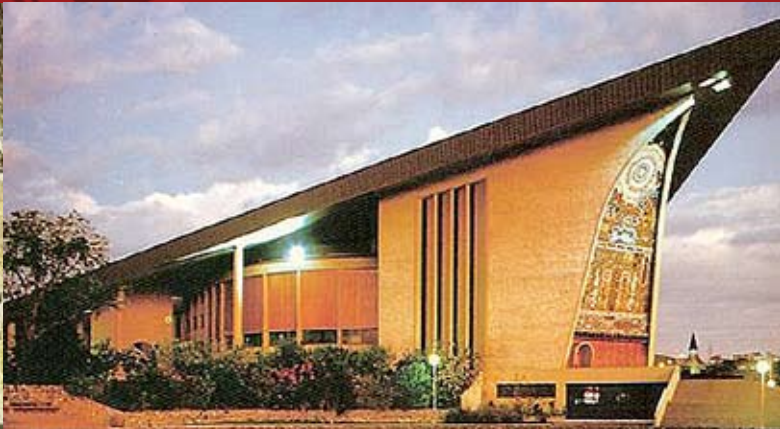




*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# 2011-2012 Highlights

## UNDP Pacific Centre



**PARTNERS IN ACHIEVING PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN THE PACIFIC**

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# INTRODUCTION

The UNDP Pacific Centre was formally established in 2006 to have in-house, internationally recruited, expertise in the region to complement existing capacity and help strengthen UNDP's country programmes while also implementing interventions designed to promote regional cooperation and integration. Prior to this, UNDP had relied on ad hoc external technical support in the design and implementation of its individual country programmes, with regional projects managed and operated from a number of locations. In 2006, it was determined that UNDP could be more effective if it had a high quality technical advisory team based in the Pacific that possessed both specific technical expertise as well knowledge of the Pacific Island countries. As a tight knit team, the Centre has been able to demonstrate capacity to work across thematic areas; draw differing skills together to provide high quality and innovative policy advice; and build a range of partnerships with Governments, regional organizations, NGOs and the private sector. The Centre's connections to the global UNDP community has allowed Pacific Island decision-makers to benefit from the experience of others while also providing a catalyst for sharing Pacific knowledge more broadly.

The Centre was established soon after the Pacific Plan became a reality and while the Plan's success as a regional strategic framework is currently under review, it has provided organizations, such as UNDP, with the leverage to advocate for a range of often sensitive issues as well as areas where regional cooperation provided the necessary platform for action in individual countries.

The following are some examples of how UNDP through its Pacific Centre has been able to work with UNDP Country Offices to enhance activities at the country level; strengthen collaboration between countries under the auspices of the existing regional architecture of organizations and networks; advocate for change in sensitive areas such as human rights and gender equality; as well as the testing of new and innovative ideas prior to their adoption more broadly.

None of this has been achieved by UNDP alone and has required the generous support of donors such as AusAID, NZAID, EU and Japan and the existence of close partnerships with Governments; civil society; regional and private sector organizations; UN agencies; and UNDP colleagues both in the region and globally.

## Cross-cutting Work on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality

Work towards women's empowerment and gender equality underpins much of the activity in the Pacific Centre. Gender is mainstreamed across each of the practice areas, and an integral part of that work involves applied research and publication, adding to the body of knowledge of gender across the Pacific region. Some of the notable results in this area include the following:

### Crisis Prevention and Recovery

- At the end of 2010, the Pacific Centre supported the establishment of a Pacific Regional Working Group (RWG) on Women, Peace and Security. Members include the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UN agencies, CSOs and Pacific Island government representatives from Solomon Islands and PNG which had the policy task to develop a Regional Action Plan to assist PICs with implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325: Women, Peace and Security and 1820: Addressing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations. The Regional Action Plan was launched on 19 October 2012 by the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Honourable Henry Puna.
- Gender mainstreaming activities were conducted for Disaster Risk Management practitioners in the Pacific region. In both Papua New Guinea (PNG) and in Tonga, dozens of government officials, UN staff and development partners were trained on gender analysis and mainstreaming in disaster and climate change adaptation initiatives. A research proposal on the engendered impacts of drought and water management in Tuvalu has been prepared and submitted to the UN Pacific Humanitarian team for discussion; a case study examining the gender dimensions of climate change risk and adaptation was prepared and presented at the Pacific Women's Ministers meeting and a checklist on Integrating Gender in Disaster Management in Small Island Developing States was published in July 2012.

### Democratic Governance

- Policy-makers were sensitized to the importance of temporary special measures (TSM) as a means of increasing women's political representation. In March 2011, the Centre supported the UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office to organize a panel debate on temporary special measures on International Women's Day. In July 2011, the Centre organized a panel on TSM at the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Women's Ministerial Meeting. Both panels received very positive feedback. In collaboration with PIFS, pilots of the first ever Mock Parliaments for Women were held in Kiribati, Marshall Islands, PNG and Palau. A video of the Kiribati Mock Parliament was produced as an advocacy tool and can be found on YouTube.

- The Pacific Centre worked with the Cook Islands government to complete the final draft of the Family Law Bill for submission to Parliament. The support included a legislative review of existing legislation, an overview of good practices from other countries, and an inclusive consultation process to ensure the Bill's content reflects the local context and responds to the needs of stakeholders. To facilitate the enactment of the Bill, additional technical support has been provided to the Government to draft supporting rules and regulations. More targeted technical advice was also provided to PICs on legislative reform, including to the Governments of Palau, PNG, Tonga, Kiribati, and Tuvalu. With regards to Tonga, specific advice was provided on CEDAW ratification on reservations.
- The Pacific Centre assisted the Republic of the Marshall Islands Government and the Cook Islands Government in costing the implementation of laws addressing domestic violence. The support included an in-country costing exercise jointly with the government to determine the cost over a three-year period of implementing legislation addressing domestic violence. Costing exercises can be critical tools in ensuring the implementation of law and the allocation of adequate resources. In addition, they provide guidance in delineating responsibility among government offices in the law's implementation and an avenue for partnership with the non-governmental and private sectors.

## Poverty Reduction and MDGs

- Work included comprehensive policy analysis, the production and dissemination of statistics for MDGs and UNDAF indicators for monitoring purposes, providing PIC Governments with a menu of policy options and ensuring that sectoral and provincial policies and plans reflect national development priorities and MDGs acceleration. Stakeholders in Samoa and Vanuatu were trained on policy formulation and planning, including gender issues and macroeconomics.
- Technical advice and support was provided to the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) including a workshop for Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu which focused on supporting women in business, including supporting value chain and inclusive market development and strengthening Pacific women in business associations. A follow-up programme of support has been developed to monitor the practical implementation of workshop outcomes.
- As part of the Women's Economic Security and Rights Initiative being implemented in collaboration with UN Women, the "Millennium Markets: One Market One Country" Project was developed for Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Through this project legal, socio-economic and financial development opportunities were provided to women market vendors in the informal economy, leading to the development of social protection mechanisms and a strengthening of the capacity of the local governments and town councils to respond better to the needs of the women vendors.





