



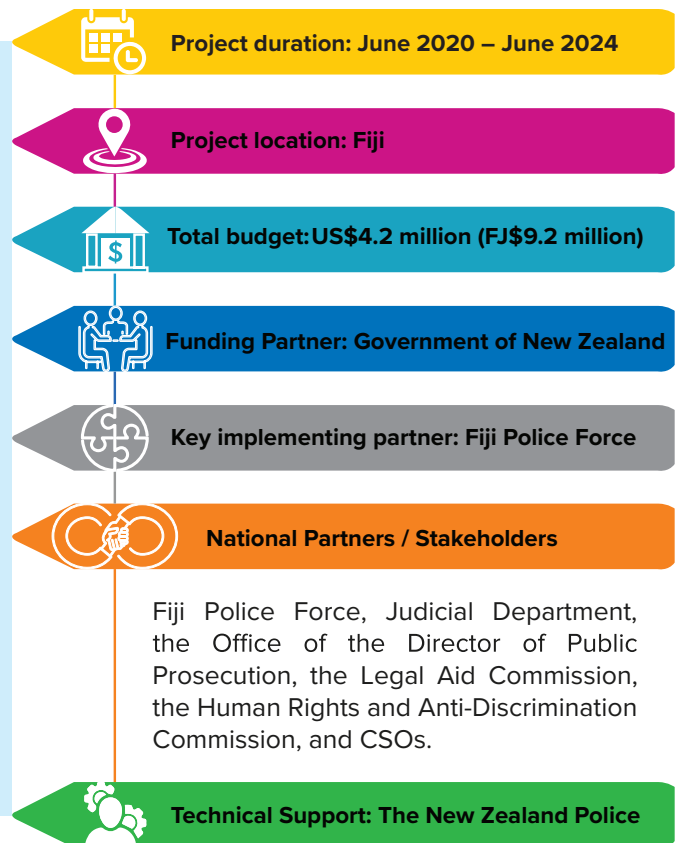
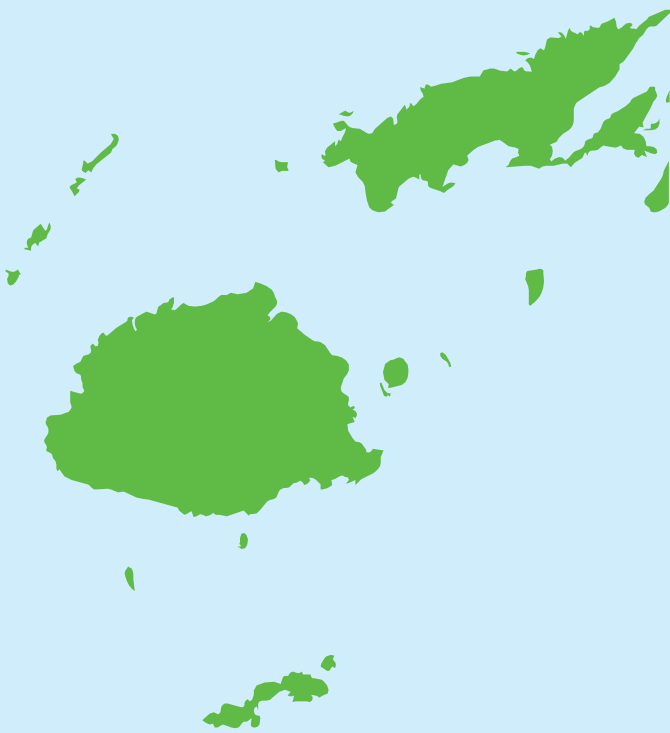
# Fiji Police Force Support Project

The Fiji Police Force Support Project aims to strengthen transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Fiji Police Force.



(Photo: The Fiji Police Force)

With financial and technical support from New Zealand, the project supports the Fiji Police Force to strengthen early access to justice in criminal proceedings and strengthen a victim-centered approach to investigations. This engagement will prioritise gender responsive and human rights-based approach to access to justice for vulnerable groups and promote gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.



## Rationale

Following the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) in 2016, all key justice stakeholders have been working together to address priority criminal justice issues for the protection and promotion of human rights in Fiji. Two areas related to the rights of a person detained or arrested by the police (the First-Hour Procedure) and thereafter the processes during the interview by the police following cautioning (Video-Recorded Interviews) have been prioritized.

Violence against women in both public and private spaces is reported at near epidemic levels in Fiji and the

Pacific. As police is the first point of contact for the sexual and gender-based violence survivors, it is imperative that the police are equipped with relevant skills and practices to deal with the complaints of domestic or other gender-based violence.

The solutions related to access to justice are sustainable only when all key justice stakeholders are engaged and work together in the design and implementation of all justice solutions. The coordination helps to create efficiency in the administration of justice, ensure intra-sectoral harmony, address and resolve problems arising in the justice system.

## Overall Goal and Objectives

The project overall goal is to strengthen transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the Fiji Police Force.

The project aims at strengthening early access to justice processes in criminal proceedings and enhancing the victim-centred approach to investigations. The project also supports urgent initiatives required by the Fiji Police Force to implement the Government's COVID-19 response and recovery plan in a coherent manner and strengthen effective engagement with the public.

## Expected Results

### Coherent crisis management (COVID-19 response and recovery)

- Higher standard of crisis operating procedures, knowledge and readiness.
- Effective and coherent messaging to bolster public confidence.
- Improved protection of arrested and detained persons

### Enhanced access to justice and implementation of the UNCAT in Fiji

- First-Hour Procedure and Video-Recorded Interviews expanded across Fiji.
- Effective coordination for review of policies and legislation and monitoring and reporting of the UNCAT.

### An inclusive, victim-centred and human-rights based approach to the criminal justice procedure

- Effective application of the early access to justice proceedings to victims of sexual offences, domestic violence, child victims and persons with disabilities through special training.
- Localization, implementation and reporting on the SDG 16 targets related to transparency, accountability, and the related targets on rule of law and access to justice.

## Project Contact Details

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