

UNDERSTANDING RISK INFORMATION FOR RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT - SUMMARY



The session opened with a strong call to recognise risk information as more than technical data – it is the **backbone** of **resilient development**.

Speakers stressed that without reliable information, governments and communities are unable to **prioritise resources, protect livelihoods, or plan effectively**.



STEVEN GOLDFINCH
Senior Disaster Risk Management
Specialist, Climate Change and
Sustainable Development Department,
Asian Development Bank

“Risk information is not only a tool for strengthening development planning and investment, but also an essential foundation for reducing poverty in high-risk areas.”



LITEA BIUKOTO
Deputy Director for Disaster
and Water Resilience
Pacific Community

“We’ve got to be able to understand our risk. We’ve got to be able to anticipate, to avoid, to transfer the risk if needed, and to be able to prepare and respond.”

VINAKA VAKALEVU FOR JOINING OUR EVENT!

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Speakers underscored that the **Pacific's exposure** is **multi-dimensional**, shaped by geography, climate, and socio-economic conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted just how **broad** and **interconnected** these risks are.



LITEA BIUKOTO
Deputy Director for Disaster
and Water Resilience
Pacific Community

“COVID threw a spanner in our traditional sense of thinking around risk, but it also brought to light the wide range and scale of hazards that the region is exposed to.”



GABRIELLE EMERY
Head of Pacific Sub-Regional Office
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

“There’s still a disconnect between disaster risk information and the applications across more risk-informed investments and planning across sectors.”

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Speakers called for using **science** and **technology** to **anticipate** future scenarios and **improve** decision-making. High-resolution and remote-sensed data, combined with **historical evidence** and **traditional knowledge**, were seen as vital to ensure **better planning** and **pre-emptive support**.

Training, data governance, and ensuring usability across all levels of society were also emphasised.



JOHNIE TARRY NIMAU
Senior M&E Officer/PaRTNeR 2
Country Coordinator
Government of Vanuatu

“Vanuatu ensures that risk information is accessible, trusted, and applied at national level, provincial level and community level to strengthen resilience and guide sustainable development.”



GABRIELLE EMERY
Head of Pacific Sub-Regional Office
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

“We need to look at our data governance and how this information can be more readily shared horizontally and vertically across the countries.”

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Concrete examples from Tuvalu and Vanuatu illustrated how risk information is being used. In Tuvalu, **Integrated Vulnerability Assessments (IVA)** and **coastal hazard modelling** informed **water, sanitation, and health (WASH) programmes**, the **location of evacuation shelters**, and the **loss and damage agenda**.

In Vanuatu, **translation** of assessments into simple formats helps national, provincial, and community actors **use information** for **planning** and **recovery**.



LUKA SELU

Director, National Disaster
Management Office
Government of Tuvalu

“In 2024, we did vulnerability assessments for infrastructure, assessing the designated evacuation shelters... intervention costs improved the capabilities of shelters.”



JOHNIE TARRY NIMAU

Senior M&E Officer/PaRTNeR 2
Country Coordinator
Government of Vanuatu

“We work on data translation and communication, simplifying as much as possible into maps, briefs, and advisories that people can understand and decision-makers can use.”

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Data must be **trusted, meaningful, and accessible**. Several speakers stressed that **ownership, authenticity, and effective communication** from the start are as important as the technical quality of the information itself.

A recurring message from the session was that risk information is only valuable if it is **understood, trusted, and applied**. Several speakers highlighted that technical reports or datasets alone are not enough – **information must be translated into formats that resonate with communities, policymakers, and financiers alike**.



LISA KINGSBERRY
Director, Strategic Communication,
Outreach, & Engagement
Pacific Community

“What makes risk information credible is ownership and authenticity. The anchoring of effective, meaningful, impactful communications is a real technical skill set.”

Science on a shelf is not effective. Visual translation helps cut through the noise.”

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A central theme of the session was the call to **shift** the focus from data collection to its **practical application**.

Speakers stressed that **risk information must not sit unused in reports**, but instead guide planning, financing, and the design of early warning systems, to name a few. Without this step, its **value remains unrealised**.



LITEA BIUKOTO

Deputy Director for Disaster
and Water Resilience
Pacific Community

“Risk information can be pre-emptive and allow communities to self-determine what they need to be able to do to ensure their safety.”



GABRIELLE EMERY

Head of Pacific Sub-Regional Office
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

“Focus for the remaining 5 years of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) would be moving beyond data collection to supporting risk communication and risk application.”

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