

peacemail

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POSTAGE PAID
OFF PEAK
AUSTRALIA

act for peace
reduce poverty | protect refugees
prevent conflicts | empower communities



The Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDRR) Project is an Australian Government and Act for Peace co-funded project. The PCIDRR Project is being implemented by faith-based networks in cooperation with government disaster management bodies and other stakeholders in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

This project involves educating and developing vulnerable communities so that they are better equipped to cope with natural disasters. Working with community volunteers, this project aims to encourage village communities to take control of their situation by planning how to respond to a disaster, building on their existing capacities and developing a positive plan for the future that will help save lives.

Since each village is uniquely different with different challenges, the PCIDRR Project will focus on one village at a time to address individual issues. Field Project Officers will spend up to 10 days in each village during the life of the project (four years). People in more than 300 villages will learn how to better protect themselves from natural disasters that may occur in their region.

It costs \$185 to skill each member of a ten-person village committee. Your gifts will expedite the number of villages which are able to effectively overcome current problems and prepare for emergencies.

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

"The Christmas Bowl People!"



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THANK YOU Partners for your commitment to Act for Peace through your regular gifts. Thank you for your generosity, especially those who have chosen to increase the amount of their giving. Together, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict and extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Jordan on **1800 025 101** or email hgraham@ncca.org.au. All gifts of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

Villagers Act to Control Storm Surges in Fiji

Dear Partner, Storm surges and sea water inundation have been a constant hazard for the villagers of Namuka, about 65 km by sea from Suva. Over the last 10 years, sea water inundation into the village has become an everyday event with the onset of high tide. This flooding is made worse during times of King Tides.



The Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDRR) Project in Fiji became involved with Namuka from December 2008, when the village was chosen for a pilot Community Training Program. This project involved the villagers nominating people onto a committee who then were trained by Field Project Officers over a period of four days. The committee learned the skills of Hazard Mapping and completed Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments.

The committee was assisted in developing a Community Disaster Preparedness & Response Plan and Action Plan. Field Officers again visited Namuka Village in February 2009 and were pleased to see the implementation of community initiatives designed to reduce the effects of inundation during high tides.

The villagers deepened the drains. Extracted mud was used to bolster the sides of drains and the shoreline to increase the height of the banks. Incidents of inundation have since been significantly reduced.

The Turaga-Ni-Koro (Village Leader), Mr Solomoni, said the project "has greatly assisted the village to see our own capacities to deal with the issues facing our village. The government help is a bonus, but we can do things in the meantime."



Etuate Bakewa, Committee Chairman, commented that "the villagers now take it as their responsibility to try first before relying on government. The training really opened our eyes to the various hazards that exist in our village, many we did not know ourselves. We realise that we must first fix these hazards before we try and go out to ask for help. The priority projects are the sea wall, the clearing of drains and identifying other hazards."

The PCIDRR team visited the Namuka village again in June 2009 to finalise their Disaster Plan and DRR Action Plan.

Anthony

Anthony Blake
Project Manager - Fiji

Pacific Community-focused Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction Project



Partner's Prayer Point: Pray for the safety of people whose lives and communities are at risk from natural hazards, and guide their work in risk reduction.