

TRANSITIONAL FACILITATOR QUARTERLY REPORT

11 March 2011 – 30 June 2011

Dr Rebecca Spence

The transitional facilitator contract was signed on the 11th March and a work plan was agreed upon. In the first quarter the transitional facilitator has worked for 40 days and achieved the outcomes listed below.

INFRASTRUCTURE & SMALL CAPITAL GRANTS (ICG)

The Infrastructure and Capital Grants round was a discrete one-off call for funding. The funding round aimed to increase the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to deliver essential services to isolated and vulnerable communities; and to address infrastructure needs of CSOs and CBOs to ensure they are able to sustain their programs and to maintain a safe workplace for staff and volunteers. It was particularly aimed at new and emerging CSOs and CBOs which presently have poor access to capital items and infrastructure to allow for effective administration of core business activities, and to expand the reach and presence of CSOs and CBOs to remote and outlying areas, or to those communities who are not currently serviced.

In collaboration with the Civil Society program manager the Transitional Facilitator:

- Devised the (ICG) application form and accompanying guidelines;
- Assisted in the advertisement and notification of the funding round by sending all CSOS registered with AusAID an invitation to apply;
- Devised the assessment process and collated and assessed the 112 applications;

- Compiled the report on successful and unsuccessful applications; and
- Provided feedback to the CSOs.

INDEPENDENT CORE FUNDING REVIEW (ICFR)

As part of the transition from ACSSP to FCDP AusAID commissioned an independent review of its core funding arrangements with twelve civil society organisations in Fiji. The primary aims of the review were to build understanding of the effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of the core funding arrangement for civil society in Fiji; to conduct a thorough assessment of the organisations which have received core funding; to assess significant risks in continuing any core funding arrangements; to establish the role of core funding in supporting civil society in their capacity to deliver services to those most disadvantaged; and to identify other potential funding modalities.

The review took place in May and the Transitional Facilitator led a team comprising Rhonda Chapman, an independent consultant who assesses for the ANCP; and Iris Low-McKenzie, assistant civil society program manager.

The review had five key elements including:

- The administration of a survey inviting the core funded organisations to reflect upon the impacts of core funding; (April/May)
- Follow up visits with those organisations to understand in more depth the themes and issues arising from analysis of the survey responses; (May)
- A risk assessment of the twelve organisations, with special attention paid to those which present some current or potential risk, as well as an assessment of those organisations with which AusAID wishes to develop more in depth partnerships; (May) and
- The consolidation of findings into Organisational Snapshots; a survey report and a Quality at Implementation report with

accompanying narrative and recommendations about the Core Funding modality.

As yet the financial assessment of the twelve organisations, concentrating in depth upon those which present current or potential fiduciary risk has not been completed.

The review team worked extremely well together and their interactions with the 12 organisations produced the necessary information.

CAPACITY BUILDING FRAMEWORK

As part of the Transitional Plan it was proposed that a suite of CSO capacity building activities to improve community ownership, sustainability, financial management and monitoring and evaluation be undertaken, In order to facilitate this it was recommended that a stocktake and evaluation of training modules and technical skills of CSOs be undertaken to assess existing resources available to the new CSO program. Additionally, a database of relevant local experts will be developed to enable peer skills transfer within the sector.

A TOR was drafted for a local consultant to undertake a scoping mission. The role of the locally-sourced IC will be to undertake a scoping exercise of the private, public, education and CSO sectors in order to determine the range of technical skills that exist in these sectors; to identify those suitably qualified individuals and organisations from these sectors that have had prior experience of working on organisational development issues with the CSO sector; to assist in the identification of relevant training materials and courses; to compile a report on the finding of the scoping exercise, and to assist in the uploading of information into a open database.

During the Core funding review phase organisations were asked to qualify which capacity building activities they wished to be involved with and which they could deliver services in for the sector.

The table at the end of the document sets out organisational capacity and organisational needs.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

In the coming six months two major activities need to be undertaken. The capacity building framework needs to be developed and a suite of activities rolled out. It would be useful to have the local consultant on contract and the scoping mission completed by the end of July or early August so that activities can begin shortly thereafter. The core funding review also recommends a governance roundtable which the TF could organise for late August/ early September.

The visibility and impact exercise also need to be planned. Preliminary discussions with Archana and Iris suggest that Rhonda Chapman could be part of the team for this process given her knowledge and respect in the sector.

All invoices for the quarter being reported on have been submitted and paid.

CSO Capacity Matrix

HR Policy and Procedures

Provider:
SCF (CPP)
Live and Learn
CCF

Requester:
NCW
SSVM
FJN+
PCDF (OH&S)

Financial Management

Provider:
PC&SS
CCF
Live and Learn

Requester:
FCOSS
FJN+
SSVM

Community Engagement

Provider:
PCDF
FRIEND

Requester:
CCF (Adult
Learning
Techniques)

HIV Policy and Counseling

Provider:
FJN+
PC&SS

Requester:
SA

Program Management

Provider:
CCF

Requester:
PCDF
SCF

Program Design

Provider:
CCF

Requester:
PCDF
SCF

Proposal Writing

Provider:

Requester:
PCDF
FJN+

Communications and Media

Provider:

Requester:
PCDF
CCF

Office & Training Space

Provider:
PC&SS (T&O)
SSVM (T)

Requester:
PH (O)
PCDF (O)

