



Vodafone
ATH Fiji
Foundation

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE VODAFONE ATH FIJI FOUNDATION

jeevan

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JEEVAN IS THE HINDI WORD FOR LIFE

CHILDREN GET \$30K FOR HAWAII TREATMENT



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*When we needed to
connect people &
deliver immediate
relief assistance
TC Winston story pg9*





passion for the vanua

BY PRADEEP LAL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VODAFONE FIJI

Doing Good Better

TC Winston really tested the patience, strength, and generosity of all Fijians. One positive out of this disaster is that it has shown us the real face of giving, volunteerism, and civic pride.

A number of private sector organisations were quick to give. Many started with immediate relief assistance and continued with the restoring and rebuilding efforts. This experience has created tremendous knowledge, from what we should do immediately to how we should strategise our corporate giving to ensure that our collective inputs have maximum development impact.

It is important for this purpose that we share our experiences, learnings, and best practices.

The way we see it, sharing the best practices means more organizations can better. At Vodafone, we're realizing we need to step up our game as innovators and collaborators in the social development space.

Building a community of practitioners who share best practices and lessons learned allows social enterprises and nonprofit to deliver innovative solutions that have real impact on the people we

serve. If we don't share what we know, we run the risk of devoting time and resources to ideas that have already been proven ineffective.

For example sharing of knowledge that helps us better understand social problems and their solutions, logistics strategies that are better and effective, distribution approaches that minimize duplication and wastage, etc.

The needs of people, our society, business, and technology is changing at a rapid pace. What we knew yesterday is probably obsolete today.

This accelerating change demands that we as business come up with innovative solutions to social issues. And innovation can only be achieved through new and refined knowledge.

As businesses we seem have fallen short in truly capitalising on our collective intelligence.

Our hope is that more organizations will join us in sharing their successes and challenges, so we can all create a bigger impact.

Such initiatives will catalyse positive change across the social sector.

We can do good a little better!

Jeevan

Jeevan is a quarterly publication of the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation

Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation

is a registered charity. The

Foundation was formed to bestow its philanthropic responsibility towards

the community it does business with and where its

stakeholders, shareholders, suppliers, customers and employees live in. Through

the 'passion for world around us' and 'commitment for making Fiji a better place' for

all, the Foundation ensures implementation of the social investment policy through

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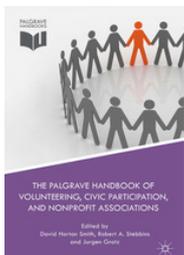
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Ambalika contributes to The Palgrave Handbook of Volunteering, Civic Participation, and Nonprofit Associations

Written by over 200 leading experts from more than seventy countries, this handbook provides a comprehensive, state-of-the-art overview of the latest theory and research on volunteering, civic participation and nonprofit membership associations.



Our road to resilience, can we better manage our future?

In the previous issue of Jeevan, 'Passion for Vanua' talked about capacity building. TC Winston has thrown in another related consideration in the discourse that is very important given our vulnerability to climate change - resilience.

Disaster resilience is the process of helping communities to be better prepared to withstand and rapidly recover from disasters.

TC Winston and the recent floods remind us that natural hazards take a high toll on communities.

Costs in lives, livelihoods and quality of life can be reduced by better managing disaster risks. We can strengthen resilience and improve a community's ability to maintain and restore vital services in a more timely way and to build

back better.

It's not only about saving lives but about preserving livelihoods.

While, understanding of local context of vulnerability and exposure is fundamental for increasing resilience, at the very grass root level we need to develop skills of individuals and communities to diversify income sources.

We need to build their capacity and skills of agri-based population, example helping farmers to use crops that can cope with flooding; and providing communities with the skills and tools they need to maintain their food self-sufficiency.

Such an approach can ensure that when we do face the wrath of nature, our ability to bounce back is quicker.



Tikina Nasikawa women discuss project

Micro business funding

Helping rural women & youth groups

The Foundation’s micro business seed funding to women and youth groups reached more rural communities in the last quarter ending March 31.

31 groups in the tikinas of Nasikawa, Nasau, Korovou, Navesau, Kamave, and Korolevuiwai in the western division were assisted.

Each group received \$2500 to start a new micro business or uplift existing project.

The micro business seed funding is a structured activity under the Foundation’s ‘social entrepreneurship’ strategic thrust.

Apart from funding, the Foundation helps these micro entrepreneurs with basic business and technical training, linkage to appropriate organisations for access to additional resources, and awareness sessions.

Provincial Women Volunteer and personal assistant to Roko Tui Nadroga/Navosa Mere Tonono said the funding was a great help.

“Such help hardly reaches the remote communities hence this support will provide opportunities for women aspiring for business development while

addressing the needs of the community,” she said.

“The youths are now getting opportunity to do whatever they are passionate about and it’s their passion that will drive them to execute projects and bring it to a sustainable stage,” she said.

The projects will be monitored by World of Difference candidates based in the west.

“Regular monitoring and evaluation is critical part of our funding, we ensure that all projects get sustainable in the shortest possible time,” said Foundation Executive Ambalika Kutty.

