Pacific Humanitarian Architecture

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www.PHTpacific.org
Specific Context of Humanitarian Assistance in the Pacific

- High degree of disaster risk
- The vast ocean mass – tyranny of distance
- Small and scattered population on small islands
- Limited local/national capacity
- The Pacific Paradox
- International/Regional responders operate from different locations in the Pacific
Fifty years of tropical storms in Asia-Pacific

This map shows a consolidated history of tropical storm paths over the past 50 years in the Asia-Pacific region. The area of calm either side of the equator can be seen clearly, leaving Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Papua New Guinea largely unaffected by major storms.

In the northern Pacific, island nations such as Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau, as well as the territories of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, lie in the path of many of the most destructive storms, which often reach their peak as they hit the Philippines and Japan.

Less frequent but occasionally damaging storms also strike in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. South of the equator, Australia and more than a dozen Pacific island nations and territories suffer from regular tropical storms.

### Storm Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pressure (mb)</th>
<th>Wind (mph)</th>
<th>Surge (ft)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Depression</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&lt;99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>&gt;850</td>
<td>74-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>&gt;655-850</td>
<td>98-110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 3</td>
<td>&gt;455-655</td>
<td>111-130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 4</td>
<td>&gt;355-455</td>
<td>131-155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 5</td>
<td>&gt;255</td>
<td>&gt;155</td>
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Upon request the UN and international organizations assist national governments and partners in humanitarian assistance when the scale of the disaster exceeds the national capacity.
Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)

Means to get there:

• Preparedness activities:
  • Contingency Planning activities
  • Trainings, simulations (cluster coordination, Log cluster etc..)
  • Cluster-specific preparedness (Standard operating procedures, Contingency plans)

• Ongoing activities:
  • Information sharing: on what’s going on
  • Knowledge sharing: new developments in the humanitarian community
  • Contact lists maintained

• Response activities:
  • Assistance for initial rapid assessments and sectoral assessments
  • Cluster coordination during response
  • Disaster Response
Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)

- **Formed in 2008**
- **Partnerships:**
  Composed of all humanitarian response organizations that operate in the Pacific region, including UN, NGOs, International Federation of the Red Cross and National Societies, Donors
- **Oversight:**
  UN Resident Coordinator, w/ OCHA support
- **Predictability:**
  Decision-making, coordination and operations through PHT:
  a. Heads of Agency Group (cluster lead agencies)
  b. Inter-Cluster Coordination Group
  c. Clusters
- **Accountability:**
  UN Resident Coordinator is accountable to the UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs for the success of the international humanitarian operation and the achievement of its goals
Clusters, Cluster Leads/Convenors

- 8 ‘Clusters’ (sectoral working groups with predefined structure and accountability)
- Can be rolled out in affected areas immediately if needed
Ok, but really, what is the PHT?

The PHT is a group of approx 900 people working for development/humanitarian agencies, donors, national governments and inter-government organizations how stand by to participate in humanitarian action in the Pacific region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Health/Nutrition</th>
<th>WASH</th>
<th>Shelter</th>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>Recovery</th>
<th>Emerg. Educatio n</th>
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<tr>
<td># People</td>
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<td>8</td>
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Key Humanitarian Partners in the Pacific (2012-01)

Name*: designates a PHT cluster lead/convenor

- OCHA
- USAID
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- WFP
- IFRC
- UNHabitat
- WFP
- APCA
- PDC
- USPACOM
- UN Habitate
- USAID
- WHO
- IFRC
- UNHabitat
- WFP
- APCA
- PDC
- USPACOM

* designates a PHT cluster lead/convenor

Map not adjusted for design covering 14-hour Samoa and New Zealand time 25 September 2011 Australia/Portsmouth daylight clocks start 20 October 2011 by end 20 December 2011
Three layers of coordination

**PHT Heads of Organisations Group**
- Chair: UN resident Coordinator
- Members: Heads of key humanitarian organisations active in the Pacific
- Agrees on common policies and strategic response
- Reviews and approves Preparedness and Response plans

**PHT Inter-Cluster Coordination Group**
- Chair: OCHA
- Members: Cluster Coordinators
- Leads inter-agency Preparedness and Response planning
- Maintains overview of response and gaps
- Ensures cross-cutting issues are reflected in cluster plans
- Coordinates inter-agency multi-sector assessments
- Monitors cluster performance

**PHT Clusters (8 Pacific Clusters)**
- Chair: Cluster Coordinator/Convenor
- Members: Humanitarian practitioners based on sector of activity
- Maintains sectoral coordination mechanisms at regional, national and sub-national levels
- Secures commitments from humanitarian partners in responding to needs and filling gaps
- Ensures appropriate coordination and information exchange regarding sectoral activities with national and local authorities
- Ensures sector/cluster members identify and address distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men and identifiable vulnerable groups
Linking with National Coordination mechanisms

International Humanitarian Community

- Resident Coordinator / PHT Heads of Org
- OCHA / Inter-cluster Coordination Group
- WHO, UNICEF, USG, Red Cross (RC), UNFPA, WVI, UNDP, SCF, Oxfam, NZ, Aus, EU

Cluster Approach
(Predictable response Accountable to Resident Coord.)

