

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN TSUNAMI-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY

Project Completion Report 2023 Cycle



TARHO 066

UNITAR, DIVISION FOR PROSPERITY

Hiroshima, Japan

Contents

About Us	3
Executive Summary	7
Programme Summary	7
Programme Statistics	8
Outcomes	8
Lessons Learned	9
Programme Summary	10
Objectives	11
2023 Cycle Participants	12
Structure and Methodology	15
Timeline	18
Alignment with the 2030 Agenda	18
Outcomes	20
UNITAR Standard Programme Evaluation Indicators	20
Relevance of Learning Objectives and Extent to Which Participants Met Learning Objectives ...	22
Effectiveness of the Methodologies	24
Knowledge Change	25
Lessons Learned	26
Conclusion	28
ANNEXES	29
ANNEX I: Increase in Skills and Knowledge (Phase I)	29
ANNEX II: Increase in Skills and Knowledge (Phase II)	31
ANNEX III: Phase I Training Programme Agenda	32
ANNEX IV: Phase II Training Workshop Agenda	33
ANNEX V: Contribution to the 10 Core Values of UNITAR Division for Prosperity	37

About Us

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), established in 1963, is the dedicated adult-learning training arm of the United Nations. We deliver innovative learning solutions to individuals and organizations to enhance decision-making and support action towards a better future.

The Division for Prosperity is one of the seven divisions of UNITAR and consists of the Public Finance and Trade Programme Unit and the Hiroshima Office. Driven to “leave no one behind”, we provide creative, cutting-edge learning solutions to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

We strive to reach society’s most vulnerable, including women, youth and those in conflict situations. Our clients are individuals and institutions in least developed countries, small island developing states and conflict and post-conflict countries.

With staff in Geneva and Hiroshima, as well as field staff across the world, our reach is global, allowing us to deliver critical training and support to learners from more than 90 countries.

On behalf of the Division, I thank you for your support for our work and vital mission. Working together, we can make meaningful progress in building the next generation of changemakers and move closer to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities for a sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for all.



隈元美穂子

Mihoko Kumamoto

Director

Division for Prosperity

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) expresses our sincerest gratitude to **the Government of Japan**, for the support and financial contribution to the UNITAR Hiroshima Women's Leadership in Tsunami-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 Cycle.

We wish to acknowledge these women leaders for their contributions to Phase I of the 2023 programme:

- Dr. Richard Crichton, Consultant Lecturer at the Pacific Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development- University of the South Pacific. .
- Prof. Izumi Takako, Professor of Global Environmental Studies - Tohoku University Prof. JC Guilliard, Professor of Geography, School of Environment - University of Auckland. Prof. Ms Judith Giblin, Ocean and Coastal Risk Data Analyst - Pacific Community (SPC)
- Dr. Ven Paolo Valenzuela, Research Fellow for Asian Urbanisms Cluster – National University of Singapore.
- Ms. Julia Wallwork, Country Director for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Samoa and Tokelau.
- Dr. Tomoko Takeda, Associate Researcher – Department of Earth and Planetary Science, The University of Tokyo
- Naheed M Ahmed, Programme Specialist - Gender & Resilience, Humanitarian & Resilience Unit- UNWomen Ms. Ruci Senikula, Regional Coordinator – Disaster Ready Project, Pacific Disability Forum

We acknowledge the following for their valuable contributions to Phase II of the 2023 programme:

- Mr. Sione Pulotu 'Akau'ola, Chief Executive Officer - Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Tonga
- Ms. Branwen Miller, Programme Management Officer (Gender Advisor) – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction
- Ms. Katrina Ma'u Fatiaki, Consultant Tapuaki Mei Langi
- Mr. Laitia Fifita Deputy Director – Tonga Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC)
- Mr. Viliami Tongamana, National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), Inter-Cluster Coordinator – NDRMO, Ministry of MEIDECC
- Ms. Luisa Uai Taunga – Senior Assistant Secretary, NDEMO
- Ms. Joey Joleen Mataele, President – Tonga Leitis' Association
- Ms. Karishman Narayan, Gender and Protection Advisor (Humanitarian) – Tonga UN Women
- Mr. Unaloto Halafihi, Mr. Timote Solo, Mr. Ofeina Leka – Pacific Disability Forum
- Ms. Nanise Fifita, Head of School – Media & Journalism Faculty of Education, Arts & Humanity of the Tonga National University (TNU)
- Ms. Kathy Mafi – Tonga Family Health Association
- Ms. Simata E La'a Palu, Resilience Manager – Tonga Tourism Authority

- Mr. Simana Kami, Owner – ‘Oholei Resort
- Mr. Sikula, Town Officer – ‘Atatasi’i
- Dr. Ven Paolo Valenzuela, Research Fellow – National University of Singapore
- Dr. Richard Crichton, Consultant – The University of the South Pacific
- Ms. Kioa-Fakava, Assistant Chief Executive Officer – National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) - Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), Tonga

The programme would not have been possible without the contributions of the following:

- United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- National Research Institute for Fire and Disaster, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan
- Cabinet Office, Japan
- World Health Organization Kobe Centre
- Institute for Global Environment Strategy
- The University of Tokyo
- Tohoku University
- NPO – Gender Action Platform
- NPO – Yappesu
- NPO – Ogatsu Rose Garden
- NPO – Rera
- NPO – Assistive Technology Development Organization
- NPO Center Hiroshima
- Association of Bereaved Parents of Okawa Elementary School
- Marine Pro. Co. Ltd, Ishinomaki
- Fukken Co. Ltd., Hiroshima
- Hiroshima Home TV. Co., Ltd.
- Wakayama Prefectural Government
- Hiroshima Prefectural Government
- Sendai City Government
- Ishinomaki City Government
- Hirogawa Town Government
- Institute for Climate and Peace



Executive Summary

The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami stand as some of the most profound natural calamities of the twenty-first century. The explosion in early 2022 of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai, the submarine volcano in Tonga, caused tsunamis not only in Tonga but in as many countries as American Samoa, Chile, Fiji, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, the United States and Vanuatu. The tragedies have precipitated an earnest reassessment of the formidable power of natural forces and their significant implications for community vulnerability, as well as the overall achievement of objectives set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

These tragedies also make evident that social vulnerabilities intensify the impact of emergencies, particularly affecting women, older people, youth, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and displaced individuals including refugees and migrants. Empowering women by integrating them into decision-making processes not only facilitates equity but is a strategic approach to mitigate disaster vulnerability as well as reinforce community resilience and sustainability.

Programme Summary

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in collaboration with its affiliates, ran the **UNITAR Hiroshima Women's Leadership in Tsunami-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 Cycle**, from 13 September 2023 to 11 March 2024. The 2023 Programme was the eighth iteration of the UNITAR DRR Programme and the second round to feature an extended second phase.

The DRR Programme was designed to equip professionals with the necessary skills to help their countries and communities enhance their capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. Particular emphasis was placed on addressing gender-specific capacities and vulnerabilities within communities.

The 2023 Programme welcomed participation from adults of all genders worldwide, placing a particular emphasis on applicants from the Pacific region and from small island developing states.

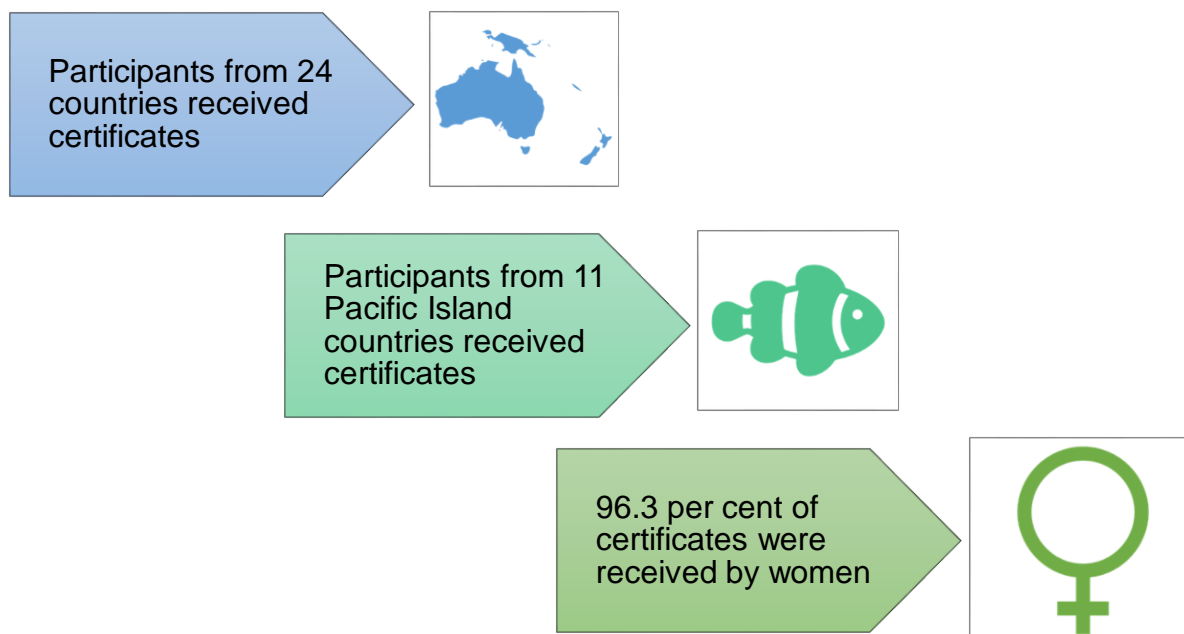
The first phase of the Programme was a comprehensive 10-week online course on the foundations of disaster risk reduction. The newly introduced second phase entailed an intensive one-week workshop conducted in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, where participants cultivated advanced competencies in disaster risk management and leadership.