\$77.5k
for west
women
& youth
income
projects

Income generating projects in various tikinas in the western division

Komave: Namatakula Women’s Club for Hiring of Roofing Iron business.

Nasikawa: Matokana Women’s Club for grass cutting - Brush Cutter; Korovou Ca Youth Club for piggery; Waibasaga Women’s Club for canteen project.

Nadrau: Naimawi Youth Club for canteen; Vuevata Youth Club for lawn mowing project.

Korolevu-i-wai: Votua Youth Resource & Development Group for internet coffee shop and resource centre; Namada Mothers Club for



lawn mowing, pruning and Cleaning Project; Waivou Youth Club for piggery project.

Namataku: Nukuvura Youth Club for canteen business; Nukuvura Women’s Club for poultry. >>

Income generating projects in the west

Rukuruku: Takuci Youth Group for canteen project.

Noikoro: Navirayaki Youth Club for farming equipment; Navatoga Youth Club for canteen project; Nukuilau Youth Club for bee keeping.

Vitogo: PYGMIES Youth Club for farming; Gaunavou Youth Club for food catering business.

Nadi: Vatuburu Youth Club for bee keeping; Loloma Dina Farmers Enterprise for farming project.

Saivou: Delaira Youth Club for bakery

Nalawa: Nauria Youth Club for bee keeping; Nasukamai Youth Club for dalo farm; Ovalau Youth Club or dalo farm; Nasau Youth Club for youth store; Nubumakita Youth or dalo farm; Nukulau Youth Club or dalo farm; Macdonald Youth Club for nursery.

Malolo: Tavua Youth Club for youth Store.

Savatu: Nadelei Youth Club for bee keeping.



\$80,000
in micro business grants in 2015/16

70 groups
including women and youth clubs

200k+
individuals direct benefit

The Qacoya kitchen story

Women in the village of Mataniwai outside Labasa Town initially received a funding of \$2500 from the Vodafone Fiji Foundation last year.

Through a joint effort women in the village have managed to grow the funding to \$5000 after they branched out into other income generating projects.

Initially the women in the village had planned to undertake baking as an income generating project.

Now they have grown their business and ventured into opening a mini office shop providing office services like typing and internet to the villagers.

The women have also set up a poultry farm.

The group's president Lusiana Kautu said that children in the village could now do research through their mini office shop and do not need to go top internet cafes in town.

Ms Kautu said that poultry needs in the village have also been addressed by their small developing poultry



farm.

“The bakery that we started is still running and villagers have their own supply of fresh bread every morning from the shop,” she said.

“We would like to laud the Fiji Vodafone Foundation for believing in us and choosing us to be recipients of their funding.”

“The \$20,000 that was the donation from Vodafone is to help with the clearance and distribution of this equipment, so the value is huge but they have given us vital funds to enable it to be cleared with the customs and distributed.”

– British High Commissioner to Fiji, Mr. Roderick Drummond

“Our vision is to address the suffering of our community and we continuously strive for quality and excellence in whatever we do.”

– Andrew Kumar CTO, Vodafone Fiji



More mobility devices arrive

\$2.4 million worth of mobility and assistive devices arrived in two separate consignments from the PysioNet UK. The Foundation funded the transportation cost of these consignments, costing \$20,000 each. WoD candidate Joshko Wakaniyasi who has been coordinating with PhysioNet, said that while the assistance kept on increasing, meeting local demand was a challenge. The consignments have wheel chairs, prosthetic limbs, crutches, and many medical and mobility equipment. The equipment are distributed to the needy through support from the Foundation and its charity partners.

Pinktober raises funds for Elina

The Vodafone Pinktober initiative raised \$4000, with an additional \$1000 topped up by the Foundation.

Vodafone ladies handed \$5000 to Elina Ratukalou who is at the 4th stage of breast cancer. Elina’s husband passed away while she was going through treatment in July last year. Shes was left

all on her own with her three children to look after. “We lost counts of the many times she thanked us. Her blessings were all we needed to make this effort worthwhile. With our donation we were able to put smile on Elina’s face,” the ladies said. “Together, let’s continue with the passion of making positive contribution in people’s life.”



\$12m
worth of
mobility
devices &
medical
equipment
distributed
in Fiji



Rotary Club of Taveuni members receive the cheque from Ambalika Devi

\$7500 for eye treatments

The Foundation donated \$7500 to the Rotary Club of Taveuni for facilitating eye treatments and surgeries for those with impaired vision. The club completed 339 eye surgeries in October last year.

Last year, the Foundation handed over \$28,000 cheque which saw 11 overseas and 22 locals assisting with the project.

So far 2600 Fijians have had full vision restored with this assistance.



Kelera has her own wheels after 8 years

Kelera Seiniviavia of Nokonoko Village in the Province of Ra has been sharing a wheelchair for the past eight years.

She now has her own wheelchair that was handed to her by the Foundation.

Smiling with joy she said that her happiness has multiplied after

receiving the timely support. Her leg was amputated eight years ago due to diabetes.

“Life gets better when we realise our responsibility towards our health. I smile everyday and keep myself happy. That’s the secret of my improved health,” said 48-year-old Seiniviavia.



