

RPV UPDATE



RAISING PACIFIC VOICES

REINFORCING PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY

Q4 2019 - MAY 2020

**POST-COVID REALITY
AND PROGRAMMING**

**REGIONAL SELF
DETERMINATION
DIALOGUE**

**BLUE ECONOMY TOK -
FSM, TUVALU, SOLOMON
ISLANDS**

COVID19 IMPACT ON RAISING PACIFIC VOICES PROGRAM:

The COVID19 impacted on the Raising Pacific Voices Program on the week of 16 March when the team was advised by management to cancel on all planned activities from then onwards until further notice. This was in response to the announcements that the Fiji Government, and the regional governments flagging their decisions to place restrictions to travel into and out of countries.

- Guided by Public Health Containment and Pandemic management measures, nearly all the Pacific island countries went into variations and degrees of lockdown on international travel. Some of the countries also restricted inter-island domestic travel. Regulations limiting meetings and convening of events were in place. Restrictions on gatherings of varying numbers were imposed. With this, quarantine centres and advice on social distancing and social isolation have been imposed at country level.
- Guam, Fiji, PNG and French Polynesia have all recorded COVID 19 cases. Australia and New Zealand have larger numbers of confirmed cases and have even recorded fatalities.

- Trend projections are indicating that the numbers are still a reflection of the early stages and that it is still too early to determine what the real situation is until and after a period of lockdown. The measures currently undertaken by countries will present its effectiveness after 14 or so days. It is also difficult to determine, as countries are only testing on the condition that citizens show symptoms, so the figures do not really capture what the real coverage and reach of the COVID19 Virus has been with travellers who have come into the country asymptomatic.

- The Raising Pacific Voices Program has received requests from the Solomon Islands, RMI, TONGA, and Tuvalu, Samoa and Kiribati National CSO partners to consider a No Cost Extension to the program.

Note: Since date of issue of this publication, Fiji has been declared COVID free on the 05th of June and the RPV team has resumed work in the office on the 8th of June. This RPV Update highlights RPV activities undertaken from Oct 2019 till May 31st 2020.

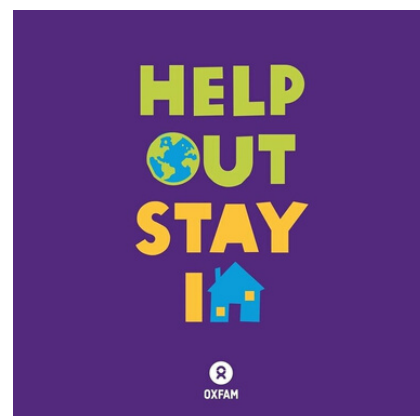
RAISING PACIFIC VOICES



In light of the covid-19 outbreak, our best response to COVID-19 is to work from home. The Raising Pacific Voices (RPV) project team tele-working after Oxfam offices in the Pacific operationalised working from home from March 23rd.

Stay Safe. Be Kind and Support Each other.

In light of the COVID19 outbreak, our best response is working from home. RPV team pictured above in working spaces at home after it was operationalised from March 23rd.



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KEY RESULT AREA 1

Capacity development program to strengthen governance & transparency of national CSOs, developed, tested & implemented in Melanesia, Polynesia & Micronesia sub-regions (Vanuatu, Tonga & Marshall Islands)



Organisational Capacity Assessment Training with SUNGO held in March, 2020

➔ SAMOA UMBRELLA FOR NGOS (SUNGO) UNDERGO ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP



SUNGO CEO, Fuimaono Ofoia (picture on the left), opening the OCAT workshop and SUNGO members participating on Day 1 of the workshop in Apoa, Samoa (far right).

In early March, RPV was in Samoa and undertook Organisational capacity assessment workshop with the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO).

Twenty participants were in attendance and in addition to the SUNGO representatives, women, disability groups, faith based organisations and a group focusing on health also participated on the first of 2 days workshop on Organisational Capacity Assessment.



Here are some key highlights in Samoa:

- OCAT duly facilitated with SUNGO and a number of its key CSO members
- SUNGO duly identified priority areas requiring support
- SUNGO and a number of key CSO members identified influencing strategies for a key influencing priority and mapped the same Rebbilib setting out SUNGOs way forward in terms of organisational capacity development duly completed and agreed
- Full formal report on SUNGO organisational capacity assessment submitted in May
- SUNGO provided this report to the external body set up by the Samoa govt to coordinate and manage donor funds in Samoa -the Samoa Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP)
- *Usually the CSSP does its own assessments of CSOs in Samoa but in this case, CSSP have requested for RPV's report and will use it as a basis for guidance and to fulfil their requirements*

KEY RESULT AREA 1



KANGO members undergoing safeguarding policy assessment in Kiribati.

