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australia
people and skills for disaster relief



Humanitarian Training in Action

Stories of Impact from Asia and the Pacific



Humanitarian Training in Action

RedR Australia's training program is designed to build the capability of humanitarian specialists who assist during emergencies, and the capacity and resilience of impacted people who reside in disaster-affected communities throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Our approach reflects the push towards localisation of humanitarian action – empowering local people to enhance their skills to meet the expectations and needs of their own communities.

For RedR Australia, the move to increased localisation means further considering the way we support countries across the whole of disaster cycle through resilience building, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response, stabilisation, recovery and reconstruction.

Training plays a key role in empowering people to prepare for all stages of the disaster cycle, and we build capacity by providing opportunities for people throughout Asia and the Pacific to attend training courses in Australia and overseas.

Bringing people from a diverse range of backgrounds and countries to train together:

- Builds skills and competencies
- Exposes participants to a professional network of other people in the sector
- Enables them to see how other countries and organisations work
- Empowers people to go back to their communities and play a fundamental role in their country's ability to respond in an emergency, and
- Helps Australian humanitarian workers understand the high level of capacity in our region.

To give you an idea of the impact one person can have, we invite you to meet some of our training participants and read their personal stories of learning, collaboration and empowerment.

WE NEED TO BE AWARE THAT THE WAY WE TRAIN PEOPLE NEEDS TO CHANGE SO THAT IT CORRELATES WITH THE EMPHASIS ON LOCALISATION. WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE RECRUITING PEOPLE TO OUR ROSTER AND DEPLOYING PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THAT YES, THEY MAY HAVE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, BUT THAT EXPERTISE NEEDS TO BE SHARED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY RATHER THAN IMPOSED ON THEM.

– REDR AUSTRALIA

RedR Australia would like to acknowledge the support of the Australian Government in the delivery of these training courses.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Emergencies Training

Allen Carmona

Co-sponsored by Habitat for Humanity (Philippines)

Allen is an architect who lives in the Philippines and works as a Disaster Risk Reduction Mitigation (DRRM) Specialist for Habitat for Humanity. He participated in RedR's seven-day Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies (WASH) course.



Why did you decide to become an architect?

My parents were engineers, but I was a bit of an artist so it was a compromise. I wanted to do fine arts but they didn't allow me because they said there is no money in fine arts. Being an architect is technical and being an artist at the same time.

Architects can make a lot of money - how did you end up working in the non-profit sector?

My goal in life is to make people happy, not to get rich. I had friends in college who just wanted to get rich but I just want to make people happy. I think that's my prime motivator.

Tell me about your role?

As a technical advisor, my role is being the information hub, sharing with others what I know and what others know. I'm glad I'm here because I can share what I've learned with my fellow Filipinos and I'm also a good bridge to my fellow Asians; they will not be afraid to ask me questions.

“ MY EXPERIENCE WHEN THERE IS A DISASTER IS THAT WE GO TO THE WAREHOUSE, GET ALL THE STUFF WE HAVE AND THEN GO AND DO WHAT WE CAN WITH WHAT WE HAVE. IT WAS EMPHASISED FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS WE SHOULD PLAN AND DO CALCULATIONS, BECAUSE IT WILL HELP YOU TO SAVE TIME AND TIME IS USUALLY WHAT WE LACK IN A DISASTER. ”

Have you experienced a natural disaster?

I was working with World Vision back when Typhoon Ondoy came. It wasn't really a big typhoon, but it dumped a month's rain in one day. Our house was flooded about two meters underwater. My wife was badly affected and my kids were traumatised. I was just happy we were safe. It made disasters more real to me because I experienced it myself and I was a survivor.

Why do we need to think about WASH in emergencies?

I think being conscious of the WASH part is very important. The first thing a family needs after a disaster is shelter over their head to protect them from the elements, but if they don't know how to dispose of their waste properly, we would be exposing them to another risk, which is diseases. We've seen this in many disasters, how diseases can spread quickly because people don't have water to wash their hands or clean water to cook their food. A cholera outbreak can wipe out all the children in one village in a few days.

What have you learned on the WASH course?

I discovered a lot of new things, like how important it is to plan. My experience when there is a disaster is that we go to the warehouse, get all the stuff we have and then go and do what we can with what we have. It was emphasised for the past few days we should plan and do calculations, because it will help you to save time and time is usually what we lack in a disaster. Every day you get delayed in doing your thing, people die. And that stuck in my mind.

