Bridging the divide between humanitarian-development nexus:

Lessons of governance from TC Winston in Fiji
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

“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

Key research questions

Three phases

Research endorsed by Western Division Government
Findings
Bridging the divide: Sub-national governance

Line ministry administration

Governance for development planning

Urban centre governance

Subnational and village level governance

Disaster Management Office Coordination

During disasters, Commissioner Western is lead, representing and reporting through to the NDMO

Humanitarian response

Cluster system

National Humanitarian Policy

Fiji Military

Numerous external actors

During disasters, Commissioner Western is lead, representing and reporting through to the NDMO.
“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.
Urban policy lag

Western Division - Lautoka

Western Division - rural

Source: FBC News
Source: Getty
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”

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

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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

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

Ensuring development practices do not enhance vulnerability, exposure & risk
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
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IIED Urban Crises Learning Fund – research publications:
Briefing Note: http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/17472IIED.pdf