

Tukuraki Village Relocation Project Information Brief

INFORMATION PAPER – TUKURAKI RELOCATION PROJECT

1. Background

Natural disasters are a common occurrence around the world, including Fiji. Given its geographic location and geophysical characteristics, Fiji regularly experiences natural disasters of geological and hydro-meteorological origin. In the past 37 years, Fiji reported a total of 124 natural disasters, affecting almost all parts of the country. Tropical cyclones accounted for 50 per cent of the events, followed by floods (33 per cent) and earthquakes (8 per cent). The real total long-term impact of cyclones on the living conditions, livelihoods, economic performance and environmental assets is much more severe in remote small island communities due to the small populations, narrow based economies and small land areas.

A week of heavy rain in January 2012 had forced 3,500 people into temporary shelters and triggered a landslide that killed a family of four in the remote village of Tukuraki, Yakete, Ba Province, Western Viti Levu. The landslides wiped out the village destroying the access road, fresh water resources, and homes.

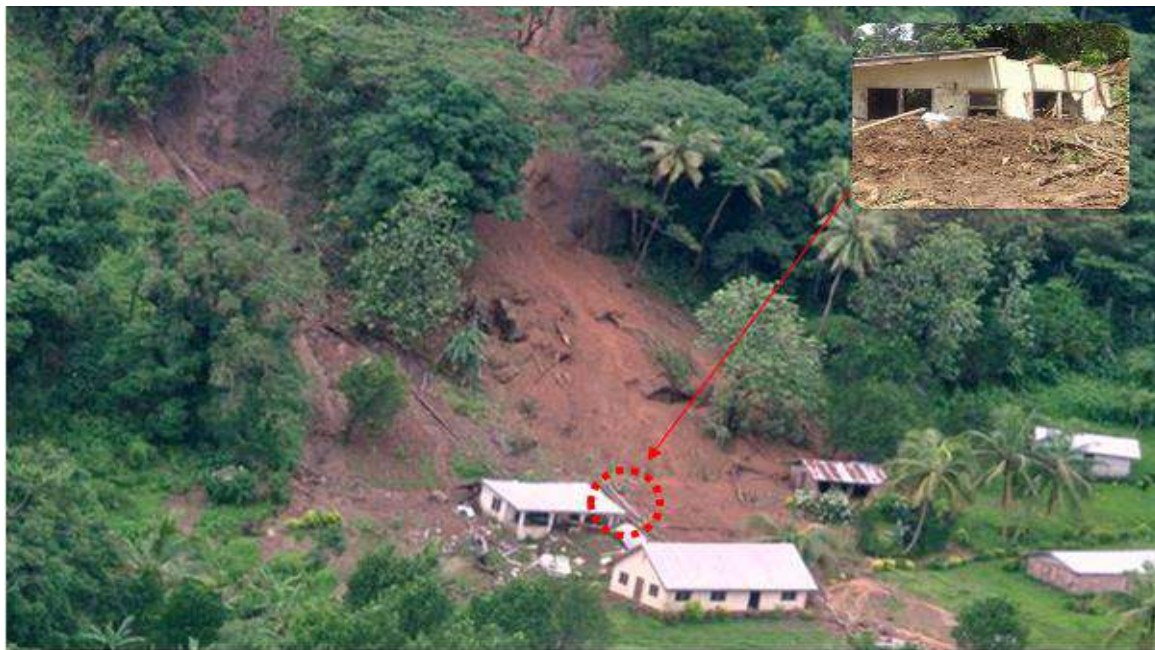


Figure 1 Old Tukuraki Village Site after the landslide incident



Figure 2 Villagers of Tukuraki and volunteers from nearby communities trying to extract the bodies of the family of 4 from the landslide debris



Figure 3 Villagers and Volunteers carried the bodies of the young family for post mortem and burial

The area was again struck by a Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Evan, on 16-17 December 2012. The cyclone left widespread destruction in its path. Dwellings and their contents were damaged or destroyed, infrastructure was damaged and crops ruined. The livelihoods of many of those affected were significantly compromised and economic activity disrupted. The total economic value of the disaster effects caused by the TC Evan is estimated at around F\$194.9 million equivalent to approximately 2.6 percent of Fiji's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), thus demonstrating the scale of the cyclone.