This Programme was completed with the steadfast support of the People and Government of Japan. This partnership underscores a long-standing shared commitment to fostering global resilience and capacity-building in the face of disasters.



Programme Statistics

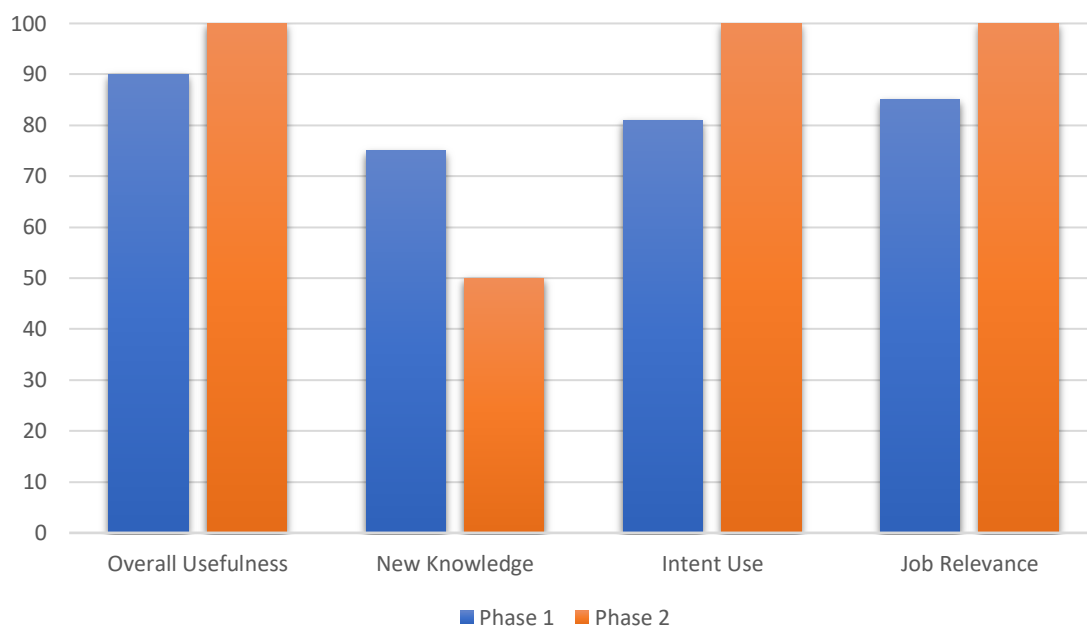
The 2023 programme issued a total of 121 certificates by the end of both phases.



Outcomes

Participants ranked *overall usefulness* and *intent to use* in Phase I as 90%. The *job relevance* of the training material and *new knowledge gained* also ranked above the 75% target margin. However, *new knowledge gained* did not reach this target. It is possible that knowledge about the Sendai Framework, DRR concepts and practices are already being rooted and mainstreamed in participants' daily practices.

Outcomes of Phase 1 and Phase 2



Lessons Learned

Disaster risk reduction accounting for climate change **continues to be a key priority**, especially for the Pacific region. **Interest in the training programme is growing exponentially**, especially from South and Southeast Asia as well as from Africa and the Middle East.

The **in-person training had a huge positive impact** on the participants, especially the study visits to the stricken sites from the 2022 underwater volcanic eruption and tsunami. The stories shared by first responders to the tsunamis highlighted the importance of leaders and “heroes” who give the community the right guidance in a timely manner. The study tour brought participants to one of the relocated villages, where the Chair talked about how they were struggling to rebuild the community in the new location.

Programme alumni are making noticeable contributions to the disaster risk reduction field, and some have returned as resource persons for the UNITAR programme. The alumni also serve as role models who evolved into experts in the field after the UNITAR training programme.

Participants indicated that **increasing relevant Pacific and Asian content** greatly enhanced their learning experience. The networking of participants beyond regions, and with experts or resource persons, made a great impact. Some **participants stayed in touch afterwards and set up a working group**.

Community inclusion of vulnerable populations was a highlight. Speakers from LGBTQ+ and disability communities shared moving experiences from the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Hapaii eruption and tsunamis. They stressed good engagement with people and preparation during times of normalcy.

While all participants were satisfied with the workshop duration, some participants expressed a need for an advanced post-Phase II level.



Programme Summary

The 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami are some of the most cataclysmic disasters of the past 20 years. They have led to a profound recognition of the unforgiving nature of environmental forces and their ramifications for community structures and the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

Amidst the escalating climate crisis, there has been a notable surge in the frequency and severity of global disasters. Moreover, human-induced crises like the Russia-Ukraine conflict, along with biological threats like the COVID-19 pandemic, have severely disrupted industrial activities, production and global food supply chains. This underscores the imperative for an integrated and multifaceted emergency response that is equipped to handle a spectrum of hazards.

The exacerbation of risks faced by socially vulnerable demographics – women, older people, youth, children, individuals with disabilities, indigenous populations, refugees, migrants and other marginalized groups – during emergencies is a critical concern. Empowering women to actively engage in decision-making processes is essential not only to diminish their susceptibility to disasters but also to enhance the overall resilience of communities.

In this challenging landscape, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and its affiliates ran the **UNITAR Hiroshima Women's Leadership in Tsunami-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 Cycle**, from 13 September 2023 to 11 March 2024.

The 2023 Programme was the eighth iteration of the UNITAR DRR Programme since its inauguration in 2016 and marked the second round that it was extended to include a practical second phase. The Programme has received unwavering support from the people and the Government of Japan, highlighting a collective investment in the fortification of global disaster preparedness and mitigation.



Objectives

The DRR Programme was designed to equip professionals with the necessary skills to help their countries and communities enhance their capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The overarching goal was to cultivate an “all-of-society” inclusive approach, in alignment with the principles of the Sendai Framework. Particular emphasis was placed on addressing gender-specific capacities and vulnerabilities within communities, as well as on imparting foundational knowledge in disaster risk reduction.

The first phase of the Programme was a comprehensive 10-week online course on the foundations of disaster risk reduction. In its second phase, the Programme trained selected participants in leadership and management skills critical to effective disaster risk reduction and management in the Pacific islands. This aimed to strengthen local capacities for sustainable development and resilience in the face of natural calamities.

At the end of each phase, the participants should be able to:

Phase I

1. Explain foundational knowledge and frameworks in disaster risk reduction

- Describe the key principles of disaster risk reduction, with a focus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Discuss the international and regional frameworks on disaster risk reduction
- Describe ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and develop an understanding between climate and disaster risks
- Outline community-based disaster risk reduction and what it means for an all-of-society approach
- Describe key elements of the multi-hazard approach, including biological hazards

2. Apply case studies and specific approaches

- Explain key lessons learned from Japan’s experience with disasters, including the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
- Describe good practices in gender-inclusive disaster risk reduction in the Pacific, Asia and Japan
- Report on and discuss norms and challenges regarding an all-inclusive approach to disaster risk reduction
- Describe multi-stakeholder coalition and challenges in the Pacific

3. Understand leadership and inclusivity in disaster risk reduction

- Develop an inclusive country disaster risk reduction plan
- Illustrate the importance of gender-inclusive leadership in the context of disaster risk reduction
- Describe climate-resilient and peace-oriented leadership

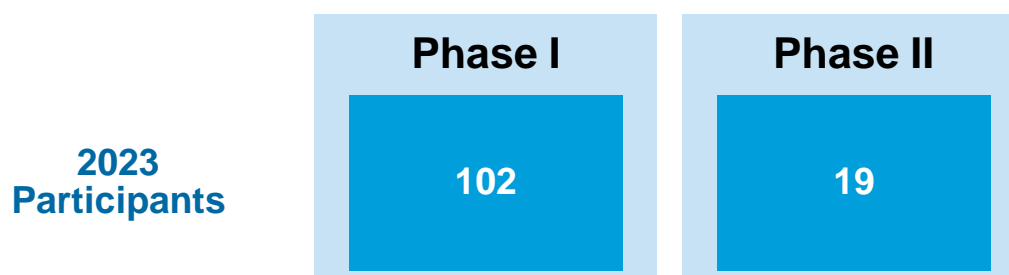
Phase II

- Describe important characteristics necessary for leadership and management in relation to disaster risk management and the disaster risk reduction experience
- Develop a technical understanding of hazards associated with the Pacific region and the assessment tools.
- Outline effective communication skills in disaster risk reduction and a working professional understanding of working with the media
- Discuss the needs of vulnerable groups for inclusivity in disaster risk reduction planning
- Develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for nature-based solutions, indigenous and traditional knowledge and local resilience
- Understand the risks associated with disasters, such as mental health

2023 Cycle Participants

The Programme welcomed participation from adults of all genders worldwide, placing a particular emphasis on applicants from the Pacific region and from small island developing states.