How have you found meeting people from all over the Pacific and Asia who are on the course with you?

The best thing for me is meeting these new people. They are a bunch of happy and very good people and most of them are engineers and these are the ones that we miss during a disaster. We have a lot of social workers and volunteers but we lack engineers. That gets me excited as I'm here with a community of technical people and this is what we need in a disaster.

This whole networking thing is amazing. I was so happy to meet all these professionals. The first person I met here was a hydrologist. Hydrologists are very rare in the Philippines. When I found one in one of our disasters, he was charging a lot of money. When I talked to a guy on the RedR course, he said 'I can come in for free, just take care of my flight and maybe my lodging and

that's all, I'll help you.' He talked about his experience helping a community on an island and the Philippines is 7,000 islands. Then I met a mechanical engineer, a civil engineer and an architect. I'm really happy to be here.

The trend now is to build capacity of local people, what difference do you think it will make if local people are more empowered to respond in an emergency?

The local people are the frontliners when there's a disaster. They are the ones that can talk to their community, to the leaders and they understand the context and the culture.

Most of the time when we have someone from another country come in, we have to sit down with that person and brief them about what to do and what not to do because it could affect his or her safety in the field. Sometimes they are so enthusiastic with what they are doing, they forget people who are just hit by disaster are very sensitive and you need to be very careful.

I've seen it happen many times when someone from another country comes in and marches into a village and then everyone gets taken aback and is afraid what to say. The number one thing is the language barrier, although in the Philippines a lot of people speak English, they have a hard time expressing themselves and they feel intimidated talking to a foreigner. But if a local person comes in, they flock over them and say, 'Can you help us?' They talk in their local dialect and the local responder gets mobbed.

Why should people who work in disaster response be sponsored to do this course?

We are tired of doing the same thing every time there is a disaster, it's innovation that we need. What's the best way of giving toilets to this community? Maybe what I know is an old standard, maybe the new guy knows something better from a different country that could work here. It's really good to get a fresh mind from somewhere with a different perspective and you compare your knowledge and your insights and sometimes that creates a beautiful idea, an innovation.

“ THE LOCAL PEOPLE ARE THE FRONTLINERS WHEN THERE'S A DISASTER. THEY ARE THE ONES WHO CAN TALK TO THEIR COMMUNITY, TO THE LEADERS AND THEY UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT AND THE CULTURE. ”



Danish Bhan

Co-sponsored by UNICEF Pacific

Danish is a civil engineer who works as a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Schools Consultant for UNICEF Pacific in Fiji. He participated in RedR's seven-day WASH in Emergencies course.

What inspired you to study engineering?

I got inspired to become a civil engineer when I was in primary school and my dad was constructing our house. I was helping my Dad do the layout of the house and was really fascinated because he was actually doing things by hand. I was very interested in how to build structures.

What is it about using your skills in the humanitarian sector that appeals to you?

The reason that I stayed on with the humanitarian side of things was because just after I started with the Australian Access to Quality Education Program in 2012, we had floods in the western division. We saw people living in the evacuation centre and it really touched my heart that we should do something for these guys. We started getting the schools up and running so the students could go back to school. In 2013, we had Tropical Cyclone Evans which also destroyed a lot of schools, so we had reconstruction there, and then we had the Cyclone Winston in 2016 - the recovery is still going on.



“ THE THING ABOUT THIS TRAINING THAT I FOUND DIFFERENT AND SOMETHING INTERESTING IS WE ACTUALLY GET HANDS ON PRACTICAL FIELD TRAINING - SETTING UP THE TANK, PUMPING WATER OUT OF A DAM. WE WORK IN TEAMS AND WE ALL TAKE EACH OTHER’S IDEAS, WE BUILD ON IT AND WE TRY IT OUT. IF IT FAILS, WE USE ANOTHER IDEA OR ANOTHER SYSTEM. ”

The one thing I like is when the kids go back to school, they start learning and the joy that they have in them - it just touches you. I have two kids so I know how they feel when they don't have school. I love putting kids back in a safe learning environment.

What do you do with UNICEF?

With UNICEF, I look after all the WASH in Schools activities in Fiji. Basically, less of a technical role and more of the soft skills. In Fiji, there is a lot of need for behaviour change and with UNICEF, we focus on the children as being the ones who bring change in their community, in their homes, in the school. So it's less technical and more into people changing their behaviour.

