



Australian Government
AusAID



Pre-Tender Industry Briefing: Fiji Community Development Program 2012-2016 (Country Context)

AusAID House, Canberra
13 October 2011



Country Context

- > The Australian aid program in Fiji operates in a constrained context
- > In December 2006 the democratically elected Government of Fiji was overthrown in a military coup
- > Elections have been postponed until 2014
- > Fiji has been suspended from the Pacific Islands Forum and the Commonwealth
- > The Constitution was abrogated in April 2009 and since this time the country has been governed under Public Emergency Regulations which limit the right to assembly and freedom of speech



Aid program parameters

- > In 2011-12, Australia's bilateral development assistance budget for Fiji stands at AUD18.5 million
- > Including the Fiji share of regional programs, total Australian ODA amounts to AUD37.5 million
- > Australia's aid continues to adhere to our original response to the 2006 coup:
 - we support the welfare of the people of Fiji by maintaining programs to support the delivery of essential services, help vulnerable groups, and improve economic opportunity
 - but have suspended assistance where the actions of the interim Fiji government render our programs ineffective or compromised




Economic context

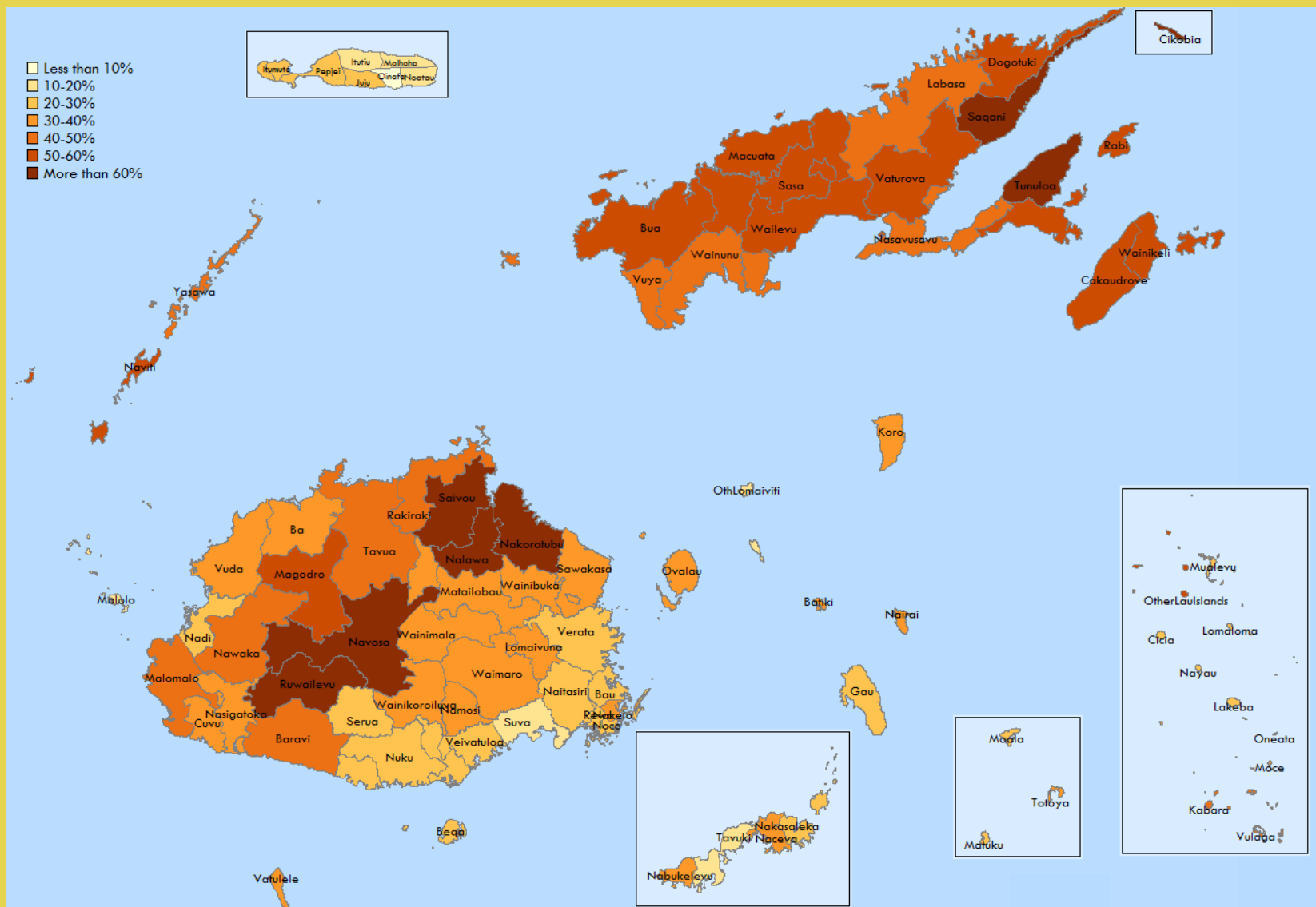
- > The economy of Fiji is experiencing difficulty, and investment levels remain disturbingly low
- > Growth in 2011 is projected at 0.5- 1% after a long period of contraction following the coup and the IMF expects growth to remain at 1 to 2 percent over the medium term due to a number of constraints including political instability
- > Australia is concerned about the impact the weak state of the economy is having on the most vulnerable
- > Australia will continue to support programs to improve economic livelihoods and community resilience, and to help those groups most vulnerable to the impacts of political instability and a deteriorating economic situation