In the wake of the Category 5 Cyclone Winston, on February 20 Tukuraki was again impacted and majority have not fully recovered from the 2012 landslide. Without safe housing, Tukuraki residence took refuge in caves during the cyclone. Rebuilding of their homes is a challenge for homeowners due to their low income level hence the BSRP was identified to provide the support.



Figure 4 Villagers of Tukuraki under a nearby evacuation cave after TC Winston destroyed their make shift shelters

2. Details of the activity

The resettlement includes a number of activities since the community had to be relocated to a different location since the original location was deemed unsafe by the Mineral Resources Department due to the loose texture of the soil and will be subject to further landslides when disturbed. A different landowning unit owns the new location, the Ba Provincial Council, and the ITaukei Affairs Ministry were instrumental in securing the site.

The assistance provided homes to more than 100 people whose village was affected by landslide in 2012 and had to settle in caves and temporary shelters. Relocation activities included:

- Procurement of a concrete mixer and generator
- Clearing and grubbing, Site levelling, Construction of access road and drainage and playground
- Construction of 11 (24'x16') wooden dwelling houses with bathroom and toilet
- Construction of 50' x 20' wooden evacuation centre with Ablution Block
- Construction of dam, reservoir fitted with filters and connection to 11 dwelling houses
- Construction of concrete retaining wall to prevent soil erosion
- Proper waste water drainage of the dwelling houses

The project has been completed and was worth more than \$FJD700, 000. It was official commissioned on 26th October by the Minister for Rural Maritime Development, National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services.

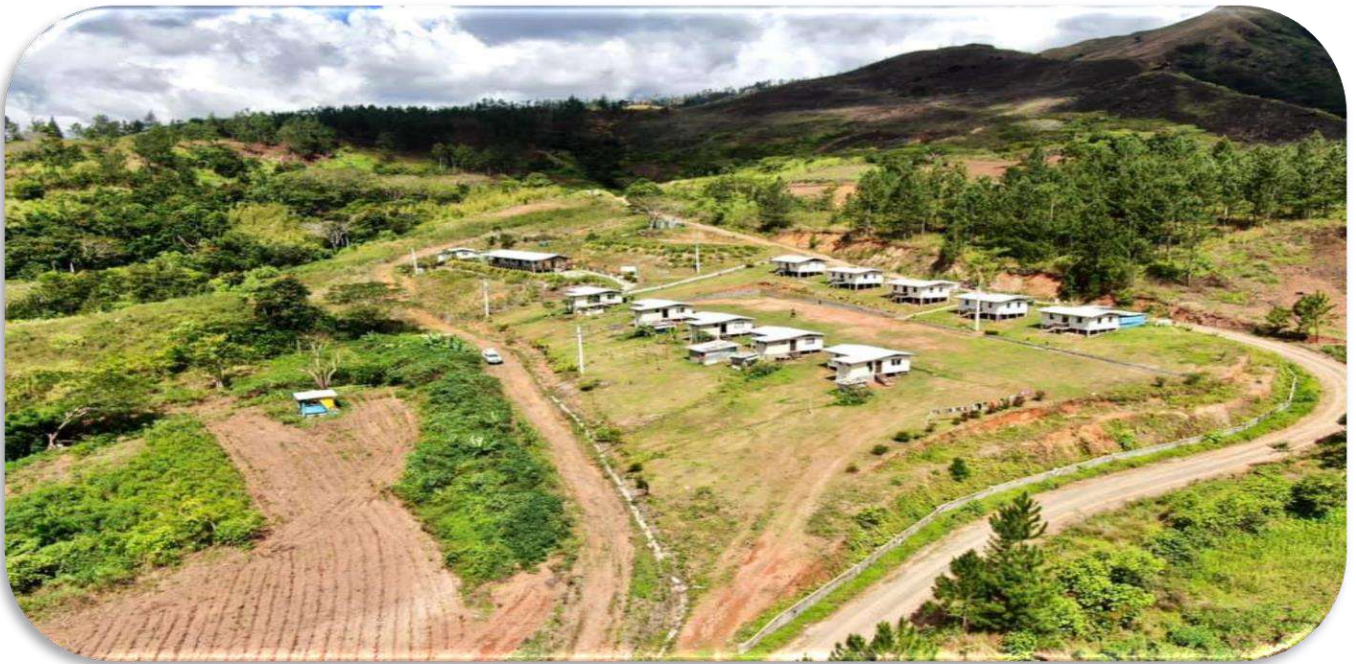


Figure 5 the New Tukuraki Village

During the design and development of the project, the following cross cutting issues were considered seriously

- **Capacity Building**

Even though the development and constructions works was done by private contractors but members of the community especially men assisted in the work and gained new skills and knowledge. Both men and women were trained on how to manage the livelihood projects.

