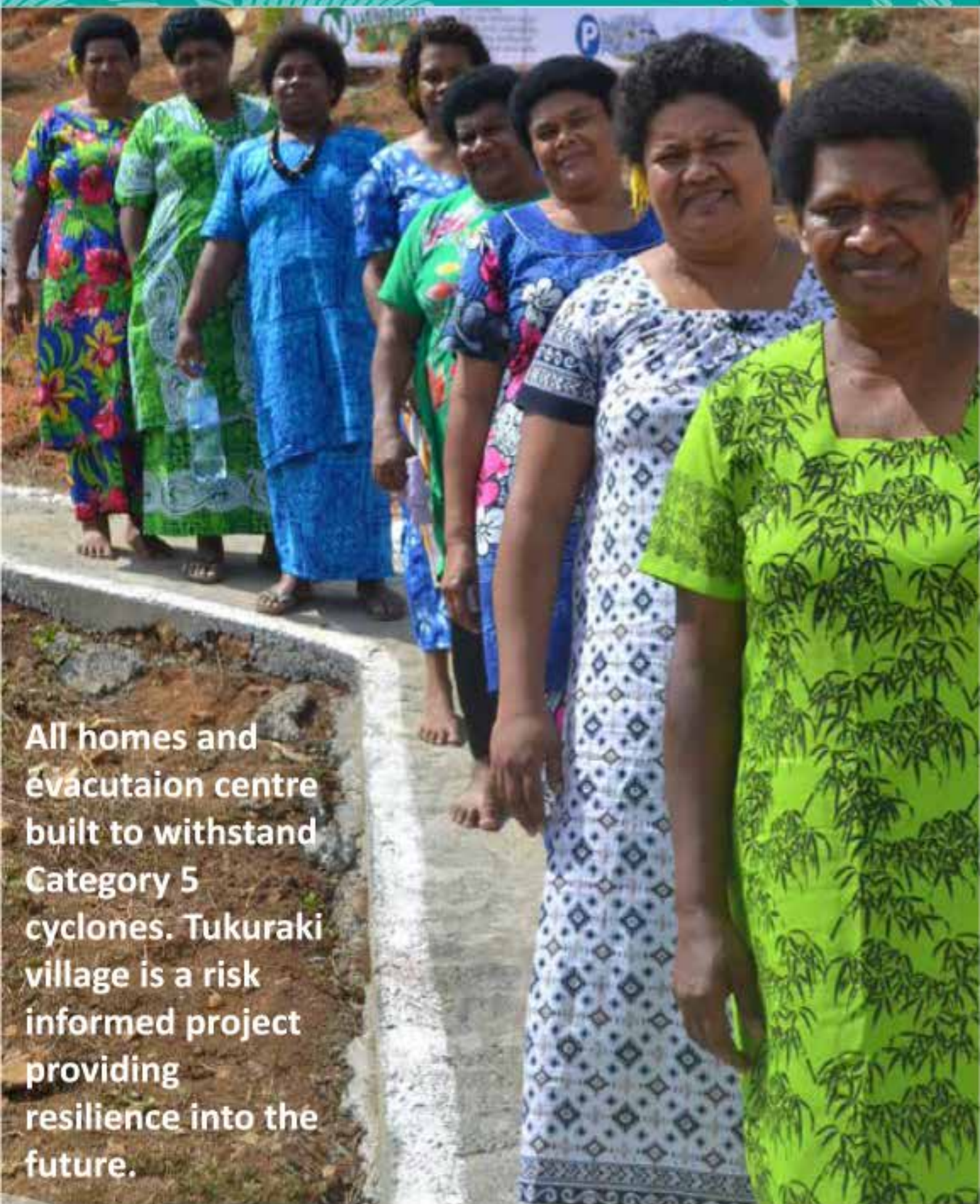




# TUKURAKI VILLAGE RELOCATION PROJECT



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



All homes and evacuation centre built to withstand Category 5 cyclones. Tukuraki village is a risk informed project providing resilience into the future.