➔ KIRIBATI ASSOCIATION OF NGOS (KANGO) UNDERGO OCAT & STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



KIRICAN members discussing organisational capacity strengths and weaknesses.



Representatives from Kiribati Association Non-Governmental Organisation (KANGO) undergoing group activity reviewing existing organisational governance structures.

Raising Pacific Voices (RPV) project commenced trainings for four key non-government organisations and civil society groups in Kiribati in early March of 2020.

RPV conducted an organisational capacity assessment (OCAT) and Strategic Plan development training workshop with the representatives from Kiribati Association Non-Governmental Organisation (KANGO), Aia Mwaea Ainen Kiribati AMAK, Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN) KIRICAN and BIMBA – a support and human rights association for gay, bisexuals and trans women in Kiribati.

“Our partnership with in-country CSOs is vital to achieving our overall objectives,” says Rodney Yee, Program Manager of RPV Project.

“These OCAT and strategic development training is a result of a scoping mission and consultations undertaken by our team in February and we are appreciative of the willingness of these organisations to share their program profiles and collaborate on this training initiative.”

The team worked with the organisations to facilitate an organisational capacity assessment and assist them in developing their respective Organisational Capacity Development Plans.

KEY RESULT AREA 1

TONGA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS UNDERGO SAFE HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMMING TRAINING



Poli Kefu of Tonga Leitis Association participating in the Disaster Management Cycle exercise conducted by Oxfam in the Pacific's Mereoni Ketewai.

Five Tongan civil society organisations attended a workshop in October 2019 to support them to carry out capacity self-assessments in key areas of their organisations to ensure they are implementing good governance practices and able to strengthen their growth and development.

Part of the training included key principles of safe humanitarian programming and assessing capacity for humanitarian response. The five organisations are Tonga National Council of Churches (TNCC), Tonga National Youth Congress (TNYC), a woman's advocacy organisation Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili (MFF), the national disability organisation, Naunau 'o e 'Alamaite Tonga Association (NATA) and the Tonga Leitis Association, the LGBTQI+ organisation.

The Raising Pacific Voices team included Alanieta Vakatale, the Programme Learning & Effectiveness Adviser, Mereoni Ketewai, the Oxfam in the Pacific Humanitarian Programme Manager for Polynesia and Micronesia and Ricardo Morris, the RPV Communications Officer.



Participants from the 5 Tongan CSO's that participated in the Humanitaria and OCAT workshop in Nukualofa in October, 2019

KEY RESULT AREA 2

Capacity development program to strengthen capacity of selected national level CSOs to effectively represent constituency voice in relevant local & national level governance spaces developed, tested & implemented in Melanesia, Polynesia & Micronesia sub-regions.



Vatu Mauri Consortium members in Port Vila, Vanuatu participate in discussions on strategic and organizational planning and legislative review.

POWER IN UNITY: REALIGNING NATIONAL STRATEGIES ON SELF DETERMINATION FOR PACIFIC CSO LEADERS

In July 2019, RPV's Vanuatu CSO partner – Vatu Mauri Consortium convened a "Regional Self Determination Dialogue", with funding support from the project, in Port Vila. Different self-determination groups represented at the dialogue included representatives/activists for: the Kanaky movement; West Papua self-determination; Maohi Nui and Bougainville self-determination;. The full membership of the Mal Vatu Mauri Council of Chiefs were represented, along with members of the Vatu Mauri Consortium (i.e. Vanuatu National Youth Council; Vanuatu National Council of Women; Vanuatu Human Rights; and Vanuatu Christian Council), and representatives of VANGO. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Special envoy to PIFS for Vanuatu also presented at the dialogue.



RPV Team Leader emphasizing the need for organisations to have working governance systems in place or accountability and transparency in its constituents.

As Self Determination is a Human Rights issue, the RPV team reshaped and reframed it's approach taking on the rights-based angle. Given that most of the country CSOs are engaged in development work that are really rights-based in their focus, it is imperative that the discussion and presentation is always framed in a way that aligns the rights throughout all levels, contributing to the conventions and UN instruments as a consistent framework.

There is a strong relationship between the governance and human rights and these must underpin the approach and presentations. This also allows GESI and Safeguarding into the discussion on organizational and influencing capacity development.

The Outcome Statement was presented to the UN and reported on 5 August only a week after the Workshop. One of the results of the Workshop was the drafting of the Outcome Statement.

The same statement was also integrated into the Minister for Foreign Affairs statement for the Pacific Leaders Meeting in Tuvalu and also for the Minister's statement at the 47 UNGA.

