Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Regional Asia and the Pacific

Project Highlights

Addressing El Niño-induced climate risks in the Indo-Pacific Region with anticipatory action

PROJECT CODE
OSRO/RAS/405/GER

RESOURCE PARTNER
Germany's Federal Foreign Office through the Special Fund for Emergency and Resilience Activities

CONTRIBUTION
USD 865 000

IMPLEMENTATION
01/09/2023–31/07/2024

TARGET AREA
Viti Levu (Fiji); Western Province and Milne Bay (Papua New Guinea); and Baucau, Covalima, Viqueque and Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (Timor-Leste)

BENEFICIARIES
3 258 households

KEY PARTNERS
Fiji Red Cross, Don Bosco Training Centre, Telin Digital Solutions, National Weather Service, the National Department of Agriculture and Livestock, the Western Provincial Agriculture Division and North Fly Didiman Graduates Association for North Fly District Government

ANTICIPATED HAZARD
El Niño-induced drought and cyclones

TRIGGER FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION
Activation was based on the declaration of El Niño by the World Meteorological Organization in July 2023, combined with the Indian Ocean Dipole expected to turn positive in September/October 2023, exacerbating the drying effect induced by El Niño in the Indo-Pacific

Objective

To strengthen preparedness and mitigate the impacts of El Niño-induced drought and tropical cyclones on the most vulnerable rural communities.

Activities implemented

FIJI

- Procured and pre-positioned cyclone-resilience kits, including tarpaulins and waterproof hermetic storage bags, to secure boats and protect harvested crops.
- Conducted a full-scale simulation exercise, engaging five high-risk communities.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Conducted a joint drought impact assessment with the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, confirming reduced food availability, declining water levels and rising food prices.
- Carried out baseline food security assessments in key project sites, using household surveys and focus group discussions.
- Provided 230 households with drought-tolerant seeds, irrigation equipment and improved water access through the installation of four water tanks and the upgrading of two wells. Among these, 98 households also benefited from multipurpose cash transfers.
- Constructed three boreholes equipped with pumps to improve access to groundwater during drought, supporting 646 households, of whom 182 also benefited from multipurpose cash transfers.
- Trained community members on food processing and preservation, enhancing drought preparedness.

TIMOR-LESTE

- Delivered early warning messages to 2 186 households, of whom 1 000 female-headed households also received multipurpose cash assistance.
- Engaged 196 youth in cash-for-work activities for the rehabilitation of water infrastructure.
- Trained participating households on good agricultural practices to manage drought conditions and provided them with water tanks, pipes, pumps, electric motors and drip irrigation systems, among other inputs.
- Conducted an endline survey and post-implementation analysis to assess the impacts of anticipatory action interventions.

Results

- Strengthened community preparedness in Fiji through pre-positioned cyclone-resilience kits and a full-scale simulation exercise, building local capacity to respond effectively during cyclone season.
- Enhanced early warning and evidence generation in Papua New Guinea through drought impact and food security assessments, providing critical information to trigger timely interventions.
- Reduced households' reliance on negative coping strategies in Papua New Guinea by delivering drought-tolerant seeds, cash transfers and water infrastructure support ahead of worsening drought conditions.
- Increased access to water during dry periods in Papua New Guinea through the construction and upgrading of water systems, thus safeguarding agricultural production.
- Strengthened drought preparedness and climate resilience of communities in Papua New Guinea through training on food processing, preservation and adaptive agricultural practices.
- Enabled vulnerable households in Timor-Leste to meet essential needs ahead of forecast drought conditions through multipurpose cash transfers, with a particular focus on female-headed households.
- Improved household and community resilience in Timor-Leste by engaging youth in rehabilitating water infrastructure (for agricultural purposes) and equipping farming households with inputs for drought-resilient production.
- Expanded the evidence base for anticipatory action in Timor-Leste through an endline survey and post-implementation analysis, informing the future design and scale-up of anticipatory action programmes.

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