We work very closely with our partners and the Ministry of Education to implement the WASH in Schools program and to make it more focused on resilience for natural disasters and climate change. We try to make their wash facilities and behavior so even though they have a natural disaster, they still need to wash their hands and have sanitation and clean water available to students.

What have you learned with the RedR training?

The thing about this training that I found different and something interesting is we actually get hands on practical field training - setting up the tank, pumping water out of a dam. We work in teams and we all take each other's ideas, we build on it and we try it out. If it fails, we use another idea or another system.

In Fiji, when we have disasters, mostly it's the government who takes the lead and we as NGOs just check the water quality. Here, it's more of a hands-on experience. If the government does not have the resources, I can go and help on the ground pumping water and setting up tanks and handwashing points.

This course has also really opened my eyes how when you have a natural disaster, you have to coordinate between the local government, NGOs and International NGOs. Everyone flows in with their supplies and money, but getting the most out of it and identifying the right people that need the support, rather than the ones that could wait for a while, plays a major role. I've also learnt a lot of technical things as well, such as how to properly do water testing.

How have you found meeting people from different countries?

With people coming in from all over the world with different NGOs - with a WASH background, with a shelter background, or a humanitarian response background - it's really good to get ideas from other countries and the experiences they have with the nature of disasters they face.

Sometimes, we are restricted with the way we work, but when we hear techniques and stories they use in other countries, it's really an eye opener that we could use that system or technique in our country. Some of the things that we share with them, they think the same. The facilitators have also been really good with sharing their knowledge and experiences from everywhere around the world that they have been deployed.

What difference does it make having someone local like you trained to respond in an emergency?

For myself, taking this RedR training back to Fiji, I have more local knowledge in terms of the cultural barriers, the taboos in our country, the national regulations and government connections. We are better placed than international staff that come over. It's good we have them, but it is very handy if you have some locals trained from RedR to respond quickly and effectively.

When we have locally trained people, it's easier to communicate with communities. In Fiji, even in an emergency, you need to seek approval from the chief to give them anything. No matter what kind of emergency there is, we always have to visit the chief of the village to get his or her consent to do our work freely in the community. It's very important to have somebody local that knows the protocols.

What happens if local responders aren't trained?

If there is no one trained locally, the response will be there, but it would be less effective than if someone is already trained in terms of coordination between the different government parties, the different NGOs and the donors. When we have disasters, the donors are there with their money, but how do you utilise that money and make it more effective for the people who really need it? If local people are not trained, they can do the response, but the quality is just not the same.

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Mata Hetland

Co-sponsored by the Australian Red Cross

Mata is a former teacher who is the Disaster Risk Management Coordinator for the Cook Islands Red Cross. She attended RedR's six-day Humanitarian Logistics in Emergencies course.

What is your background?

I am a secondary school teacher by trade. I have a family of teachers. My father is a teacher and actually the main reason why I wanted to be a teacher is because I had a teacher at primary school that I really admired. She dressed and spoke so well, and she always had this beautiful perfume. I said, 'One day I'm going to be like that.'

I taught in Australia, then I went back to the Cook Islands. As I got older, I wanted to do something different; teaching wasn't really my thing anymore, so I worked for the Red Cross. I realised 'Ah, this is me'. I like the humanitarian work, to me it is more fulfilling than teaching.

Why did you decide to work in disaster management?

Two years into working with Red Cross, I was deployed to one of our islands when we had Cyclone Pat in 2010. It devastated the whole island and going there to work for three weeks non-stop, I realised, 'Wow, this is going to be my kind of thing.' It was heart-warming to be able to help people in an event like that. I left feeling I had made a difference to the lives of those who were affected by the cyclone.



“ I HAVE LEARNT A LOT OF THINGS HERE THAT I HAVEN'T REALLY KNOWN ABOUT. I HAVE FOUND THERE'S A LOT MORE THAN JUST PUTTING STUFF INTO THE CONTAINERS, TAKING THEM OUT, COUNTING THEM AND PUTTING THEM BACK AGAIN. ”

Have you experienced other disasters?

I was at the Cyclone Winston response when it happened in Fiji in 2016. We were there for a logistics cluster meeting when it happened. I had a real induction.

What did you do?

We joined Fiji Red Cross and went to various operations like the Emergency Operating Centre where we train volunteers. I got to go out to the field as well and see the devastated villages. There were shortfalls in some areas, one of them being volunteers. So many volunteers turned up untrained.