Related news articles:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/395959/vanuatu-urged-to-support-tahiti-decolonisation>

➔ ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT GUIDE

ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

RAISING PACIFIC VOICES
REINFORCING PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY



PRNGO
Alliance

**DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE AT THIS LINK
OR USE THE QR CODE ON THE LEFT
| [HTTP://BIT.LY/2FCGPZI](http://bit.ly/2FCGPZI)**





Representatives of Vanuatu Christian Council as a member of the Vatu Mauri Consortium of organisations in October 2019 participated in a dialogue to build their capacity to influence policy at a national level.

KEY RESULT AREA 3

Capacity development program to strengthen collaboration between national umbrella CSOs and regional CSOs to research, develop and implement influencing strategies targeting regional & global policy-making fora that are evidence based and inclusively developed & implemented.

PRNGO HEADS TOK BLUE ECONOMY

The Pacific Regional NGO Alliance (PRNGO alliance) established in 2000 and now comprising of a total of 14 regional NGOs based in Suva, met for a retreat between 11th March - 13th March 2020 at the Raddison Resort, Denarau, Nadi.

➔ TOOLKIT: PLANNING & NAVIGATING SOCIAL CHANGE



Oxfam in the Pacific has published a guidebook aimed at those interested in working towards social change in the region. 'Planning and Navigating Social Change: A tool for Pacific Voyagers' is designed to provide tools and processes that prioritise the complex interpersonal relationships that exist between Pacific Islanders, and which permeate Pacific institutions of all kinds, at all levels. You can download a copy at this link:

https://www.pasifikarising.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Navigating-Social-Change_FINAL_web_250919.pdf



PRNGO Alliance representatives (PDF, PIANGO, PACFAW, WWF Pacific, PYC, PCC, PCP) take a group picture with Oxfam in the Pacific and RPV support team.

On the last day of the PRNGO Retreat, in addition to the alliance members assessing the implementation of their Pearl Matanivica Strategic Plan, a self assessment of the Alliances Institutional capacity was facilitated by members of the RPV team. The self assessment conducted utilised the "OCA Guide for Pacific Civil Society Organisations". Whilst the OCA Guide lists 5 key components as being essential for a CSO to be "inclusive, transparent, accountable & effective", in the self assessment conducted for the PRNGO alliance only 3 components were addressed, i.e. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE & MECHANISMS; ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE & MANAGEMENT; and COLLABORATION & INFLUENCING.

This was done with the understanding that the Alliance could at a later date, complete the self assessment for the remaining areas of: Human Resources, and Finances.

KEY RESULT AREA 3



DSE member organisations after a successful OCAT and ICAT week long conversation in Kaptain's point, Honiara, Solomon Islands.



SOLOMON ISLANDS CIVIL SOCIETY TOK LO ORGANISATION STRUCTURE WETEM INFLUENCING



DSE member partners participating in discussions on influencing strategies, planning and mapping

The focal points of member organisations of Solomon Islands civil society umbrella body Development Services Exchange (DSE) underwent a four-day learning and strategising training on how to collectively plan and lobby to influence an issue with local and national decision-makers that contributes to achieving the mission of DSE.

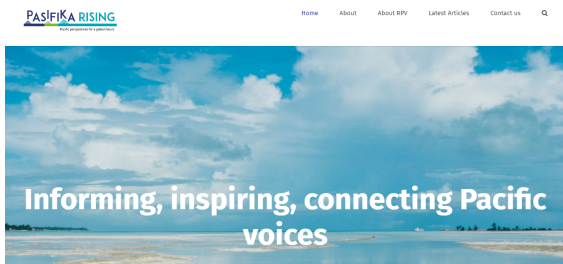
Facilitated by RPV Capacity Building Adviser Filipino Masaurua, the session focused on how members could pool their resources and lobbying efforts to achieve maximum impact in the right areas. The participants were members of the DSE member organisations in the provinces, including two DSE board members and provincial focal points.

The participants tested the Influencing Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT) developed under the project. This was a successful outcome resulting in the DSE members developing an Influencing Strategy for their continued engagement with the Solomon Islands government.

KEY RESULT AREA 4

Mechanisms to support sharing of knowledge and resources across Pacific regional CSOs development and implemented.

➔ **PASIFIKARISING.ORG**



To visit PasifikaRising.org, click this link or scan the QR code to the right:
<http://bit.ly/20ApNOR>



Integral to RPV is the PasifikaRising.org platform, a website portal which has been developed to be both a project website and a go-to website for news and updates on civil society actions in the Pacific.