102 participants completed Phase I and received certificates. 19 high-performing participants who completed Phase I were invited to Phase II, and were awarded certificates upon completion of the phase.

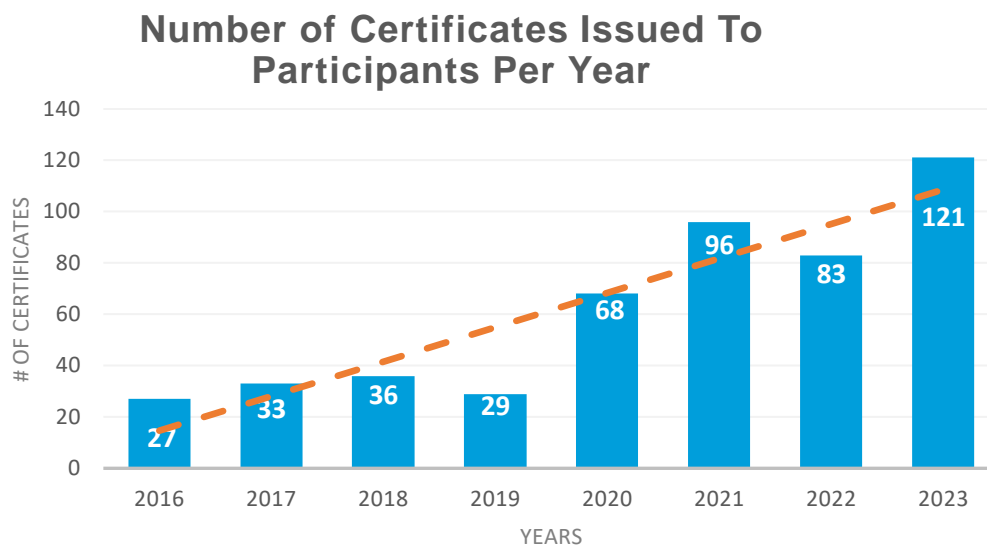


Number of participants who participated in Phase I and number who went on to Phase II

A significant proportion of the participants hailed from Pacific small island developing states, representing a diverse array of sectors including government, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. In terms of gender distribution, women received 96% of the certificates issued, demonstrating a strong female representation, while men accounted for 3% of the certificates. This mix underscores the inclusive nature of the programme and its appeal across various professional backgrounds.

Participants from 33 countries were awarded certificates upon the completion of Phase I, and individuals from 9 countries were recognized in Phase II.

Since the DRR Programme began in 2016, a total of 477 certificates have been awarded, predominantly to women from the Pacific islands. It reflects a strong regional focus and a commitment to empowering women leaders in disaster risk reduction.



Number of participants who received certificates per cycle

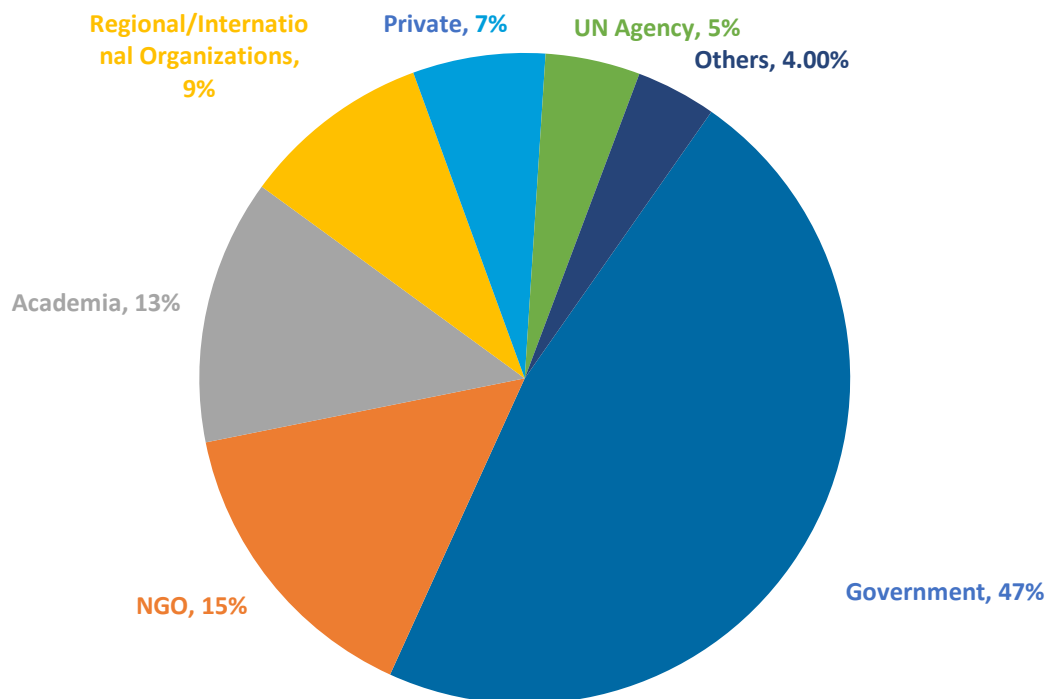
For Phase I certificates, 16 were awarded to participants from Samoa, Fiji 13, the Philippines 10, Bangladesh 7, Papua New Guinea 7, Tonga 7, Cook Islands 6, Solomon Islands 5, Indonesia 4, India 3 and Kiribati 2.

Participants from Austria, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Hong Kong, Italy, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe each received 1.

In Phase II, certificates were awarded to 6 to participants from Tonga, 3 to individuals from Samoa and Fiji respectively, 2 to participants from the Cook Islands, and 1 each to representatives from Indonesia, New Zealand, Palau, the Philippines and Tokelau.

Of the 102 participants in the 2023 Programme, the majority were affiliated with government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

2023 PARTICIPANTS BY SECTOR



Sectoral representation in the 2023 programme (percentage of participants per sector)



My interest in attending Phase 2 of this workshop was built on two things: First, as a Pacific islander who works in the gender equality, disability and social inclusion space, I know and have learned that the issue of disaster risk reduction is gendered, and I wanted to strengthen my knowledge and capacity in this area. Second, I believe that gleaning from other colleagues in this area of work and support will provide better all-rounded solutions to addressing disaster risks, management and coordination – every colleague from their diverse background can contribute to the strategies available for all peoples and communities.”

Kelerayani Heavula Gavidu from Fiji

Structure and Methodology

The 2023 Programme started with a needs assessment and contained two phases.

Needs Assessment

A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted to ensure that the programme's objectives harmonized not only with established best practices but also with the requirements identified by the participants. It included an analysis of feedback and evaluations from previous programme cycles and relevant literature and consultations with regional and thematic experts. It ensured that the programme was aligned with the evolving needs of its stakeholders.

Phase I

Phase I comprised 10 weeks of online learning, featuring on-demand e-lessons, interactive exercises and live webinars by subject matter experts. The phase started on 13 September 2023 and ended on 2 December. Participants were required to develop and submit a personalized disaster risk reduction plan alongside a final assignment. Phase I content was based on Japan's profound disaster management expertise and enriched by insights from Pacific and Southeast Asian experiences.

Introduction to DRR and Japan's Experiences

Participants studied major disasters such as the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami and the 2018 heavy floods in Western Japan, which emphasized the importance of robust disaster risk reduction plans. They explored key elements of the Sendai Framework and observed disaster risk reduction initiatives in Sendai City, Japan. Participants gained practical insights from analysing the impact of having or lacking a disaster risk reduction plan. As a part of their first assignment, they developed draft disaster risk reduction plans, applying their newfound knowledge.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific

This section explored climate change and disaster risk reduction in the Pacific region. Participants examined the international framework for disaster risk reduction within the Pacific context and gained insights into the interplay between climate change and disasters. They also studied the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Case studies from both Japan and the Pacific were reviewed to enhance understanding.

Online Training Course – Sections

Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction

This section centered on gender equality and the pivotal role of women's leadership in disaster risk reduction. Participants explored the imperative of women's empowerment for effective disaster risk reduction and how women's leadership fosters more inclusive planning processes. Participants gained insights into disaster risk reduction through a gender lens and honed essential leadership skills, preparing them to lead disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Preparing for Future Disasters: Preparedness and Community-based DRR

Participants studied human rights-based approaches for crafting inclusive disaster risk reduction plans that include socially vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, children, and older people. Additionally, the section covered community-based disaster risk reduction strategies, education initiatives, community-inclusive evacuation drills, and the preservation of a disaster risk reduction ethos through cultural rituals and ceremonies.

