



Ministry of Health applauds Foundation's support

Recent funding from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation to the Health sector includes:

- \$43,000 to the Lion's Club of Labasa's Sight First Programme to provide free eye clinics and cataract operations to people in the North,
- \$150,000 to the Kidney Foundation of Fiji to set up the Dialysis Centre at the CWM,
- \$100,000 to the Rotary Club for Free Health Clinics,
- \$185,000 to Project Heaven for hearing and eyesight tests for Primary school students all over Fiji,
- \$32,000 to St John Association Ambulance for transporting the sick and injured in Suva,
- \$20,000 towards the refurbishment of the St Giles Hospital kitchen.

To date, the Foundation has contributed up to \$642,000 in its support of the Children's Heart Foundation to ensure that children born with heart defects and whose parents cannot afford emergency surgery overseas get the chance to lead a normal life.

Last year the Ministry of Health signed an MOU with Vodafone to kick off a Vodafone initiated service where blood donors would be sent text messages reminding them to donate blood. Reports received so far have indicated a marked difference to the number of donors coming to these blood drives.

Dr. Saketa said, "this is just a peek at how the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation and Vodafone have touched the lives of our people."

"I personally would like to thank the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation, and the Vodafone Group Foundation for its passion in making a real difference in the lives of our people and for supporting the Ministry of Health in its work".



Dr Wahid Khan, Children's Heart Foundation, and Dr. Sala Saketa, Permanent Secretary for Health (3rd and 4th from left) receive the Foundation's grant.

The ongoing commitment by the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation to the Health sector has been applauded by Health officials who have labeled the support impressive in its extent and impact.

Speaking at the recent handover of funding to the Children's Heart Foundation, Health Permanent Secretary Dr. Sala Saketa said the Ministry of Health and Government is thankful for the continued support of the private sector.

"While the future of our nation depends on many different things, the Health of our citizens is perhaps one of the most important contributors to ensuring a vibrant Fiji. Ensuring our children grow up to realise their full potential as productive citizens requires they have access to good educational resources and most importantly, that their health is good." Dr. Saketa said.

"This is easier said than done, however which is why the private sector's support in terms of resources is always gratefully received by Government".



With hope in their eyes - Timoci and Jo are two recipients of the assistance from the Foundation to the Children's Heart Foundation - Read more about the two in this issue on Page 4.

Water at last for Nakorokoro residents

Funding Brief



Fiji Water and Vodafone representatives at the commissioning of the new Nakorokoro water project.

Nakorokoro is an Indo-Fijian settlement with twenty families and a population of around ninety people, mainly farmhands with a small number working in Sigatoka town.

Anjali Devi, a resident for over twenty years and a mother of two, recalled how the women had to walk about 400 meters each day to the nearest creek, carrying their laundry for washing and bringing back containers of water for washing dishes and other cleaning purposes. These were either carried on their heads or, for the bigger loads, driven by bullocks.

"The creek was also used by the residents to have a bath and in the rainy

season the water was muddy and during the drought period water would be scarce," she added.

"The commissioning of this new facility is too good to believe, a real gift and we, the women in particular, are delighted as we now have water in our kitchen, shower and toilet," Devi said.

The Foundation receives annual funding from four local donors; Fiji Water Foundation, Golden Manufacturers, Westpac Banking Corporation and the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation while offshore funding is provided by the Rotary International Foundation.

Since its inception in August 2007, it has completed 40 projects in several rural communities and villages around the country. Nakorokoro is the first of such projects for an Indo-fijian community with several others listed for implementation in the near future.

The smile on their faces said it all as women of all ages from a settlement in Nakorokoro in the Sigatoka Valley danced to pop as well as Indian folk songs to celebrate the commissioning of their village water project.

After years of relying on rain water and wells for cooking and drinking and a nearby creek for washing and bathing, the settlement now has access to fresh, clean and safe drinking water by just turning on a tap

The \$30,000 project funded by the Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation was commissioned recently by representatives of the Fiji Water and Vodafone ATH Foundations.

The project included the digging of a borehole, installation of a 10,000 litre water tank, pump and piping to individual homes.

