergency preparedness and response in the Pacific islands region. The Regional SREM describes and supports implementation of the priorities of Pacific Island Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) agencies and is framed by key regional strategies including the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, which includes a commitment to develop a regional coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness and response.

The SREM has been developed based on inputs and advice collected from participants of the 2019 PIEMA Annual Meeting, a regional workshop held in Suva in March 2020, and a validation webinar held with regional participants in March 2021.

THIS DOCUMENT »»

This document is a summary of the main SREM document and provides an overview of all key elements of the Regional SREM.

Images: Regional SREM Workshop 2020 and validation webinar 2021.

OVERVIEW

The Pacific has long recognised the benefits of working together to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The Biketawa Declaration captures this sentiment:

"All actions must be taken on the basis that Pacific countries are an extended family of island nations."

PIEMA was established in 2013 as a mechanism to strengthen the emergency preparedness and response capability of key national response agencies in the Pacific. Through PIEMA, agencies and practitioners across the region have been supported with opportunities for informal exchange and information sharing. PIEMA has also brought into focus the common challenges and priorities in the sector and helped attract and direct donor support and new partnerships.

The SREM builds on this by documenting and formalising a shared plan based on commonly shared priorities for action. Doing so reinforces PIEMA and the associated Regional Disaster Managers Meeting as key regional platforms.

The SREM establishes three Strategic Pillars with associated Outcomes that will guide activity planning and action at regional, national and sub-national levels.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

Within the Pacific there are examples of intra-regional cooperation at the various stages of the emergency management cycle (planning, preparedness, response, recovery). At the national level, there are examples of initiatives such as the Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT), a team of health professionals that have been trained and equipped to deploy in response to sudden onset disasters. As an official Fiji Government emergency medical team, the 20-member multi-disciplinary unit has established processes and procedures, including Standard Operating Procedures, to respond to emergencies in a professional and effective manner. Similarly, the Solomon Islands has established a multi-sector National Emergency Response Team (NERT) that is capable of being deployed at short notice to provide surge support during a response. The SREM will facilitate opportunities to learn from these nationally based initiatives and their experiences across the region.

Bilateral arrangements and relationships have and will continue to play a critical role in supporting emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Stronger collaboration and coordination within the Pacific may facilitate future intra-regional coordination of an emerging set of capabilities that are being developed at the national level. These include Fiji Emergency Medical Assistance Team (FEMAT) and Solomon Islands National Emergency Response Team (NERT) (see Text Box 4, next page). These existing arrangements may serve as a foundation on which to strengthen intra-regional cooperation. An existing intraregional arrangement is through the FRANZ Agreement which coordinates post disaster support from France, Australia and New Zealand to host countries

Caption: The SREM has in part been developed based on a recognition of the new and emerging emergency management capabilities in the region. It will build on existing and support development of new initiatives. Images: Left: Mobile field hospital deployed in Suva (source: WHO), Right: Solomon Islands NERT members (source: Solomon Islands NDMO Facebook)

VISION

Enhanced emergency preparedness for effective response in the Pacific

MISSION

To identify and take action on common emergency management priorities and guide regional support and coordination.

The Vision and Mission embody Pacific leaders' ambitions to progress development of a regional coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness and response and humanitarian assistance, and each of the SREM Outcomes is considers a building block towards this capability.

VALUES

Implementation of the SREM will be guided by our common values:

- Sovereignty and localisation

- Regional Collaboration and Coordination

- Trust, teamwork and leadership

- Transparency and accountability

- Interoperability and standards

- Diversity and inclusion

- People-centred collaboration

- Strengths Focused

SREM OUTCOMES

1

GOVERNANCE

Outcome 1.1
Coherent emergency management policies plans and practices

Outcome 1.2
A more diverse and inclusive emergency management sector

Outcome 1.3
Strengthened emergency management decision making and influence

2

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Outcome 2.1
Professional standards of emergency management across the Pacific

Outcome 2.2
Enhanced knowledge management and sharing across stakeholders and partners

Outcome 2.3
Enhanced interoperability between key response agencies

3

ASSET COORDINATION

Outcome 3.1
New and strengthened response capabilities established

Outcome 3.2
Enhanced coordination of emergency management assets (equipment, personnel and capabilities)

SREM ACTIVITIES

1. GOVERNANCE

Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 1.3
Coherent emergency management policies plans and practices.	A more diverse and inclusive emergency management sector.	Strengthened emergency management decision making and influence.