Participants engaged in on-demand e-learning via EdApp, a microlearning platform, to build a comprehensive understanding of disaster risk reduction. The e-learning featured micro lessons enriched by virtual-reality tours and interview videos, providing an immersive learning experience. Gamification helped to reinforce key concepts and enhance the retention of knowledge.



**Asynchronous
e-learning**

Subject matter experts gave live webinars on disasters and risks, gender, climate change, traditional knowledge and other topics. New videos, such as from survivors of the 2009 Samoa-Tonga tsunami, allowed participants to hear the voices of survivors, professionals and leaders from disaster-affected areas in the Pacific as well as in Japan.



**Voices of
experts and
disaster
survivors**



**Online
Learning -
Content**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the traditional study tours and evacuation drills – which were integral components of in-person trainings that tangibly conveyed the impact of disasters – were replaced with virtual reality and video documentaries incorporating aerial drone technologies. Despite the limitations of remote learning, such new technologies allowed participants to immerse themselves in simulated disaster scenarios and gain a nuanced understanding of disasters.



**New
technologies**



Assignments

Participants developed individual projects that focused on risk mitigation in a sector of their choice, through which they could apply the disaster risk reduction principles to address challenges in their respective domains.

Participants engaged in five live webinars, where they interacted with subject matter experts from Japan, the Pacific and Southeast Asia. A novel aspect was the incorporation of disaster scenarios, which featured fictional characters grappling with various disaster risks and were designed to stimulate discussion. Working collaboratively, participants analysed these scenarios and collectively formulated disaster risk reduction plans to address the specific hazards faced by these characters.



Webinars

Phase II

Phase II was a one-week in-person training workshop convened in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 5 to 11 March 2024. Themed “Leadership and Resilience for Disaster Risk Reduction,” the workshop drew inspiration from the aftermath of the 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai volcanic eruption and tsunami. Participants for Phase II were selected based on their overall performance and projects submitted at the end of Phase I.

The Phase II immersive workshop afforded participants a first-hand Pacific perspective on disaster risk reduction, fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the region. As a poignant conclusion to the workshop, the anniversary of the 11 March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami was solemnly observed.

Distinguished subject matter experts from local and regional organizations based in Tonga were chosen to deliver presentations aligned with Phase II’s learning objectives. Further details on the Phase II workshop are in Annex IV.

Direct learning with experts

Participants had the invaluable opportunity to learn directly from subject matter experts from diverse fields crucial to leadership and disaster risk reduction management, including gender and disability inclusivity and mental health.

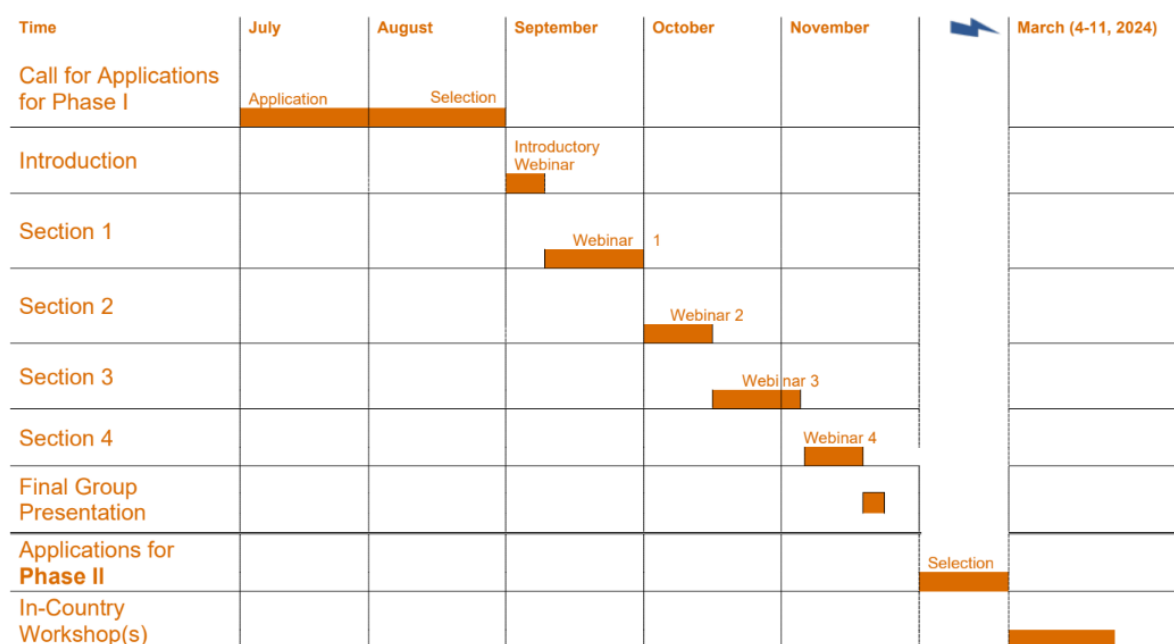
Participants went on study tours to locations impacted by the 2022 Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai tsunami. These included visits to the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) Tonga, the Tonga Geological Services, and the Tonga Meteorological Service. Additionally, participants toured the ‘Oholei Beach Resort, sections of which were washed away in the tsunami, which gave participants powerful insights into the devastation caused by disasters. They also visited relocated villages, where they met with community leaders and learned about their first-hand experiences.

Site visit tours

Interactive Learning

In small working groups, participants collaborated on their final presentations. These group presentations were 4-minute videos in which participants shared their perspectives on the essence of leadership. Peer-to-peer learning was fostered during general sessions, where participants engaged in meaningful exchanges. Many participants discovered shared experiences and environments with fellow participants, despite their diverse backgrounds. This realization underscored the importance of tailoring solutions to the characteristics of each region, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all approach.

Timeline



The 2023 Programme timeline

Alignment with the 2030 Agenda

The Programme supported the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the following SDGs.

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and disasters in all countries
- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing states, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



Outcomes

At the end of the phases, participants were asked to evaluate the programme on the following:

1. UNITAR standard programme evaluation indicators: “New information,” “Job relevance,” “Intent to use,” “Overall usefulness”
2. Relevance of learning objectives and extent to which participants met learning objectives
3. Effectiveness of the methodologies
4. Knowledge changes from before to after the programme

UNITAR Standard Programme Evaluation Indicators

The standard UNITAR programme evaluation indicators are as follows:

- **New information** evaluates to what extent the programme provided new knowledge to the participants. Participants were asked to rate the statement “The information presented in this programme was new to me.”
- **Job relevance** evaluates to what extent the programme was relevant to a participant’s professional roles. Participants rated the statement “The content of the programme was relevant to my job.”
- **Intent to use** evaluates to what extent the participants intend to use their new knowledge. All participants agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “It is likely that I will use the information acquired.”
- **Overall usefulness** evaluates to what extent the participants saw the programme as useful and was assessed by the statement “Overall, the programme was useful.”



I was surprised how the programme changed my views on inclusivity – I went from viewing it from an “equality and justice” perspective to a “quality risk data” perspective. Women and marginalized groups have knowledge of key risk data. I believe this shift in perspective will make me a better risk manager, as I will incorporate this concept into all our programmes/training. Thank you

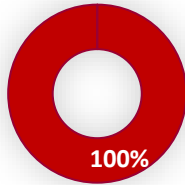
UNITAR!

Charlotte Vada from Papua New Guinea

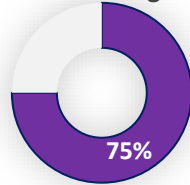
Phase I

Ninety-two per cent of participants responded to the survey at the end of Phase I. All participants found the programme useful overall, and all intended to use the knowledge and skills they acquired. Meanwhile, 85% of participants found the training relevant to their current job, and 75% indicated the programme provided them with new knowledge.

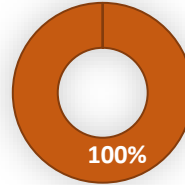
Overall Usefulness



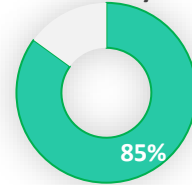
New Knowledge



Intent to Use



Job Relevancy

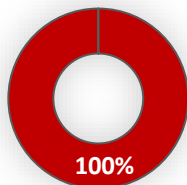


Phase II

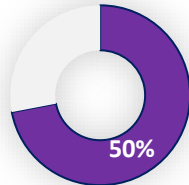
In the survey at the end of Phase II, all participants unanimously affirmed the overall usefulness of the programme, with 100% expressing their intentions to apply their new knowledge and skills. Additionally, every participant said the training was relevant to their current professional roles. However, only 50% of the participants reported that the programme offered them new knowledge.

This underscores the relevance and applicability of the training while highlighting a need to enhance the breadth and depth of the content provided.