- In partnership with the AIDS Task Force of Fiji and the AIDS Council of New South Wales UNDP supported a ground breaking community led research project “Secret Lives, Other Voices” exploring male-to-male sex, gender identity and HIV transmission risk. Another important operational research project “Me, My Intimate Partner and HIV” explored spousal transmission risk of HIV in Fiji using a qualitative approach. These projects developed local capacity for social research and provided critical information for a better informed national response. Policy development projects included the drafting of a human-rights based HIV Bill for the Cook Islands and technical assistance to Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, PNG and Tuvalu to progress HIV related legal reform in collaboration with UNAIDS, SPC and Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation; while work with religious leaders in partnership with theological schools in Fiji and Tonga is contributing to reduce HIV related stigma and discrimination in Christian communities.

## Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP)

- PFIP’s work that has contributed towards women’s empowerment and gender equality include financial competency research, developing the capacity of women to participate in policy planning, reporting and monitoring and evaluation of programmes, financial education, and designing products for women vendors.
- There are now over half a million Mobile Money subscribers in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu, of which 52% are women.
- The Westpac Financial First Step programme is targeted at educating women micro entrepreneurs about financial products and services and to build their business skills capacity.

## Mock or Practice Parliaments Help Put More Pacific Women in the House

Pacific island countries have the lowest number of female parliamentarians in the world. The Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru have no women in Parliament, and as at October 2012 Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Tonga and Marshall Islands had each only one female parliamentarian. This situation is despite the considerable work that has been done to raise awareness with policy-makers about the need for temporary special measures to promote women's representation. During 2011 and 2012, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the UNDP Pacific Centre tried a novel approach to build the capacity of women candidates by running the first ever Mock Parliaments for Women in the Pacific.

### Kiribati

In advance of the Kiribati elections, a Mock Parliament for Women was run in August 2011. Thirty women participated, including 17 from the outer islands and 13 from Tarawa. The national elections held in October 2011 resulted in the reelection of 3 incumbents, and the election of a new MP, Hon Maere Tekanene.

Ms Tekanene won her seat after contesting national elections for the third time. (The other women members of the Kiribati Parliament are MP Rereao Tetaake (Teraina in the Line Islands), MP Teima Onorio (Arorae) and MP Tangariki Reete (Betio, South Tarawa)). Ms Tekanene who was one of the Department of Women organisers of the Mock Parliament specifically acknowledged the Mock Parliament following her win.

"The Women's Mock Parliament has played a key role in helping female





candidates win the constituencies of Betio and Teinainano both in South Tarawa. In the Teinainano constituency, where I contested, there were five of us, all of whom had had some kind of involvement with the Mock Parliament, either as an organiser or a participant... Each was trying her best in her own way but during the second round when I became the only candidate, they all gave a hand in advocating for me. At workshops and social and family gatherings they attended they would say, "Please, give a hand to the only female contesting in the final elections," she said.

## Republic of the Marshall Islands

National Elections in the Republic of Marshall Islands were held in November 2011, following a Mock Parliament for Women in September 2011. One new woman candidate, Dr Hilda Heine, was elected and has been chosen as a Minister.

Dr Heine was a participant in the Mock Parliament. At the conclusion of the Mock Parliament she commented: "There have been mixed views about this activity being conducted in Marshall Islands but the reality is, women need all the support available. I found this training very useful and would like to see it happen on a regular basis. I encourage young women to take part in future trainings so that they are exposed to law-making processes and experience what it is like to be in the Nitijela.

Reflecting on the usefulness of the training, Dr Heine noted: "Every election we hope women will win but not many women nominate in the first place. One of the reasons women don't run is because they feel intimidated when it comes to their place in the Nitijela. This training allows women to experience being in the Nitijela, where all our national decisions are made and shows us that we too have a part to play."

## Palau

In Palau a Mock Olbiil Era Kelulau (Congress) for Palauan women was held in September 2011. Hon Laura Miles, a mock delegate who was formerly the Governor of Sonsorol State, reflected on the positive experience she has had through her participation in the Mock Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK).

"I came this morning feeling really excited," she said. "Being a Governor before, I learned a lot about legislative processes, but this training has still enhanced my knowledge. When people asked me to run for the House of Delegates before, I felt ignorant – but after doing this, I know I can do it. I hope that this opportunity is offered to other women, because it has real benefit."

The Mock OEK was supported by the Palau Gender Division in the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs and the House of Delegates of the OEK, in collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Centre.

## Papua New Guinea



In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Office of the Department of Women and the UN organized a Practice Parliament for Women in April 2012 to support women candidates in their efforts to get elected to the National Parliament in the 2012 elections. Three women were elected at the June 2012 elections, one of whom, Honourable Loujaya Toni, was a participant in the Practice Parliament.

Margaret Loko, a participant and a candidate for a seat in the National Capital District, was very positive about the usefulness of the Practice Parliament in promoting women's leadership in PNG. "The Practice Parliament was a real eye-opener for the women who participated and we learnt the finer details about parliamentary procedures of law making that we can put to good use once we are elected into Parliament. I felt like an MP in action today!"

Mr David McLachlan-Carr, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in PNG, attended the entire Practice Parliament for Women and was glowing in his praise for the women: "I was incredibly impressed by the high quality of leadership, vision and policy knowledge demonstrated by the PNG women who participated. The women showed enormous commitment in researching and preparing their arguments, and anyone who was listening to the broadcast today on FM100 would have realized that they are very articulate. These women certainly demonstrated today that the women of this country can make great national leaders if they are only given the opportunity to engage in national policy and decision-making forums."

# Supporting UNCAC Ratification and Implementation in the Pacific

The Pacific Centre worked closely with Pacific government officials and civil society to encourage countries to work towards ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). To date, nine



**against corruption today**

Pacific Island countries have ratified UNCAC, namely Papua New Guinea (2007), Fiji (2008), Palau (2009), Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, (2011), Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, and Solomon Islands (2012). In 2011 following national workshops on UNCAC facilitated by UNDP targeting members of parliament in Solomon Islands, and members of congress in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Solomon Islands Government publicly committed to accession, and the FSM Congress submitted a resolution to the President to accede to UNCAC. The progress made throughout the region is the product of almost five years of continued work by UNDP and its partners.

UNCAC ratification is merely an early step in tackling corruption. In support of implementation of UNCAC, the Pacific Centre provided technical assistance to Marshall Islands to review the Criminal Code to bring it into line with the criminalization and law enforcement provisions (Chapter 3) of UNCAC, and these amendments were passed in September 2011. The Centre also provided inputs to Vanuatu's review of the existing Ombudsman and Leadership Code Acts. In support of UNCAC Article 10 on public reporting and information, the Centre partnered with the Commonwealth Pacific Governance Facility to support the Tongan Government to develop a Freedom of Information (FOI) Policy. A similar initiative was launched in Vanuatu in 2012, following a request from the Government for technical support in drafting an FOI policy paper, a draft FOI Bill, and an implementation plan. The Pacific Centre is also working with the UNDP PNG Country Office to develop a more comprehensive programme of assistance to the PNG Government to implement UNCAC, following the endorsement of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy by the PNG Government in August 2011.