# TUKURAKI VILLAGE RELOCATION PROJECT



**New village built to withstand category 5 Cyclones  
with evacuation centre opening 26th October 2017**



## RELOCATION OF TUKURAKI

Tukuraki Village is located in the highlands on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu and is one of 46 communities the Fiji Government has earmarked for relocation due to risk of climate change or disaster. The government has deemed more than 600 communities across the country, as at risk to the impact of disaster and climate change with the likelihood many of these will also need relocating over the coming years. The challenges faced by communities in the path of disaster and climate change impact is vast and negotiation of new land leases and suitable sites by community landowners requires additional support in most Pacific countries as land is owned by villages and communities rather than residing with the State. This creates unique challenges for those forced from their homes due to rising sea levels, disaster or climate change.

The lessons learned from this village relocation will now form a roadmap for future village migration and relocation due to disaster and climate risk with key actions and partnerships critical to the effective building and relocating of Tukuraki Village, officially opened on 26 October 2017.



## BACKGROUND OF TUKURAKI VILLAGE DISASTER IMPACT

In January 2012 tragedy struck Tukuraki Village when a landslide devastated the community killing a young family and wiping out the community's roads, water supply, homes and community hall. The villagers of Tukuraki were forced to move to makeshift homes as their village was assessed by Fiji's Mineral Resources Department and deemed unstable and at risk of further landslides. As a result the community were immediately relocated to temporary land nearby.

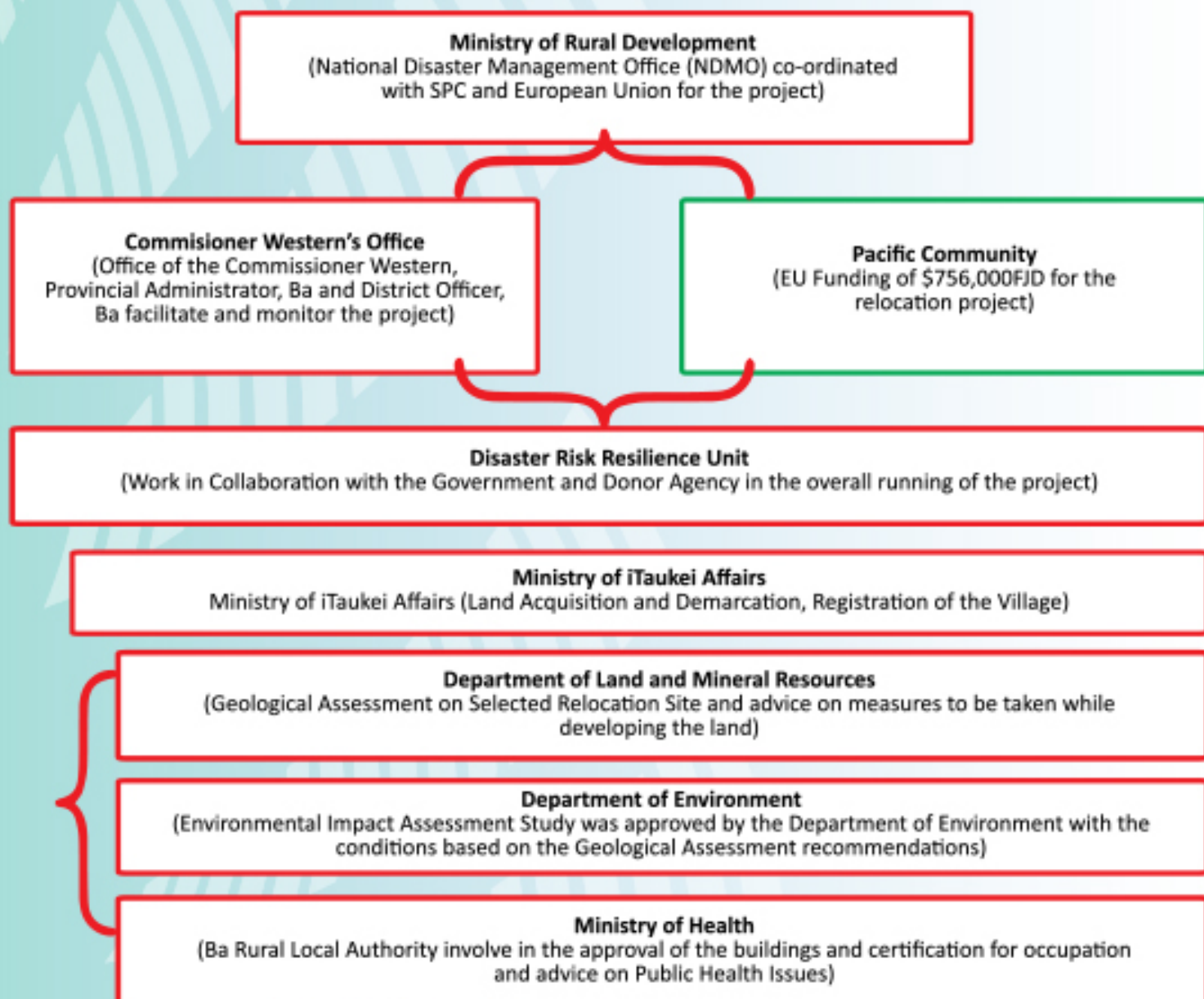
The impact of disaster continued for the villagers as 10 months after the landslide they were again struck by disaster as Cyclone Evan (category 4) caused widespread damage to Tukuraki and the Western Division of Fiji. The reality of disaster was again made real in 2016 when Cyclone Winston, the most severe ever recorded in Fiji, devastated the country and again left the Tukuraki community to rebuild. This category 5 cyclone with winds of up to 320km/h caused 1.99bn FJD in damages and became the community's third major disaster in 4 years.

