

APPDRR Statement Humanitarian Advisory Group

As disasters increase in both frequency and severity, the need to strengthen disaster risk governance and boost community resilience has become imperative. At a policy level, this has increased attention on the interlinkages between disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Action that addresses the convergence of disaster risk, climate change and sustainable development has been identified as a core priority of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Various initiatives have sought to explore these interlinkages and identify opportunities for integration, yet documented local evidence and practical solutions remain scarce. Communities have long been responding to risks and adapting to changes in their environment. There is opportunity to build on and learn from these strategies when developing future policy and programming. Investing in resilient communities and building on local knowledge and capacity will be critical to improve DRR and CCA outcomes.

In efforts to further this agenda, Humanitarian Advisory Group and World Vision are partnering on a new research initiative, funded by the Australian Humanitarian Partnership, to explore opportunities for integration of DRR and CCA in policy and practice in the Pacific. It will focus on case studies in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, taking a community-based approach to investigate the impacts of integration and how best to make global and national policy work at the community level. The research will produce practical recommendations for community-based programming to improve risk reduction, adaptation and sustainable development outcomes in the Pacific.

The project began in November 2020. Country-based research will be undertaken in partnership with national researchers during 2021 and the project will conclude in 2022. Outputs will include briefings on each case study country as well as overarching findings.

As a contribution to transformative thinking, the project reflects the belief that understanding and elevating community practice will be key to ensuring that policy and programming reflect local priorities and support meaningful solutions. It aims to provide guidance for further investment in resilient communities. If you are interested in more information about this research or to follow emerging findings, please contact Jesse McCommon at jmcccommon@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org.