As at June 2009, the Rotary Pacific Water for Life Foundation has assisted up to 16,950 people countrywide in receiving clean drinking water. The assistance ranged from boreholes, piping, catchment areas and water tanks totaling more than \$700,000 in budgetary costs.

This is the list of places where water projects have been completed to date:

- Navonu, Cakaudrove
- St Augustine, Labasa
- Labasa Arya, Labasa
- Batirilagi District School, Cakaudrove
- Dogotuki District School, Buva
- Nawaicoba Public School, Nadi
- Malolo Island, Mamanucas
- Dakshina Andhra School, Lautoka
- Nailega Village & School, Wainibuka
- Naibita Village Wainibuka
- Manu Village, Wainibuka
- Nabulini Village Wainibuka
- Lomainasau Village, Tailevu
- Barotu Village, Ra
- Rotahomes, Koroipita Settlement, Lautoka
- Vatudamu Village, Savusavu
- Vuaki Village, Yasawas
- Vunalagi School, Savusavu
- Nabukavesi Village, Namosi
- Naqali Village, Naitasiri
- Ratu Filimoni Loco School, Tailevu
- Rakiraki District School, Ra
- Driti Village & Secondary School, Tailevu
- Tagitagi Settlement, Tavua
- Veinuqa Village, Tailevu
- Vatusesiyasawa Village, Ra
- Natadradave Village, Tailevu
- Namara Village, Kadavu
- Vatukarasa Village, Nadroga
- Navuniivi Village, Ra
- Tokio Village, Ra
- Viani Primary School, Savusavu
- Navutu Village, Nadroga
- Nanuku Settlement, Ra
- Tavarou/Volivoli Settlements, Ra
- Nakorokoro Settlement, Nadroga
- Maumi Village, Tailevu
- Qalito Settlement, Nadroga
- Ba Rotary Village, Ba
- Narata Village, Nadroga
- Qilai Village, Namosi
- Nawamaqi Village, Nadroga
- Lewa Village, Naitasiri
- Rotuma High Schools, Rotuma



The presentation of the cheque.

Further Funds for Youth Awards Programme

A mutual partnership between the Foundation and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme (DEAP) has been enhanced further with an additional \$90,000 for the DEAP 2009 programme to allow schools to develop their three award levels of bronze, silver and gold.

The DEAP has been embraced by the Foundation due to its holistic approach to helping young people become responsible individuals.

In reaffirming its commitment to the programme, Foundation Chairman Tomasi Vakatora acknowledged its sister organisation, the Vodafone Group Foundation of the United Kingdom for primary funding to enable the expansion of the DEAP to allow more schools to participate.

“This marks another milestone for the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation, and the start of what we hope will be a long, fruitful and rewarding relationship between the Foundation and Fiji’s secondary schools,” Mr Vakatora said.

“It all started with meetings between our Foundation and the Ministry of Youth in late 2007, when we were looking to forge a partnership for a holistic programme for developing Fiji’s youth. “The opportunity to become involved with DEAP in 2007 was the chance for our Foundation to help make its vision a reality because we believe in the mission of the Programme, and share its values.”

The DEAP provides a balanced activities programme that promotes the development of the whole person – mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team-work. It also involves developing a personal programme of challenging activities, with participants enjoying unique experiences and rewards.

Award holders are highly valued by both employers and educational establishments. In the United Kingdom, voluntary work by Duke of Edinburgh participants is valued at over £13.5m to local communities each year. Around 61% of Gold Award holders continue with volunteering work after they have completed their programmes.

“We believe this funding could not have come at a better time for the Awards Programme. The current global financial crisis, and indeed our own domestic situation, has not left a lot of loose change in the pockets of school committees and parents for extra curricular activities, regardless of their importance in the development of our youth,” Mr Vakatora added.

Labasa Muslim College Keeps it Sustainable

Labasa Muslim College’s participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme (DEAP) has brought significant rewards not only for the students directly involved in the DEAP but the whole school community.