We try and train as many volunteers as we can before a cyclone, so I came up with this plan that I would train a lot of senior students because a lot of the Fiji volunteers were university and senior secondary school students. You need young, energetic people to do the work.

What else do you do in your role apart from training volunteers?

We are a very small office with seven staff. We manage our volunteers, I train them mainly in the response area and we have projects for preparedness.

I have to be multi-skilled in all areas of response and preparedness of the disaster cycle. That is why I'm here, to learn about logistics. I've learned bits and pieces in Red Cross trainings, but not the entire course. I've always wanted to do a course entirely on logistics so that I can know it and purely for training my staff and volunteers.

Tell me about the RedR training course, what have you learnt?

I have learnt a lot of things here that I haven't really known about. I have found there's a lot more than just putting stuff into the containers, taking them out, counting them and putting them back again. It's looking at the warehouse and the transport that will carry the relief items to the communities.

Learning about the LCA, the Logistics Capacity Assessment, was very educational. It's looking at the ins and outs of a disaster when it happens and what you need, all to do with figures as well. If I was to get relief items from say, New Zealand, we need to know how many tarpaulins we need and find out how many they can bring, the measurement of the airport and the weight it can accommodate.

Immediately after a disaster when people are very traumatised and vulnerable, do you think it's good having a woman available to go into the community?

Well that's why I go into the community a lot, they know me. I go out now to strengthen my relationships with the community and I also have disaster meetings with the government. It's all a bunch of men, but I have a good rapport with them. I always maintain that so when the crunch comes, I can take the lead. And it's good for everyone to see a woman doing that! I also train other people from the government and commercial sectors to support me in the operations.

Something I have learnt here is to involve the community in decision making as well, because you need the manpower to carry boxes, you can't do it by yourself, even with all our volunteers.

What difference will it make to your community having you educated about logistics?

We will be better prepared and when we do get hit by a disaster, the operation will run smoother, it will be a lot more efficient and we won't need as many overseas people to help. We know our local context, we know our people, we know the language and it'll be cheaper if we do it ourselves.

What can the humanitarian sector do to empower local responders?

More training, more experiences and giving the opportunity to go and experience a disaster zone on a bigger scale in Asia. I have done the regional disaster response team training, which means we can be called on to deploy and assist in places like Bangladesh, but we don't have the time because we have our own programs to run. The experience would be good, maybe two weeks like I did in Cyclone Winston, to give us experience and confidence, because you can train and train and not do anything with it.

Is there anything you would like to add?

I would like to thank RedR, my donor partner, the Australian Red Cross and the Australian Government for the opportunity to come to this training. I'm sure I'm the first Cook Islander to come to the RedR training in Australia. If the sponsorship wasn't there, I couldn't come as it would be too expensive for my national society to send me.

The training is really good, it's different from Red Cross training because it's not only focused on Red Cross. The facilitators will often say 'this is how we do it in the World Food Programme', or 'this is how the UN would do it' and and they train us on all the different terminologies. That's really important and brings a lot of value.





Janak Awasthi

Co-sponsored by the American Red Cross in Nepal

Janak, who is the Head of Operations for American Red Cross in Nepal, has spent his entire working life in the humanitarian sector. He participated in RedR's six-day Humanitarian Logistics in Emergencies course.

You have a big title, Head of Operations.

Yes, it's a big responsibility as well. I supply the support functions like administration, procurement and logistics management, that sort of thing.

What's your background, what did you study?

I studied a Masters in Development. Before joining the American Red Cross, I was with the United Nations Development Programme looking after the same functions, like procurement. I worked there for more than six years in the Nepal constitution building project. When the project was over, I switched to American Red Cross.

Why have you dedicated your working life to working for humanitarian organisations?

I wanted to work in a sector that has tangible results, to help the people in need and make a difference in peoples' lives. Sometimes you might not be able to do that individually, but with the collective responsibility associated with bigger organisations, you can achieve goals. There might have been other professions where I might have made better money, but it doesn't count. The thing is if you work for people who are in real need, and who are very close to you in your community, it's very satisfying. I don't want to miss that for anything.



“ LEARNING ABOUT THE LOGISTICS CAPACITY ASSESSMENT SHOWED ME HOW TO COLLECT SYSTEMATIC INFORMATION AND WHAT DIFFERENT INFORMATION WE HAVE TO COLLECT. THAT WAS VERY NEW AND I WILL USE THAT FOREVER. ”

What's your personal experience of disasters?