Equipment for Korolevu Health Centre

The Foundation delivered over \$7000 worth of mobility devices to the Korolevu Health Centre in December.

Dr Elizabeth Dass said that there was huge need for mobility devices for Tikina Komave, Korolevuiwai and nearby islands who sought health services at Korolevu Health Centre.

“Such timely support will really provide a boost to the service that we aspiring to provide,” she said.

“Walkers, wheelchairs, crutches, bed pan, commodes diapers are the most important needs for our disable in this area and these devices will be great help to those who need it.”



Bhuwan Singh’s timely assistance

Sixty one-year-old Delailabasa resident Bhuwan Singh had his leg amputated after a gas cylinder fell on him causing injury to his left leg.

Mr Singh was lost for words and kept thanking Vodafone staff when they delivered a wheelchair to him.

“Now I can move around my house and compound without the help. This wheelchair is timely, I got amputated last October and have since relied on others to move me around,” said Mr Singh.



‘I can go and watch soccer again’

Sixtyfive-year-old Manish Lal has been a diabetic patient from 2005. Both his legs were amputated last year, and since then Lal has been grounded at home.

A soccer-loving senior, Lal says the wheelchair given to him by the Foundation will enable him to watch soccer at Subrail Park in Labasa.



WoD continues with another round

Nine candidates have signed an agreement for four months to continue working for the Foundation's flagship World of Difference (WoD) programme.

The agreement includes seed funding and salary.

The candidates will be focusing on sustainable development goals, targets and indicators.

The candidates shared their success stories for the past year ranging from the establishment of NGOs to mooted programmes that address social and community issues.

Since the inception of the programme in 2010, it has supported over 109 volunteers to do community work.

Foundation executive Ambalika Kutty said they were linking all activities to make significant impact that embraced technology all throughout its project execution.

Our vision is "stronger connected vanua" and this is what drives our passion.

"We are ahead of Post 2015 agenda. We are aspiring to

do things differently and expecting holistic-social change that brings about entrepreneurial change that in turn has the power to address the pain of our community," she said.

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation have invested over \$15m towards Fiji's communities since its inauguration in 2004.

TFL's Jagat leverages Double Your \$ to help north family

A Telecom Fiji Limited (TFL) employee's engagement with Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation helped a fire victim's family receive assistance in Labasa. Jagat Prasad, TFL Labasa team leader for customer service and retailers, treasurer of Northern Charity Alliance (NCA) and secretary of Labasa Rotary Club handed over a \$4050 cheque to Gurnam Singh.

Mr Singh's six-bedroom house in Namara was destroyed in a fire.

Mr Prasad said members



of the Labasa Rotary Club contributed with \$1050 and with \$1000 from NCA.

"Thanks to the Foundation's Double Your Dollar programme we were able to raise \$4050 to help this family," Mr Prasad said.

Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation executive officer Ambalika Kutty said this was the first a TFL

employee had worked with the Foundation.

"I am happy that Mr Prasad was able to approach us to assist Mr Singh who urgently needed help to support his family," Ms Devi said.

Labasa Rotary Club president Ami Kohli thanked the Foundation for having Ms Devi personally meet Mr Singh to hand over the cheque.

109
WoD
candidates
since 2009

9 WoD
candidates
in 2015/16

\$264k
investment
in WoD in
2015/16

Tagane Support Domain targets zero tolerance

The youths of Sinucodo in Labasa are determined to make a difference and achieve zero tolerance of violence against women and children.

They are part of a new programme 'Tagane Support Domain' aimed at helping men become better husbands, sons, brothers and protectors of women in society.

Coordinator and Vodafone World of Difference candidate Peni Tabua said the group was set up so that they could encourage their counterparts and older men in society to appreciate and value women.

"We need to protect our sisters, mothers, aunts, grandmothers and even friends from any violent and inhumane act that we hear about every day in the media," he said.

"And if it happens to one of our loved ones, we will not like it. So to

ensure that women are free from violence, we will now be male advocates to spread the message."

The group, he said, was also set up to support men in making a difference.

"It is also a support group for men who come from different backgrounds, need support, healing, and who may be in personal crisis but don't know who to share it with."

Another executive Mario Wilson said it was typical for men to talk about rugby and other stuff when they met.

"We hardly hear men or boys talk about their personal challenges like breaking up with a girlfriend or a family crisis compared to women



when they meet," he said.

"They can easily share their problems so we are also working with men and young boys to help them talk about their experiences and also tell them that there's always a better way to deal with issues," said Wilson.



Foundation Director Iliessa Volau at Golden Age Home handing over oven to ensure health and wellness of residents

Gifts for ashram residents

Thirty-two residents of Babasiga Ashram in Labasa were blessed with personal gifts on New Year's Eve by the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation. The gifts, worth \$1000, consisted of clothes and other daily supplies.

Babasiga Ashram welfare officer Neha Prasad said the residents were happy to wear new clothes and receive much needed personal supplies.

"Thank you to Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation for making an effort to spend some time with residents and presenting them gifts especially on New Year's Eve," Ms Prasad said.

Foundation Director Arunesh Vishwa said it had always been a tradition since the Foundation's inception to share gifts with those away from families during the festive seasons.