## Ongoing Work to Support UNDP Pacific Country Offices on Climate Change Policy



As Papua New Guinea (PNG) moves to finalize its National Climate Change and Development Policy, and transition its existing Office of Climate Change and Development to a new Climate Change Authority, it has sought the technical and policy advice of the UNDP Pacific Centre Boots on the Ground Advisor, and the UNDP PNG Country Office. Drawing on the experiences of other Pacific Island Countries which have implemented or drafted climate change policies, UNDP will provide support to this process until mid-2013. The Climate Change Policy will be a vitally important guiding framework for PNG to achieve sustainable development, and to access climate finance. PNG's Minister for Forest and Climate Change, Patrick Pruaitch said "The drafting of the Climate Change and Development Policy is the Government's blue print to achieve its vision in building a climate-resilient and carbon neutral pathway through sustainable economic development for PNG."

Samoa has joined Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Cambodia in launching a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR). A team from the UNDP Pacific Centre, Samoa Multi-Country Office and the Overseas Development Institute met with representatives from the Government of Samoa to initiate the assessment of current policy priorities and strategies as they relate to climate change and the extent to which these strategies and policies are coherent with national development,

poverty reduction and economic growth strategies. The study reviewed institutional arrangements for promoting an integration of climate change policy priorities into budgeting and expenditure management including within and across key ministries, local governments and stakeholders, and reviewed the integration of climate change objectives within the budgeting process, including as part of budget planning, implementation, expenditure management and financing. The CPEIR provided the Government of Samoa with detailed analysis and recommendations for accessing and managing climate finance.

There is growing consensus that if developing countries “directly access” climate financing, this will result in more effective financial delivery, and promote greater country ownership of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. The Adaptation Fund is at the forefront of climate related global funds in providing direct access for governments through National Implementing Entities (NIE). The Cook Islands Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) requested UNDP’s support in anticipation of its application to the Adaptation Fund as a NIE. In partnership with the Samoa Multi-Country Office, the UNDP Pacific Centre Regional Climate Change Policy Advisor along with the Global Coordinator of the Boots on the Ground programme provided a capacity assessment of the proposed NIE. The anticipated outcome is that the Cook Islands MFEM will be accredited as an NIE which would allow Cook Islands to directly access the Adaptation Fund for climate change adaptation programming.





## Tokelau Moves to Renewable Energy



Pacific Island countries are the most petroleum-dependent region in the world. Despite this, Tokelau, a group of three small atolls in the South Pacific Ocean, is the first to meet its electricity needs entirely through renewable energy.

Tokelau has a total land area of 10 square kilometres and a population of around 1,400. Its small size, isolation and limited natural resources are all constraints on its development. Worse, it had to spend approximately NZ\$1million (approx. US\$800,000) annually on imported fossil fuel.

Since 2001 UNDP has worked with the Government of Tokelau, communities on the three atolls and development

partners to prepare the ground for large scale sustainable energy utilization. With funding and technical assistance from a range of sources including UNDP and UNESCO, the first Tokelau National Energy Policy and Strategic Action Plan was prepared and endorsed by the government in 2004. The goals specified for energy development in this plan were twofold: 1) achievement of energy independence through the development of indigenous energy resources; and 2) provision of affordable, high quality electrical power to all residents.

Further, in partnership with the Governments of New Zealand and France, UNDP supported key preparatory work that included:



resource assessments, feasibility and design studies and the implementation of a solar system demonstration project in Fakaofu atoll. Since November 2008 the UNDP Pacific Centre has provided significant technical support related to the tender processes and contract preparations, to the Government of Tokelau and the UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office.

The first system, on Fakaofu atoll, was switched on in early August after a six-week construction period. The Nukunonu system was connected in mid-September, and the final system on Atafu was connected end of October 2012. The three power systems are funded by the Government of New Zealand. When fully completed around 4,032 solar panels and batteries will have been installed across the three atolls of Tokelau, making the plants some of the largest standalone solar systems in the world. The plants will provide 24-hour high quality electricity supply for all islanders, eliminating

diesel use, and even produce surplus electricity to allow Tokelauans to expand on their energy use. During periods of prolonged cloud cover, generators, running on coconut oil, will supply power and simultaneously recharge the battery bank.

This hybrid solar-coconut oil system will set Tokelau on a carbon-free development path and enable it to be more energy secure and self-reliant for its electricity needs. More importantly, the amount spent annually on imported fossil fuel will be now available to support social and other services for the islanders.

Tokelau's ambitious goal could not have been achieved without the sustained commitment and political will of the Government and the support of its development partners. The Government of Tokelau's long-term determination has been pivotal in overcoming barriers along the way.



## Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean Small Island Developing States

The South-South Cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean SIDS on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (South-South) project facilitates an exchange of knowledge and experiences between individuals and organizations in Pacific Island countries, and Caribbean small island states. Since its launch in 2010, the project has had a number of highlights. These include:



### Climate Observers Training Programme

In 2011 four Pacific Islanders participated in a ten-month climate observers' training programme at the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology. As they each embarked on a personal journey to learn more about climatology, agro-meteorology, operational radar, instrumental maintenance and repair, and aeronautical meteorology from their Caribbean counterparts, Konny Nato (Papua New Guinea), Wilson Saega (Solomon Islands), Williams Bae Worworkon (Vanuatu) and Vaaua Wilson (Samoa) also had the opportunity to share their experiences as part of a two-month work attachment in a Caribbean Meteorological Office.

During the work attachment, Mr Worworkon was assigned to Entry Level Meteorological Technicians training section. Mr Nato (PNG Weather Services) and Mr Saega (Solomon Islands Senior Meteorological Observer) were assigned to the

Climate Section which included data analysis and drought monitoring. They were also assigned to the Instrument Section which included training on Automatic Weather stations, while Mr Vaaua (Scientific Officer, Weather Operations Services in Samoa) was attached to the Barbados Meteorological Services.

Other skills attained during the exchange include the skills to maintain, repair and calibrate relevant meteorological instruments, inspect and set-up weather observation sites, assist with field experiments, prepare summaries and reports of analyzed data among other skills.

## Looking South Across the Oceans

The film “Looking South Across the Oceans: Promoting Cooperation Among Small Island Developing States” was launched in 2011. It tells the story of how small island developing states (SIDS) in the Pacific and Caribbean have embarked on a journey to share knowledge and experiences to strengthen the resilience of their communities to natural disasters and climate change. It highlights that many adaptable solutions to the challenges posed by natural disasters can be found by looking South.

## Agro-Meteorology Training Workshop

A three-week long training by a world expert in agro-meteorology, Dr Roger Eduardo Rivera Vega, demystified the processes involved in agro-meteorology and provided weather specialists and agriculture officers from across the Pacific with knowledge, tools and skills to interpret the impact of changing weather patterns on crop and livestock production. It also provided the participants with an opportunity to map the next steps in building stronger agro-meteorology services in their countries.

Roger Suat from the Department of Agriculture in Papua New Guinea said he found the training beneficial. “In Papua New Guinea, since 1997 we have noted a decrease in crop production directly linked to changing weather patterns. I can use my knowledge of crop modeling from this training to inform farmers on what types of crops to plant in areas affected by changing weather patterns.”