The Tukuraki community was forced to take refuge in a nearby cave during the cyclone as they were without safe housing, an action that will no longer be required after the building of the new community as all homes are built to category 5 cyclone standard with an evacuation centre, village drainage and risk informed infrastructure.



Before	During	After
<p>The new site is now easy to access and is close to Nalotawa District School. The site was previously used for farming and had been left vacant for some time.</p> <p>It is generally a dry grassland area that is bordered by two major tributaries of the main Nadrou Creek.</p>	<p>The actual works started with clearing, landscaping and levelling in preparation for the building construction.</p> <p>11 houses and a community hall that doubles as an evacuation centre were approved by the Ba Rural Local Authority and constructed by different contractors and developed in line with local construction law. All stages of construction was monitored.</p>	<p>The 11 houses were completed with the Evacuation Centre designed to withstand up to a Category 5 cyclone.</p> <p>Completion certificate was issued by the Ba Rural Local Authority confirming that the buildings are now safe for human habitation. Other amenities like roads, water and sanitary facilities are completed.</p>

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES



# NEW TUKURAKI VILLAGE RELOCATION



## BUILDING A NEW TUKURAKI

### Negotiation of new land

After years of living in the temporary location the community worked with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Commissioner Western Division, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and partners to secure a new and safer site for the community and this was formalized in November 2015.

For three years, the community worked to secure a new area of land that was both more resilient to disaster and able to be gifted to the community for its safe relocation. The original site selected by the community was assessed by the Mineral Resources Department and deemed to be at risk of future disaster which again meant the village Turaga ni Koro (Chief) and community had to find and negotiate a new site.

The community was supported by development partners, non-government organisations, government ministries and international agencies to seek the appropriate approvals and requests to access new land within their local district and secured a site that had previously been used for agriculture gifted to them by the Mataqali Yalimara (tribal descendants who own the land).

### Securing partners to develop new community

The National Disaster Management Office representing the community and local partners then approached the Pacific Community (SPC) through its Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP) to fund and manage the relocation of Tukuraki Village after the devastation caused by Cyclone Winston in 2016. The BSRP Project (BSRP) committed to relocating the community by investing more than FJD 756,000 funded by the European Union in partnership with the Fiji Government.

The Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project is dedicated to protecting the lives and livelihoods of the people of the Pacific to disaster whilst increasing disaster resilience from regional, national and sub-national levels and this village relocation is testament to this commitment.

### Risk informed village

The development of the new community has been informed by robust risk resilience including GIS mapping of the new site, development of the homes and community hall to category 5 cyclone standards, rainwater harvesting systems and tanks servicing the entire community with water and sanitation best-practice. Sustainable livelihood projects have also been implemented with a fishpond for both food supply and economic empowerment of the community, a poultry farm, 15 bee hives for honey production and women's economic empowerment projects including handicrafts and weaving.





# Infrastructure development to support Tukuraki Village



## Access Roads

The new access road to the village, drains, and culverts to prevent the risk of landslide completed. **Cost FJD 55,000**

## Water Supply

The construction of dam, installation of 10 storage tanks, filters and household distributions through piping for clean and safe drinking water. **Cost FJD 72,000**

## Drainage

The Mineral Resources Department advised the need for proper drainage and this was completed for the new village site.

