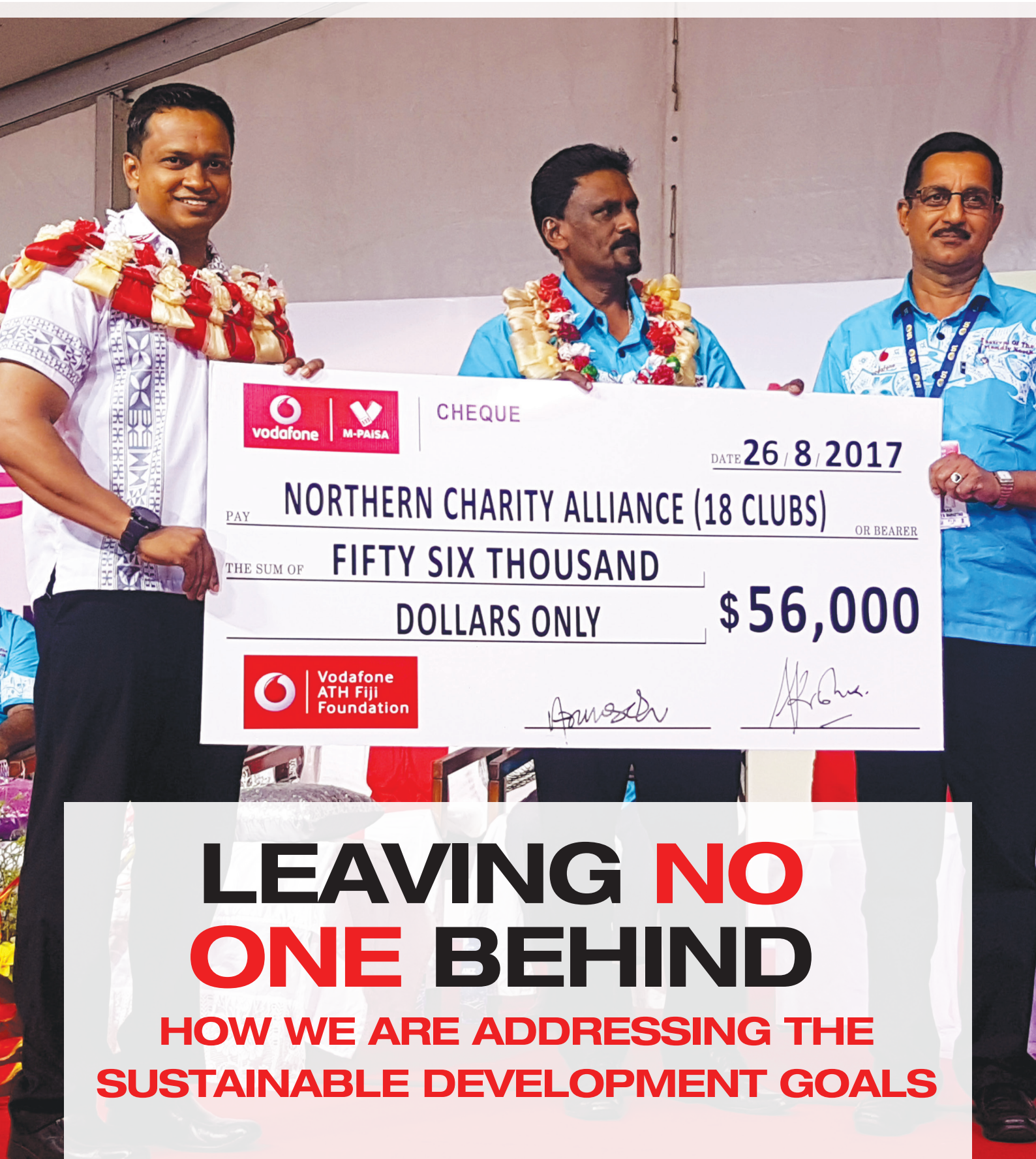




Vodafone  
ATH Fiji  
Foundation

# JEEVAN *Life*

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE VODAFONE ATH FIJI FOUNDATION | JEEVAN IS THE HINDI WORD FOR LIFE AND BULA | ISSUE: # 30: JULY 2017



CHEQUE

DATE **26 / 8 / 2017**

PAY **NORTHERN CHARITY ALLIANCE (18 CLUBS)** OR BEARER

THE SUM OF **FIFTY SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS ONLY** **\$56,000**



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**LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**

**HOW WE ARE ADDRESSING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



## PASSION FOR THE VANUA

### DRIVING THE NEXT WAVE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY

BY PRADEEP LAL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VODAFONE FIJI

Vodafone's ongoing quest to provide technology-powered business and community solutions is a demonstration of our commitment to connect everybody to live a better today and build a bigger tomorrow.