## Pacific Approaches to Peace and Dialogue

Since its launch in 2009, the Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) project of the UNDP Pacific Centre has steadily built up a Pacific community of peace practitioners and the impact of this work is starting to be felt on the ground. CPAD has been very successful in opening up space and helping sustain conversations about peace and development in the region while supporting civil society organizations to engage more effectively in peace building.

Now in its third year, the project is making inroads towards advancing the theory and practice of Pacific approaches to dialogue. At CPAD's most recent workshop held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, country representatives identified common roles in effective dialogue in the Pacific, as well as began to define key terminology relevant to peace building in the region. A compendium of case studies of dialogue processes in the Pacific region is currently under development.

A key component of the CPAD project is a small grants programme, designed to assist civil society organizations to implement peace building initiatives. Sixteen Pacific civil society groups have received funding so far, representing the use of a cross section of peace building methods. These methods have included: working with grassroots women, advocating for human rights, and working with faith-based groups.

In 2010, FemLINKPACIFIC received a CPAD grant. Reflecting on her experience, FemLINKPACIFIC's Executive Director, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls said, "Through the CPAD grant we have been able to enhance communication between rural women in our "1325" network as well as enhance communication between women and government officials to be able to define their peace, human security and development priorities."

Other notable results from the CPAD small grants programme include a dialogue symposium organized by the Sycamore Tree project to raise awareness of the reconciliation processes and the need to advance non-monetized approaches to reconciling victims and offenders of the period known as "The Tensions" in the Solomon Islands. As a result of Sycamore Tree's success, the Government of the Solomon Island is supporting Sycamore Tree's reconciliation initiatives which is now considered a key element of Solomon Islands national reconciliation strategy. The small grants also supported the work of Voice for Change in Papua New Guinea (PNG) described in the following story.

After three years of CPAD, many of the participants now know each other well and are beginning to function as a true regional community of practice. As well as keeping in touch via email during the year, at the last workshop participants took the





opportunity to meet with individuals and delegations to discuss common problems and possible solutions, in a demonstration of the potential for South-South learning and collaboration in the project. For example, informal discussions were held amongst members of the PNG contingent and their Solomon Islands counterparts. These included issues ranging from the spill-over effects of the Bougainville crisis, to discussing the traditional trade connections between the people of Shortland and Choiseul of the Solomon Islands to the people of Bougainville.

### Small Grants to Civil Society Organizations

- Anglican Church of Melanesia
- Citizens Constitutional Forum (CCF)
- Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECCREA)
- Dialogue Fiji
- FemLINKPACIFIC
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
- God's Pacific People of the Pacific Theological College
- Hako Women's Collective
- Leitana Nehan Development Agency
- Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili of Tonga
- North Bougainville Women's Federation
- Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding
- Peace Foundation Melanesia
- Simbu Human Rights Advocate
- Sycamore Tree
- Voice for Change.

## Rural Women Bringing Peace in Papua New Guinea

Education, commitment, sacrifice and full participation in the daily life of her community is the recipe for Lilly Be'Soer's success as a leader. Lilly recently brought about a peace agreement in a Papua New Guinea Highlands community which had been in conflict for the past four years, and in which four previous attempts to bring peace had been unsuccessful.

Lilly gave up her paid employment five years ago and returned to her village to work with women struggling to support themselves and their families. Working through the non-government organization, Voice for Change, she came across many women who, like herself, had been displaced from their traditional lands.

"Voice for Change is supporting women who have been displaced from the community. Many of these women did not have food, could not send their children to school and had no land on which to grow food or bury the dead," said Lilly.

Last year, Voice for Change received a small grant under UNDP's Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development (CPAD) programme to support their work in mediating a peace agreement to end the conflict between the clans and pave the way for the return of the displaced clan to their ancestral lands. A total of 500 people had been displaced as result of the conflict.

Lilly said that in the past three years, various actors had made four attempts

to resolve the conflict and while all were started they all failed.

"Voice for Change led the fifth reconciliation attempt. What we did was to have intensive consultations with the clans, the elders, the women and the men. These went on for six months. In one of our initial consultations we had presentations made by the displaced women to the policemen. As the presentations progressed and the women spoke about how they or their daughters were abused and how they could not pay for their children's education or to get their sick children treated in hospitals, the faces of the men changed and they said that they had to do something to resolve the conflict."

Lilly described the challenges she faced in the reconciliation process, the length and complexity of the consultations as well as how traditional leadership structures and processes had to be respected to pave the way for the peace agreement.

"Now, we are just starting the return of the displaced clan," she said.

In addition to her work in the community, Lilly is also the General Secretary of the Highlands Regional Human Rights Defenders Network as well as a member of the newly established regional network of Women Human Rights Defenders. Lilly is now a single mother of six children having left a polygamous marriage. In 2010 Lilly was awarded a Pacific Human Rights Defenders Award.



# Towards a New Definition of Security in the Pacific

There has been a significant shift in the concept of security among Pacific Island Countries from a state centred approach to a people centred or human security approach since 2006 supported by the UNDP Pacific Centre in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. This shift recently culminated in the official welcoming by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in their 2012 Communique of the Pacific Human Security Framework, which was jointly developed by Pacific Centre and the Forum Secretariat.

The Framework provides a common foundation and strategic guidance for improving the understanding, planning, and implementation of human security approaches in stand-alone and broader peace, security and development initiatives in the unique Pacific context. It also aims to strengthen cooperation on human security and is supportive of and complementary to the Pacific Plan.

The process of transition to a human security approach was done over two stages. From 2006 to 2008 UNDP and the Forum Secretariat at the request of the Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC) undertook consultations in partnership with civil society and academia, carried out case studies in Vanuatu, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Kiribati, and conducted research to establish a theoretical foundation for the Framework including identifying human security threats, existing capacities to respond to those threats, and approaches to strengthen human security.

In 2008, the FRSC welcomed the theoretical work and requested that UNDP and the Forum Secretariat shift their focus from theory to practical application. Between 2008 and 2012 UNDP and the Forum Secretariat implemented a wide range of projects based on the theoretical foundation including tackling sexual and gender based violence, women's involvement in peace and security, dialogues with civil society on security issues, capacity building of FRSC officials in conflict prevention, youth involvement in crime and violence, security sector governance, and land management. The experiences and results of project implementation on these types of issues informed the development of the Framework.

The period 2012 to 2015 will see the Framework being utilized as a guide for security and development interventions by Pacific Island countries and the Forum Secretariat. In 2015 the FRSC will review the Framework. However, what is unmistakable is that the focus of security in the region has definitively shifted from a state centred approach to a human centred approach which will support better development outcomes for all.

## Security Sector Governance – Regional Intervention Leading to National Adoption

The effective governance of security institutions is vital for the Pacific. In the context of conflict and violence, it supports the efforts of state institutions to stabilize the security situation, begin the road to recovery and reduce the potential for relapse. In non-conflict contexts, it ensures security institutions fulfill their mandate to combat insecurity, creating an enabling environment for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and the UNDP Pacific Centre jointly launched the Regional Security Sector Governance Initiative in 2008, consulting with stakeholder groups in Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. As part of the initiative, a Regional Conference on Security Sector Governance in the Pacific was held in early 2009, and a joint paper was then presented to the Forum Regional Security Committee.