"We have been fortunate to share our joy with the residents, especially with the unfortunate parents who have been away from their homes for decades," Mr Vishwa said.



Kioa Primary School gets connected

Kioa Island Primary School on Kioa Island is now connected to the wider world.

The Foundation has equipped the school with 11 tablets worth of \$2500 and free internet connection for a year.

The school has a computer laboratory with four desktops catering for 89 students and six teachers.

"With limited resources it was very difficult for us to provide ample time for all students to have access to computer during computer classes," said Head teacher Mr Sakaio Fiafia.

"Thanks to Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation all students will now have the opportunity to access information on internet by using tablets and at the same time be on the same pace with urban schools," he said.

"I am very happy because my students will not be left behind and deprived when they enter secondary schools in Taveuni, Savusavu or Labasa as they would be equally educated about technology devices," said Fiafia.

Children get \$30k for medical treatment at Hawaii hospital



Simione Ratulilai with his mother Sisi Mokubula

More children will now be able to go for treatment at Shriners Hospital in Hawaii after a \$30,000 donation from the Foundation.

Presenting the cheque to Hilton Special School Vodafone CEO Pradeep Lal said the funds will pay for the travel expenses of children with disabilities and their parents.

“This is part of the ‘Vodafone Way’ - the values we hold as a corporate and our responsibility towards the community that we do business in,” said Lal.

Hilton CEO Sureni Parera said “we use the funds as diligently as possible

and we ensure this by selecting the most eligible to receive treatment.”

Lal added that in the past years, some children had stayed in Hawaii for almost six months for treatment and recovery. He said that though accommodation was provided, the parents will have to provide for the day-to-day expenses.

Mrs Sisi Mokubula of Moturiki Island, parent of 12-year-old Simione Ratulilai who received medical treatment in Hawaii last year thanked the Foundation for supporting children with disabilities over the years.

“After twelve years of my son walking with a limp leg, we went to Hawaii for his operation in December last year. So it was a gift to him and also our family. We are thankful for the sponsors because now my son is no longer walking with a limping foot,” said Mrs Mokubula.

The Foundation has been providing this assistance to children with disabilities since 2010.

“Vodafone has helped change the lives of children in Fiji and we are thankful that their commitment to this cause is a continuous one,” said Parera.

Helping Mere Roden on her journey of excellence

Being confined to a wheelchair because of a spinal injury, has not stopped 48-year-old Mere Roden fulfil her dream of being an athlete.

However, her quest to refine her table tennis skill did not come easy.

“We need to travel and participate in overseas competitions. We need more training and experienced coaches. But Para athletes need lot on money to travel as accommodating people with disability is

expensive,” said Roden.

“We are lucky to have the financial support from Vodafone to make this possible.”

Since 2015 the Foundation has provided financial support to Roden.

“A big vinaka vakalevu to Vodafone, without your support our travel wouldn’t have been possible”

A mother of six children and three grandchildren, Roden started her table tennis career in September 2014.

She was part of the first



Para player Mere Roden

ever national para table tennis team that took part in the ITTF Oceania Cup and ITTF Oceania Para Table Tennis Championships in Australia in 2015.

Roden won a silver medal in the wheelchair women’s

singles after defeating Australia number one Rosalie Turnbull before losing to Lisa Di Toro.

Roden is currently training 2-3hours daily in preparations for Rio Olympics.



Connecting you to your loved ones is always our priority



Vodafone CEO Pradeep Lal

Vodafone Fiji credited \$3.5m worth of free talk time to its customers' mobiles to assist in emergency communications in the immediate aftermath of TC Winston.

"In times like these communications become a vital element. Families are often cut off from communications with their loved ones who may have been stranded in other part as they desperately seek information about their whereabouts. Just hearing from them and being assured of their safety and security means a lot in such times of emergency," said Vodafone CEO Pradeep Lal.

"Furthermore, communication is also essential to gather information on the needs of people and organize associated logistics to provide relief assistance as soon as possible. For this to happen, those affected need to be able to contact DISMAC and relief centres or be contactable to receive assistance", Lal said.

"We have also provided additional assistance to the NDMO's Office with the communications needs to ensure they are able to better coordinate their rescue and relief efforts," said Lal.

"Understanding this very real need, Vodafone Fiji made a decision to top up all its prepaid customers' mobile numbers with \$5 worth of free talk-time to provide immediate assistance." Lal said.



... and that meant we needed to restore our network quickly



Vodafone CTO Andrew Kumar

Vodafone engineers went into an overdrive to restore its mobile network in the wake of TC Winston.

Key network infrastructure was impacted at various locations causing downtime in communications.

"Our network services were obviously impacted and our engineers were deployed immediately so that we could connect our people," said Vodafone Chief Technology Officer Andrew Kumar.

"We worked nonstop keeping in mind that emergency communications was critical to help those in need."

"When disaster affected populations have themselves the means to communicate, they can aid recovery efforts in their own communities. Mobile is a form of communication on which people are increasingly dependent. Therefore, restoring our network to operational levels as soon as possible became critical," said Kumar.