I worked with the Refugee Council during the internal conflict in Nepal which was a man-made disaster. The earthquake in Nepal was a natural disaster. During the early disaster days, it was very difficult because you have to help people, you have to meet the deadlines from the community, which is suffering, but you also have to meet the organisation's objectives or their guidelines and donor requirements. But now with passing the emergency response phase, we are in recovery.

In 2017, we had huge flooding in the southern belt of Nepal and 39 districts were flooded. We had to send our response team to do a rapid assessment of what communities need. Most of my tasks were in coordination, including cluster meetings to brief the situation, collecting information and sending the information to everybody so we have a common understanding about what are the basic needs of the communities that all the organisations have to meet collectively.

Sounds like this course is directly related to what you do? What have you learnt that you feel will be useful to you when you go home?

Some topics and ideas are new, which I will definitely use, because we tend to do the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) as well, but it was not that systematic. Learning about the LCA showed me how to collect systematic information and what different information we have to collect. That was very new and I will use that forever.

Sometimes you miss some small things that can have a greater impact on the overall job. That includes things like the warehousing counting system so that you can see the exact number in stock, including how you use the damaged items. Not in terms of completely damaged, but if the sack of rice is broken and you have 20 sacks of broken rice, you can bag those into 10 sacks and use that. I never practised that. We would have disposed of those, so it is a new idea. We should not be throwing it out. If there is any space for using it, let's use it.

Another thing I did not know about was DHL, the freight company. Today they gave a presentation. They have a disaster response team and worked in Nepal immediately after the earthquake. I didn't know that. These small things, if they are not presented, you cannot know. We tend to think those companies are only for profit and they don't do humanitarian work, but that is not the case. It was a very interesting thing to learn.

You have been working in this sector for a long time, what's it like meeting other people from all over Asia and the Pacific?

It is good experience sharing. We all do similar work, but they have different stories from their own work. They have faced different challenges and worked in different environments. It is definitely helpful to all of us to understand internationally how it works.

They are facing different challenges than I am facing. My challenge is one of geographical location, because for more than six months the roads can't operate, so we have to transport relief materials using humans or donkeys.

There's a push to train and build capacity of local people, what do you think about that?

That would be great because the local staff and population are the first responders. They know the local context very well and if we have local staff prepared, they can act fast. To prepare the community or local staff, I think they can train people with local context as it might sometimes be very different from the global context.

If you were talking to one of your colleagues and they had the chance to come on the course what would you say to them?

I would say it is the best course I have attended. Go and be trained and share your experience and learn from others' experience. This is the best course because it is so holistic, it covers every aspect of logistics and you get experience and learning from other people from different countries who have global insights about how they manage their situation.

Is there anything you would like to add?

If RedR courses are organised in countries like Nepal, it would be a great support as many organisations like mine, we don't have that much time to send staff to different locations. I struggled to attend the course and I wrote an email to ask if RedR are planning to do it in Asia. If you can move slightly closer, it would have made it much easier. Many of the people might not have time or funds to travel to Australia, so if it is near or in the country, then they can send their staff.



“ THIS IS THE BEST COURSE BECAUSE IT IS HOLISTIC, IT COVERS EVERY ASPECT OF LOGISTICS AND YOU GET EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING FROM OTHER PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. ”

Walking the talk - taking steps towards the localisation of humanitarian action

Current thinking focuses on building the capacity of local people who live in disaster-affected areas. This brief overview explains the thinking behind localisation, how it came about and the implications for RedR Australia and local communities throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Localisation is about empowering local people to meet the expectations and desires of their own communities. It turns the traditional, top-down approach of providing expert advice and assistance from outside during an emergency on its head, and asks outsiders to respect each individual country's desire to determine what assistance they need.

Localisation emerged from the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 where disaster-affected countries articulated the desire to be self-determining and put disaster-affected people at the centre of emergency response.

RedR Australia is building regional capacity by working with NGOs, the private sector, universities and United Nations partners to ensure people from Asia and the Pacific have access to RedR training through sponsorships. RedR is also thinking about how to support countries across the entire disaster cycle through resilience building, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response, stabilisation, recovery and reconstruction and offering context specific training.

Each course deliberately mixes local and international people together to give participants the opportunity to build professional networks and see how other countries and organisations work.

Allen Carmona, a Filipino architect who works as a Disaster Risk Reduction Mitigation Specialist for Habitat for Humanity in the Philippines, recently participated in RedR's seven-day Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies (WASH) course.

