An aerial photograph showing a paved road winding through a lush green forest. To the right of the road, a river flows through the landscape. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the texture of the trees and the curve of the road.

Bridging the divide between humanitarian-development nexus:

Lessons of governance from TC Winston in Fiji



**Institute for
Sustainable Futures**
isf.uts.edu.au

Anna Gero
Research Principal
Anna.gero@uts.edu.au

Presentation

- 1 Context
- 2 Research methods and approach
- 3 Findings
- 4 Implications and opportunities

Research context:

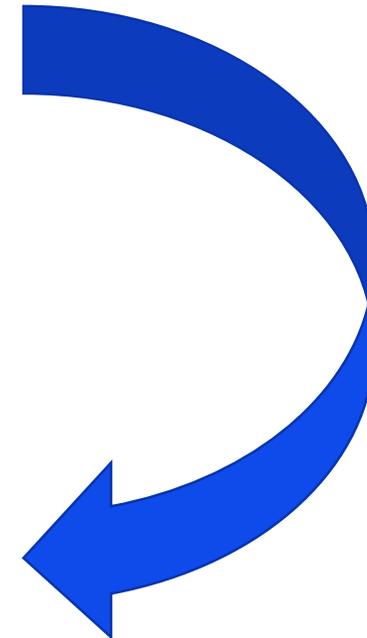
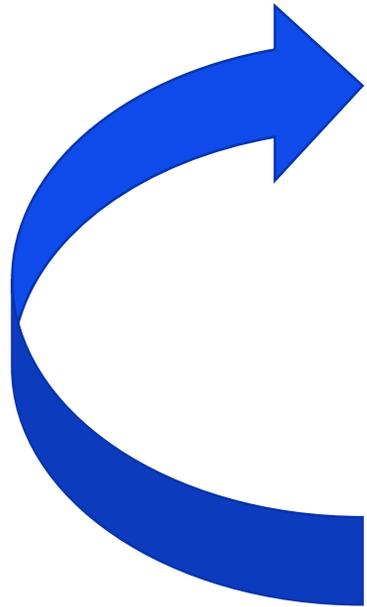
What is the “Humanitarian Development Nexus”?

Humanitarian:

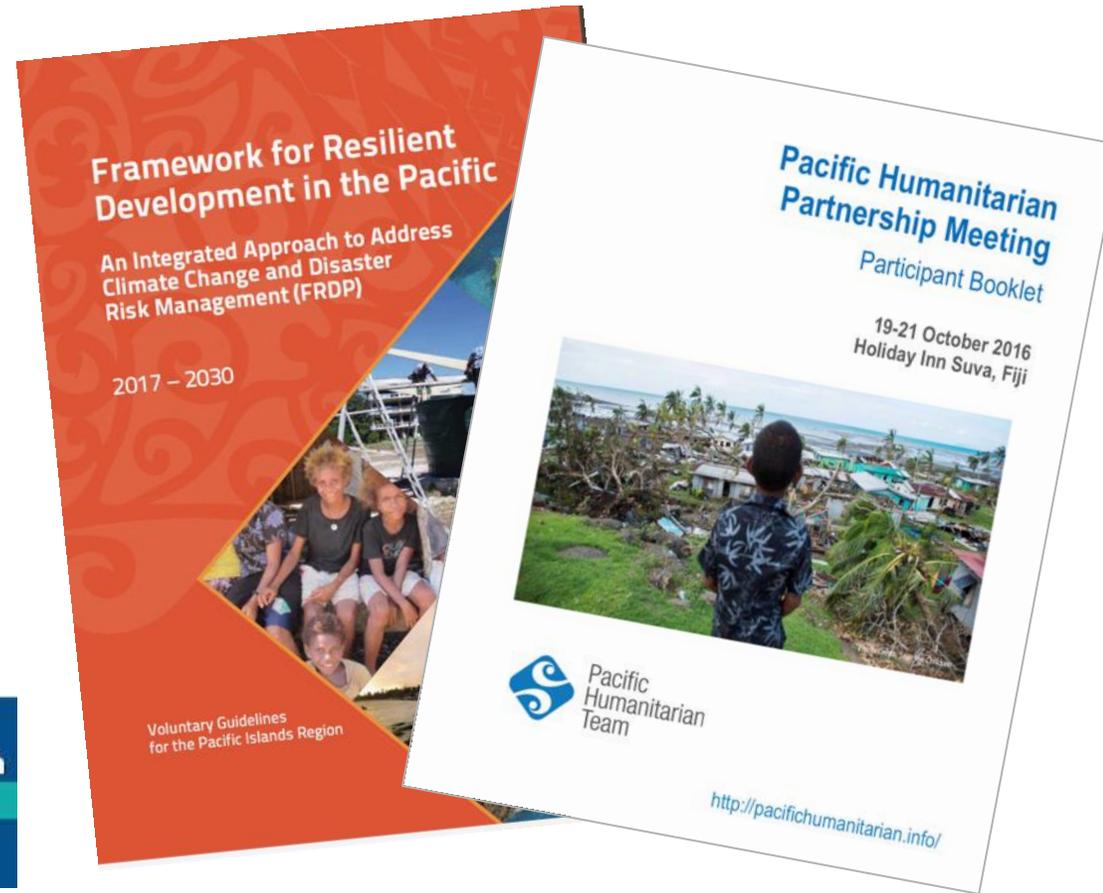
Meeting needs of people affected by crises + reducing underlying risks and inequalities