➔ UPCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE

- June 5: World Environment Day
- June 7: World Food Safety Day
- June 8: World Oceans Day
- June 1-30: Pride Month

more information:
<https://www.pasifikarising.org/events/month/?tribe-bar-date=2020-06-09>

COVID19: SUPPORTING COMMUNITY OUTREACH & AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



FCOSS representatives pictured at the CSO briefing for Covid 19 before going into community outreach and awareness to their communities.

To help communities prepare themselves for the COVID19 pandemic, the RPV program collaborated with the CSO and NGO community in Fiji. Partnering with communities who work closely with communities, RPV partnered with Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) and Rise Beyond the Reef and assisted with the printing of public health messaging materials to be distributed through the communities that they serve. Materials were also translated into itaukei and hindi languages.

Through Rise Beyond the Reef, 3,500 was distributed of which 2,400 was for New World Supermarket staff throughout their centres in the main island of Fiji, Viti Levu.

The FCROSS network was able to distribute to 511 households across 20 communities in the Suva and Nausori area.

PREPARING FOR COVID19



I-WALEWALE NI TAQOMAKI NI BULA



सुरक्षित कैसे रहे



KEY RESULT AREA 4

APPROACHING COVID19 WITH NEW WAYS OF WORKING - WEBINAR SERIES LAUNCHED



Regional safeguarding focal points pictured after a successful launch of OIP's inaugural Safeguarding seminar via webinar and OIP staff participants in the pic below.



In the month of May, through our Capacity Building Advisor, the Oxfam in the Pacific commenced one hour webinar training session on Safeguarding Manual consolidating with the Organisational Capacity Assessment Toolkit (OCAT).

Participants included Oxfam in the Pacific new staff and safeguarding focal points from the region (Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands). They looked at how to assess the way civil society organisations function and operate and looking at mechanisms in place to prevent and respond particularly to child abuse, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

The training is in line with Oxfam values of integrity, empowerment, inclusiveness and accountability and Oxfam's mandate on child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and facilitated by Filippo Masaurua, our Capacity Building Advisor for the RPV project and Safeguarding Focal Point.

KEY RESULT AREA 4

WHAT DOES AN INCLUSIVE BLUE ECONOMY LOOK LIKE?

The Raising Pacific Voices team carried out a survey among communities in the Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu about what the ocean means to them, how they use it and its resources and their concerns for the future.

The survey was carried out on behalf of RPV's partners in the Pacific Regional NGO Alliance (PRNGO Alliance), of which the Pacific Disability Forum is the focal point. The data and stories being collected will inform a report for the PRNGO Alliance on the so-called 'Blue Economy' and aims to put forward a people-centered definition of the term.



RPV staff, Nancy Niubalavu interviews a member of the community in Marovo Lagoon in the remote Solomon Islands.

While the Blue Pacific or the Blue Economy is a term familiar to those who work in the area, including regional and international organisations, people in the communities in three sub-regions of the Pacific have almost no idea about what the term means.

In conversations with community members, though, it is clear they value the ocean and see it as something that should be cherished while also recognising the great challenges facing the ocean, including over-fishing, pollution and the influence of countries from outside the region.

Field work was carried out up in the Solomon Islands, where the teams travelled to Marovo Lagoon, rural Guadalcanal and areas around Honiara. Focus group discussions also took place with civil society groups in Honiara. In the Federated States of Micronesia, teams are in Pohnpei State and Chuuk State, with interviews and focus group discussions.

The same survey was carried out in Tuvalu, where focus groups were also being convened. The Solomon Islands team included Nancy Niubalavu, Nerol Vaekesa, Ethel Salini, Neil Nuia and Ricardo Morris. In the Federated States of Micronesia were Alanietia Vakatale and Lucille Sain in Chuuk State, with Mori-m Mori and Ricardo Morris are in Pohnpei State. In Tuvalu, Rodney Yee and Eseta Lauti conducted the survey. This activity was made possible with funding support from the European Union through the Raising Pacific Voices project, implemented by Oxfam in the Pacific in partnership with Pacific Disability Forum.

DID YOU KNOW? REBBILIB

The word "Rebbilib" refers to "a Micronesian navigation stick chart of islands, swell and wave patterns through which master navigators taught students before setting out on a voyage. The picture depicts what a Rebbilib looks like. The shells on the Rebbilib represent atolls and islands.

The analogy of a Rebbilib is used by RPV as an effective planning tool that maps out priority areas for Organisational capacity, strengthening actions, and links these to other areas which will be positively impacted on within that CSO. The exercise has proven to give CSOs and their members, greater ownership of the way forward, and allow for the assessment team to probe and question on the impact of the planned activities.