... and help them recover from the devastation



Vodafone
CFO Divik
Deo

“Our assistance does not end here,” says Vodafone Chief Financial Officer Divik Deo.

“Through the Foundation we are continuing with the recovery and rebuilding.”

“The Vodafone Red Alert has also provided a SMS platform to Vodafone customers through which they can donate and be part of rebuilding,” said Deo.

The *767# powers Vodafone users to donate and funds collected is channelled to charity partners to implement community-help initiatives.

In addition to this the Foundation’s charity partners are working with affected

communities to help them with income-generating projects.

“Providing assistance in terms of money is not always sustainable,” said Deo.

“Our approach to recovery is to equip individuals and communities with skills, build capacity, and direct them in micro ventures so that they have sustainable livelihood.”

“We are expanding our micro-business programme to community groups affected by TC Winston.”

“We will provide seed funding for viable projects and ensure that recipients are guided to bring the projects to a sustainable stage,” said Deo.

Relief packs distributed in the following areas

- Rabulu
- Viwawa
- Nanuku
- Draunivivi
- Naseyani
- Nakorovou
- Nasele
- Koro
- Vugele
- Toko
- Nadalai
- Nananu
- Drauniivi
- Naqoro
- Narewa
- Davota
- Vatukoula
- Moto
- Balevuto
- Korovuto
- Vunisamaloa
- Vatuyaka
- Nakeniwai
- Draumasi
- Vitawa
- Nacovi
- Wairuku



Vodafone NZ team Russel Hewitt, Zac Antony Simmons, and Andrew Fairgrey distribute relief items



... and provide immediate relief



Vodafone
CMO Rajnesh
Prasad

The Foundation activated its Vodafone Red Alert programme to provide immediate relief to those affected by TC Winston.

Vodafone Red Alert is a disaster response initiative that utilises Vodafone’s technology platform, people, and partner network to provide rapid relief assistance.

Staff of Vodafone with 400 volunteers, mobilised by charity partner Fiji Council of Social Services, packed 1300 boxes containing 26 items ranging from basic food items, utensil, to kerosene and sanitary. The supplies worth \$325,000 were distributed to the affected areas in the west, north and Vanuabalavu.

“Our heart goes to those who have lost their homes and other belongings. It’s just unbearable to see the people in the west being dealt with

another cruel blow. We have seen hundreds of people losing their homes with extensive damage to public infrastructures,” said Vodafone Chief Marketing Officer Rajnesh Prasad.

“The least we can do is to put back smiles on the affected children and families.”

“We thank our charity partners for their passion and commitment to make a difference with our assistance. We may not have been able to assist everyone, but hope our contribution will bring back a little smile to at least some of the despairing faces.”

“It is of utmost importance that we assist our people in times of need. Corporate social responsibility remains hallmark in the way we do business at Vodafone,” said Prasad.



TC Winston shows the real face of volunteerism



By Verleshwar Singh

TC Winston has ravaged Fiji, leaving a trail of destruction that will take a lot of time and resources to rebuild.

Several local and international organisations including governments, NGOs, and business enterprises were quick to deploy relief efforts in various parts of Fiji.

It's inspiring to learn how these organisations have been able to mobilise their people and get some of the mammoth tasks done so swiftly.

While strategies would differ between organisations, something worth noting and commendable is the enthusiasm and effort of volunteers.

I was fortunate to volunteer in Vodafone's Red Alert programme that saw the delivery of over 1000 relief packs to victims of TC Winston.

The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS), one of Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation's charity partners, was roped in to mobilise volunteers to help in packing the relief items.

At 1.30PM on Monday 22 February, FCOSS Executive Director Neil Maharaj communicates with his existing volunteer network. Then he makes a call for volunteers on social media. Some 100 partner charities are also emailed.

7 am Tuesday morning Neil and I are on the road to the west to attend the National Disaster Coordination meeting at Commissioner Western's office in Lautoka.

It is not a typical quiet ride. Neil's phone keeps on ringing. There was a surge of calls from people wanting to volunteer.

By the time we returned to Suva at around 9 pm, Neil had received over

“It’s been an incredible journey with these volunteers. In two days the Vodafone Fiji ATH Foundation has extended the family ties to those who care and want to make a difference in the lives of the victims of TC Winston”



Divik Deo

Neil Maharaj

100 phone calls, over 150 emails and several messages on Facebook.

“We have done this before, but this time, the response is unprecedented,” says Neil.

“What one volunteer can do is small, but what all of us can do is enormous for recovery, it creates a stronger power,” adds Neil.

And that power was so visible at the Narsey's Plastic Warehouse in Laucala Beach where Vodafone's relief stock was being repacked into ration packs.

Over 400 volunteers flocked to this venue to assist in packing the

goods. The scene, enthusiasm, and drive of these individuals are beyond explanation.

“It's been an incredible journey with these volunteers. In two days the Vodafone Fiji ATH Foundation has extended the family ties to those who care and want to make a difference in the lives of the victims of TC Winston,” said Foundation Director Divik Deo.

One of the most visible faces of volunteerism appears in disasters. The Foundation and its charity partners were first responders in the aftermath of floods that hit the western division in 2012. Most of those mobilised for relief assistance were volunteers including youths, workers, and men and women from various works of life.

