



Australian Government  
AusAID


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

AusAID House, Canberra  
13 October 2011

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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)

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- > 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



- Numerous volunteers placed with CSOs to assist organisational 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.



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# 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 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%)

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# 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





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## 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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