- Health-Nutrition
- Emergency Education
- Water-Sanitation-Hygiene
- Logistics
- Shelter
- Protection
- Early Recovery

Operational Cross Sectoral Coordination

- National Disaster Response Structure

- PMO / Cabinet
- NDC / NDMO
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- WAF / Rural Water Supply / Min of H.
- Air Services / Army / Customs / private sector
- Emergency Operations
- Ministry of Social Welfare (MoWSWPa)
- Ministry of Planning

National Ministries
RESPONSIBLE for response, Accountable to population
Pacific Humanitarian Team -
Example of PHT support to PICs

Pacific Humanitarian Team (& regional clusters)

Vanuatu Humanitarian Team

Solomon Island NDMO/Clusters

Samoa NDMO/Clusters

Pacific Island Countries

OCHA United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Coordination Saves Lives
Emergencies supported by the PHT since 2008

2008
- High Sea Swells: PNG, Solomon Islands, RMI, FSM (Dec)

2009
- Fiji Floods (Jan)
- Guadalcanal floods, SI (Feb)
- Ambrym Volcano and Flood, Vanuatu (Apr)
- Samoa & Tonga Tsunami (Sep/Oct)
- Gaua Volcano, Vanuatu (Dec 09 – May 10)
- TC Mick in Fiji (Dec)

2010
- Rendova Tsunami, Solomon Islands (Jan)

2011
- TC Pat in Aitutaki – Cook Islands (Feb)
- TC Tomas in Fiji (Mar)
- TC Ului in Solomon Islands (Mar)

2012
- TC Vania in Vanuatu (Jan)
- TC Atu in Vanuatu (Feb)
- Drought Response Planning in Kiribati
- Drought response in Tuvalu

2013
- TD Floods in Fiji (Jan)
- TC Jasmine in Vanuatu (Feb)
- TD Floods in Fiji (March)
Levels of Response by PHT

Depending on the **scale of the disaster**, and based on **needs** and **request for assistance** by the affected Government, the PHT can support in one of the following ways:

- **Level 1: In-country or agency capacity**
  a. Response is entirely managed with in-country capacity. Humanitarian organisations coordinate with each other and in partnership with National Authorities.

- **Level 2: Additional capacity is required, activation of ‘cluster approach’**
  a. Response is largely managed by in-country partners, but response requires extra capacity in the form of coordination and/or program staff deployed to the affected country from a regional capacity.

- **Level 3: National capacities are overwhelmed**
  a. Response is largely managed by staff who are not from the affected country; Many staff are deployed from abroad, organizing themselves using a cluster approach; support is requested from global capacities. National partners are coordinated with and kept informed.
For better Humanitarian Action

We need improved:

- Accountability
- Predictability
- Effective coordination
- Improved partnerships through:
  - Structure, Coordination, Responsibilization, Information Sharing

• Coordination is only required when there are multiple actors.
• Additional coordination is needed when there are multiple NEW actors.
• Communication and information are essential for coordination and decision-making
Samoa Tsunami- Satellite Imagery Observations

Upolu Tsunami Damage - Aufaga (West)

Low lying areas along coast show significant tsunami impact.
In September 2011, it rained on average 1.3 [mm] per day: 18.9 l/pers/day

In an ‘average’ September, it rains 7.4 [mm] per day: 108 l/pers/day

And 8.4 [mm] per day in an ‘average’ October: 122 l/pers/day

Sources:
Rainfall for Funafuti: Tuvalu Meteorological Service (records 1947-2011)
Rainwater harvesting statistics: Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) survey of Funafuti (Sept 2010)
Population: Tuvalu Central Statistics Division estimates for Funafuti for 2011 (5,300 persons)
Minimum SPHERE standards: SPHERE handbook 2011
OCHA Pacific - Focus areas of work

Supporting emergency response & preparedness:

• Coordination
  • Support NDMOs and national coordination networks
  • UNRC / Pacific Humanitarian Team & Pacific Clusters
  • OCHA deployments, UNDAC, Partners (RedR, TSF, DHL, etc.)
  • Contingency Planning, simulation exercises
  • Actively participate in regional DRM networks

• Information Management & Humanitarian Analysis
  • 3W (Who, What, Where)
  • Baseline info & Coordinated Needs Assessments
  • Reporting, Maps

• Resource Mobilization
  • Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP), Funding Appeal
What works

• Prepositioning
• Contingency planning, lessons learned, SimEx
• Agreed standards and tools (HAP, CNA)
• IM, Data preparedness
• National partnerships (e.g. Vanuatu)
• Investment in inclusive coordination – regional and national
• Linking/integrating humanitarian action with development programmes (DRR/sectoral)
• Flexibility of PHT - different approach per country based on risk, capacity, opportunity

Shift in thinking – development/emergency
Challenges

Operational
• Coordinated Needs Assessments
• Displacement due to natural disasters
• Food security after emergencies
• CMCoord

Strategic
• Need for on-going investment in coordination capacity – national and regional (clusters and DRR)
• Crowded space, CCA/DRR, etc.
• Transition from humanitarian response to recovery/development
• Joint programming for DRM
Challenges

- Need for on-going investment in coordination capacity – national and regional (clusters and DRR)
- Crowded space, CCA/DRR, etc.
- Transition from humanitarian response to recovery/development
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Thank You

Coordination Saves Lives
La coordination sauve des vies
La coordinación salva vidas
Координация спасает жизни
بالتنسيق ينقذ الأرواح
致力协调，挽救生命