“Volunteerism strengthens our social infrastructure. Communities with more trust, civic engagement and stronger networks have a better chance of recovering after a disaster,” says Neil.

“However, volunteerism is at a significant cost to volunteers who themselves lack the means to adequately sustain themselves economically. We need to give more recognition to volunteers to allow for expanded and efficient use of volunteer resources.”

“Recognitions like the UN Volunteer Awards provides incentives for sustainable volunteer action but we need a more structured approach at the national level,” says Neil.

The Foundation had funded \$220,000 in 2012 for the establishment of FCOSS National Volunteer Centre (NVC). The centre has over 6000 registered volunteers and runs capacity building programmes.



Plastics waste survey and stakeholder database take shape

mEnvironment, coordinated by WoD candidate Chris Cokanasiga, has linked up with an independent researcher to do a South Pacific Micro Plastics Survey on plastic waste in the Pacific. The study is about the ingestion of plastic and associated co-pollutants by fish destined for human consumption. To help acquire the necessary data the team will obtain samples from specific fish species in Fiji that will be part of a larger quantitative data.

Through this study mEnvironment will be able to obtain data on the impact of plastic on local fish species.

“This is crucial when talking about the impacts of plastics on not just our environment but our health and having data that is directly relevant to us makes for good examples to show communities and individuals,” said Cokanasiga.

Charity partners Ocean Ambassadors based in Malolo Nadi have developed a charter sailing programme which will incorporate educational presentations to tourists and locals about plastic waste management and climate change.

The programme also includes working with villagers (in Malolo and other islands) and tourist to help set up activities on sustainable practices, sustainable sea transport, alternative fuel options, coral farming, and awareness. mEnvironment is also running another survey to gather information on the what environmental work other stakeholders were engaged in. The intention is to build a database of stakeholders and find the gaps in issues that needed attention. The database will serve as a directory to assist anyone looking for information on environment stakeholders.

mFarmacy works on model farm concept for west

mFarmacy coordinator and WoD candidate Jiten Naidu is working to replicate his model farm concept in communities around the western division soon.

Naidu said the initiative would target unemployed youths living in rural areas.

“Last year, we started a model farm at Saunaka Village in Nadi,” he said.

“The main objective of this is to allow young people to grow organic vegetables so people from their village can purchase produce from their farms.”

“The idea was for money to be retained by villagers.”

“They can then use this money for different purposes, from developing infrastructure to helping the village rugby team.

“This year, we want to explore the possibility of moving into other communities. We are conducting this project with the assistance of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.”

Naidu said they would assist youth farmers by providing fertiliser and manure, which would enable all produce cultivated to be organic.



Labasa youth engage in multiple activities

WoD candidate Peni Tabua inspires youths through charity partner Rotary Club of Labasa and Sinucodo Brotherhood Club to bring about real difference in their lives. The Sinucodo Brotherhood Club helps unemployed youths in Labasa find some form of employment, generate sustainable income through use of their unique talents and skills, and change the mind-set of young people through the “RYHTE (Resources, Youth, Health, Time and Environment) model.

The club has instituted multiple initiatives under the RYHTE model to engage youths and guide them towards sustainable lives.

The ‘Youths for Hire’ initiative is a volunteer service where youths get hired for cleaning homes and backyards to repairing and maintenance jobs in exchange for any resources that would help them sustain themselves.

The Manpower to Hire Agency programme employs youths with work skills to do contract jobs for individuals and organisations. They divide the money received equally among them.

The Sinucodo Urban Watches Project is similar to a security company, but more like a watchmen outfit that consists of a collective group of physically fit young men who are trained to work in this field. Some of their projects are voluntary while some commercial.

An ‘Ongoing utilisation of resources’ programme ensures that youth engage in sustainable farming practices and the “Women in Need Fiji (WIN) project provides support to young women in areas of family health and social well-being.





Eminoni's journey of engagement triggers field effectiveness

WoD candidate Eminoni Limalevu set on a journey to engage multiple stakeholders in his effort to make a real difference in the communities he works with.

Eminoni is taking an integrated approach whereby he leverage the strength of the Foundation's thematic areas to address community issues.

From health, women and youth to micro-business development, Eminoni advises individuals and groups that working together and dealing with issues in a holistic manner has greater impact.

In doing so he has been liaising with the Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Council, Department of Agriculture, Church Groups, and women and youth groups.

With other Foundation stakeholders, he has been conducting health screenings, creating awareness on environment, and promoting sustainable farming.

In his recent effort, Eminoni managed to collect 1000 dalo suckers from 10 farmers in Naqelewai, Naitasiri for Dayala Youth Club in Nadroga. The dalo suckers were transported to Korotogo Village in Nadroga by a church minister without any cost.

"Such collaborative efforts make things easier and cost effective," say Eminoni.

"We can achieve greater impact and good for community by working together and taking a holistic approach to matters on hand."

Naduri villagers benefit from Tokalauvere's micro enterprise

Tucked away in the coast of the Macuata Province, the village of Naduri is slowly benefitting from the efforts of a World of Difference Candidate who is working selflessly to enable youths and women in the village make a living from scratch.