- **Gender** In designing the whole resettlement, gender was strongly considered resulting in inclusion of consistent water supply connected to the dwelling houses as well as toilet and shower installed indoors. These would ensure that women do not have to travel distance to fetch water. They do not have to go outside in the middle of the night to use the restroom as was the case in the old site.
- **Protection of vulnerable groups** The construction of foot paths around the village makes it safe for the mobility of children, pregnant mother, elderly, senior citizens and people with disability for safe access within the village vicinity and also during wet season as they don't have to walk on muddy paths which could lead to outbreak of cold and flue and other disease outbreak. The construction of bathroom and toilet with the dwelling houses provides easy access to the vulnerable groups.



Figure 6Tukuraki Women inside the village community hall

- **Environmental Awareness/Protection** Prior to the construction of the new site, the Mineral Resources Department conducted a geological survey and made recommendations on construction of a retaining wall, buffer zones and non-cutting of trees to protect the environment and the village from future landslide at the new village site in Tukuraki.

The DRR Officer provided advice on risk reduction measures during the development of the new site to ensure the environmental risk were minimised. The Department of Environment conducted Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) to ensure the site development would not have any negative impact on the environment.



Figure 7 Tukuraki Village Community Hall Declared Tabaco Free by the Ministry of Health

- **Knowledge Management**

The documentary on Tukuraki provides knowledge of how a community learn to be resilient during disasters and provides a background knowledge for future references. The Tukuraki Relocation model can be used as a guide for other relocation projects in Fiji.

- **Public/Private Partnership**

The co- financing by the Fiji Government ensure that the relocation program at Tukuraki became holistic. The funding of houses 9 and 10 by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development & Disaster Management and Meteorological Services ensured that all the damaged houses were replaced and victims provided with structurally sound homes. The other livelihood projects being funded by various government departments like the fish pond by the Ministry of Fisheries, Bee farming by the Ministry of Agriculture, planting of trees by the Ministry of Forestry are good indications of public and private partnership. The Health Inspector continued to provide technical advice and support to the project to ensure that the development was in compliance with Health standards.

The DRR Officer under the UNDP implemented PRP programme provided advice on DRR issues and ensured that the development in Tukuraki complied with Risk policy and measures.

Private contractors were hired for construction of the Evacuation Centres and Dwelling Houses, Water supply, Road access for Tukuraki Village and also the construction of the Emergency operation centres.



3.1 *Relevance*

The relocation at Tukuraki was warranted given the appalling living conditions the victims had been exposed to and having to be taking shelters in caves whenever there is adverse weather conditions. The provision of safe homes would greatly reassure them and will slowly remove the traumatic experiences they had experienced on the night of the landslide. The Evacuation Centre will not only provide shelter for the village but will also be used by neighboring villages and community who do not have Evacuation Centres.

3.2 *Efficiency*

The benefits that will accrue to the lives of the affected families will outweigh all the costs that had been invested in the resettlement project. This is a classic case of “Building Back Better” as strongly advocated by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

3.3 *Effectiveness*

The completion of the relocation effort within 13 months is indicative of the effectiveness of the activity. A number of activities were carried out concomitantly to ensure that timely completion can be achieved. The timely completion of all the activities indicated the effectiveness of coordination and consultation with all stakeholders.

3.4 *Impact*

Moving to a new location with the provision of safe dwelling houses and amenities will reduce the risk of loss of lives for future disasters and the community will be more resilient to disasters.

3.5 *Sustainability*

The involvement of the community for the designing stage and later the commencement of the construction is critical to ensure the sustainability of the project especially. Even though contractors were engaged to undertake the activities, the community members were providing the support throughout the resettlement efforts. The involvement of the provincial administration and government departments were also critical since they will be supporting the community very closely when the project is handed over to the Fiji government.

4.0 *Conclusion and Recommendations*

Through the funding and technical support provided by ACP-EU through SPC and BSRP, a new village has been built with all amenities to withstand Category 5 Cyclone. Tukuraki is a risk informed project providing resilience into the future.

Project Name	Tukuraki Relocation
Duration	1 year 6 months (June 2016 – November 2017]
Location	Tukuraki, Ba, Western, Division
Project Cost	\$FJD759,340-