Funded by the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation in 2007 to begin their Bronze Awards, the school decided upon apiculture or beekeeping for the Skills section of the four-section award. The aim of this section is to encourage the discovery and development of practical and social skills and personal interests while encouraging young people to pursue activities within a wide range of practical, cultural and social environments and develop social, life and vocational skills.

With the funding, the DEAP students under the leadership of their coordinator were able to purchase 4 hives and other equipment and set to work developing a honey business in the school compound. Less than two years later they have six hives, but are currently operating only five of them.

Jeevan spoke to the school’s DEAP coordinator, Rajneel Singh during a recent visit to Labasa and he was proud to tell us that the students harvested honey every three months with one hive producing on average thirty 500ml bottles of honey. The honey is in demand and is purchased by the school community and members of the public.

Income from the honey sales go toward the upkeep of the hives and developing the business as well as helping needy students at the school. During Term Two, DEAP students donated \$50 to the school’s Welfare Committee so that fellow students could get a healthy lunch and bus fares.

According to the DEAP Handbook the Skills section should offer participants the opportunity to develop practical and social skills, meet new people, organise and manage time, discover how to research information, set and respond to challenges, work with others, enjoy sharing and discover new talents. From Labasa Muslim’s success story, it is obvious that they have done very well!

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation announced earlier this year that funding to the amount of \$90,000 was available to allow more Fiji schools to participate in the awards programme.

Two more young lives saved



Jo (front left) with his family before leaving for India.

Two more young hearts will continue to beat thanks to intervention from the Children's Heart Foundation.

Four year old Timoci Tagiciverata and Justin (Jo) Qionibaravi, 10, are among the latest group of youngsters to travel to India for life saving heart surgery with funding from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation. The two boys and their fathers received their airplane tickets from members of the Children's Heart Foundation last month and left for the Frontier Lifeline Hospital in Chennai a few days later.

Timoci lives with his parents and three siblings in Ravitaki village, Kadavu, while Jo, whose father Emosi is from Koro lives with his family in Koronivia, between Nausori and Suva.

Timoci's father Masi told Jeevan that they took their son to the Vunisea Hospital after they noticed that he slept a lot and was often weak. His skin would also turn darker if he'd been exerting himself playing, which he didn't do often as he'd soon run out of breath. He was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect during a visit to Suva's Colonial War Memorial Hospital and has since been a regular patient at Vunisea Hospital, being admitted up to twice every month of his young life. As a result of his condition he's mostly carried around his hilly village by his father while other children his age are running around.

During one visit to Suva last year, Timoci was examined by Dr Shanti, an Indian cardiologist who came to Fiji through the Children's Heart Foundation to assess and prioritise children needing surgery. Dr Shanti told Masi almost immediately to get passports ready for himself and Timoci.

Meanwhile, Nausori Primary School class five student, Jo was diagnosed shortly after being born and his parents have lived in hope that their oldest son would receive the surgery he so desperately needs.

The boys are expected to be in Chennai for three weeks and their families look forward to a happy reunion and a brighter future for their sons.

Additional \$300,000 for children's heart foundation

More local children with congenital heart defects will get a second chance at a normal life after the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation granted a further \$300,000 to the Fiji College of General Practitioners' Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) so sick children can receive potentially life-saving surgery in India.

This is the second time the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation has made a grant to the CHF. The first, \$342,000 in 2007 enabled the CHF to fly 28 seriously ill children to the Frontier Lifeline Hospital in Chennai.

One of those children, Salanieta Tuiloma was only 6 weeks old when she underwent heart surgery and celebrated her 2nd birthday in May this year.

Dr. Wahid Khan of the CHF said the continued support of the Vodafone ATH Foundation was vital to ensuring that more children were given the chance to lead normal lives. With many children diagnosed with congenital heart defects and placed on the waiting list for overseas surgery, such timely assistance lifted a heavy burden off of the families and the health system.

Health Permanent Secretary, Dr. Sala Saketa paid tribute to the Foundation for the Health based projects it funded, saying during difficult times, the assistance of entities like the Foundation was crucial for the country.

