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Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands Project (CRISP)

Helping rural communities in Solomon Islands to manage natural hazards and climate change risks.

Integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in government policies and operations.

Strengthen climate and disaster risk information and early warning systems.

Support structural and non-structural disaster risk and adaptation investments at community and provincial levels.

Location: The program is currently operating in Guadalcanal and Temotu provinces. An additional two provinces will be added during the implementation phase.

Approval Date: 6 March 2014

Closing Date: 31, May 2019

Total Program Cost: US$9.13 million

Donors: Global Environment Facility for - Least Developed Countries Fund (GEF LDCF) — US$7.3 million; Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery Grant/EU-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program —US$1.8 million

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM).

Background

Solomon Islands is at high risk to natural hazards. Located in the Pacific Ring of Fire and within the cyclone belt, it is one of the 20 countries in the world most vulnerable to economic risk exposure caused by geological, hydrological and climatic hazards. This includes tropical cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods and droughts.

There have been seven major disasters triggered by natural hazards in the past 30 years, causing loss of life and having a severe and adverse impact on the economy each time. Modelling predicts natural hazards and climate change will lead to an average direct loss of US$20.5 million — or 3 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) — annually for the next 50 years. In April 2014, 23 people, predominantly women and children, lost their lives after a low depression caused flooding that swept through Honiara and the Guadalcanal Plains. Total damage and losses from the floods is estimated at US$108 million or 9.2 percent of GDP.

About the Project

The aim of the Community Resilience to Climate and Disaster Risk in Solomon Islands Project (CRISP) is to respond to the urgent need for country support in order to plan ahead for major disaster response and coordinated disaster risk management.

The Solomon Islands Government has developed policies to guide disaster response and raise the level of community resilience to risk from natural hazards and climate change, as well as help elevate the understanding of risk exposure at a community level. Under the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology and the National Disaster Management Office, CRISP will build on a pilot project funded by the Japan Policy and Human Resource Development Fund that increases community resilience to climate change and natural hazard risk.

CRISP will do this by direct community investments for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management; strengthening information; and improving early warning systems. Priority areas include: (i) water supply & sanitation; (ii) vulnerable human settlements; (iii) education, awareness and climate change information; (iv) climate change adaptation on low-lying islands; (v) coastal protection; and (vi) resilient infrastructure. The project will also help integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in government policies and operations. Up to four provinces, primarily in rural areas, and approximately 79,000 people will benefit over the project's five-year implementation period.

CRISP will be implemented in four components:

1. Supporting policy development, capacity building and institutional strengthening aimed at integrating governance and operational processes for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
2. Strengthening climate and disaster risk information and early warning systems. This component will establish an early warning network for volcanic/seismic hazards and start the establishment of a national risk information platform.
3. Supporting both structural and non-structural disaster risk and adaptation investments at the community and provincial level. It will be implemented in a collaboration with the Rural Development Program and specific provincial governments.
4. Providing efficient and effective management support for the implementation of the project.

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