

Photos by courtesy of the organisations:

*Front:* Vodafone delivers relief packages. DHL assists the Fiji Government with logistics and warehousing, Goodman Fielder contributes to the Fiji Government Relief program.

*Centre:* Vodafone delivers relief packages, Bank of South Pacific collaborates with Seed4Life to provide agricultural products and Digicel offers a generator to recharge mobile phones.

*Back:* Digicel staff prepares relief packages, Government delivers relief packages, Vinod Patel contributes to the PM's National Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation: Cyclone Winston Fund, Bank of South Pacific and Goodman Fielder deliver relief packages.



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## Connecting Business

for

disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery

## Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

linked to

## Pacific private sector networks

Notwithstanding that business can be heavily impacted by disasters, they continue to make significant contributions towards the humanitarian response and recovery efforts.



Economies depend on the resilience of the private sector to withstand disasters and to provide products and services for emergency response.

TC Pam and TC Winston highlighted the need to strengthen the resilience of businesses to withstand and recover from disasters, and to maximise the opportunities for engagement.



## Strengthen the engagement with business in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery



Disasters impact businesses of all sizes and across all sectors, including through the disruption of supply chains and distribution channels, loss of stock and damage to premises. Previous disasters highlight the need to:

- strengthen the resilience of businesses to withstand and recover from disasters
- engage regularly with businesses in the coordination of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance
- establish partnerships and information sharing processes between businesses, the government led disaster management system (NDMO), local government, international organisations and civil society - before disaster occurs.

The Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, incorporated in the Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation (FCEF) launched in July 2016 as part of this effort. Building on the experience in Fiji, the Connecting Business initiative and the Pacific Island Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) will support private sector networks in other Pacific countries to strengthen their engagement in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

The private sector networks are the umbrella organisations and one stop entry points for the private sector for disaster risk management for NDMO, the Disaster Management Council, and local & international humanitarian organisations, with the objectives to streamline communication and coordination to minimise damage and loss of productivity resulting from disasters.

Support to establish the business networks is provided by the **Connecting Business initiative**, a UN-led, private sector driven, multi-stakeholder initiative of UNDP, UNISDR and OCHA, that engages the private sector strategically and holistically in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery, strengthening the overall resilience of communities. In the Pacific, the Connecting Business initiative supported the establishment of the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council. The Connecting Business initiative now proposes to support similar private sector networks in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, as well as a regional private sector network.

### *Join to build resilience with the private sector in the Pacific*

Connecting Business partners with a diverse range of actors to identify and address the gaps in existing private sector engagement. The initiative also supports Governments and other actors to involve the private sector in resilience programs and national disaster management processes, and to develop partnerships with the private sector.



Where companies come together in a non-competing environment with a common goal to prepare for hazards and disasters and rebuild disaster-affected areas



Engage with private sector networks to collaborate with their activities

### *Build relationships*

With the support of the Fiji Government, the Fiji private sector will be integrated in the review of the national disaster management policy and plans; in Fiji's disaster management Cluster system and offered a seat on DISMAC alike Fiji Red Cross Society and Fiji Council of Social Services. UN agencies, CSO's and NGO's form part of the Fiji Council to ensure knowledge and experience are captured.

### *Map resources and capabilities*

To undertake the mapping of private sector capacity and resources pre-disasters is essential to enable an effective and inclusive response to disasters in a timely manner.

### *Create and operate a portal*

A portal will offer awareness and access to relevant disaster risk management information and tools with national content linked to Pacific regional content that links to the global portal hosted by the Connecting Business initiative.

### *Support and strengthen the business*

To coordinate training for the business network for example on Business Continuity Management and other disaster risk reduction practices with a focus on SME's, national disaster response operations, and weather pattern interpretation.

## Fiji's Connecting Business initiative launched at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit

### *Building resilience with the private sector in the Pacific*

- Strengthen private sector-led networks for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- Build the resilience of businesses and their communities
- Embed the private sector in resilience programs and national disaster management processes
- Assist private sector networks to identify and match their capacities and resources to humanitarian needs before, during and after emergencies
- Operate a local information database for the private sector
- Connect private sector networks regionally to each other and other actors
- Develop and disseminate best practice on private sector engagement
- Facilitate policy engagement based on global data and standards
- Map private sector engagement to identify gaps and recognize good practice

### *Who should join the local networks*

All businesses, chambers of commerce, associations, humanitarian organisations, NGOs, civil society, UN agencies and all levels of Government with an interest in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response & recovery can join.

The representative on the Fiji Council and the Pacific business network would normally be a senior manager, a decision-maker in business continuity planning, disaster risk reduction or disaster response. He/she is expected to be involved in pre-disaster planning, report initial damages incurred and make decisions such as dedication of resources, assets and materials for disaster response.

Members can support the network through program collaboration, advice, funding or in kind contributions.