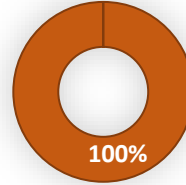
Overall Usefulness



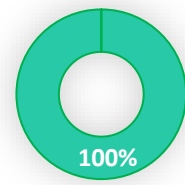
New Knowledge



Intent to Use



Job Relevancy



Relevance of Learning Objectives and Extent to Which Participants Met Learning Objectives

At the end of each phase, participants responded to a survey to assess the relevance of the course objectives to their learning needs and the extent to which they met the learning objectives. For both phases, the majority of participants indicated that they “mostly” or “fully” reached the training objectives, a great indication of the increasing knowledge of the participants.

Phase I

The Phase I training was based on these learning objectives:

A1: Ability to describe the key principles of disaster risk reduction, Sendai Framework for Action and Sustainable Development Goals

A2: Discuss ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction

A3: Illustrate key lessons learned from Japan’s experience regarding natural hazards including the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, and the 2018 West Japan Floods

A4: Describe key elements to reduce risks of biological hazards

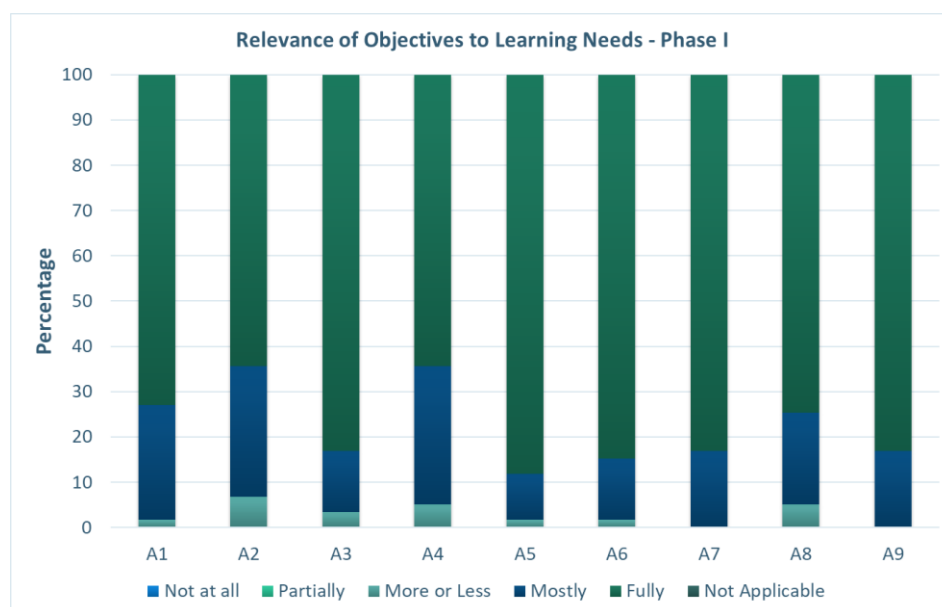
A5: Illustrate the importance of gender-inclusive leadership in the context of disaster risk reduction

A6: Describe good practice and report on norms and challenges regarding women’s leadership in the Pacific, Asia, including Japan

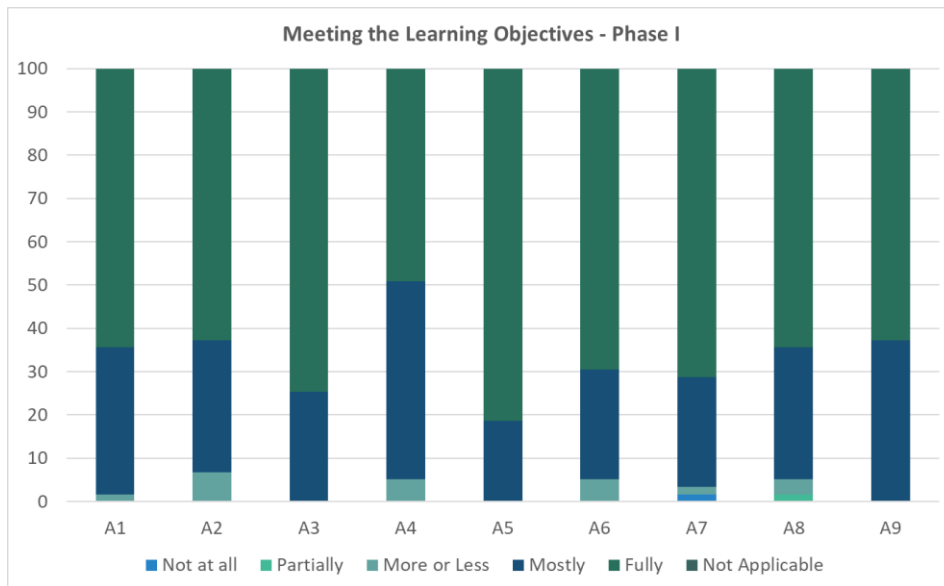
A7: Outline community-based disaster risk reduction

A8: Outline the importance of multi-stakeholder coalition in disaster risk reduction

A9: Develop inclusive disaster risk reduction plan



Relevance of the objectives to the learning needs of the participants during Phase I



Participants ranking of how they meet the learning objectives during Phase I

Phase II

The Phase II workshop had the following learning objectives.

A1: Leadership and management

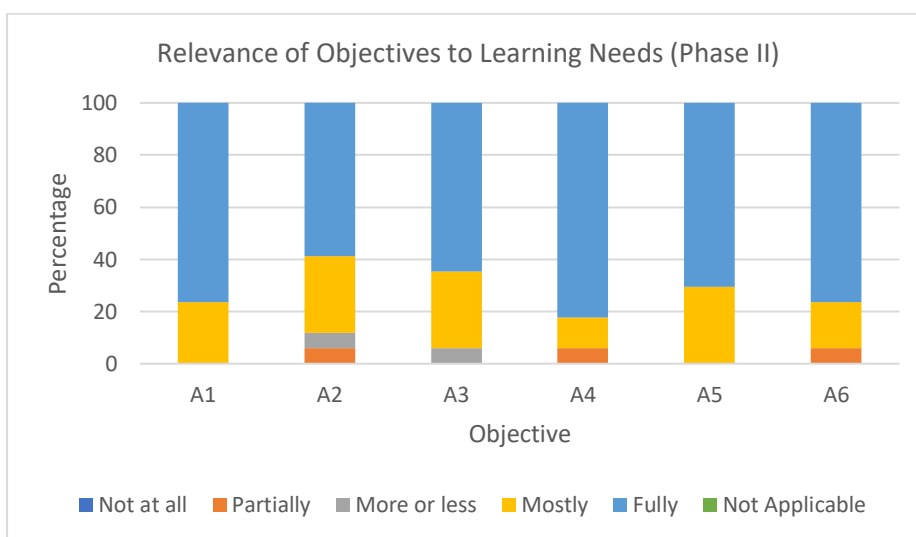
A2: Pacific disaster experience and the role of research in disaster risk reduction

A3: Media and communication skills

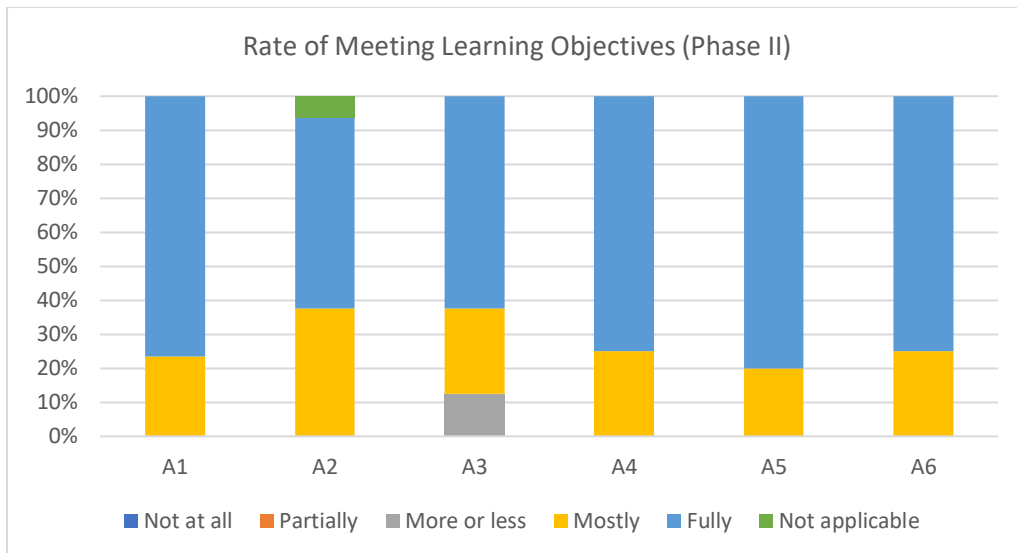
A4: Inclusivity in disaster risk reduction planning

A5: Understanding nature-based, traditional and indigenous knowledge

A6: Mental health in disaster risk reduction



Relevance of the objectives to the learning needs of the participants during Phase II



Participants ranking of how they meet the learning objectives during Phase II

Effectiveness of the Methodologies

In Phase I, participants learned through a combination of on-demand e-learning courses and live webinars with experts, readings, exercises and assignments. In Phase II, 20 selected participants took part in in-person learning with subject matter experts, site visits, group work and exercises.

