The arrival of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBD) into emergency response settings around the world is a long-established issue across the humanitarian sector. The Pacific UBD project has been positioned as a pilot—with plans to roll out globally—and is the first regionally coordinated approach designed to reduce the influx of UBDs into disaster zones. The strategy rests on three main pillars:

- Creation of a regionally tailored “Cash is Best” messaging strategy to assist in the design of proactive, coordinated and consistent UBD communications campaigns for the general public and targeted audiences.
- Development of a “Matching Platform” to facilitate the link between donators and responding agencies on the ground.
- Compilation of a “UBD-READY” pack aimed at supporting country-level preparedness through enhancing logistics capacities in areas of receiving, storing, deconsolidating, dispatching and disposing UBDs.

Following the completion of the Pacific “Cash is Best” communications kit, the Logistics Cluster kicked off advocacy and messaging at the start of the 2017-18 cyclone season. Communications took place across the following mediums:

- 35% Twitter
- 30% Facebook
- 12% Events
- 7% Newsletter
- 7% Online
- 2% LinkedIn
- 7% Media

86% of 2017 planned UBD project activities achieved.

#CASHISBEST

On the project progress:

- January
  - Australian Red Cross Report Published
  - The challenges of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations in Pacific humanitarian responses

- February
  - Global Working Group on UBDs
  - Initiated by the Pacific Logistics Cluster
  - Inaugural meeting held at 2017 Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week in Geneva

- March
  - First Teleconference with UBD Communications Working Group
  - 12 attendees from 9 regional partners

- May
  - Operational Support on UBD Communications Provided
  - Tropical Cyclone Donna, Vanuatu, May 2017

- June
  - UBD Presentation at Pacific Logistics Cluster Workshop
  - UBDs integrated into national work plans

- September
  - “Cash is Best” Communications Strategy & Kit Defined
  - Circulated to 20 regional partners

- October
  - Matching Platform Progress
  - First meeting with Australian private sector firm on design of UBD matching platform technology

- November
  - Presented at 5 Meetings/Events
    - Fiji: Pacific Humanitarian Partnership meeting, Pacific Intercluster Meeting, Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council Meeting
    - New Zealand: NGO Disaster Relief Forum meeting
    - Australia: Health and Humanitarian Action in Emergency training

- Domestic Guidelines & Messaging Drafted
  - Roll out of national UBD Minimum Preparedness Activities (MPAs) to begin in 2018
UBD impact calculator

Did you know that for the same cost of shipping 12 cans of tinned tuna to Apia, Samoa from Melbourne, Australia, relief organisations could produce almost 6,500 litres of water locally?

Based on the USAID Centre for International Disaster Information’s (CIDI) Greatest Good Donation Calculator the Pacific Logistics Cluster has crunched the shipping and shopping data to create a tailored UBD-donation impact calculator for the Pacific region. The calculator has been shared with government and NGO partners.

Contact jemma.pietrus@wfp.org for more information.

UBD MATCHING PLATFORM
DEFINED & PILOTED
Continue work with Australian private sector firm on development of matching technology.

MAINTAIN WORK WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS ON UBD MESSAGING
Strengthen UBD messaging through lessons learnt and analysis of 2017-18 cyclone season communications.
Continue as part of reference group for ACFID-led UBD project funded by DFAT.

STRENGTHENING UBD CAPACITY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
Work with National Logistics Clusters on the development of a robust UBD strategy

PACIFIC UBD PROJECT PARTNERS
NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (MFAT), NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CID), NEW ZEALAND RED CROSS, CARITAS NEW ZEALAND, SAVE THE CHILDREN NEW ZEALAND, VANUATU NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT OFFICE, VANUATU RED CROSS, VANUATU CUSTOMS AUTHORITY, IFRC, OXFAM PACIFIC, PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC), USAID CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DISASTER INFORMATION (CIDI), AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS, AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ACFID), WORLD VISION AUSTRALIA, CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVE (CBI), TOLL GROUP NEW ZEALAND, YUME, TREND MEDIA PACIFIC, UNOCHA