Tevita Tokalauvere is taking the lead role in ensuring that youths in this village are kept preoccupied with income generating projects that would benefit them and their families.

Supported by the Foundation, Mr Tokalauvere began his own entrepreneurship entity known as the Kawai Kamica Creations, named after the province's staple root crop for which it is known throughout Fiji.

Mr Tokalauvere has engaged over 50 youths and single mothers in the village to be part of the project and to assist them create and come up with their own income generating ideas.

KK creations is a project aimed at exploiting the clothing textile industry to market clothing bearing the province's traditional emblems and slogans infusing traditional designs as a way of appealing to its customer base who reside as far as the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Mr Tokalauvere said that once the project rolled out he would also focus on involving youth groups in the project to come up with their own designs that could fuel the brand name of KK Creations.

Plans are also underway by the group to also target and address social pressing problems like rape, suicide, NCD and other issues through KK Creation's clothing line.



Diabetes awareness outreach programme goes to Kadavu

WoD candidate Marawa Kini, of charity partner Diabetes Fiji, conducts outreach programmes in communities to create awareness on diabetes prevention and control; and increasing knowledge and skills on how to keep blood sugar normal and prevent complications.

In January a Diabetes Open Day was held on Kadavu saw the health screening of 136 individuals. Activities included screening, doctor consultation, blood test, foot and eye assessment, cooking demo, physio power exercise, dental check up, and counselling on stress management.

The programme was opened by the Acting Sub Divisional Medical Officer Dr. Rafaele Kelekele who sent a strong message on the need to change lifestyle as the youngest living with diabetes on the island is a 23-year-old.

The programme was an eye opener for many as this was the first time they had their HbA1c test and one-to-one counselling, by Empower Pacific, on stress management.

"We were fortunate to be accompanied by the agriculture department, youth empowerment officer, and business stakeholders to create awareness on food security," said Kini.

"It is critical to understand the importance of family and community support in managing diabetes and its complications." Kini said Diabetes Fiji would work towards engaging other government departments and civil and private sector stakeholders to strengthen the outreach activities. "We must extend the outreach to train caregivers so that they can comprehensively address issues on basic diabetes care," said Kini. Diabetes Fiji is looking at initiating a peer-to-peer mentor programme on Kadavu.



WoD project powers growth of Rabi women



An entrepreneurial project born out of the Vodafone World of Difference (WoD) programme is powering the growth of women on Rabi Island.

In 2010, Terikano Takesau set on an ambitious task to change the lives of women in her community.

WoD provided the platform for Takesau to realise her ambitions by supporting her for 18 months with financial and capacity building resources.

Takesau started a virgin coconut oil (VCO) project by engaging the women's group on the island.

The women produced the oil at their own locations and brought it to the Women's Centre at Nuku for marketing and sales.

Without proper production facility the group was producing 20-50 litres.

Late 2010 Tekasau secured \$15,000 from the NZ Embassy to establish a facility with electric coconut scrappers.

In 2013 the Government of Fiji, through the Integrated Human Resources Development Program (IHRDP) approved a grant of \$20,000 to establish a VCO factory.

The factory officially opened in July 2015 providing opportunities for some 150 women.

The Rabi Council of Leaders (charity partner for World of Difference program) also pitched in with a \$13000 funding.

Today the factory has a monthly production of 600 litres of 1st Grade Pure Virgin Coconut Oil, 200 litres of Sinusinu 2nd grade oil, and 1 tonne of Coconut Dried Meal for animal feed.

The women generate an annual revenue of over \$60,000 with efforts in progress to enter new markets.

Takesau said they hoped to provide more employment opportunities for school dropouts residing at Rabi and to enable Banaban women and the Banabans residing on Rabi to have a brighter future.

"This as an opportunity for the women to make use of their talent, earn income for their families and we acknowledge the support of everyone who have made this a reality."

"It was the passion that I had for the disadvantaged community on Rabi, especially the women, that has driven me all along to the success of this project, from establishment to sustainability regardless of the many ups and downs I have encountered."

"The VCO factory has not only benefitted the women but the whole community as well as we are purchasing husked coconuts from them at 30 cents per kg. The women are also utilizing the coconut shells to make handicrafts and accessories to generate income."

The project has turned into an established business. Work is in progress to extend the factory to increase production. The group is also working to establish a soap-making plant very soon.