Overall, 97% of participants strongly agreed that the programme’s methodology was useful as per the learning objectives, with the remaining 3% indicating a neutral stance.

Knowledge Change

Phase I

In all content areas of Phase I, significant increases in the knowledge of participants were achieved (see Annex 1). The most significant changes were recorded in the following areas:

- Japan's disaster experience
- Importance of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
- Women's leadership
- Inclusive disaster risk reduction planning

For Phase I, gender-inclusive leadership in the context of disaster risk reduction saw the highest increase in knowledge, with 80% of survey respondents saying their gains in knowledge from the programme were "high".

Phase II

In Phase II, significant increases in the knowledge of participants were also noted (see Annex 2). The most significant changes were recorded in the following areas:

- Understanding the science – hazards
- Role of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction
- Persons with disabilities
- Traditional knowledge

For Phase II, traditional knowledge received the highest level ("high") of increased knowledge, with 93% of survey respondents saying their gains in knowledge from the programme were "high".



As a Tongan Youth Leader, I see this programme as a pivotal chance for my personal and professional growth. Through it, I aim to deepen my understanding of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, particularly in Tonga and the Pacific. I seek to refine my leadership abilities, especially in engaging youth in resilience-building endeavours. My goal is to acquire practical skills in risk assessment, community engagement and gender-sensitive approaches to disaster response. I anticipate valuable networking opportunities with experts and peers, fostering collaboration and innovative solutions for Tonga and the Pacific. This programme will not only equip me to contribute effectively to disaster risk reduction but also empower me to advocate for resilient communities in the face of climate change.

Kilisitina Dianne Moala from Tonga

Lessons Learned

Building women’s capacity and leadership skills in disaster risk reduction including climate change is a key priority. The keynote speakers Chief Executive Officer – Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Communication and Government of Tonga and the Ambassador of Japan to Tonga, remarked climate change and resilience to disasters are high priorities for Tonga and the Pacific region. Local interest in the 2023 Programme was also noted during the Tonga workshop, which received local news media coverage (Annex V).

Adding Pacific content to our programme had a positive effect on the participants’ learning experience. The discernible enhancement in the participants’ learning experience, particularly those from Pacific island countries, underscores the significance of increasing Pacific content in our programme. At the same time, we continue to seek a good balance of content from the Pacific, Japan and Southeast Asia. We need to continually reassess and recalibrate our content strategy to strike a nuanced and equitable balance that reflects the multifaceted interests, perspectives and contributions of each region. This entails greater collaboration and consultation with stakeholders from across these diverse geographical spheres to ensure that our programme remains inclusive, comprehensive and responsive to the evolving needs and aspirations of all participants.

Interest in the training programme is growing exponentially, with high interest from South and Southeast Asia. Additionally, we observed consistent participation from small island developing states outside the Pacific, namely from the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. Professionals already working in leadership or management positions to address disaster risk reduction also joined the programme.

Thanks to the programme’s nearly decade-long history, **alumni frequently return in various capacities, such as resource persons or mentors, showcasing the enduring impact of our programme on their professional trajectories.** These returning alumni exemplify the longer-term effects of our programme, with many making significant contributions to the field of disaster risk reduction. Many show their dedication to supporting new cohorts of professionals, notably returning as resource persons in our programme. In the 2023 Programme, for example, one resource person was an alumna. Furthermore, these alumni serve as compelling role models, who have evolved into experts in the field after engaging with our programme, thereby inspiring and guiding future generations of disaster risk reduction professionals.

The return of in-person training has had a huge positive impact on the participants. Those who joined the Phase II in-person workshop benefited through networking with other professionals, not only with colleagues but also with resource persons and experts in the field. One hundred per cent of participants felt the duration (the length of the workshop and the sessions) was satisfactory. The study visits to the stricken sites from the 2022 underwater volcanic eruption and tsunami were also impactful to the participants. The stories shared by first responders to the tsunamis highlighted the importance of leaders and “heroes” who give the community the right guidance in a timely manner. The study tour brought participants to one of the relocated villages, where the Chair talked about how they were struggling to rebuild the community in the new location.

Following the culmination of the workshop, **participants from Phase II not only sustained their communication with each other but also proactively established a collaborative working group.** It demonstrates the profound impact and efficacy of the interpersonal engagement fostered by the in-person facet of the programme.

The emphasis on fostering community inclusivity, particularly among vulnerable populations, emerged as a prominent highlight. Speakers from the LGBTQ+ and disability communities shared their first-hand experiences amidst the tumultuous events surrounding the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai eruption and subsequent tsunamis. Their poignant narratives affirmed how engaging with individuals and meticulously preparing for disasters during times of normalcy are indispensable to effective disaster mitigation and response.

The 2023 Programme received many applications and 102 learners earned certificates of completion. However, the **shift from group work to more individual work in this round removed some**

accountability and pressure on participants to complete the assignments. We may therefore need to consider returning some aspects of group work to ensure a higher completion rate.

Technical and connectivity instability, the cost of the internet, and technological access continue to be a challenge for many participants in the Pacific. It is nonetheless promising that participants found creative ways around the problem for their final group presentations for Phase II, including using video recordings (Annex VI).

Although the consensus among participants reflected satisfaction with the duration of the workshop, some participants articulated **a desire for further engagement at an advanced level following the completion of Phase II.** To address this expressed need, we propose implementing a supplementary programme to cater to those participants seeking deeper and more specialized knowledge and skills development. This advanced-level offering could encompass advanced topics, specialized training modules, interactive sessions with subject matter experts, and opportunities for practical application and project-based learning. Additionally, **incorporating flexible scheduling options, such as asynchronous online components or intensive workshops, could ensure accessibility for participants with diverse commitments and preferences.** By addressing the specific needs and aspirations of this subgroup, we aim to provide a comprehensive and enriching learning experience that bridges the gap between Phase II and their desired level of proficiency and expertise.



Conclusion

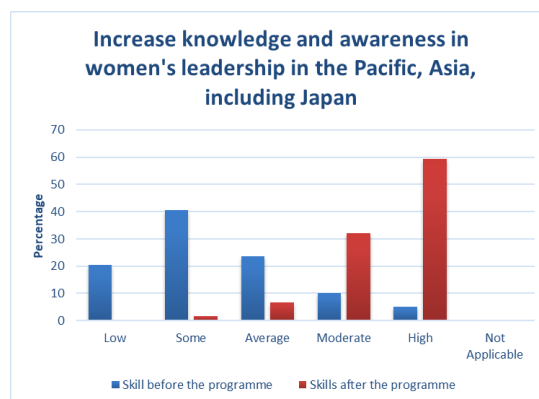
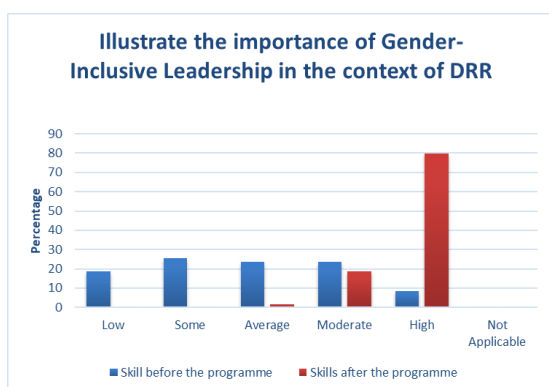
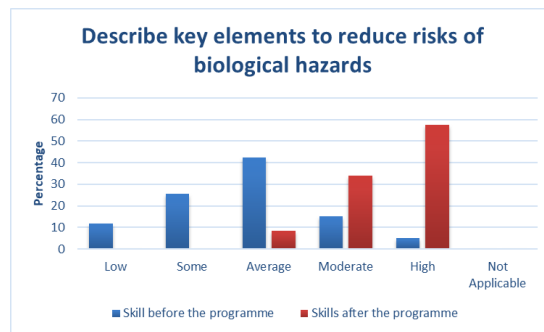
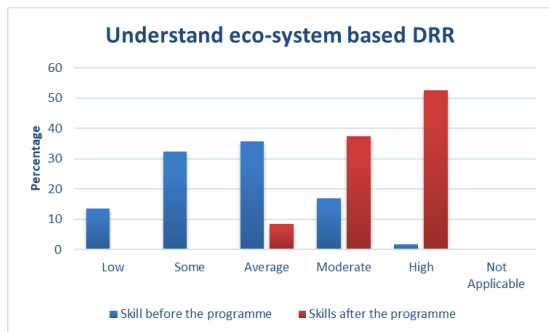
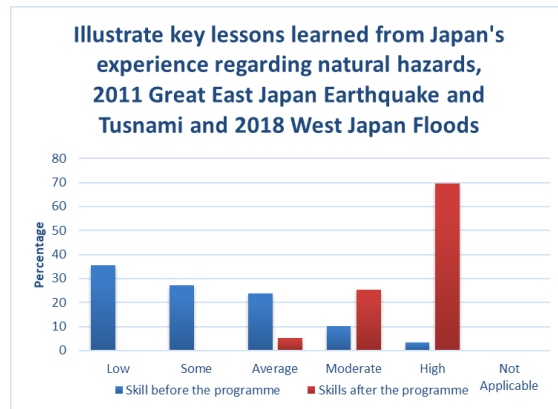
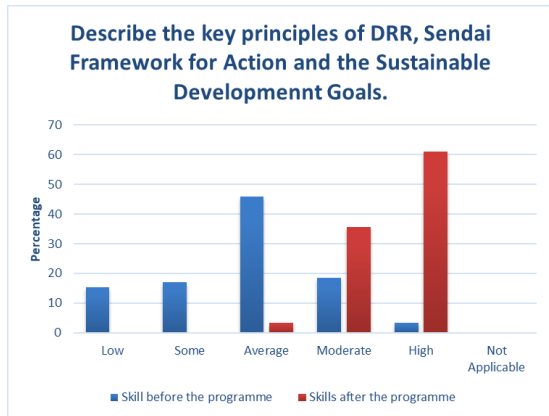
The 2023 Programme marked a milestone with the reintroduction of the in-person component, which allowed participants to draw inspiration from Tonga's resilience following the recent tsunami. Since transitioning to a fully online format in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNITAR has witnessed a notable uptick in participant engagement and completion rates, underscoring the effectiveness of the online delivery model. The strategic addition of an in-person second phase allowed participants to build upon their online learning and enhance their capacity for disaster risk reduction efforts within their communities.