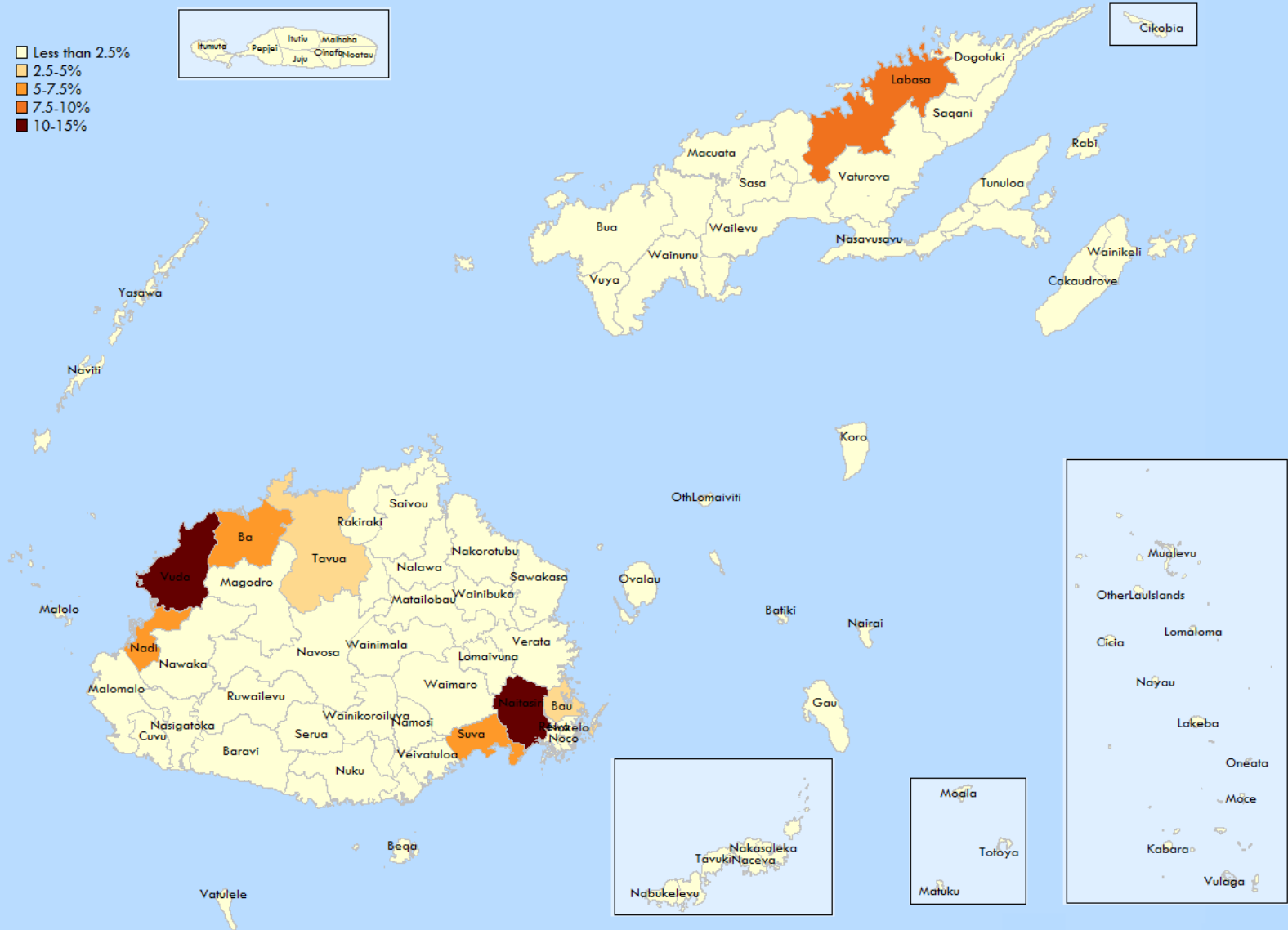


Development Environment

- > Fiji has fallen from 81st (2003) to 92nd (2008) on the UN Development Index
- > It is off-track in achieving a number of the MDGs, including deterioration in poverty reduction and maternal and child health indicators
- > Approximately 35 per cent of the population are in poverty. While poverty rates have reduced somewhat in urban Fiji, urban settlements concentrate urban poverty and are yet to be fully included in poverty analysis.

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- > Rural poverty has not declined and remains at around 44% and poverty rates among agricultural workers are as high as 50%, making rural development a major challenge for addressing poverty in Fiji.
 - > Households containing larger numbers of children and elderly people are far more likely to be poor.
 - > Education levels and employment status are closely correlated with poverty.
 - > The Northern Division is the least developed in Fiji, with 54% of the population considered poor.







Australia's aid program priorities in Fiji

- > Improving maternal and child **health** as well as diabetes
 - partner with the Ministry of Health on the 5 year *Fiji Health Sector Support Program*, which has just been launched.
- > Increasing access to quality **education** for children
 - partner with the Ministry of Education on the 5 year *Access to Quality Education* program, to be launched soon.
- > **Economic opportunities and community resilience**
 - Market development and financial inclusion programs to generate local employment, promote better access to financial services, improve livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to shocks
- > Support for the community development work of CSOs across a broad range of sectors
- > Significant scholarship and volunteer programs that benefit the people of Fiji



Regional Programs in Fiji

- > Technical and vocational training
- > Access to new export markets
- > private sector and enterprise development
- > climate change adaptation
- > elimination of violence against women
- > disability inclusive development
- > human rights
- > health programs, including HIV and sexually transmitted infections, non-communicable diseases and tertiary health services
- > education assessment
- > response to and preparation for natural disasters