GRANT DISBURSEMENTS 2015/16 PERIOD [UNAUDITED]

Mobile for Good		\$251,715		
Western	\$27,843		Ruel Foundation	\$2,500
Empower Pacific	\$27,843		Kalabu Primary	\$2,500
Fitness Inspiration	\$27,843		Waisali Youth	\$2,500
Savusavu	\$10,000		Navai Primary	\$2,500
Spinal	\$12,004		Raunitogo Primary	\$2,500
Fiji Council	\$12,004		Wavuwavu Primary	\$2,500
Lions Club Labasa	\$12,004		Vuci Primary	\$2,500
Mchannels	\$12,174		Labasa Special Edu	\$2,500
Namatakula Women	\$2,500		Draladamu Primary	\$2,500
Naimawi Youth Club	\$2,500		Nasinu Sangam	\$2,500
Namada Mothers Club	\$2,500		Nasau Primary	\$2,500
Vuevata Youth Club	\$2,500		Holy Cross College	\$2,500
Waibasaga Women	\$2,500		Saraswati Primary	\$2,500
Takuci Youth Group	\$2,500		Toko Sanatan Primary	\$2,500
Navatoga Youth Club	\$2,500		Kubulau District	\$2,500
Vatuburu Youth Club	\$2,500		Nadi District School	\$2,500
Nukuvura Youth Club	\$2,500		Solevu Catholic	\$2,500
Waivou Youth Club	\$2,500		Vusaratu Women	\$2,500
Navirayaki Youth Club	\$2,500		Navuni Womens	\$2,500
Ovalau Youth Club	\$2,500		Navoalevu Youth	\$2,500
Nasau Youth Club	\$2,500		Wairiki-i-Cake Women	\$2,500
Votua Youth	\$2,500		Nakera Womens	\$2,500
Korovou Ca Youth	\$2,500		Nubumakita Youth	\$2,500
Nukuvura Women	\$2,500		Loloma Dina Farmers	\$2,500
PYGMIES Youth Club	\$2,500		Voua Youth Club	\$2,500
Nauria Youth Club	\$2,500		KIOA Island School	\$2,500

Double Your Dollar		\$19,084		
Urmila Wati	\$1,000		Dhirendra Kumar	\$1,000
Ratu Wili Veivutuni	\$822		Gurnam Singh	\$1,000
Lions Club of Labasa	\$1,000		Anisha Begum	\$1,000
Isikeli Raula	\$1,000		Abinesh Sundar	\$697
Vishwa Nand	\$1,000		Tuate Tuvuni	\$1,000
Rajen Prasad	\$1,000		Rakesh Chand Verma	\$500
Vijendra Kumar	\$1,000		Rohini Lata Raj	\$400
Krishneel Prasad	\$665		Elina Kausoqo	\$1,000
Esala Rasovo	\$1,000		Mohammed Jamshir	\$1,000
Anil Kant	\$1,000		Ruth Fong	\$1,000
Santa Prasad	\$1,000			

DEAP		\$107,492		
Maharishi Sanatan	\$2,500		Balata High School	\$2,500
Sangam SKM College	\$2,500		Swami Vevekananda	\$2,500
Khalsa College	\$2,500		Navosa Central	\$2,500
Sigatoka Andhra	\$2,500		Kamil College	\$2,500
Nilsen College	\$2,500		St Johns College	\$2,500
Tilak High School	\$2,500		Nakauvadra High	\$2,500
Nadi Muslim College	\$2,500		Jasper Williams	\$2,500
Bulileka Solo-Mums	\$2,500		Ratu Levu Youth Club	\$2,500
Nadogo Youth Club	\$2,500		Suva Muslim College	\$2,500
Wainikoro Y. Farmers	\$2,500		Pdt Vishnu Deo	\$2,500
Labasa Adventist Youth	\$2,500		Semo Youth Club	\$2,500
Naurabuta Youth Club	\$2,500		Nabau Youth Club	\$2,500
Wailevu Tiri Youth Club	\$2,500		Vunicuicui Multiracial	\$2,500
Nubulevu Youth Club	\$2,500		Dreketi Youth Club	\$2,500
Emuri Youth Club	\$2,500		Namara Womens Club	\$2,500
Vunatoutou Youth Club	\$2,500		Tacirua Youth Club	\$2,500
Togovera Youth Club	\$2,500		Nauluvatu Youth Club	\$2,500
New Day Youth Club	\$2,500		Ba Gujarat Education	\$2,500
Malomalalo Youth Club	\$2,500		Nabs Young Farmers	\$2,492
Dayala Youth Club	\$2,500		Sabeto College	\$2,500
St. Thomas High	\$2,500		Xavier College	\$2,500
Cuvu Youth Club	\$2,500			

Sustainable Funding		\$45,800		
Rotary Club of Labasa	\$10,000		Father Law Home	\$1,000
Save Fiji	\$2,500		Bulileka Hart Home	\$1,000
Diabetes Fiji Inc.	\$2,500		Lajonia Hart Home	\$1,000
Fitness Inspiration Fiji	\$2,500		Lautoka Special Sch.	\$1,000
Kabokira Youth Club	\$3,300		Sigatoka Special Sch.	\$1,000
Lions Ba Sight First	\$7,500		Lions Club of Labasa	\$7,500
Fiji Crippled Childrens	\$10,000			

World of Difference	\$367,965	TOTAL	\$797,055
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The Foundation activated Vodafone Red Alert immediately after TC Winston ravaged Fiji leaving a trail of destruction. Red Alert is a disaster response programme that mobilises Vodafone's people and technology to assist victims of disaster. Relief assistance worth \$350,000 was distributed + 700,000 Vodafone customers received free top-up worth \$3.5million to stay connected.

Vodafone Red Alert

**\$3.5million
worth of
free credit**

**\$350k
worth of
relief**

**1400
relief
packs**

**100 VF
staff, 400
volunteers**