

FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Strengthening Governance in Tonga

The Tonga Governance Strengthening Programme aims to draw together three interrelated governance initiatives to avoid duplication and strengthen synergies amongst the three components:

- Support to Parliament: Parliament Strengthening Project designed by UNDP.
- Support to civil society organizations (CSOs): strengthening the role of civil society, including the private sector, in its relationship with the Parliament and Government of Tonga and in providing civic education.
- Support to the Tonga Electoral Commission: Strengthening capacity of the TEC and increasing public knowledge of and participation in elections in Tonga.

This integrated programme approach focuses on strengthening Tonga's governance institutions and an improved understanding in the community of the role of Parliament; the functions of the electoral commission; and the role civil society organizations play in promoting good governance and supporting an improved understanding of governance concepts in the community.

Strategy

As an integrated programme, the main strategy is to bring together the Parliament, Tonga Electoral Commission and civil society, including the private sector.

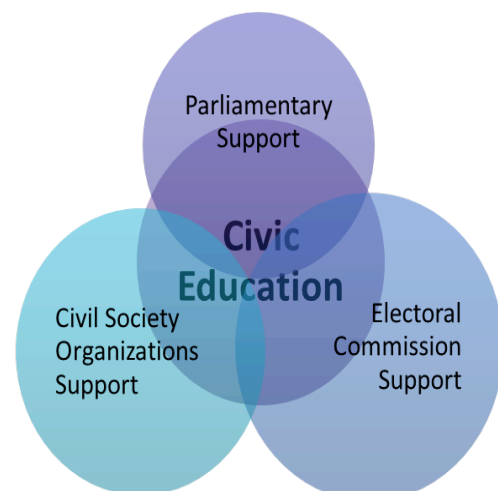
A key element of the integrated approach will be to ensure consistency in the development of civic education



- **Total allocated resources:** US\$3,210,840.00
- **Project duration:** 2013 – 2016
- **Partners:** Office of the Speaker, civil society organizations, and the Tonga Electoral Commission.
- **Donor:** Australian aid program
- **Implementing agency:** UNDP

materials that will be used to create a better understanding in the community about the workings of the Parliament, the role of the Electoral Commission and elections as well as the responsibility of civil society to help support and promote democracy in Tonga.

In this regard **civic education** is seen as essential for the success of this programme. While civic education is included as separate activities under the three components, it will be implemented in a coordinated manner and sequenced to ensure efficiency and cost effectiveness.



Support area	Expected results
Parliament	Legislative Assembly strengthened to effectively carry out its oversight, representative and legislative functions.
Civil Society Organizations and Communities	Capacity of CSOs, education providers and communities strengthened for increased participation in law making, policy, and oversight processes.
Tongan Electoral Commission	Capacity of the Tonga Electoral Commission enhanced to ensure the effective conduct of free and fair national and local elections.

Programme organization

The Tonga Governance Strengthening Programme is directly implemented by UNDP and is managed under the guidance of a Programme Board co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and UNDP's Resident Representative.

The three programme components are delivered under the day-to-day management of UNDP and responsible parties:

- Office of the Speaker of Parliament
- Civil society for Tonga and civil societies and Ministry of Education
- Office of the Electoral Commission.

A Programme Management Unit provides support to each of the three components. The Unit includes:

- A Programme Manager and Parliament Advisor
- A Civic Education and Advocacy Specialist
- Six dedicated specialists who provide technical support and assistance to the three components.
- A programme assistant, and administration and communications specialist.

Tongan Governance Support Programme and the UN Development Assistance Framework

In the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017, the UN system in the Pacific will draw on its comparative advantage to continue its work to address these challenges, build on the progress achieved during the previous programming cycle and reflect on the development needs beyond 2015.

UNDAF Outcome: Good Governance and Human Rights

5.1: Regional, national, local and traditional **governance systems** are strengthened, respecting and upholding human rights, especially women's rights in line with international standards.

Expected UNDP Tonga UNDAF Programme Outcome

5.1 National institutions and mechanisms uphold the principles of good governance, democratic reforms, human rights, free and fair elections and accountability in accordance with the Constitution and international norms.

Expected UNDP Tonga Country Programme Outputs:

5.1.1 Strengthened **capacity of parliamentarians** and parliamentary secretariat for improved law making, representation, and oversight in accordance with constitution and international norms.

5.1.2 **Capacity of the Tonga Electoral Commission** strengthened to manage and oversee transparent, free and fair national and district elections.

5.1.3 Strengthened **capacity of civil society organizations** and national education providers to deliver civic education and advocacy relating to good governance and human rights.

For more information, please contact:

Douglas M. Armour, TGSP Programme Manager, douglas.armour@undp.org

Gabriela Nones, Civic Education and Advocacy Specialist, gabriela.marcano@undp.org

Milika Tuita, UN Country Development Manager (Tonga), milika.tuita@undp.org

Mohammed Mozeem, Democratic Governance Analyst, mohammed.mozeem@undp.org

United Nations Development Programme

Level 2, Molisi Business Centre
Salote Road
Nuku'alofa, Tonga
Ph: +676 24045
www.fj.undp.org

January 2015