



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

AusAID House, Canberra
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History of support to CSOs in Fiji

- > The Australian Civil Society Support Program (ACSSP) began in August 2000 and will come to an end this financial year. The total program value amounts to over AUD\$7.8 million.
- > Program focus areas have included:
 - Community driven development
 - Increasing quality of and access to services
 - Promoting gender equality
 - Civic education and human rights
- > Funds provided up to 3 years - mixture of core and program funding (the maximum a single organisation has received is AUD300,000 over 3 years)



- > For the financial year (2008-2009) there were 42 funding agreements, covering 29 organisations. Of these 14 were for core organisational funding
- > At present we are managing some 78 agreements with 21 organisations.
 - 14 are core funding agreements
 - These fund work across all program focus areas including faith based and disability organisations
- > ACSSP has funded approximately 50 CSOs, including community-based organisations, faith-based organisations, women's organisations and disabled people's organisations

Some selected achievements of ACSSP

- 316 male prison inmates provided with cognitive behavioural therapy from qualified therapists.
- 14,585 school children screened for hearing and vision impairments
- 15 villages prepared Community Resource Management Plans for reef protection, seaweed farming and handicraft production, resulting in 49 people earning an additional \$30-100 a month
- Food and handicraft products from one CSO's income generation projects paid an average of \$70 -\$200 a week per person to 547 people in 2008/2009
- CEDAW shadow report produced by a local NGO – monitoring Fiji's compliance with the rights of women
- Family Care Centres operate in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa, offering emergency accommodation and support for an average of 37 women each week



CSO-related Programs

- > Volunteer Program
 - Numerous volunteers placed with CSOs to assist organisational development
- > Rural Development
 - As a result of Australian interventions in Rural Enterprise Development, Sariswati Bee Keeping Project has grown from 65 farmers in 2008 to over 800 farmers (67% of whom are women) on Viti Levu in 2011. Through this project beneficiaries have been able to consistently produce honey to supplement their wage and farm income by an additional FJ\$35 - \$65/per week.



Range of services funded through ACSSP

- > Health Services
- > Advocacy Services
- > Education Services
- > Advisory Services
- > Livelihood Services
- > Emotional Support
- > Environment Preservation
- > Provisions of emergency food, shelter and referrals
- > Support for women's rights
- > Capacity building and networking services
- > Research



Other services provided by CSOs

- > Distribution Services – CSOs (and in particular FBOs) assist in distribution of goods to remote and rural communities and vulnerable groups, e.g. distribution of wheelchairs and groceries
- > Education Services – almost all primary and secondary schools are run by FBOs, other NGOs provide early childhood education
- > Support Groups – provision of support to vulnerable groups e.g. the Psychiatric Survivors Association, employee support groups and trade unions
- > Disaster relief work



Key recommendations from ACSSP Mid-Term Review

- > Improve reach to marginalised people in rural Fiji and in urban settlements
- > Improve resourcing and processes for program management
- > Improve monitoring and evaluation of CSO programs, with a focus on assessing outcomes
- > Take leadership in improving donor coordination in the CSO sector
- > Create opportunities for shared learning and collaboration between CSOs.



Transitional assistance to CSOs

- > Australia remains engaged in the CSO sector during the tender phase of the FCDP program. Activities currently funded include:
 - Capital and infrastructure grants
 - Continuation of core support to key CSO partners
 - Pilot and documentation of a range of new programming tools
 - Collection of information and resources to provide baseline data
 - Retrospective evaluation of the impact of ACSSP support in Fiji
 - Development of a database of resources available for capacity building within the sector in Fiji
 - The Transitional Facilitator will work with the successful Managing Contractor and the Civil Society Support Team (CSST) during the Inception Phase of the FCDP



Office of Development Effectiveness, *Evaluation of AusAID's engagement with civil society*