Activities:

- ✓ Supporting the development and updating of national emergency policies, plans and procedures
- ✓ Strengthen policy and planning linkages with community and other disaster committees and the private sector to ensure coordination and maximise use of local capacity
- ✓ Further develop regional guidance and standards, which describe prerequisites for regional assistance, including as the basis of a regional response capability

Activities:

- ✓ Including gender, diversity and inclusion modules in existing leadership training
- ✓ Promoting and supporting approaches that integrate diversity, inclusion and gender into emergency management arrangements, including with regard to the needs and capacity of people with disabilities
- ✓ Identifying and supporting workplace diversity and inclusion training

Activities:

- ✓ Supporting efforts to work with central agencies to better integrate and enable emergency management priorities through top-down planning and budget decision making processes.
- ✓ Establish a preparedness and response financing strategy at national levels with regional support.
- ✓ Promotion of emergency management issues through effective coordination and representation through key regional platforms, including the Forum Sub-Committee on Regional Security and other forums.
- ✓ Establishment of a leadership development programme for senior Emergency Management Managers.

SREM ACTIVITIES

2. CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Outcome 2.1
Professional standards of emergency management across the Pacific

Outcome 2.2
Enhanced knowledge management and sharing across stakeholders and partners.

Outcome 2.3
Enhanced interoperability between key response agencies.

Activities:
- ✓ Developing emergency management frameworks and professional development pathways, based on defined needs and through identified accredited courses, incorporating micro-qualifications for greater flexibility
- ✓ Supporting a sustainable capacity development model for the emergency management sector at the national level which includes investment in national trainers, registered training organisations and contextualised micro-qualification courses

Activities:
- ✓ Developing guidelines and frameworks for knowledge management systems development (including terminology and coding).
- ✓ Developing centralised national data bases and emergency management information and knowledge management platforms that support the sharing of lessons, good practice and innovation across communities, interventions & countries alongside multi-stakeholders are supported.
- ✓ Strengthening of regional knowledge sharing platforms such as PIEMA and the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting as well as online resources such as Pacific Disaster Net.

Activities:
- ✓ Development of guidance and tools to support greater levels of interoperability at operational levels, including through undertaking of multi-agency simulation exercises is supported.
- ✓ Strengthening early warning and preparedness to link warning centre messaging to response actions.
- ✓ Strengthen linkages with humanitarian recovery and development sectors
- ✓ Structured support for robust after-action review processes to address key gaps.
- ✓ Developing an intra-regional deployment roster to encourage sharing of experience to enhance disaster preparedness.

SREM ACTIVITIES

3. ASSET (system and resource) COORDINATION

Outcome 3.1
New and strengthened response capabilities established.

Outcome 3.2
Enhanced coordination of emergency management assets (equipment, personnel and capabilities).