These activities formed a launch pad for the first steps to develop a National Security Policy in PNG. In 2011, the National Security Council approved the development of such a policy for PNG in alignment with the PNG Vision 2050 “Pillar Four – Security and International Relations,” the PNG Development Strategic Plan 2010–2030 and the Medium Term Development Plan 2011–2015.

As a result of strong momentum in 2012, the policy is being developed under the leadership of the Office of Security Coordination and Assessment within the Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council. Through nation-wide consultations, the policy seeks to respond to a range of security challenges and provides a comprehensive framework to address these in a coherent manner. It prescribes how the Government of PNG will provide security for the state and its people. It further ensures a collective understanding of security needs, threats and challenges, national priorities, and the role of different actors to enhance coordination, identify capacities and resources needed to deal with security threats, improve oversight and accountability and provide a sound basis for any subsequent institutional reforms. The policy also provides the overarching framework for the realignment of the Defence White Paper, the Foreign Policy and other enabling policies related to security service delivery. The Pacific Centre continues to provide support to the reform of the security sector in PNG through the provision of technical and financial assistance.

## Helping Pacific Countries Formulate MDG Friendly Trade Policies



While data constraints continue to be a challenge in monitoring progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Pacific, available data and information (mainly found in Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, scattered poverty analyses and national MDGs Reports) have not been fully and effectively utilized to guide policy decisions. Increasingly, national development plans and strategies focus on MDGs priorities, but MDGs are not reflected in sectoral and provincial plans. This exacerbates the weak economic governance already often present at the sector level and in the sub-national and rural areas. At the same time, development partner support has often focused more on individual projects, with little or no engagement in higher level planning and policy formulation.

In 2011 in an effort to help countries address these challenges, the UNDP Pacific Centre, working with the relevant UNDP Country Offices, scaled up its policy engagement by providing direct support to planning and policy formulation in Samoa and Vanuatu.

In Samoa, in early 2011 a comprehensive policy and economy wide analysis was launched to guide Samoa's next national development strategy 2013-2023. The exercise aimed to provide the Government of Samoa with a menu of policy options to enhance inclusive growth and accelerate progress towards the achievement of MDGs. As Samoa moves away from project-based planning at the sectoral level to a sector-wide approach, the team from the Pacific Centre provided technical support to the formulation of Samoa's first Foreign Trade, Commerce and Manufacturing

Sector Plan (2012-2016). This sector plan brings to the forefront the acceleration of MDGs achievement, as well as strengthens the focus on the private sector, with more emphasis on youth and women entrepreneurs. The Plan also improves the links between the manufacturing and trade sectors, on one hand, and the primary production sector (e.g. agriculture, fishery and forestry), in order to increase income generating opportunities and sustainable livelihoods for the rural population and strike a balance between subsistence and commercial primary production.

In Vanuatu, along with UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, the UNDP Pacific Centre participated in the mid-term peer review of Vanuatu's National Development Strategy (the Priority Actions Agenda) and implementation plan. During the review, it was recognized that while the Government has established a separate Department of Industry under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, there was no industrial policy in place to guide the nascent Department. In response, UNDP provided direct technical and financial support to lead the formulation of Vanuatu's first industrial policy. Vanuatu's industrial policy marks a strategic shift in the Government's policies to support the private sector, from general incentives and tax holidays to more targeted and selective support, particularly to women and youth, that is tied to performance and encompasses enhancing access to finance, technology, mentoring and marketing. Another strategic shift in the Industrial Policy is to adopt a clustered development approach to create sustainable value chains from primary production to trade with all supporting services (e.g. marketing education, research and development, banking and finance) working together to enhance value addition. Vanuatu's newly formulated industrial policy includes a road map to enhance the contribution of the manufacturing sector and thereby reduce the country's chronic and unsustainable trade deficit by building on Vanuatu's natural comparative advantage and traditional knowledge to produce high value-added products targeting niche markets.



## UNDP Reaches out to Schools to Promote the Millennium Development Goals

The 2011 Miss Sugar, Renee Duguivalu partnered with the UNDP Pacific Centre to conduct a schools outreach in the Western Division in the lead up to the 2011 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Miss Duguivalu, accompanied by two UNDP staff members, visited seven schools and advocated to students to have an active role in helping work towards the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG), to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

“We can start by working hard; take school seriously, we should work hard at honing our natural talents and skills because the means to make a living nowadays is wide open to all trades and talents, provided you have the motivation and organization to be successful,” said Miss Duguivalu, speaking to students at Ratu Navula College in Nadi, from where she started her tour.

Ms Duguivalu who was also selected as the Best MDGs Speaker during the Sugar Festival, presented on the MDGs as well as conducted pop quizzes in the schools visited which included Natabua High School, Ba Provincial Freebird Institute, Lautoka Central Primary School, Drasa Avenue School, Lautoka Andhra Sangam School and Saint Thomas High School. All schools visited were presented with MDGs literature for the school library and for student research purposes.

“This visit was useful because most

of our students come from remote areas and the information shared today can help them uplift their lives at home. Education is the only means of changing lives of students and their communities,” said the Principal of the Ba Provincial Freebird Institute, Beniamino Tawake.

Students also felt empowered by hearing Miss Duguivalu speak.

“I came to know about the MDGs during the Sugar Festival earlier this year, but I really understood what they meant at the presentation today. We are facing hard times in Fiji. Achieving the MDGs and alleviating poverty will benefit the country as a whole,” said Dorian Samuel, a Form 5 student at Natabua High School.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty which falls on 17 October provided a great opportunity for raising awareness on this goal. MDG reports of Pacific Island countries indicate that poverty is generally viewed as hardship due to lack of services, like transport, water, primary health care, and education.

Miss Sugar also spoke at the Laucala Campus of the University of the South Pacific (USP) on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Day during an event organized by UNDP in partnership with the USP Students Association to raise awareness on MDGs and poverty alleviation initiatives in the Pacific.

## Single Mum Begins Banking



At 5am every weekday morning, Makereta Miramira is awake. She prepares breakfast for her four sons and her elderly bedridden uncle, prepares lunches for her sons before the sun begins to peep over the horizon.

At 7.30am she packs three of her sons off to school and helps the eldest get ready for work. After this she helps her uncle get ready for the day by bathing him, cleaning up his room, making his bed and then situating his chair at a place he will be comfortable in.

By 10.30am, if everything goes according to plan, she has time to get cleaned up and get her kitchen ready for business.

Makereta, 36, is a self-employed single mother of four boys. Her eldest Luke

Vosavosa is 19, the second Sosiceni Kaitani 17, Jope Lutu is 13 and the youngest Inoke Roko is 9. The Fiji Government, through its Department of Social Welfare provides her FJ\$66 (US\$37) a month in family assistance.

“With this money I have to be very smart because it is not a lot to go around,” she said.

To support her four sons and put them through school as well as take care of her bedridden uncle, Makereta has to exercise careful management over her money and be entrepreneurial at the same time. With the agreement of the Nausori District Primary School, where her children attend school, she began making lunches for the students and teachers two years ago.