## Retaining Wall

The 345-meter retaining wall prevents erosion on the steep edges of the community. **Cost FJD 80,900**

## Wastewater and stormwater

Rainwater harvesting from roofs of new homes installed for all homes. A wastewater system installed for all homes leading to a common soakage pit.

## 11 houses and evacuation centre

Sourcing of materials, contractors, construction management for all homes and evacuation centre. Built to category 5 cyclone standards.  
**Cost Homes FJD 278,000**  
**Evacuation Centre FJD 126,642**







# Partners through Sustainable livelihood projects



## Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture assisted the community with 15 bee boxes, bee suit, 100 chicks, shed, drinker, feeders and a few seedlings. The honey business is projected to produce \$10,800 per annum and children business to produce \$2000 every 2 months. This would be a good source of food, protein to children and income generation.

Proper management and monitoring of this assistance created a good foundation to successfully venture into avenues and funding of other community development works. The total monetary value of these projects was

**FJD 10,617.47**

## Ministry of Fisheries

The project will benefit villages of Tukuraki and nearby villages in terms of food security, protein supply, economic generation and improvement the livelihood of the villages. The cost of assistance was \$5,500.

The first harvest provided \$996 FJD for the community with the rest of the Tilapia Fish being consumed by the village. The second harvest is expected to increase income generation and food security with 2,200 fish to be grown and sold in early 2018 for a predicted **FJD 2500**

## Ministry of Forest

The program will benefit the people of Tukuraki in the next 20 years and beyond. Native trees planted on the new site include Yasi, Nokonoko, Caliantra, Tavola, Sekoula, Vesi and Marasa.

They can establish a nursery for sandalwood and build/repair houses with other native trees when matured. Seeds from these trees are wind dispersed that allows them to grow anywhere. These trees create shade, prevent erosion as advised by Mineral Resources Department and create a friendly environment to other bird species.







## Other supporting partners

### Ministry of Rural Development

The community capacity building was coordinated by the Office of the Commissioner Western and facilitated by the Live & Learn (NGOs). The main aim is to train the villages and empower them on how to design a development plan, implement and evaluate in their capacity at village level. After the training, the trainees were able to identify the problem, prioritise the issues and designed a workable Action Plan that will guide the community for the next 5 years. It paves a way forward for the income generating activities established in the village.

### Ministry of Health

The villagers requested if their new community hall could be declared as a 'Tobacco Free Setting'. It came after they witnessed the declaration done in the nearby village of Nanuku and Nalotawa District School.

Awareness was also carried out in the village apart from the public health advice given during the establishment of the new village this initiative supports the target of reducing non-communicable diseases in the community through risk factor. Government Wellness Program was also organised with the community.

### Ministry of iTaukei Affairs

The Ba Provincial Council had undertaken one of the very important components of the relocation i.e. securing the boarder and land of the new village. The ground breaking ceremony officiated by te 'Tui Yakete' strengthen the traditional linkage that bonded this community to the high chief of the district. Consultations, awareness and continuous visitations by the Provincial team allowed the community to settle peacefully and began to live a normal life after years of struggling. In addition to that, the department management to facilitate the registration of the new setting to be declared as a registered village. It is beneficial in terms of development and services which is lacking in many informal settings.

### Ba Women's Group

Kitchen utensils were donated by the Soroptimist Ba Branch worth \$750.00 recently to support in food preparation and meals in the Tukuraki community. Most households in the community were lacking these essential items as it was lost in Cyclone Winston. The Soroptimist International Regional Fiji is concerned with the lives of individuals especially women and also donated water filters at a cost of \$135.00 to increase safe drinking supply for the community.





**LANDSLIDE DESTROYS TUKURAKI,**  
26th January 2012



Tukuraki Community buried by landslide 26th January 2012.

Decision made to relocate community due to unstable land.

**CYCLONE EVAN DECEMBER,**  
December 2012



Tukuraki temporary village hit by category 4 Cyclone Evan only 10 months after the landslide.

**CYCLONE WINSTON,**  
February 2016



**Community sheltering in cave during Cyclone Winston, February 2016**



**New village site officially secured 16th November 2015**



**BSRP Project Village Relocation building began July 2016**



Government and BSRP project team at new site before relocation began

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