The CHF was formed in 2006 to facilitate the identification and timely evacuation of children for life saving surgery in Chennai, India. The Vodafone Group Foundation of the UK, through its local counterpart the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation was the first financial supporter of the CHF. Government provides support by sending a medical escort with the children.

Sight First Does Wonders in Labasa

by Roshan Lal, Lions Club of Labasa

With continued support and sponsorship from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation, the Lions Club of Labasa's Sight First Project will be able to reach some 10,000 people in the North within the next three years. This project has been an annual event of the Lions club of Labasa for the last 18 years.

Recent advice and suggestions by the visiting Volunteer Ophthalmologists Services Overseas (VOSO NZ) has changed the way the project is conducted and there are new strategies now in place to accurately determine the number of people needing help in terms of corrective surgery.

The Lions Club of Labasa would not have been in the position to continue with the Project due to the high costs involved had it not been for the support of the Foundation. The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation has kindly sponsored the project for three years in a row now.

Part of the new strategy involves a team of trained nurses who visited some 70 rural settlements and villages in the greater Macuata province and part of the Cakaudrove province. In previous years, the people had to come to Labasa Town for screening during the clinic. It was found that the majority of people needing attention could not make it to the clinics due to a lack of funds for transportation.



A VOSO volunteer tests a patient's eyesight.



Roshan Lal being interviewed by Fiji Times reporter, Serafina Silaitoga.

Out of the 3,099 people screened, 525 cataract cases were identified while 450 people were found to have eye problems that needed corrective surgery. The surprising part was that 75 % of the 450 had not seen an Ophthalmologist regarding their eyes. Upon further questioning it was noted that the basic reason was ignorance of eye related diseases, with many accepting it as part of growing old. And the second most common reason was poverty. Putting food on the table was more important to them then paying a visit to the doctor, which could easily cost the coastal dwellers around \$20.00 for a return trip.

This Sight First Project is in line with the objective of the Lions Club International and that is to help prevent avoidable blindness. There are numerous people who are getting blind everyday due to eye diseases such as Cataracts, Trachoma and Diabetes. Apart from Cataracts, a high number of people in Fiji have vision defects due to Diabetes.

Apart from the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation, our partners in the Project are Volunteer Ophthalmologists Services Overseas (VOSO NZ), who provide the Doctors and the Optometrists and the Ministry of Health provides clinic facilities and operation staff. The VOSO team comprised of two Ophthalmologists; Dr. Malcolm McKellar and Dr. Mark Saunder; one ophthalmic theatre nurse, Ms Anita Gerber and four Optometrists, Debra So, Ian Roberts, Kim Stedman, and Richard Johnson.

Sight First 2009 Facts

No. of people screened before the Clinic	3,099
No. of cases of cataracts identified	525
No. of people who attended the Clinic	1,260
No. of eye glasses distributed	1000
No. of cataract and laser surgeries performed	89

Approximate value of services rendered

89 operations @ \$ 2000.00 each	\$178,000.00
1000 Glasses Distributed @ average \$5.00 each	\$5,000.00
200 Prescriptions for special eyeglasses @ \$ 45.00 each	\$900.00
500 units of medication given out @ \$ 5.00 each	\$ 2,500.00

It's really difficult to put a price on the services rendered during the pre-clinic screening and clinic proper but if one considers the outreach, consultation and everything attached to the project, if it were a user-pay service, this project could cost up to \$300,000.00.

Financial Literacy Training

According to the National Centre for Small & MicroEnterprise development, 35 percent of Fiji's population is living under the poverty line and earning less than \$8000 a year. The devaluation of the Fiji dollar, coupled with the effects of the Global Economic Crisis, has hit Fiji's poor the hardest and people have been encouraged to save and start small businesses as a way out of poverty.

However, encouraging low income earners to establish micro enterprises requires more than just the provision of funds. The delivery of financial literacy training and basic business skills training is essential to meet the overall objectives of Microfinance.

Earlier this year the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) applied to the Foundation for funding for its Financial Literacy Training Outreach Program and the development and delivery of basic business

skills training. The training provides realisation of the benefits one can receive through consistent small savings and the opportunities that are available to participants once they develop a culture of savings. It also raises the will and desire to participate in micro enterprises to generate increased income.

