

Half Page Summary of Session – What next for the Climate, GEDSI and WASH Nexus?

This final session for the Suva Conference explored perspectives and key messages regarding the future of the Climate, GEDSI and WASH nexus from different organisations working on climate resilience and DRR. A panel of representatives from WB, WfW Fund, UNDRR, PNG District Government and GIZ were asked to describe current trends and future opportunities for actors working in this increasingly complex sector. The session was followed by Q&A from the audience.

This session enabled participants to:

- Gain a greater understanding of the importance of the WASH-GEDSI-Climate nexus and regional and global initiatives to scale up investment in these areas.
- Improve knowledge of recent and future sector developments from multilateral and other global actors, and how to engage in these processes.

Milika Sobey, Senior Technical Adviser GIZ Pacific opened the session with introductions and a [presentation from the GCF launching the GCF Sanitation Annex](#). The Annex is an example of climate finance supporting climate resilient sanitation scale up as a way of reducing methane emissions, in addition to supporting rollout of climate resilient infrastructure. This is important, as not only has ‘sanitation’ been left out of many climate and development discussions, but the future of resourcing this important sector (including SDG6 and all inter-linked goals) is currently unclear with many organisations facing aid cuts.

Winnie Sagi, Senior Environmental Health Officer, East Sepik Provincial Health Authority – presented her experience in working in the health and WASH sector in PNG, building community resilience, focussing on WASH in the face of impacts of climate change. Case studies from Wewak District, highlighted the challenges of supporting communities with basic water and sanitation for all in the face of unclear institutional support and strong cultural barriers, particularly to advancing GEDSI.

Gabrielle Emery, Head of Pacific Sub-Regional Office, UNDRR presented DRR trends and opportunities in the Pacific, noting that although the conference had focussed and linked with climate and SDGs, the Sendai Framework is often left out of discussions and partnerships, despite 90% of disasters being water related. Gabby highlighted the need for more inter-sectoral linkages with national Sendai Framework DRR Plans, in particular given the recently launched Sendai Framework Gender Action Plan which highlights GEDSI as integral to achieving DRR national and global goals.

Christian Severin, Senior Water Specialist – Presented challenges and opportunities for the Climate-GEDSI-WASH Nexus in PNG noting that the population growth of 600,000 per year in addition to climate and infrastructure and systems challenges are resulting in many goals sliding backwards. New ways of working, particularly targeting the most marginalised are needed if PNG is to advance its development agenda to keep up with the increased need.

Zahra Bolouri, Knowledge and Learning Manager Water for Women Fund – Presented the findings of the Water for Women Fund Learning Agenda question ‘What does Climate Resilient WASH look like?’ in different contexts, noting that despite the differing ‘Pathways’ which each of the speakers and audience are taking towards climate resilient development and DRR, there are some common aspects, including putting GEDSI at the centre, evidence based scale up and the importance of research to advancing our common understanding of where limited resources need to be placed in our continued local and global goals of climate resilient development.