- > The reasons AusAID engages with civil society are articulated in the ODE review of civil society programming, which identified six pathways by which AusAID support translates into development outcomes:
 - better services
 - less conflict between and within communities
 - more connected communities
 - greater social inclusion
 - more informed and active citizens
 - more effective, accountable and transparent government



Sector-identified capacity building needs

- > human resource management and development (70%)
- > financial management (70%)
- > monitoring and evaluation (62%)
- > project management skills including program design, planning and proposal writing (56%)
- > organisational skills assessment (54%)
- > policy formulation (60%)



Fiji Community Development Program

- > FCDP is a community development program. The focus is on funding community services provided to people all over Fiji, but will provide consistent support to CSOs delivering those services.

The goal of FCDP is to deliver social and economic benefits to the people of Fiji through strengthened civil society organisations.

- > The program, phased over a 3 years + 2 years timeframe, will meet this goal through two objectives, each of which implies a suite of activities to meet intended outcomes verified through reporting arrangements...

Objective One: Service Provision

- > **Objective 1:** to mitigate social and economic hardship faced by poor, vulnerable and excluded communities in Fiji by funding the community development work of CSOs.
- > **Expected Outcomes:** In the first three years of the program at least 50,000 people throughout Fiji will benefit from quality community development services. Benefits derived from these services will include increased incomes, access to new financial services, better food security, improved access to health and education services, disaster-proofing of community assets, or a more effective voice for poor, vulnerable and excluded groups.



Objective 1: Proposed Activities

- > Grants to enable CSOs to deliver services to communities and individuals facing hardship.
- > A Grant Management System to track key data relating to the scope, nature and impacts of service delivery.
- > Local management and mentoring support through field offices
- > Technical support for program design, delivery and review as required, including direct provision of monitoring and evaluation.
- > Inclusive community planning for CSO initiatives



Objective 1: Result Areas

- > Reduced hardship of poor and vulnerable communities
- > Increased resilience of poor and vulnerable communities
- > Improved articulation of the needs of poor and vulnerable communities



Objective 2: capacity building

- > **Objective 2:** to strengthen CSO capacity to deliver relevant and efficient programs for poor, vulnerable and excluded communities in Fiji.
- > **Expected outcomes:** In the first three years of the program **at least 50 CSOs working with communities throughout Fiji will be measurably stronger in systems, reach and performance.**



Objective 2: Proposed Activities

- > Institutional capacity assessments of CSOs
- > Capacity Building Framework
- > Tailored assistance in financial management and accountability reporting for all partners.
- > Specific technical inputs to assess and improve CSO programming
- > A database of local technical and physical resources
- > Participatory planning mechanisms
- > Linkages between CSOs and volunteer programs
- > Opportunities to link CSOs with each other



Objective 2: Result Areas

- > Stronger CSOs
- > Improved cooperation in the sector
- > Evidence-based practice



Program Governance

- > A Program Executive Committee (PEC) will provide high-level oversight of the program and will be ultimately responsible for grant decisions
- > The PEC will comprise representatives from all contributing donors – with the EU able to participate as an observer, even if not contributing directly – and one or more local community representative(s)
- > The PEC is empowered to make high-level decisions about the program's directions, workplans and budgets, and to make final decisions regarding core funding and grant funding of CSOs
- > The EC will have the option to delegate grant decision-making processes to other bodies as appropriate, but will retain responsibility for decisions made on its behalf by other bodies



Maximising donor coordination - options

- > Co-location of field offices with the EU's social mitigation program
- > Division of labour
- > Potential delegated cooperation or co-funding arrangements
- > Use of multi donor grant pools to deliver other donors' grants
- > Joint calls for proposals and common application forms
- > Joint research and analysis of the CSO sector
- > The provision of specialist technical advisers to FCDP field offices
- > Harmonisation of reporting requirements
- > Joint site visits and other mechanisms for common monitoring, review and evaluation assessments
- > Joint public diplomacy activities
- > Joint or shared impact, organisational or financial audits



Questions?

If not now, then please send any questions to
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