"I make 40 lunches on average a day and I charge the students a FJ\$1 (US\$0.56) a serve and teachers, I charge FJ\$2 (US\$1.13) a serving. I usually make rice with curry or chop suey or even stew.

"This is our family's only other source of income other than the social welfare payment," she said.

In 2010, Government, with financial and technical support from the UNCDF/ UNDP Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme, introduced a system where welfare recipients were paid, for the first time, through a bank account. Before this recipients were issued voucher books which had to be cashed monthly at designated Post Office branches. This government-to-person (G2P) initiative meant that recipients were given Westpac Bank accounts which can be accessed through a smart card with minimum transaction fees. Makareta was one of the 23,500 social welfare clients (94%) who never had a bank account previously.

Makereta says having her money go directly into the bank account has been a blessing.

"With my money going directly to the bank, I don't really worry about it. In the past, we only had the first two weeks of every month to cash our voucher and when I had all my cash in hand, I used to find that I would end up spending it all very fast."

But with her money in the bank and her lunch making business steadily moving

along, Makereta has found she has been able to save for the rainy day.

She also had to wait in line, sometimes for up to half a day, to collect the voucher books every six months from the social welfare office and endure the long queues at the Post Office every month.

"Even if I saved FJ\$15 a month from the money from Government, this is a lot for me. I never used to be able to do this before because I get out all my money and I would spend it all. But now it's going to the bank and with my business taking care of some of our daily needs, I only touch my banked money when it is a real emergency."

She said the ability to use her card at a supermarket to shop is also helpful.

"Sometimes, to go right to the ATM machine or the bank can be a hindrance especially when I need something fast. So knowing that I can just go down the road to the supermarket and buy what I need is nice.

"I really like this new system of payment."

The family has plans for the money she has managed to save so far.

"Our house is falling apart, as you can see. It is a really old house, it was my Uncle's but he has signed it over to me and my sons so I want to repair it. There are leaks on the roof and windows that need fixing, it needs a paint-job too."

## Financial Inclusion in the Pacific

The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme's (PFIP) goal is to reach at least 500,000 of the unbanked population in the Pacific by 2013. This goal is being accomplished by providing sustainable financial services to 70% of Pacific Islanders who remain unbanked today. PFIP believes that those who are financially excluded are not able to achieve their full economic potential and are denied the opportunities to attain a productive and dignified living.

Through innovation, PFIP has introduced several scalable and replicable projects that have brought the project closer to achieving its goals.



## Supporting the Launch of Mobile Financial Services

Vodafone Fiji's M-PAiSA launch in June 2010 was the first "mobile money" service in the Pacific supported by PFIP. M-PAiSA was followed shortly by Digicel Mobile Money which has since been introduced in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea (PNG) by July 2011, with a launch pending in Solomon Islands. To date these services have registered over 450,000 clients across five countries, providing them with a lower cost, secure means to transfer or store money domestically, pay bills and since 2011 receive international remittances.

## Helping Banks Deepen Outreach to Savers

National Bank of Vanuatu was PFIP's first partner by helping to bring their rural branch network on line and then partnered with Nationwide Microbank in PNG to develop a cost-effective branchless banking strategy. These two institutions have

added over 50,000 savers since 2008 and both launched mobile phone services in 2011, linking up with Digicel Mobile Money. Both projects were supported in partnership with AusAID and the Asian Development Bank. In 2012, PFIP is also partnering with Westpac to launch In-store Banking in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and PNG. This latest initiative allows selected merchants to conduct certain banking services like includes cash deposits, cash withdrawal, bill payments etc. using EFTPOS terminals. Westpac In-store banking allows more people to enter the formal banking system.

## **Supporting the Inclusion of Financial Education in Fiji**

Integrating financial education into the core curricula of schools started with a UNDP pilot in Samoa. Based on that early pilot, PFIP developed FinED Fiji. Through Fiji's financial education project, 197,000 students will be exposed to personal money management and investment within schools on an annual basis. By 2013, financial education will be integrated into the existing school curricula in both primary and secondary levels throughout the 910 schools in Fiji. The Project which is funded by AusAID, is jointly managed by the Ministry of Education and PFIP. PFIP is currently scoping out the potential for FinED in the Solomon Islands.

## **Government to Person Payments (G2P)**

Since December 2010, over 20,000 unbanked social welfare beneficiaries in Fiji have received no cost, convenient bank accounts for their benefits. This transition from an insecure and costly cash benefit system to an electronic payment system has created low cost savings services for all social welfare clients in Fiji and saves the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) around FJ\$280,000 per year. This partnership with the DSW, Westpac and AusAID Fiji is now focused on providing financial education to all beneficiaries.

## **Microinsurance**

PFIP has worked to introduce microinsurance into the Pacific since 2009. After supporting several small pilots in Fiji and PNG, Life Insurance Company of India (LICI) in Fiji became the first to launch a Micro Life product earlier this year by partnering with community and religious based organizations in Fiji offering one of the lowest premiums of FJ\$14 per year for FJ\$1,000 annual funeral coverage. For further development in the Pacific PFIP, AusAID, and the ILO have placed three microinsurance fellows in Fiji, PNG and Timor-Leste to assist insurance companies in building microinsurance to scale.

## Helping Regulators take the Lead

Since 2008, PFIP has worked with the region's central banks and finance ministries and helped develop and pursue the MoneyPacific Goals aimed at broadly increasing access to financial services and financial education. The central banks have taken the lead with PFIP support to develop national action plans, sponsor microfinance expos, promote financial education, and collect more data on financial inclusion. With the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), the central banks have a high level, Pacific working group that has worked together to create enabling regulations for branchless banking, microinsurance, review and reduce regulations that restrict access to saving, and improve oversight of microfinance institutions. In 2012, the Central Bank of Solomon Islands, Reserve Bank of Fiji and Central Bank of Samoa have held national financial competency workshops and are finalizing respective national financial inclusion strategies.

## Research to Understand Financial Knowledge and Behavior of Low Income Households

One of PFIP's core outputs is to build knowledge on the supply and demand of financial services with a specific focus on analyzing the financial competencies and behaviors of low income households in urban and rural communities. The Financial Competency project measures the 'knowledge' and awareness to financial tools and 'ability' to engage with financial products. Working with 264 households in three provinces in PNG over a period of 40 weeks, PFIP has embarked on a Financial Diaries project measuring the 'financial behavior' based on financial transactions and response to unexpected events during this period. An important outcome of both these research efforts is to lay the foundation for plugging the information gap for designing appropriate products targeted at women and men. Both these research projects are implemented by the Bank of PNG (BPNG) with financial assistance from PFIP and will also assist BPNG to initiate appropriate policy responses to enable private sector players to deliver products to the segment.

## Financial Inclusion and Gender in the Pacific

The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) includes specific gender targets, which must be met by both the Project and its private sector partners. The financial competency study focused on assessing the competency of women by soliciting information independently of men within low income households in rural Fiji. It highlighted that women are more competent in household financial management like budgeting and manage the household finances better. However, they have less awareness, information and access to financial tools and products.

