

Concept Paper for Joint Application for Pacific SimEx Funding

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Background Information

Over the last four years ADRA NZ has facilitated seven interagency disaster response simulation exercises (SimEx) in the following countries: Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, PNG and Fiji. This has been in partnership, at various times, with Caritas, World Vision and Act for Peace. These SimEx have been held in the field, involved actual communities and key disaster response stakeholders and run to real time over four days. The SimExs have always been preceded by three days' training to ensure all participants are well prepared and have a sound theoretical basis from which to operate during the SimEx. This experience has confirmed the value of using SimExs (see Annex I) for disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Additionally, the model for the delivery of a SimEx has been refined, well documented and tested.

Need

As far as can be ascertained, the only operational simulated field exercises for disaster response that have been held in Pacific Island countries with a strong emphasis on humanitarian action and interagency involvement have been the two initiated and run by ADRA NZ. As identified by the value to be gained from running a SimEx and the increased likelihood of larger and more frequent disaster events and responsibility under the Hyogo Framework for Action, there is a place for SimExs as part of a comprehensive approach to disaster risk management in the Pacific.

Various in-country disaster management agencies such as NDMOs, NGOs and other key stakeholders in disaster response in the Pacific have not yet been surveyed to ascertain their perceived need for SimExs. This will be done, if there was agreed merit with this concept, before the development of a full application for funding. Additionally, other similar programmes will be identified to ensure there was no duplication of effort.

Proposal

If the need for enhanced disaster preparedness using SimExs was confirmed and found to be complementary to what is already being done, then it is proposed that an application for funding be completed and submitted to possible donors. To achieve this, the following process is recommended:

- 1) That all NDRF members interested in taking an active part in a SimEx in the Pacific form a working group of NDRF
- 2) That a lead agency be selected by the NDRF SimEx working group to coordinate the group's activities
- 3) That the NDRF SimEx working group complete the following:
 - a. Assessment of key Pacific Island Countries to confirm the need for a SimEx
 - b. Identify possible funding sources
 - c. Identify the likely location for the SimEx
 - d. Consult with key stakeholders at the location about a SimEx
 - e. Design how the Simex would be developed and delivered, based on consultation with key stakeholders
 - f. Develop a budget
 - g. Submit funding application(s) to donors