Development:

Ensuring development practices do not enhance vulnerability, exposure & risk



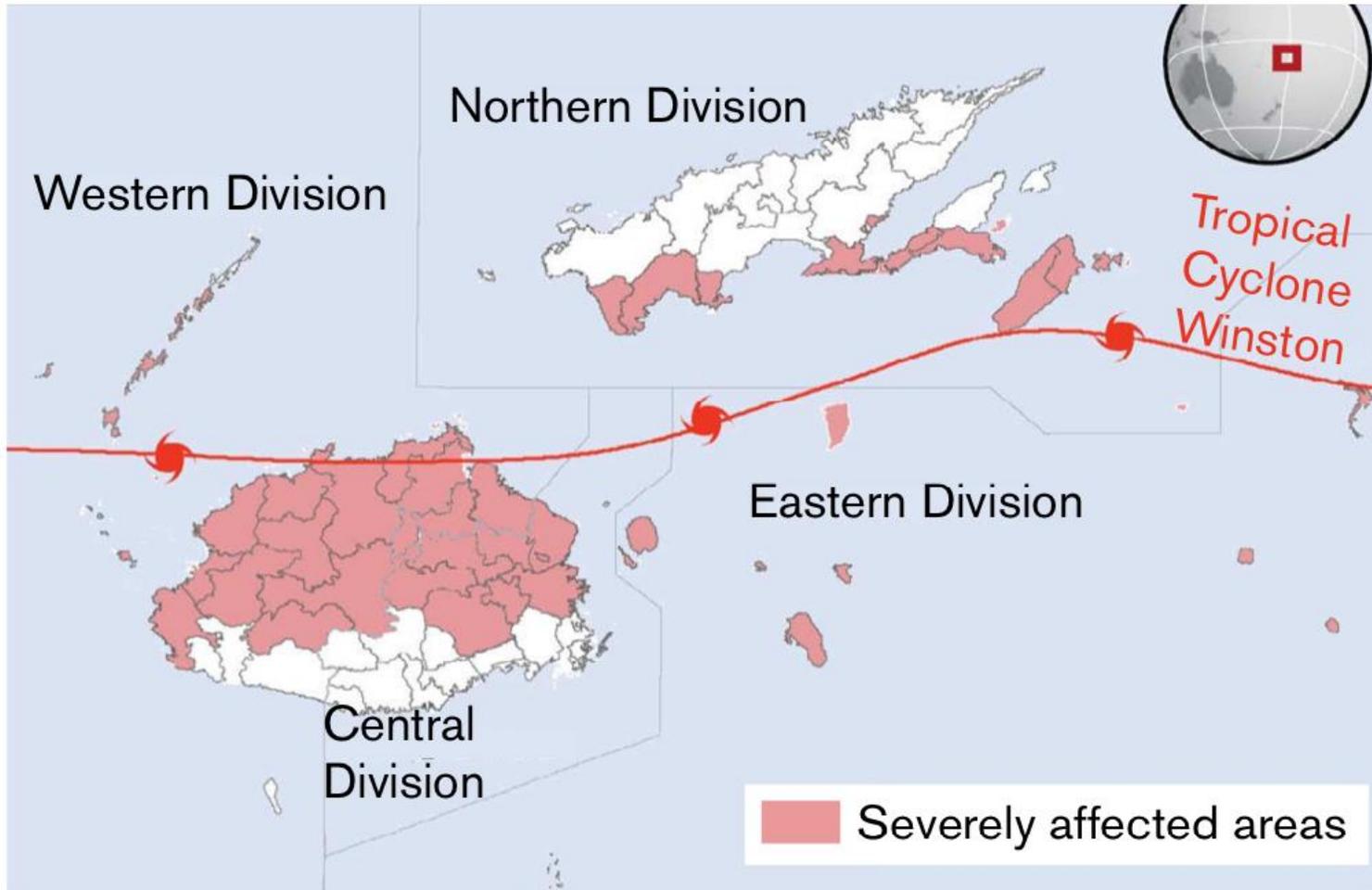
Research context: Humanitarian response and development nexus