In September 2012, a National Strategy Workshop was led by the Reserve Bank of Fiji to share the findings of the study where an important policy outcome was achieved. It was decided that educating and training women on financial tools and products will form a critical component of the National Financial Inclusion strategy of Fiji and targeted financial literacy programmes will be delivered to enable women to get access to financial products and tools. Similar financial competency studies have been carried out in Samoa, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG). PFIP is currently working with the Central Bank in each country to share the findings and initiate appropriate policy responses through National workshops by bringing together both private and public sector stakeholders.

In the areas of research, PFIP focuses on understanding both the competencies and the long term financial behavior of women. To this end, PFIP launched the first of its kind initiative in the Pacific called the Financial Diaries project which seeks to understand the financial behavior of 264 low income households including women and men across three provinces in PNG – Central, Eastern Highlands and West New Britain. This research captures how women and men respond differently and cope with unexpected events and differ in their engagement with a range of formal and informal financial products and transactions over a long term period of 40 weeks.

An important outcome of the research will be to lay the foundation for designing appropriate products targeted at women and men and to help the Central Bank initiate appropriate policy responses to enable private sector players to deliver products to the segment. Similar research was carried out in Solomon Islands for a shorter period in three markets to understand women market vendors' entire range of financial interactions including income and expenditure and their impact on savings and their needs, awareness and preference for financial services.

## *PFIP Gender Results: as at June 2012*

<b>Product/Training</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% Women</b>
Total Mobile Money Subscribers (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu)	518,571	51% active users
Total Savers/Depositors (PNG & Fiji)	171,145	40%
Total social welfare clients receiving payments via savings-linked bank payment channel (Fiji)	18,000	60% (comprising most vulnerable women)
Total Microinsurance clients (Fiji only since Apr 2011)	2,156	87%
Total number of clients registered with a mobile agent aggregator, received training and performed one cash based transaction in PNG	13,688	41%
Total number of clients registered with Nationwide Microbank mobile bank savings account	2,605	34%
Number of remittance customers using the KlickEx channel	1,340	52% (no. of female recipients)
Westpac Regional Literacy Training including Money Basics, Financial Management, Business Basics and Financial First Steps	7,249	49% (no. of women trained across PNG, Tonga, and Vanuatu)
Westpac has given financial literacy training to DSW women beneficiaries	10,800 women beneficiaries	25% trained

In providing training opportunities, PFIP has taken care to address gender equality, from training 50 women market vendors in Rakiraki about microinsurance in Fiji, to a regulatory workshop on insurance where 45% of the participants were women from Central Banks across seven countries, to training 300 women on microinsurance at microfinance expos across different provinces in Fiji. All the six field researchers used for the market vendor survey in Solomon Islands were women and 50% of the financial competency survey and financial diaries field researchers trained are women.

Unprecedented high level policy support for creating inclusive financial sectors proving equal access by low income women and men to sustainable and responsive financial services and financial education is embodied in the 2020 Money Pacific Goals which have been endorsed by Pacific Forum Ministers of Finance and Education and the six Pacific Central Bank Governors in 2009.



## Exchanging Ideas to Find Solutions for Pacific's Climate and Development Challenges

How can practices put in place in other countries help a Pacific Island country implement programmes to address climate change? How can the Pacific's experiences on climate change be shared to the wider world? The Pacific Solution Exchange: Climate Change and Development Community, an email-group based network that links development professionals and practitioners together was launched in November 2011 to enable members to share knowledge, innovative ideas and practical experiences to help solve problems related to climate change in the Pacific.

The first enquiry to the members on this community was from Nauru. Ms Mavis Depaune, on behalf of the Government of Nauru approached practitioners on the community to seek advice on how Nauru can ensure the effective implementation of a new national Water, Hygiene and Sanitation Policy. She asked for examples, innovative tools, lessons learned, and best practices that others have applied to improve management of their water sector and in particular how climate change issues have been addressed. The query elicited responses from other Pacific Island government departments, development partners as well as the civil society and were compiled into a consolidated reply and shared with the Government of Nauru and the community members.

Since the Pacific Solution Exchange was launched, the community has discussed a wide variety of topics ranging from national climate funds to solar water heaters. In September 2012 the community held its first annual forum, and brought together practitioners to help finalize a good practice guidance note on how best to communicate climate change to communities for the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in Vanuatu. The other workshop at the annual forum allowed gender and climate change practitioners to consult on a toolkit for gender and climate change in the Pacific. Following the workshops a networking event was held to introduce young professionals based in Suva to the work being undertaken by a range of regional and national organizations in the field of climate change adaptation.

Joining the community allows members to tap into the knowledge, expertise and experiences of other professionals and people working in a wide range of areas connected to both climate change as well as those working to improve aid management and development performance more generally. Members can benefit from sharing knowledge, advice and information on demand and identifying together a wide range of solutions and ideas for increasing development effectiveness.

To join log onto [www.solutionexchange-un.net/pacific/](http://www.solutionexchange-un.net/pacific/)

## Preaching HIV Awareness and Tolerance

Preaching about HIV and AIDS from the pulpit is uncommon, but Reverend Taniela Baleikorodawa has continued with it, in keeping up a commitment he made at a training last year.

Reverend Baleikorodawa, a Professor of Theology at the Davuilevu Theological College, was one of the 35 representatives of faith-based organizations from Fiji who attended a Transformational Leadership Development training on HIV and AIDS for church leaders. At the end of the three-day training, the participants made commitments on how they would encourage HIV prevention, provide support to those affected by the virus, advocate for their rights and assist them to lead productive and fruitful lives.

Reverend Baleikorodawa's commitment was to preach about the sensitive topic of HIV.

"Twice I was stopped after a church service and questioned why I was talking about HIV and AIDS within the church and from the pulpit.

"But I have been firm and answered that God loves everyone equally and also wants people to be aware of this issue. Being ignorant would only lead people to destroy themselves and God does not want this."

The Transformational Leadership Development training on HIV and AIDS is a part of a regional project targeting three countries. The first training was held in April 2011 in Fiji, organized by the UNDP Pacific Centre and the Joint



United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) with the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS). The training was facilitated by Dr Ehab El Kharrat from Egypt, himself part of an Evangelical Church and a pioneer in UNDP's Leadership Development with religious leaders in the Middle East. The training was co-facilitated by Reverend Rusiate Tuidrakulu.

"Engaging religious leaders in the HIV response is strategic because they have a tremendous influence in most if not all aspects of the lives of Pacific Islanders and also because, given the modes of transmission, common discourses on HIV are often morally loaded," said UNDP's Ferdinand Strobel.

During the training, participants discussed scientific basics of HIV and AIDS, analyzed the multiple dimensions of the disease and its implications, heard testimonies of and interacted with people living with HIV; and learned about a range of tools to



assist them in raising the awareness of their churches members.

John Wesley Primary School, religious education teacher, Mrs Salaseini Ragia has been a changed woman since she attended the training.

"I have been teaching for 12 years now. But since April last year have I started teaching the message of love, tolerance and awareness when it comes to HIV and AIDS. In the past, I would hear about HIV and AIDS and I would just ignore it. I never thought that I had any role to play in this.

"But now it is one of the most important lessons I teach these young children. I believe I am giving them a firm foundation for whatever else they will learn about HIV and AIDS and sex later on in their lives."

