



Pacific  
Humanitarian  
Team

**Pacific Humanitarian Partnership Meeting**  
**19 - 21 October 2016**  
**Holiday Inn Suva, Fiji**

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Context

2016 saw the Pacific impacted by one of the most severe tropical cyclones on record. Tropical Cyclone Winston struck Fiji in February and the enormous disaster response and recovery operation, strongly led by the Fijian Government, offers unique and practical lessons for a future in which international assistance will play more of a supporting role to national Government-led responses. Equally, the El Niño fuelled drought affected multiple countries in the region simultaneously and was largely managed with local capacity, offering lessons for slower onset disasters.

In addition to these experiences, this year's Pacific Humanitarian Partnership (PHP) meeting takes place with the echoes of the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), held in May 2016, still resounding across the humanitarian environment. Over 9000 participants from 173 member states convened in Istanbul to discuss the significant challenges faced by the humanitarian community and make commitments to change the way humanitarian assistance is delivered.

Over the past two years, WHS Pacific consultations with a wide range of national and regional stakeholders produced a series of key messages for the Summit which outlined a shared vision for humanitarian action in the Pacific. Noting that humanitarian needs from climate-related disasters are on the rise across the Pacific, the vision called for **a new regional approach** integrating resilience and response.

### Focus: A new regional approach

The 2016 PHP meeting is an opportunity to lay the foundations for this new regional approach, building on recent disaster experiences and seeking to realise the Pacific vision for humanitarian action laid out through the WHS consultations and Summit. Specifically, the PHP meeting will focus on practical and structural changes that can be made to realise 3 of the 5 Pacific key messages for WHS<sup>1</sup>:

➤ **Affected people must be at the centre of humanitarian action.**

Areas of focus: Accountability to affected people, Communications with communities, Participation in leadership and decision making, Protection, Gender, Humanitarian principles.

➤ **The humanitarian system must realign to build on local capacities.**

Areas of focus: Reinforcing national and local capacity, International support under Government leadership, Localisation and tailoring preparedness and response to context, Private sector and civil society capacity.

➤ **We must collaborate better for resilience.**

Areas of focus: Integrating climate change and disaster resilience, Bridging the humanitarian-development divide, Coordination of capacity development for preparedness and response, Information sharing locally and regionally.

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<sup>1</sup> The other key messages "3. The system must plan for and manage disaster and climate change displacement" and "5. Financing must be more flexible and predictable to cover preparedness, response and recovery" are recognised as important components of the new approach. These topics will be addressed during the PHP, however they will not be focus areas for 2016.

## Aim & Objectives

Within the context of recent emergencies and WHS outcomes, the aim of the 2016 PHP meeting is to strengthen partnership and collaboration in the Pacific via:

### Networking and opportunities for dialogue

- Purposeful nurturing of partnerships to drive more effective coordination, make space for innovation, and strengthened regional cooperation.

### Examining lessons learned from disasters

- Examine *why* things unfolded as they did and identify mechanisms and processes to support positive outcomes and avoid repetition of unsuccessful interventions.

### Working together to define a new regional approach

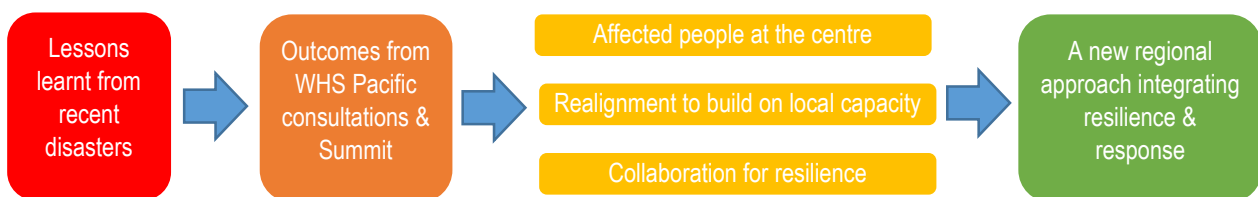
- Constructive dialogue to agree on changing structures and ways of working with Pacific countries and partners in preparedness and response.

### Communicating on capacity development

- Sharing and analysis of information on planned capacity development activities, identifying opportunities for joint planning and collaboration.

## Meeting Framework

The PHP meeting program will be designed utilising the framework below. Based on the practical experiences of recent disasters and the strategic outcomes of the WHS consultations and Summit, sessions will work towards agreement on the components of a new regional approach.



The program will be designed to ensure opportunities for networking and bi-lateral or small group meetings. A number of sessions on specific thematic or technical areas will also be included in the program, giving participants the opportunities to select sessions based on their personal or organisational areas of interest. A range of session formats will be used including panel discussions, presentations, group work and other activities promoting purposeful interaction and collaboration.

## Target Audience

Workshop participation will be targeted and inclusive to ensure that there are appropriate and diverse backgrounds of representation and expertise. Participation includes representatives from national disaster management offices (NDMOs), national ministries, UN agencies, Red Cross, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), donors, civil-society groups, private sector, regional and international organizations and academics. For the meeting to remain practical and output-oriented, it will be limited to approximately 180 participants who are committed to participating in, and sustaining post-meeting outcomes.

It is the responsibility of attendees to organize their own travel and accommodation, however selected key stakeholders will be supported to attend.

## October 2016 Joint Program of Events

The 2016 PHP meeting is part of a joint program of events related to disasters in the Pacific:

- 19 - 21 October: Pacific Humanitarian Partnership meeting (OCHA)
- 24 - 26 October: Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management (UNISDR & SPC)
- 27 October: ACP-EU BSRP Project Regional Steering Committee Meeting (SPC)

Planning and programs across the three events are coordinated among OCHA, UNISDR and SPC to ensure linkages and enhance opportunities for integration across disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response.