Western Division: “Risk reduction included in community development plans”

“**Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides:** work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability...” Agenda for Humanity (UN 2016)

Research context: Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston



Source: UNOCHA (2016)



Research context: Fiji governance and Western Division

Lautoka:

- Population 52,000
- Second largest Fijian city
- 20,000 people living in informal settlements



Research Methods and Approach

**Qualitative
research**

**Three
phases**

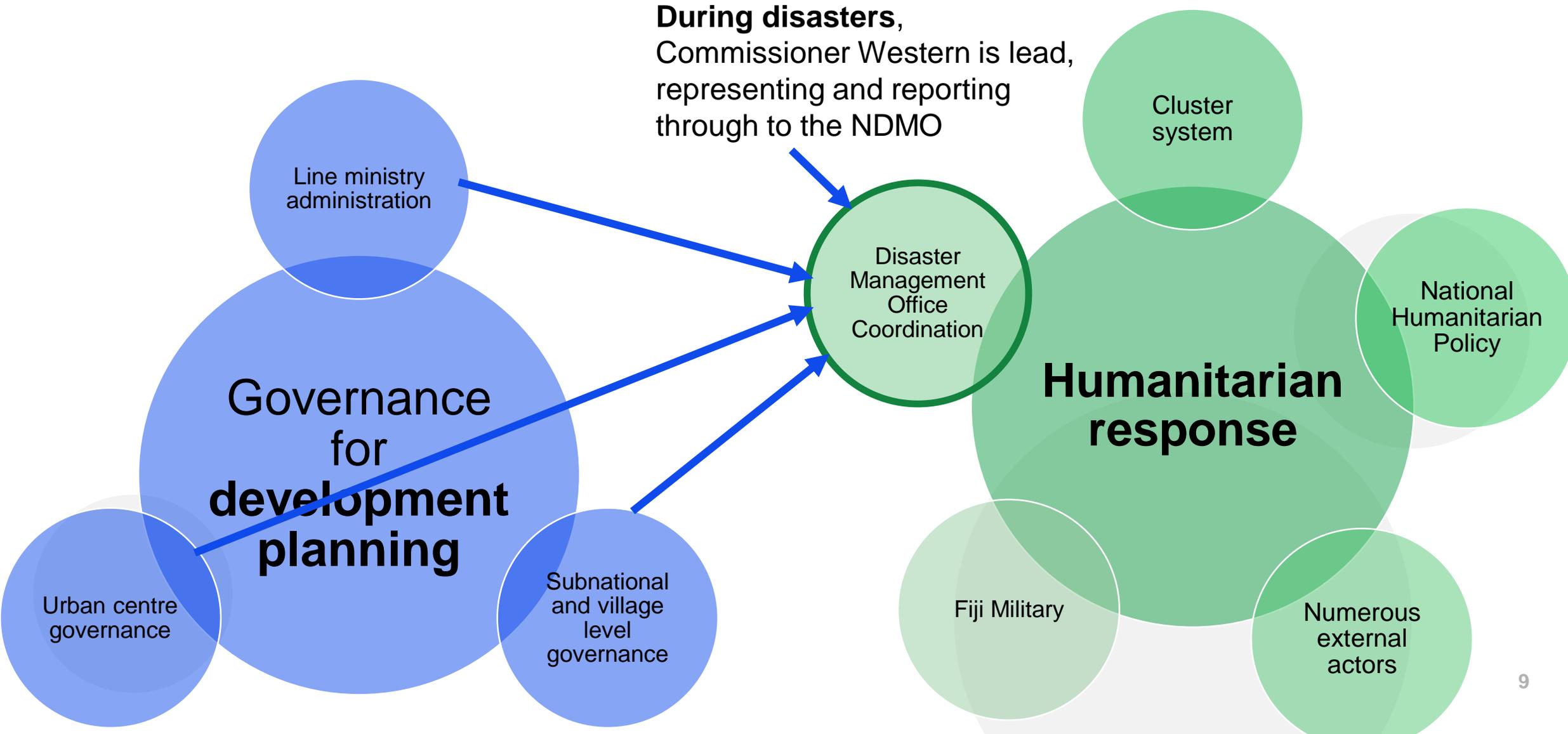
**Key research
questions**

**Research
endorsed by
Western
Division
Government**

The background features several abstract, irregular geometric shapes in two colors: a vibrant blue and a dark charcoal grey. These shapes are