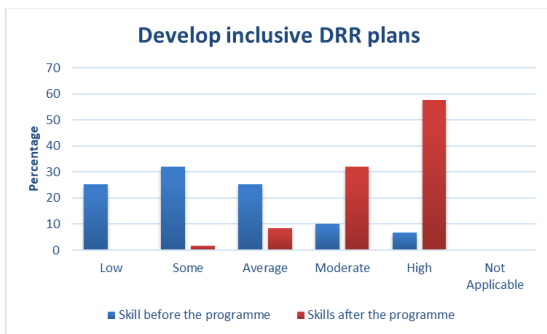
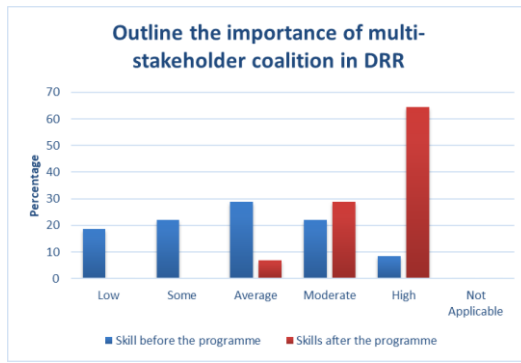
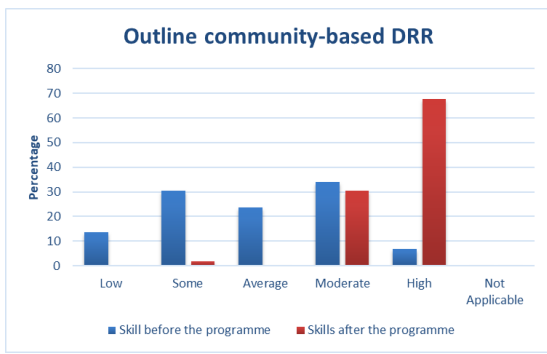
The 2023 Programme also attracted a wide range of experts as training facilitators, presenters, mentors, and resource persons, which enriched the learning experience for participants. The growing number of women alumni assuming leadership roles, many of whom actively contribute to the DRR Programme's ongoing success, speaks volumes about the positive impact the programme is making in the Pacific community. It underscores the Programme's pivotal role in empowering women to spearhead disaster risk reduction initiatives and foster resilience within their communities, countries and regions.



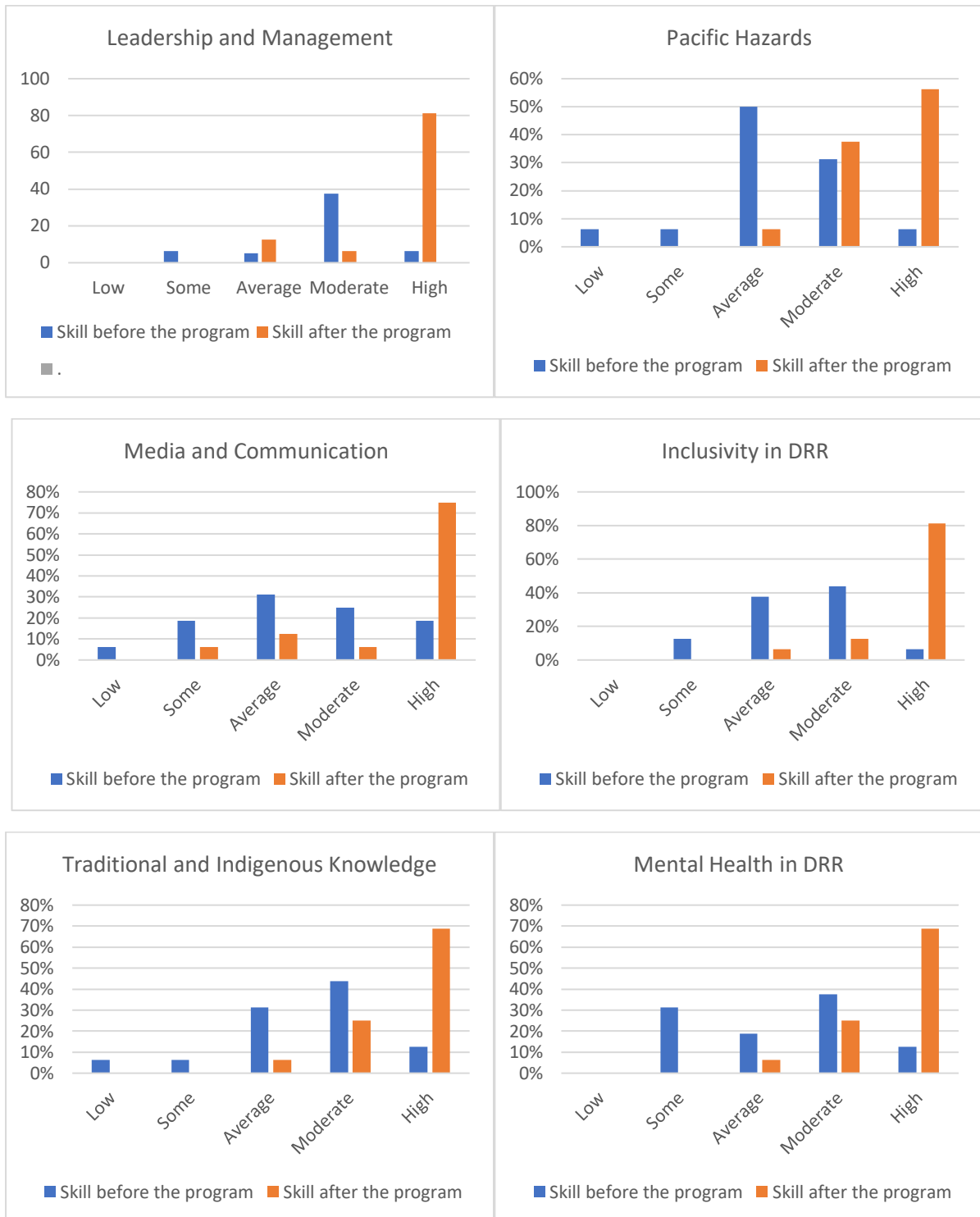
ANNEXES

ANNEX I: Increase in Skills and Knowledge (Phase I)





ANNEX II: Increase in Skills and Knowledge (Phase II)