Activities:
- ✓ Identifying and supporting development of emergency management capabilities aligned with established national emergency management plans
- ✓ Building on lessons from the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway for COVID-19, an Intra-regional cooperation strategy for disaster response and recovery that describes policy settings, governance arrangements, procedures and protocols, and secretariat support arrangements for a regional coordination mechanism to effectively support deployment   in response to country requests
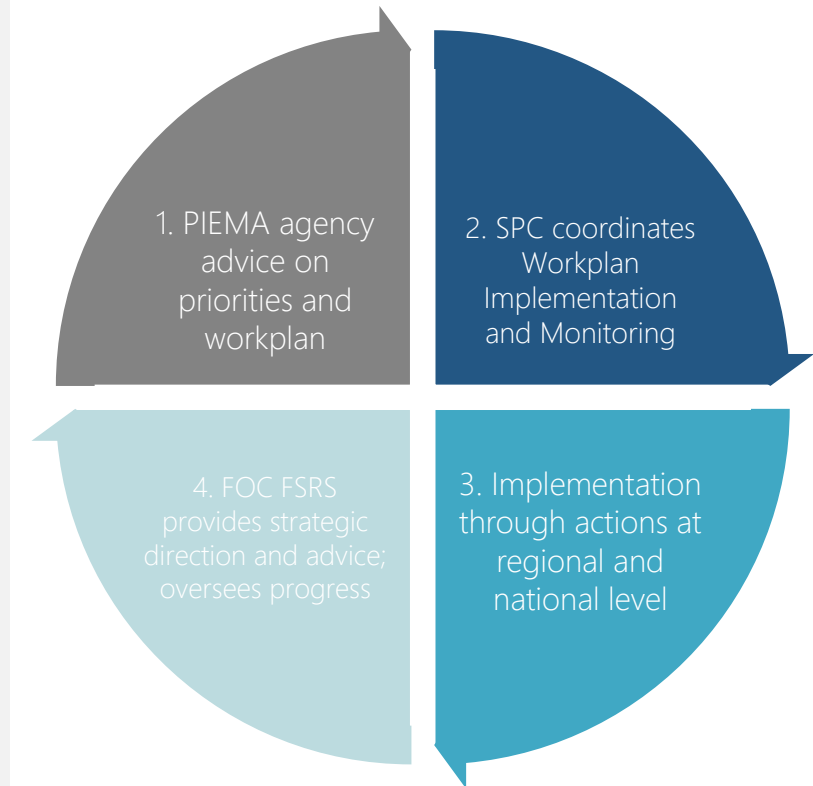
Activities:
- ✓ Providing guidelines and support for the undertaking of national assets inventory processes.
- ✓ Providing support for strengthened communication systems for emergency response agencies.
- ✓ Developing an intra-regional deployment roster to support PICTs during disaster response and recovery.
- ✓ Developing capability (systems, processes and mandates) to access and deploy pre-approved partners; goods; and pooling of resources.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this SREM will occur through actions and initiatives supported at the national and regional levels by regional organisations, development partners and other stakeholders, with delivery coordinated through national Emergency Management agencies.

1. PIEMA and the Regional Disaster Managers Meeting will serve as key platforms advising on SREM priorities, implementation and progress.

2. The Pacific Community (SPC) will support development and maintenance of a SREM Workplan and provide secretariat support for implementation and monitoring.

3. Implementation of SREM Actions will be progressed through the combined work of regional, national and partners.

4. Updates on the implementation of the SREM will be presented to the Forum Officials Committee - Sub Committee on Regional Security (FOC FSRS).

1. PIEMA agency advice on priorities and workplan

2. SPC coordinates Workplan Implementation and Monitoring

3. Implementation through actions at regional and national level

4. FOC FSRS provides strategic direction and advice; oversees progress

FOUR-STEP IMPLEMENTATION CYCLE

IMPLEMENTATION

Next Steps:

- SPC (PIEMA Project) will coordinate development of the first draft SREM Workplan.

- The Workplan will be presented, modified, and endorsed at the 2021 Regional Disaster Managers Meeting, in association with the PIEMA annual meeting.

- The Workplan will aim to link specific SREM work priorities with support available and initiatives being delivered through development partners and identify timelines for implementation.

Results Monitoring
- Progress against the Regional SREM will be monitored and reported on an annual basis (against the (Results Framework – in draft).
- SPC will coordinate a progress report (or similar) detailing progress against priorities aligned with the Results Framework (annexed).
- Countries will be supported to submit country reports, detailing implementation progress at national levels to be shared at PIEAM annual meeting