scattered across the white background, with a large blue shape in the upper left and a dark grey shape in the upper right. Other smaller shapes of both colors are positioned in the lower left, lower right, and bottom center areas.

Findings

Bridging the divide: Sub-national governance



Bridging the divide: Sub-national governance

“We need to have **more work together**, to not only link at the same time of the disaster but also **before and after disaster** and to link together. Not just the meeting at time of disaster. It’s better to have us **meet monthly and quarterly**” (NGO representative, Western Division).

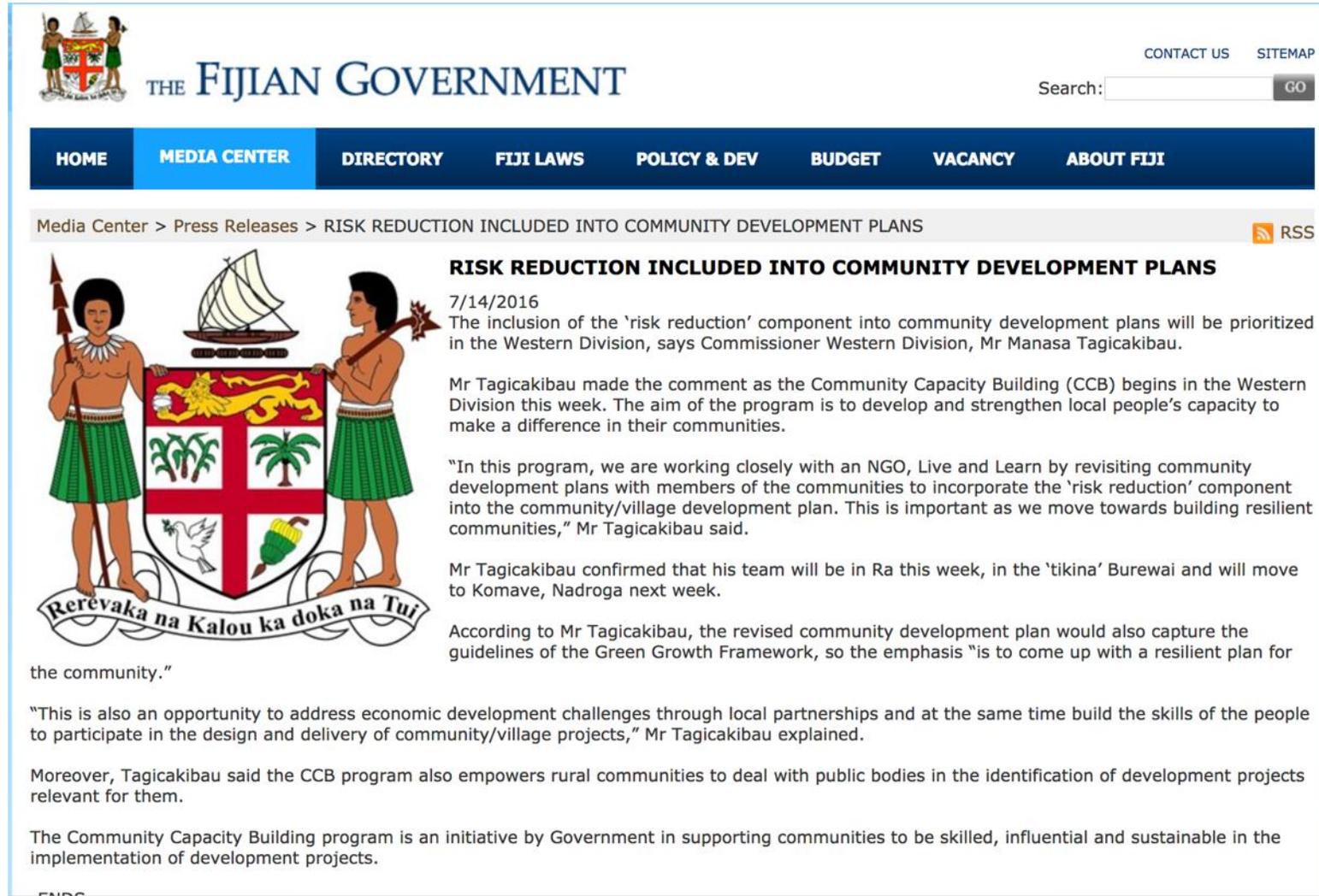
“There needs to be a **divisional vision** in place and **clearly communicated**. There needs to be **regular meetings** and communications” (Government representative, Western Division).