ANNEX III: Phase I Training Programme Agenda

Section		Courses
Section 1	4–10 Sep	Week 0 – Introduction to the Mobile Learning and the UNITAR Training
Online EdApp – Introduction		
Introductory Webinar	13 Sep	Opening – UNITAR Team Dr. Richard Crichton, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the University of the South Pacific (USP)
Section 1	11–17 Sep	Week 1 – Introduction to DRR
Online EdApp – Introduction to DRR and Japan's Experiences.	18–24 Sep	Week 2 – Sendai and SDGs
Webinar 1	27 Sep	Prof. Izumi Takako, Tohoku University, Japan Prof. JC Guilliard, University of Auckland
Section 2	27 Sep – 5 Oct	Virtual Study Tours
Online EdApp – Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific	2–8 Oct	Week 4 – Climate Change and Disasters in the Pacific and Asia
	9–15 Oct	Week 5 – Hazards and Build Back Better
Webinar 2	11 Oct	Ms. Judith Giblin, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Dr. Ven Paolo Valenzuela, National University of Singapore (NUS) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Section 3	16–22 Oct	Week 6 – What is Gender and Why Gender Equality?
Online EdApp – Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction	23–29 Oct	Week 7 – Gender and DRR
	30 Oct – 5 Nov	Week 8 – Women's Leadership in DRR
Webinar 3	1 Nov	Ms. Naheed Ahmed, UN Women – Fiji Ms. Julia Wallwork, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
Section 4	6–12 Nov	Week 9 – Preparing for Future Disasters
Online EdApp – Future Disasters: Preparedness and Community-based DRR	13–18 Nov	Week 10 – Leave No One Behind; Community-based DRR
Webinar 4	15 Nov	Ms. Ruci SENIKULA, Pacific Disability Forum – Fiji Dr. Tomoko TAKEDA, The University of Tokyo – Japan
Group Presentation and End of Training	18 Nov	

ANNEX IV: Phase II Training



UNITAR HIROSHIMA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN TSUNAMI-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY 2023

Workshop Agenda



	Monday 4 March 2024 Arrival	Tuesday 5 March 2024	Wednesday 6 March 2024	Thursday 7 March 2024	Friday 8 March 2024	Saturday 9 March 2024	Sunday 10 March 2024	Monday 11 March 2024 Tohoku Tsunami Day
Venue: Tanoa Dateline Hotel		Davina House	Conference Room	Island Tour	Conference Room	Conference Room	Conference Room	Conference Room
09:00-9:30			Recap		Recap	Recap		Recap
09:30-10:00	Registration	Opening Remarks Keynote Speakers Group Photo Introduction Agenda Objectives	SESSION 4 Leadership and Management Katrina Ma'u Fatiaki	SESSION 8 Tonga Disaster Experience and the Role of Research in DRR Ms. Luisa Uai Taunga Senior Assistant Secretary NDEMO	Session 8 People with Disabilities Mr. Faatino Utumapu Nuanua o le Alofa Mr. Andrew Taofi Nuanua o le Alofa Herbert Bell Nuanua o le Alofa	Group Presentation – Preparation		SESSION 13 Psychological Well-being – Mental Health in DRM Ms. Kathy Mafi Tonga Family Health Association

	Monday 4 March 2024 Arrival	Tuesday 5 March 2024	Wednesday 6 March 2024	Thursday 7 March 2024	Friday 8 March 2024	Saturday 9 March 2024	Sunday 10 March 2024	Monday 11 March 2024 Tohoku Tsunami Day
11.30-13:00		<p>SESSION 1</p> <p>Understanding Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunami</p> <p>Dr. Richard Crichton, Consultant – University of the South Pacific. & Dr. Ven Paolo Valenzuela, Research Fellow – National University of Singapore</p>	<p>SESSION 5</p> <p>Leadership and Management</p> <p>Katrina Ma’u Fatiaki</p>	<p>NDRMO – Tonga</p> <p>Tonga Geological Services</p> <p>Tonga Meteorological Services</p> <p>‘Oholei Beach</p>	<p>SESSION 8</p> <p>Inclusivity (Gender)</p> <p>Joey Joleen Mataele President of the Tonga Leitis’ Association (TLA)</p> <p>Ms. Karishman Narayan Gender and Protection Advisor (Humanitarian) – Tonga UN Women</p>	<p>Group Presentation Preparation – Brainstorming and Planning</p>	<p>Group Work – Video Presentation</p>	<p>SESSION 14</p> <p>Group Presentation</p>

	Monday 4 March 2024 Arrival	Tuesday 5 March 2024	Wednesday 6 March 2024	Thursday 7 March 2024	Friday 8 March 2024	Saturday 9 March 2024	Sunday 10 March 2024	Monday 11 March 2024 Tohoku Tsunami Day
14:00- 15:30	Registration	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Understanding Droughts, Storms and Flooding</p> <p>Dr. Richard Crichton UNITAR & The University of the South Pacific</p> <p>Dr. Ven Paolo Valenzuela UNITAR & National University of Singapore</p>	<p>SESSION 6</p> <p>Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and DRR</p> <p>Mr. Laitia Fifita Deputy Director Department of Meteorology Ministry of MEIDECC</p>		<p>SESSION 10</p> <p>Inclusivity Persons with Disabilities and Others</p> <p>Mr. Unaloto Halafihi</p> <p>Mr. Timote Solo</p> <p>Mr. Ofeina Leka</p> <p>Pacific Disability Forum</p>	Group Presentation Preparation – Media Design	Group Work-Video Presentation	<p>14:30-14:45 Presentation by the Ambassador of Japan to Tonga</p> <p>14:46 Minute of Silence Observed</p>

	Monday 4 March 2024 Arrival	Tuesday 5 March 2024	Wednesday 6 March 2024	Thursday 7 March 2024	Friday 8 March 2024	Saturday 9 March 2024	Sunday 10 March 2024	Monday 11 March 2024 Tohoku Tsunami Day
16:00-17:30		<p>SESSION 3</p> <p>Ecosystem-based DRR and Community-based DRR</p> <p>Dr. Ven Paolo Valenzuela UNITAR & National University of Singapore</p> <p>Dr. Richard Crichton UNITAR & The University of the South Pacific</p>	<p>SESSION 7</p> <p>Post Disaster Assessment</p> <p>Mr. Viliami Tongamana NDRMO Inter-Cluster Coordinator NDRMO Ministry of MEIDECC</p>		<p>SESSION11</p> <p>Communications in DRR</p> <p>Ms. Luisa Uai Taunga Senior Assistant Secretary NDEMO</p>	<p>Group Presentation Preparation</p>	<p>Group Work – Video Presentation</p>	<p>Certificate Ceremony</p>
17:30-18:00		<p>Synthesis</p> <p>UNITAR DRR Team</p>	<p>Synthesis</p> <p>UNITAR DRR Team</p>		<p>Synthesis</p> <p>UNITAR DRR Team</p>			<p>End of Programme</p>
18:00-21:00		<p>Workshop Reception @ Davina House</p>						

ANNEX V: Contribution to the 10 Core Values of UNITAR Division for Prosperity

	Additional explanation	Response
(1) Generate change agents		
Number of people trained		106 (Phase I: 96; Phase II: 20)
Intensity of Training	Number of hours engaged (e.g., 100 hours). Type of training (hybrid, online, f2f)	60 hours, online (EdApp: 40; Assignment: 4; Individual work: 6; Webinar: 10)
(2) Engage in coalition building		
Disaggregated data by:		
Gender	Male vs. female vs. others	93% women / 5% male / 1% others
Stage of country development	How many participants are from industrialized vs. developing countries? How many from LDCs/SIDS?	66% SIDS 71% developing 2% industrialized countries. 14% LDC
Urban vs Rural	How many from the capital vs. others	Not available
(3) Build partnership		
Number of partnerships	How many partnerships?	25
Quality of partnership	Global, regional or local organizations?	9 global, 12 national, 4 local
	To enhance substance or financial contribution	Substance
(4) Boost relevance		
Feedback from participants	Use relevant quotes from participants	In the report
(5) Enhance contextualization		
Number and quality of coaches/mentors	How many coaches/mentors were engaged	14
	How many coaches/mentors were local or regional vs external?	14 Local
	How many coaches/mentors were former participants/alum of UNITAR programmes?	1 alumna
(6) Promote gender equality		
Number of female participants	How many and percentage	102 female (96%)
Number of participants who completed the gender modules	How many and percentage	106 individuals (100%)
Gender marking	Give a rating from 0 to 3 using the following criteria.	3

	Additional explanation	Response
	<p>Gender-markers 0 – Outputs/Projects that are not expected to contribute noticeably to gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) 1 – Outputs/Projects that will contribute in some way to gender equality but not significantly 2 – Outputs/Projects that have gender equality as a significant objective 3 – Outputs/Projects that have gender equality as principal objective</p>	
(7) Foster innovation		
Diversity of modes of delivery	Short description of what innovative modes were introduced	The addition of an in-person regional training workshop as part of Phase II. Including the continuation of the previous development of 360° VR video, video documentary, 3D maps, drone-shot video
Adoption of innovative adult learning methodologies	Short description of what innovative adult learning methodologies were introduced	EdApp on mobile devices (cellular phones, tablets and computers)
(8) Champion ownership		
Quality of partnerships with local stakeholders	Short description	Various local and regional speakers were invited from diverse sectors (academia, government, international organizations and private)
Quality of the action plans	Short description of final outputs produced by the participants if any such as action plans	Participants developed comprehensive knowledge of DRR concepts and produced DRR plan in groups
(9) Stimulate sustainable development		
Number of participants who successfully completed the SDG modules	Same as left	106 (100%)
(10) Cultivate financial sustainability		
Funding size	Same as left	Major