



“Accelerating actions for a resilient Blue Pacific”

7th, 8th, 9th September 2021, Virtual Platforms
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Agenda Item 8.3.1: Strategic Planning and Management of Disaster Waste

Purpose of paper

1. To propose the creation and integration of Environment Sectors (with disaster waste included) into National Disaster Management Offices to ensure appropriate preparedness, response and recovery activities adequately include and address waste management.
2. To seek the support of Members in the establishment of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Taskforce in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, Pacific Resilience Partnership.

Background

3. The Pacific is impacted by tropical cyclones annually affecting people and often these have high socio-economic and environmental consequences. All disaster scenarios, including the pandemic, have drastically increased volumes of waste generated. With limited capacity and waste facilities in the Pacific, there is a high likelihood of even more waste in terrestrial environments especially in rural and remote areas that are still without basic waste collection and disposal services. Many of these end up in the ocean.
4. Some Pacific island Members have established national disaster management frameworks including national disaster management plans and associated institutional arrangements, but there is limited recognition and priority given to disaster waste management. To address this, the Secretariat is mobilising resources from several donor funded projects to support and facilitate the inclusion of waste management issues into national disaster management systems.
5. Disaster waste management issues are not typically included in operational plans of NDMOs, despite waste management often being an immediate issue requiring response directly following a disaster (for example, roads blocked by debris, power lines down, asbestos in buildings posing a significant health risk to the public and response workers, etc.).

6. Consultation with waste service providers throughout the region has noted that the largely ad-hoc arrangements in debris management have resulted in landfills being overloaded.
7. The Secretariat is addressing disaster waste management through the following donor funded projects:

JPRISM II

8. J-PRISM II is working on development of capacity of disaster waste (DW) management in the Pacific to reduce damages to infrastructure and promote 'Build Back Better' after the disasters.
9. A Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines (DWM) Guidelines is being developed. It provides technical guidance to PICTs on the management of disaster waste, based on the UNEP (2011) and Asia-Pacific (2018) DWM, lessons learnt from PICs past disasters and consultations with SPREP Member countries.
10. J-PRISM II promotes the Implementation of the Regional DWM Guidelines through:
 - a. Development of National Disaster Waste Management Plans for Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and RMI) incorporating the preparedness, response, recovery, and reconstruction measures.
 - b. Promoting the recognition of Disaster Waste under National Disaster Management Plans of Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and RMI. For example, the National Cyclone Response Plan for Vanuatu.
 - c. Promoting the Disaster Waste recognition under the National Disaster Management Clustering System in Vanuatu, Samoa, Tonga and RMI. For example, the submission made to Vanuatu for the setting up of an Environment Sector with Disaster Waste as a sub-cluster.
11. Technical trainings on DWM were provided to PICs, and equipment and funding supports were provided to Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga during disaster response and recovery operations.

PacWastePlus

12. The Disaster Waste Regional Project by PacWastePlus is designed to guide participating countries in establishing structured disaster waste planning and management to reduce vulnerability and contribute towards protecting communities' livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets, and ecosystems, thus strengthening disaster resilience.
13. The project is aligned to, and follows, the JPRISM II Regional Disaster Waste Management Guideline, and is also directly linked to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). The project is designed to improve the capacity of Pacific island countries to be prepared for a disaster and respond effectively to disaster waste management.

14. Specific project activities will seek to assist countries to adopt a National Disaster Waste Management Guidelines, through:
 - a. Development of a template guideline on establishing of an Environment Sector with Disaster Waste Management as a sub-cluster.
 - b. Development of a template guideline on drafting a National Disaster Waste Management Framework.
 - c. Development and deployment of training resources focussing on waste management throughout each stage of the disaster management cycle.
 - d. Development of addendums to the JPRISM II Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines. For example, management of asbestos following a disaster, establishing agreements with stakeholders for disaster waste management services, management of hazardous wastes during disasters, and field guides on assessing, recording, and utilising waste data collected directly following a disaster, to assist with response and recovery activities.

15. The project will initially work with a pilot country to develop the systems and tools, which will then be converted into regional products described above.

Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific (SWAP)

16. The *Committing to Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific* (SWAP) Project, funded by l'Agence Française de Developpement (AFD), supports 7 Pacific countries and territories in implementing various activities for cost-effective and sustainable waste management. The issue of disaster waste management will be addressed through the following activities:
 - a. Development and delivery of a regional training programme whose virtual courses will be accessible by all English and French speaking Pacific countries and territories.
 - b. Conducting a scoping study to identify disposal facilities which can practicably be rehabilitated and climate proofed. This activity is for French Polynesia, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.
 - c. Conducting rehabilitation and climate-proofing of selected disposal sites.

Proposal for the inclusion of an Environment Sector into National Disaster Management Offices

17. The inclusion of an Environment Sector (which addresses disaster waste management among other environmental issues) in the mainstream national emergency management coordinating structure within the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) will provide significant value to countries and increase country and community resilience to disasters. The activities of the Sector can focus on building consideration for environmental impacts on biodiversity, oceans and land with disaster wastes into the preparedness, response, and recovery systems, enabling these issues to be addressed accordingly.

18. The implementation and operation of an Environment Sector within NDMO structures would enable countries to seek assistance from the FRDP Pacific Resilience Partnership. It would also provide an opportunity for the inclusion of disaster waste in FRDP regional approaches, and possibly the creation of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Taskforce.

Recommendation

19. The Meeting is invited to:

- 1) **support** and **commit** to establishing Environment sectors (with disaster waste included) within National Disaster Management Offices to address disaster waste and other environmental issues; and
 - 2) **direct** the Secretariat to work with Members and Partners in seeking assistance from the FRDP PRP in the establishment of a Regional Disaster Waste Management Taskforce.
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23 June 2021