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SPREP
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Environment Programme

"Sustainable Weather, Climate, Oceans and Water Services for a Resilient Pacific"

Fourth Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-4) Working Papers

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Solomon Islands

Agenda Item 14.3: Pacific Resilience Program (PREP) in Samoa and Tonga

Purpose:

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) Meeting participants of the objectives and outcomes of the PREP and how this Project is facilitating the implementation of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) in the two recipient countries that is Samoa and Tonga. Sharing experiences and lessons learnt from this project would help inform other countries in doing the same or taking the same approach given the limited resources, capacity and capability in country to establish, operate and maintain separate EWSs for different natural hazards. MHEWS would also help in providing a common alerting platform and procedures including the means of communication for the dissemination of alerts hence leading to improved timeliness of warnings and advisory services and products. In addition to establishing and strengthening MHEWSs, legal frameworks and institutional capacities in NWSs in Tonga and Samoa are also further strengthened through PREP.

Background:

PREP is a World Bank funded 'Series of Projects' articulated in two Phases at this stage, with the potential of a third and/or fourth phase in the future. Given the actual and projected severity and increasing frequency of disasters and climate change impacts, the following objectives are critical to strengthening the resilience of the Pacific region. The objectives are: (i) strengthen early warning and preparedness; (ii) create a framework for stronger and prioritised investments in resilience and retrofitting of key-public assets to meet internationally recognised resilience standards; and (iii) improve the post-disaster response capacity of the countries through strengthened financial resilience to disaster events. The regional approach to the implementation of this project will allow for economies of scale standardised approaches, improved coordination of climate change and disaster risk management efforts and improved risk transfer mechanisms and participation therein in the region.

The initial participating PICs in Phase I of PREP include Samoa, Tonga, the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) and Vanuatu and the regional organisations including SPC, and PIFS. Samoa and Tonga are participants of all components of Phase I while RMI and Vanuatu are only participating in sub-component 3.1.2 (Premium Financing) in order to finance their annual premium payments for the catastrophe risk insurance (PICRAFI).

The project has four components with Component 1 aims to strengthen the ability of Samoa and Tonga, to make warning information actionable by those at risk, in order to minimize adverse impacts to vulnerable communities. It will enable people to make informed decisions about what to do to protect themselves from hazards and help emergency services target limited resources to where they are most needed, in order to maximize the impact of their response efforts. It includes the following key elements: (i) detection, forecasting and warning of the impact of natural hazards; (ii) dissemination of timely warnings to the population, including last mile communication; and (iii) strengthening of emergency preparedness and response mechanisms. This would involve the introduction of a multi-hazard impact forecast and warning system, which would build on existing capabilities in meteorological, hydrological and seismological monitoring, forecasting and warning, and the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Finance Initiative (PCRAFI) vulnerability assessments to establish a fully functioning Multi-Hazard Impact-based Early Warning System (MHEWS) for Samoa, and Tonga. The aim is to strengthen both national and regional early warning systems, creating common approaches to warning services among the participating countries wherever possible.

Component 2 will finance entry level resilient investment such as retrofitting of public buildings such as schools, health centres etc to meet internationally accepted building standards for resilience and other cross cutting issues such as gender and protection. It will also support and enhance a multi-sectoral planning process for integrating climate change and disaster risk and resilient development which will help reduce funding fragmentation, allocate incoming resources to existing needs and support alignment with development and budgetary processes of the countries. It includes (1) at the national, implementation of risk reduction and resilient investment planning and preparation (entry level investments) and (2) at the regional level, procurement of regional technical assistance to strengthen impact forecasting and preparedness.

Component 3 focuses on the implementation of activities to strengthen financial resilience of the participating PICs disaster events by enabling them to secure access to immediate liquidity post disaster for low, medium and high risk events. It will support the development and implementation of an integrated disaster risk financing strategy that provides an optimal combination of risk retention (for high frequency, low severity events) and risk transfer (for low frequency, high severity events) for participating countries. It will include both national and regional mechanisms and will build on the PCRAFI pilot insurance scheme.

Component 4 is project management which aims at efficient, effective and successful project implementation.

Update:

Not Required

Recommendations:

1. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **Note** the PREP, its objectives and components and how it contributes to strengthening early warning and preparedness through the implementation of multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) platforms, procedures and systems in participating PICs to increase resilience to climate change and disasters; the regional approach that it has taken to implement its activities building on existing capacities of

- participating countries' National Weather Services (NWS) and National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs);
- **Request** PMC Members to support the PREP approach as best practice in anticipation of future incoming resources for non-participating countries to implement multi-hazard early warning systems;

Attachments

- NIL

[31st July 2017]