"This whole networking thing is amazing. I was so happy to meet all these professionals," says Allen. "The first person I met was a hydrologist. Hydrologists are very rare in the Philippines. When I found one in one of our disasters, he was charging a lot of money. When I talked to this guy [who I met on the course], he said 'I can come in for free, just take care of my flight and maybe my lodging and that's all, I'll help you.' He talked about his experience helping a community on an island and the Philippines is 7,000 islands. Then I met a mechanical engineer, a civil engineer and an architect. I'm honoured and happy to be here."

Another recent participant, Janak Awasthi, Head of Operations for American Red Cross in Nepal, attended RedR's six-day Humanitarian Logistics in Emergencies course. Janak says, "This is the best course because it is so holistic, it covers every aspect of logistics and you get experience and learning from other people from different countries who have global insights about how they manage their situation."

For people from the Asia and Pacific regions, attending RedR courses empowers them to go back to their communities and play a fundamental role in their country's ability to respond in an emergency.

Perise Kerslake, Senior Sector Policy and Performance Officer (Water and Sanitation) for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Samoa, attended RedR's Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies (WASH) course in October 2017.

"I believe this course is very beneficial for us, because once we get a hands-on feel for what this is all about, we will be able to transfer what we have learnt here to other people in terms of what to do when a disaster strikes. It is especially beneficial that I am a female, as during disasters the most vulnerable are the women and children and also the elderly, so I am happy to be here," says Perise.

"Because I'm Samoan, I have the knowledge of the local community and also the protocols to follow in times of emergencies. It's good that Samoan is my first language so I can communicate better than in English. In some of the rural communities, they do not speak English, so

I can translate what I've learned here in my language to Samoans back home," she adds.

Many of the regional course participants echoed Perise's sentiments about how much difference it makes having people who understand the local context.

Danish Bhan, a civil engineer who works as a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Schools Consultant for UNICEF Pacific in Fiji, attended RedR's seven-day Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies course.

"When we have locally trained people, it's easier for them to communicate with their communities," says Danish "In Fiji, even in an emergency, you need to seek approval from the chief to give them anything. No matter what kind of emergency there is, we always have to visit the chief of the village to get his or her consent to do our work freely in the community. It's very important to have somebody local that knows the protocols."

The push towards localisation makes sounds economic sense as building capacity and confidence enables countries to become self-sufficient and strengthens the whole region's ability to respond during emergencies.

**All interviews and write-up by Matilda Bowra
Photography by Harjono Djoyobisono
(for RedR Australia)**

“ BECAUSE I’M SAMOAN, I HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ALSO THE PROTOCOLS TO FOLLOW IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES. IT’S GOOD THAT SAMOAN IS MY FIRST LANGUAGE SO I CAN COMMUNICATE BETTER THAN IN ENGLISH. IN SOME OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES, THEY DO NOT SPEAK ENGLISH, SO I CAN TRANSLATE WHAT I’VE LEARNED HERE IN MY LANGUAGE TO SAMOANS BACK HOME. ”

– PERISE KERSLAKE, SENIOR POLICY AND PERFORMANCE OFFICER (WASH), MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, SAMOA, WHO ATTENDED REDR’S WASH IN EMERGENCIES COURSE IN OCTOBER 2017.

“ MY PASSION COMES FROM WHAT I SEE AND WHAT I EXPERIENCE IN MY OWN COUNTRY. WE HAVE A CYCLONE NEARLY EVERY YEAR SO WE PRAY FOR A SMALL ONE, NOT A BIG ONE. WE SEE WINDS, HEAVY RAINFALL AND FLOODING. WHERE I LIVE IS NEAR THE COAST SO IT’S A VERY LOW LYING AREA AND WE GET FLOODED MOST OF THE TIME. ”

– VEA ANISEKO, LOGISTICS OFFICER, NATIONAL EMERGENCY OFFICE, TONGA - PARTICIPATED IN REDR’S SIX-DAY HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS IN EMERGENCIES COURSE IN OCTOBER 2017.





“ IT’S REALLY GOOD TO GET A FRESH MIND FROM SOMEWHERE WITH A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. WE COMPARE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND OUR INSIGHTS AND SOMETIMES THAT CREATES A BEAUTIFUL IDEA, AN INNOVATION. ”

– ALLEN CARMONA, PARTICIPANT IN REDR AUSTRALIA’S WASH IN EMERGENCIES TRAINING.

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