“It’s unfortunate - we try to **fix the here and now** and **forget the long-term** and the **perspective of the future**” (Government representative, Western Division).

Localisation in action

Benefits of local leadership:

- 1) During the TC Winston response, staff understood the development **needs** and **priorities** in the communities in which they were providing emergency relief; and
- 2) Outside of the TC Winston response, **integrating risk into development planning** was something many subnational government staff in Western Division could speak about with confidence and experience



The screenshot shows the official website of the Fiji Government. At the top, there is the national emblem and the text 'THE FIJIAN GOVERNMENT'. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, MEDIA CENTER, DIRECTORY, FIJI LAWS, POLICY & DEV, BUDGET, VACANCY, and ABOUT FIJI. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Media Center > Press Releases > RISK REDUCTION INCLUDED INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS'. Below this is the title of the press release, 'RISK REDUCTION INCLUDED INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS', dated 7/14/2016. The text of the press release discusses the inclusion of a 'risk reduction' component into community development plans in the Western Division, led by Commissioner Mr. Manasa Tagicakibau. It mentions the Community Capacity Building (CCB) program and the goal of building resilient communities. The press release also includes a quote from Mr. Tagicakibau about the program's focus on local partnerships and skill-building. The national emblem is displayed on the left side of the page, with the motto 'Rerevaka na Kalou ka doka na Tui' below it.

Media Center > Press Releases > RISK REDUCTION INCLUDED INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

RISK REDUCTION INCLUDED INTO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

7/14/2016

The inclusion of the 'risk reduction' component into community development plans will be prioritized in the Western Division, says Commissioner Western Division, Mr Manasa Tagicakibau.

Mr Tagicakibau made the comment as the Community Capacity Building (CCB) begins in the Western Division this week. The aim of the program is to develop and strengthen local people's capacity to make a difference in their communities.

"In this program, we are working closely with an NGO, Live and Learn by revisiting community development plans with members of the communities to incorporate the 'risk reduction' component into the community/village development plan. This is important as we move towards building resilient communities," Mr Tagicakibau said.

Mr Tagicakibau confirmed that his team will be in Ra this week, in the 'tikina' Burewai and will move to Komave, Nadroga next week.

According to Mr Tagicakibau, the revised community development plan would also capture the guidelines of the Green Growth Framework, so the emphasis "is to come up with a resilient plan for the community."

"This is also an opportunity to address economic development challenges through local partnerships and at the same time build the skills of the people to participate in the design and delivery of community/village projects," Mr Tagicakibau explained.

Moreover, Tagicakibau said the CCB program also empowers rural communities to deal with public bodies in the identification of development projects relevant for them.