At the handing over event the new Foundation Chairman, Michael Stanley told media and FCOSS representatives that the \$55,700 grant was testament to the Foundation's belief in the importance of such training and knowledge acquisition.

Mr. Stanley also said that through this project, the Foundation was contributing to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals by making a difference in the areas of Ending Poverty and Hunger (MDG 1), Universal Education (MDG 2), Gender Equality (MDG 3), Child Health and Maternal Health (MDG 4 & 5).

We've been busy



In this photo are (back from left) Foundation Directors Ateen Kumar, Tyrone O'Neill, Divik Deo, Michael Stanley and (front from left) Ambalika Kutty, Antonio Kitione and Manorama Singh.

Besides the very enjoyable job of approving and handing over funding to deserving organisations, we've taken on the challenge of improving our partnerships with stakeholders for the benefit of the communities we serve.

Here's a short update on recent Foundation Partnership and Synergies Management events.

Stakeholder engagement

■ **Donor Meeting**, 28th May, 2009 – Foundation was invited to join a Philanthropic Network. This is a first for the Foundation and 12 donor agency representatives were present to share

lessons learnt and challenges facing the local donor community. The representatives will continue to meet every quarter.

■ **UNDP Advocacy Workshop for District Leaders**, 8th to 10th June, 2009 – The Foundation made a presentation on community solutions on the 10th June, 2009. 32 District Leaders were present during this workshop

■ **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports** – Foundation met with representatives of the Ministry with a view to improving access to their schools database. Also discussed were potential partnerships which could assist in reaching the more remote schools, as were moves to improve the implementation,

monitoring and evaluation of Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme (DEAP) projects.

■ **Western Proposal writing workshop**, 10th June, 2009. Central College, Lautoka – A Proposal Writing Workshop was conducted for western schools wishing to be included in the DEAP. Thirteen schools participated and completed their proposals and budget and were also assessed based on the criteria. Nadi-based Foundation Director, Antonio Kitione accompanied Foundation Executive Ambalika Kutty.

■ **Central Eastern/Suva Proposal Writing Workshop**, 11th June, 2009. Ministry of Youth Head Office. 8 Schools participated.

■ **Northern Proposal Writing Briefing** - Sakiusa Regu from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports assisted us by helping the two schools in Labasa and Bua who are new to the DEAP.

■ **Employee Engagement** – aimed at improving internal awareness on upcoming Foundation programmes, slide shows are planned for staff lunchrooms.

■ **Civil Society Organisation Forum**, 31st July, 2009 – Foundation made a presentation to an audience made up of representatives of 66 Civil Society Organisations about Foundation and the contribution it makes towards enriching the lives of people in Fiji.

■ **Northern Partnership Synergies**, 6th August, 2009. With the aim of engaging more stakeholders in the monitoring of projects and streamlining communications between communities, Government and

Foundation, we met with 25 Northern Division Administrators, Councilors and representatives of Government departments at the Commissioner Northern's office and explained what we do and how we could assist each other to make donor dollars go further.

■ **Media and Stakeholder event**, 6th August, 2009. This informal get-together in Labasa was attended by 25 media and NGO stakeholder representatives and was a chance for everyone to get to know each other and develop networks.



Ambalika (far right) with NGO stakeholders.

New Faces at the Foundation



Ambalika Kutty



Michael Stanley

We take this opportunity to welcome two new members of the Foundation Family!

New Foundation Executive, Ambalika Kutty joined Vodafone in late May 2009 from the Fiji Council of Social Services, while Michael Stanley takes over from Tyrone O'Neill as Foundation Chairman.

Ambalika has amassed a wealth of experience over the past 19 years working with NGOs, Government and the private sector. In fact, just prior to joining Vodafone, Ambalika oversaw a Foundation-funded project at the Council.

She has a Master of Arts Degree from the University of South Pacific majoring in Management, Public Administration and Information Systems.

