



REGIONAL COURSE

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF EMPLOYERS' AND WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS ON PROMOTION OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN DISASTER AND CONFLICT SETTINGS

11 – 15 NOVEMBER 2019
PORT VILA, VANUATU

Information Note

INTRODUCTION

The 2018 World Risk Report places the Pacific region as the most at risk to disasters and places five (5) Pacific countries among the top 20 that are globally most at risk to disasters. Due to the fragility of the Pacific small islands developing states (SIDS), it is critical that Pacific populations, including ILO social partners, are resilient to the impacts of climate change and climate-induced disasters.

Across the Pacific Islands, 24.7% of employment is classified as vulnerable employment, with some national vulnerable employment rates reaching as high as 75%¹. The poorest and most vulnerable, are youth, women and persons with disabilities and least able to recover from job and income losses. The recent category 5 cyclones in Vanuatu (2015) and Fiji (2016) resulted in lost working days of 500,000 and 14 million respectively and lost income of U\$15 million and U\$176 million respectively. The total effect (damage and loss) to the commerce/SME sector was U\$31 million and U\$71 million respectively.

The RBSA-funded project in the Pacific titled “Increased capacities of employers’ and workers’ organisations to participate effectively in the development of social and labour policy” is working to support ILO social partners to access just transition and decent work for its members. One way is through ILO Recommendation 205 on Employment & Decent Work for Peace and Resilience.

Conflict in the Solomon Islands, locally referred to as ‘The Tensions’, began in 1998 when a group of militant youths from the island of Guadalcanal attacked settlements of islanders predominantly from Malaita in northwest Guadalcanal, bordering the capital Honiara. During the Tensions, many young men joined the militants because they supported the causes that the militants espoused. Many young people move to Honiara from rural provinces, particularly Malaita, in search of opportunities. While the population of Honiara keeps growing, in general opportunities for youth remain limited and many find themselves being economically idle. This large, frustrated, and marginalized young population is typically seen as a risk to stability.

The ILO and UNDP are jointly delivering a UN Peace Building Fund (UNPBF) project titled “Empowering Youth as Agents for Peace and Social Cohesion in Solomon Islands”. The ILO is responsible for delivering outcome 2 of the project which entails engaging with communities in hotspot areas to ensure they are more resilient to conflict with more socially, economically, and politically empowered youth, in particular young women, engaging as peace builders.

¹ Future of work for climate resilience in the Pacific Islands (ILO), 2019, https://www.ilo.org/suva/publications/WCMS_712546/lang-en/index.htm

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The immediate objective of the course is to strengthen the capacities of Youth Chapters of Employers' and Workers' Organizations to develop strategies for and support policy responses of their organisations to increasing extreme climatic events and conflicts that impact youth employment.

The overall objective of the course is to develop common strategies for regional Employers and Workers Organisations, inclusive of youth, to effectively influence social and labour policies. Therefore, the outcomes of this meeting will feed into regional policy forums such as the 2020 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM).

The specific outputs of the training will be:

- enhanced knowledge of ILO's programmes on Just Transition and Jobs for Peace & Resilience;
- understanding of the impact of disasters and conflict on employment in the Pacific and past recovery/response strategies and
- development of regional and national strategies on promoting youth employment.

TOPICS AND TRAINING FORMAT

The training format is blended:

- An online module titled "*Understanding Fragility: a Compass to Orient the World of Work*".
- A five day-long face to face training programme combining expert input with applied learning methodologies. Participants will receive knowledge from ILO and ITCILO experts and will have ample opportunity to share their insights and experiences during plenary sessions and group work:

DAY 1: 11 NOVEMBER 2019

A. Youth Employment:

- ILO 101 – who we are, how are we organised, what is ACTEMP and ACTRAV
- Global, regional and national youth employment context
- Current national strategies

B. Drivers of fragility and ILO Recommendation 205:

- Key concepts of fragility and R205
- ACTRAV and ACTEMP policy guide on R205

C. Policy response on Just transition to environmental sustainability

- ILO Programme on Just Transition for environmental sustainability
- ACTRAV and ACTEMP policy guide on Just Transition

DAY 2: 12 NOVEMBER 2019

D. National : Impacts of Disaster and effects on employment and livelihoods:

- Learnings from recent disasters in the Pacific
- Identifying impacts and effects at national level from case studies from Fiji, Vanuatu and Tonga
- Crisis Case Study from Solomon Islands

E. Site visit to Institutions and their services effected by cyclone Pam:

- Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry (VCCI)
- Vanuatu Council of Trades Unions (VCTU)
- Youth Challenge Vanuatu (YCV)

DAY 3: 13 NOVEMBER 2019

F. Enterprise : Impacts of Disaster and effects on employment and livelihoods:

- Learnings from recent disasters in the Pacific
- Identifying impacts and effects at enterprise level from Fiji case study

G. Site visit to MSME's and Industries impacted by cyclone Pam:

- Youth micro/community enterprises
- VANWOODS (Women's Micro Insurance)
- Iririki Resort

DAY 4: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

H. Developing strategies in response to disaster and crisis

DAY 5: 11 NOVEMBER 2019

I. Finalising strategies for submission to national and regional Employers and Workers Organisations

PARTICIPANTS

Participants attending the course are nationals officially nominated by ILO's employers' and workers' organizations from:

- (i) Fiji,
- (ii) Kiribati,
- (iii) Samoa,
- (iv) Vanuatu,
- (v) Tonga,
- (vi) Cook Islands,
- (vii) Solomon Islands,
- (viii) Papa New Guinea and (ix) Tuvalu

COST OF PARTICIPATION

The course is fully sponsored by ILO. This includes international travel, subsistence including full board and lodging. An emergency medical insurance is also included.

HOW TO REGISTER

Nominated participants are invited to register on-line in the following link before 16 October 2019: <https://bit.ly/2LH1HI6>

VENUE

Grand Hotel & Casino
Port Vila, Vanuatu
<http://www.grandvanuatu.com/>

INFO

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

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