The Community Capacity Building program is an initiative by Government in supporting communities to be skilled, influential and sustainable in the implementation of development projects.

Urban policy lag

Western Division - Lautoka



Source: FBC News

Western Division - rural



Source: Getty

The background features several abstract, irregular geometric shapes in two colors: a vibrant blue and a dark charcoal grey. These shapes are scattered across the white background, with some overlapping. The largest blue shape is in the upper left quadrant, while other smaller shapes are distributed in the top left, top right, and bottom center areas.

Implications and Opportunities

Institutional structures that enable nexus

Apply the coordination seen in the humanitarian response to Tropical Cyclone Winston to the longer-term development agenda



Risk integrated development planning

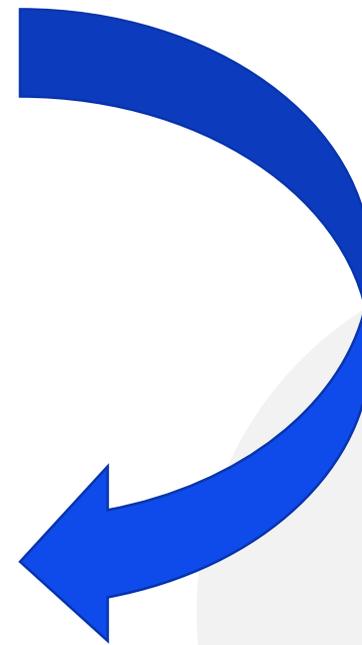
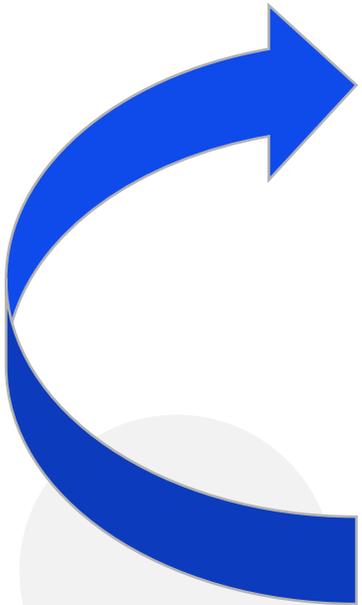
“Humanitarian Development Nexus”

H u m a n i t a r i a n :

Meeting needs of people affected by crises + reducing underlying risks and inequalities

D e v e l o p m e n t :

Ensuring development practices do not enhance vulnerability, exposure & risk



Risk integrated development planning

“Humanitarian Development Nexus”

Meeting needs of people affected by crises + reducing underlying risks and inequalities

Ensuring development practices do not enhance vulnerability, exposure & risk

Risk-based decision making:

- Risk informed development plans
- Climate change
- Multi-hazard
- Complex + emerging risks & trends (e.g. urbanisation)
- Trade-offs
- Communicate lessons
- Govt + non-govt
- Donor + international agencies

Risk integrated development planning

“Humanitarian Development Nexus”



Meeting needs of people affected by crises + reducing underlying risks and inequalities

Ensuring development practices do not enhance vulnerability, exposure & risk

Disaster response that integrates development priorities

“Humanitarian Development Nexus”

Meeting needs of people affected by crises + reducing underlying risks and inequalities

Ensuring development practices do not enhance vulnerability, exposure & risk

Response that integrates development:

- Local leadership
- Links to risk-informed development plans
- Principles of risk integration → response
- Built on pre-existing relationships (govt+non-govt)
- Supported by donors, international NGOs

Summary

- Fiji's Western Division: pre-existing platform for developing a coordinated response, recovery and development nexus
- Urban policy lag: reforms needed to support the nexus; institutions that support both response and development
- Results have implications for supporting resilience in fast-growing cities + climate change → requires policy to support long term development

Anna Gero

Research Principal

Anna.gero@uts.edu.au

IIED Urban Crises Learning Fund – research publications:

Briefing Note: <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17472IIED.pdf>

Working Paper: <http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/10853IIED.pdf>

**Institute for
Sustainable Futures**
isf.uts.edu.au



Creating change towards
sustainable futures

UTS
The logo for the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), featuring the letters 'UTS' in a bold, sans-serif font above a stylized graphic of a building or network structure.