Ambalika also holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Management and Public Administration from the USP, a Graduate Diploma for Not for Profit Management/NGO/CSO from the University of Technology (NZ), as well as a Level IV Certificate in Workplace Training and Assessment from the Western Sydney TAFE.

We also warmly welcome Vodafone New Zealand Foundation Chairman, Michael Stanley who began his tenure as the chairman of the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation

by officiating at the handing over of funding to the Fiji Council of Social Services' Micro-Finance Unit. (see the story on page 5).

Here's what Michael had to say during a recent interview.

"I grew up in Brisbane and went to the University of Queensland, where I qualified in Social Work. I worked for 12 years as social worker in Australia, the UK and NZ. I mainly specialised in child protection and also worked with isolated aboriginal communities. After transitioning into HR I worked for Telstra in Australia, ran my own consultancy and worked for AMP before joining Vodafone Australia. In 2008 I came to Vodafone NZ to take on the challenge of being Director of HR.

Passions: *Life! I have three children aged between 16 and 20. I want my kids to have the chance to have a good life, be fulfilled and to grow and develop to the best of their abilities. I believe it is much easier to stay well spiritually, emotionally and physically than it is to recover - so I am really passionate about wellbeing and promoting people's wellbeing. I am also passionate about being happy and making the most of life.*

What motivated you to become involved in the Vodafone New Zealand Foundation? *In my view, the single best thing about Vodafone is the commitment and contribution it makes to the community. The most prominent way Vodafone contributes is through the Foundation, and for me, it is an honour to be part of that. I believe that the Foundation offers a great opportunity to our staff. We have 1500 people at Vodafone, and through the Foundation we can offer them the chance to make a positive difference in their local communities.*

What is the most outrageous thing you have done to raise money for charity? *Through my social work I went crocodile hunting with aboriginal tribes out of Aurukun (Australia) and spent nights and days in prisons with young offenders. I have also had the privilege to work with children who are dying and their families.*

Bula, Ambalika and Michael!

Welcome aboard.

About Us



Students of Nadogo Secondary School, 48kms from Labasa town.

Who We Are

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation (the Foundation) was established in March 2004, under the Charitable Trust Act as an avenue through which our companies, Vodafone Fiji Limited, Amalgamated Telecom Holdings (ATH) and Vodafone Group Foundation of the UK can invest back into the community and the environment in which we operate.

The Foundation follows the establishment of the Vodafone Group Foundation (www.vodafonefoundation.org), to ensure a harmonised global approach to social investment activities conducted through local foundations. Similar foundations have been established in other countries with a Vodafone presence around the world.

A local and relevant approach is made possible through partnering with credible not-for-profits and non-governmental-organisations (NGO's) and by funding projects that will benefit and enable the people and communities of Fiji to have fuller lives.

The Foundation is comprised of a board of trustees made up of staff of Vodafone Fiji and Australia, and ATH, with the Coordinator and Company Secretary overseeing its day to day running.

Our Mission Statement

Through our Passion for the World Around Us (one of Vodafone's passions) we can lead and make a difference for our communities and our people.

What we invest in

We will support education programmes to better communities, inspire innovation and encourage leadership.

We also welcome applications for other projects in other areas if:

- You are a registered Fiji N.G.O. or not-for-profit,
- The project you are proposing is in line with our Mission Statement,
- The beneficiaries of the grant are Fiji based.



VOSO Volunteers, Lion's Club Members and Foundation representatives.

How to apply for funding

While we welcome applications all year round, applications will only be considered by the Board during its meetings.

Organisations can download and fill out the Foundation application form at www.vodafone.com.fj and email it to the Foundation Coordinator and Company Secretary at foundation@vodafone.com.fj.

What we cannot fund

We cannot consider applications:

- For work that has already taken place,
- For beneficiaries outside Fiji,
- For fundraising events, receptions or trips,
- From sporting organisations excepting the disabled,
- From political groups,
- From commercial organisations,
- For anything that is a sponsorship,
- From organisations who discriminate on the basis of race, gender, beliefs, class or culture,
- Which involve the building of a structure or major capital works,
- Which involve "awareness campaigns".