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Protecting Human Health
from Climate Change

Piloting Health Adaptation- Fiji Update

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Scope of the Fiji Project

- **Climatic variables of concern:**
 - Water Stress (droughts and floods)
- **Climate sensitive diseases**
 - Dengue and Typhoid fever, Leptospirosis and Diarrhoeal illnesses
- **Institutional arrangements:**
 - MoH- project office, project implementation using existing structures
 - WHO- technical backstopping, contracts, procurement, etc.



Flooded Ba Town © Global Voices, 2009.



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Pilot Sites for Health Adaptation

| Sub-Division | Summary of Climate and Social Setting | Focal Disease and Climate Variables for Interventions |
|--------------|--|--|
| Ba | Predominantly rural. Leeward (dry) side of main island Viti Levu. | Lagged relationship between dengue and tropical depressions and droughts. Lagged relationship between diarrhoea and floods. |
| Suva | Urban setting. Windward (wet) side of main island Viti Levu. | Time-series analysis of diarrhoea with rainfall and minimum temperature. |

Both sites have reliable, long-term climate and health data.



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Activities: Community Adaptation

1. Memorandum of Agreement with the Fiji Red Cross Society to implement adaptation activities;
2. Partnership with the Fiji Meteorological Service to develop Early Warning Systems;
3. Correlation analysis well-advanced and some models robust enough to base potential early-warning systems on;

Activities: Community Adaptation- cont'd

4. Field visit to the Ba Sub-division health office to:
 - a) Meet key stakeholders,
 - b) Determine level of awareness of climate change,
 - c) Determine value of early-warning systems,
 - d) Initial identification of hotspots within Ba,
 - e) SWOT analysis of the Ba sub-division's response to the March floods.



Activities: Community Adaptation- cont'd

5. Field SWOT analysis on effectiveness of flood response in 6 health sub-divisions in the Western Division;
6. Collaboration with MSc. students undertaking study of dengue's sensitivity to climate in Ba and sensitivity of diarrhoea and typhoid in Suva;
7. Very good support from MoH HQ, Western Division and Sub-divisional offices for project activities.

Next Steps and Conclusion

Next Steps

- Develop early warning systems for Ba and Suva sub-divisions;
- Strengthen health information systems and capacity for effective utilisation of early warnings;
- Plan and execute community health adaptation activities in pilot sites;
- Share results with other sub-divisions and other countries in global project.

Conclusion

Health and climate change is a relatively un-explored territory. This pilot project provides opportunity to test novel adaptation ideas and establish robust systems for continued capacity building and adaptation.