Mrs Ragia teaches 90 students, aged between 12-13 years and divided amongst three lots of Class 8.

Catechist Netani Radravu said he has faced criticism from some members of his Church who believe that issues relating to HIV and sex should not be discussed in Church and was the responsibility of parents.

"When you see teenage girls get pregnant, that is proof enough that our young people are exposing themselves to this deadly virus. They are engaging in sexual activities and we should inform them of the risks they are in," he said.

Mr Radravu who is based at the Koronivia Methodist Church in Nausori, pointed out that he faced criticism from mainly the older generation in the Church. He said whenever he faced criticism he would ensure that he explained himself in such a way that he was understood.

"I make sure they understand where I am coming from because it is important that everyone is on the same page."

## Pacific Advisers Providing Technical Support Beyond the Pacific

During 2011, a number of staff from the UNDP Pacific Centre were requested to provide technical support in a range of areas by UNDP Offices from outside the Pacific. This demonstrates how the capacity of Pacific Centre staff is being valued beyond the Pacific as well as how UNDP can effectively draw on its resources to meet demand across regions and subregions.

The Pacific Centre's Regional Democratic Institutions and Accountability Specialist was requested by the Bureau of Development Policy (BDP) to support the development of a crisis and governance programme for Somalia. To complete this assignment, the Regional Democratic Institutions and Accountability Specialist worked with the Crisis Governance Advisor, BCPR an external consultant and the Somalia Country Office; and provided advice on the political governance components of the programme, providing substantive inputs into the programme document and two concept notes on parliamentary support and a joint programme on transparency, accountability and integrity.

In November, the Regional Democratic Institutions and Accountability Specialist was requested to provide technical support to the UNDP Morocco Country Office to develop an Anti-Corruption Project Document with the Morocco Government, before the national elections on 25 November 2011. The support provided to the Morocco Office was considered critical to UNDP's engagement in the country. The Regional Democratic Institutions and Accountability Specialist was invited back to Morocco in December to provide further technical support to the Country Office, as well as acting as a resource person on freedom of information in support of the regional Arab States Anti-Corruption Integrity Network (ACINET) annual meeting.

The Crisis Prevention and Recovery team's Conflict Prevention and Recovery Programme Specialist provided technical support to the UNDP Somalia Office and helped to develop outcome implementation plans for the new Country Programme Document 2011 - 2015 (in outcome areas: peacebuilding; governance and rule of law; sustainable livelihoods and economic recovery; gender equality and women's empowerment). The work involved drafting, co-designing and facilitating workshops, ensuring that plans were conflict and gender- sensitive.

Following two early support missions to Pakistan in 2010, the Crisis Prevention and Recovery team's Disaster Risk Management Programme Specialist joined the Indonesia Office as the Early Recovery Adviser within the Resident Coordinator's (RC) Office on a one-year attachment and was responsible for coordinating and

supporting the work of UN agencies, international and national NGO and Red Cross movements in the area of early recovery.

The Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme's (PFIP) Regional Financial Inclusion Advisor and Project Manager in his capacity as Regional Advisor covering the Pacific and Timor-Leste undertook various missions in 2011 to Timor-Leste and provided management, technical support, oversight and direction to the Inclusive Finance for the Under-Served Economy Programme (INFUSE) in Timor-Leste. The support involved looking at replicating the project successes from the Pacific in Timor-Leste.

As a direct consequence, INFUSE Timor-Leste benefitted from technical assistance by PFIP's Technical Specialist and the Financial Capacity Advisor conducting market research to inform potential branchless banking deployments and to establish a financial competency baseline for effective targeting, designing and measuring the success for financial literacy training programmes. The PFIP and INFUSE Deputy Project Manager, also undertook various missions to provide operational support to the INFUSE project.

The MDG and Poverty team's Regional MDG Specialist provided support as a resource person to the UNDP Mongolia Office for the Annual Legal Empowerment Asia Partnership (LEAP) Meeting, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in October. The purpose of the meeting was a follow-up on LEAP regional meeting organized in Bangkok and provided a forum to share experiences and initiatives undertaken to empower the poor and vulnerable groups; introduce guidance notes on methods on identifying barriers to Legal Empowerment of the Poor in Asia Region; and discuss ways forward. The Regional MDGs Specialist was the only participant from the Pacific and made a presentation on Accelerating MDGs through Legal Empowerment in the Informal Economy.

# UNDP in the Pacific

## UNDP Pacific Centre

The UNDP Pacific Centre, is a part of the Asia Pacific Regional Centre in Bangkok and serves the UNDP Multi-Country Offices in Fiji and Samoa, the Country Office in Papua New Guinea and the sub-office in the Solomon Islands. It provides technical support to the UNDP Offices in the Pacific as well as implementing a range of regional activities in support of the Pacific Plan. It has a strong commitment to efficient and effective delivery with a focus on results that will impact on economic and social development in the region.

The Pacific Centre has four practice teams: Crisis Prevention and Recovery; Democratic Governance; Poverty Alleviation and MDGs Achievement; and the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme.

In its delivery of a regional programme, the Centre works closely with a wide range of other regional agencies, donors and stakeholders.

A key feature of the work of the Centre is the close connection between regional and country-based activities in the Pacific. Country-based activities managed by the UNDP Offices can often be complemented by action at the regional level, while regional activities can be the impetus leading to national commitment and the design of specific national projects. A human rights-based approach encompassing gender mainstreaming is central to all programmes undertaken by the Centre. The Pacific Centre also has a strong focus on knowledge management.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. In the Pacific region, UNDP works in 15 countries through its offices based in Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and a sub-office in the Solomon Islands.

## UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office

The Fiji Multi-Country Office serves the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. It assists countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through building resilient and inclusive societies based on four key outcome areas: poverty reduction and the MDGs, good governance and human rights, crisis prevention and recovery, and Environment and sustainable management.

This office works on cross cutting themes and through the UN Joint Presence in the Pacific, which is an initiative of UNDP, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to work together on programmes in selected countries.



## **UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office**

The Samoa Multi-Country Office serves the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau and works in the areas of Democratic Governance; Sustainable Livelihoods/Poverty Reduction; Crisis Prevention and Recovery; Environment and Energy; and Gender Mainstreaming. The UNDP Multi-Country Office aims to “make a difference in Pacific people’s lives” by supporting countries to accelerate progress on human development. All UNDP policy advice, technical support, advocacy, and contributions to strengthening coherence in global development finance is aimed at one end result: real improvements in people’s lives and in the choices and opportunities available to them.

## **UNDP Papua New Guinea Country Office**

The Papua New Guinea Country Office works to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), raise the standard of living and protect human rights for ordinary Papua New Guineans.

UNDP gives practical support to the government’s efforts to become more efficient, effective, equitable and accountable. It attempts to foster greater participation in democratic and civil society and helps the government encourage private sector growth that makes use of the country’s natural resources in a sustainable manner.

It works in these focus areas: Poverty Reduction; Achieving the MDGs; Fostering Democratic Governance; Environment and Energy for Sustainable Development and Livelihoods; Nation Building through support to Crisis Prevention and Recovery; Responding to HIV/AIDS; and Gender.



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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