Guided by continuous improvement strategies, our quest for a Connected Vanua is reflected through our focus on innovation and meaningful partnerships within communities.

As Vodafone leaps into the Internet of Things (IoT) arena, the company, together with Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation pursues to drive the next wave of industrial and societal productivity. Vodafone's initiative in providing connectivity through its rural pre-pay electricity meter applications to improve access to uninterrupted energy supply has certainly brought smiles to the rural communities around Fiji through such an innovation.

Our MPAISA application has gone beyond basic money transfer to mobile finance and mobile business solutions to help improve the productivity of micro, small and medium entrepreneurs, allowing budding entrepreneurs from around the country easier access to finance for small-scale business initiatives.

IoT is a stepping stone for businesses in terms of opening the gateway to better healthcare services amongst others in the country. Globally, the market for IOT in healthcare is growing steadily, with applications ranging from remote monitoring to medication adherence. Venturing into the IoT healthcare market and providing a range of mobile applications for improved healthcare in areas of diagnosis, consultation, monitoring,

medication prescription, and other health-related recommendations, prospects of raising the standard of remote healthcare with the use of IoT looks promising.

Our IoT solutions are helping the government, businesses and civil society to address numerous challenges, ultimately leading to significant economic gains and opportunities for all Fijians.

We are convinced that over the long-term, the success of our business is closely tied to the success of the communities in which we operate. Consequently, a core part of our strategy and business model is to ensure that Vodafone's digital networks and services act as a catalyst for both, economic growth and social empowerment.

The Foundation is dedicated to mobilizing communities to improve their lives. To achieve this objective, the Foundation uses its charitable giving and its privileged access to Vodafone networks, technology, customers and employees to empower people with the necessary tools to make a difference in Fiji.

Once again, I thank the people of Fiji for believing in us and being with us. Our motivation to do more is driven by the positive results we have achieved so far.

Through the application of Vodafone's leading innovative technology, the Foundation mobilizes both local and virtual communities bringing people together to resolve mutual problems and make positive differences in people's lives.



### EMBRACE CHANGE TO IMPROVE OURSELVES AND THE WORLD AROUND US

BY LIONEL YEE CHAIRMAN, VODAFONE ATH FIJI FOUNDATION

Change is occurring, and it's occurring at an exponential pace. The needs and expectations, opportunities, technology, and socioeconomic problems that exist today, some of it did not even exist 10 years ago.

It's impossible for us to look ten years into the future and things that have yet to be created and new technologies that haven't even been imagined. But a few years from now, problems will need to be solved. Problems that we can't even foresee. The tools that we have at our disposal to solve these problems will be different than the tools we have today.

A lot can change in a short period of time. Ten years ago, many of the things we use every day either were not available or weren't commonly used. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and iPhones were either in their infancy or hadn't been created. Concepts like the use of social media hadn't taken shape yet.

But today things have changed. Opportunities are different and better. The changes we experience are presenting us opportunities. The change is requiring us to continually learn, evolve, and adapt to keep pace with all of the change that's occurring around us.

Whether we like it or not, change is occurring, and it is inevitable. But rather than viewing change with trepidation, our challenge is to embrace change as an opportunity. An opportunity to evolve, an opportunity to improve ourselves, and an opportunity to improve the world around us.

We should be the source of change and improvement for the future.

For a growing country like Fiji, the only way we catapult progress is by embracing change in a speedy and productive manner.

# life JEEVAN

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 annual contributions from Vodafone Group Foundation, Amalgamated Telecomm Holdings and Vodafone Fiji Limited.

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## Foundation Programmes

**World of Difference:** WoD is a paid volunteer programme. Focusing on individual candidature, empowering them, building their capacities in such a way that the projects they implement have multiplier and replicator effects. WoD specifically looks at supporting the human resources development which is the core and strength of any project and charity.

**Sustainable Funding:** To support programmes that have the potential for holistic development, together with multiplier and replicator effects that benefit the population, whilst linking them to generation of social profits with an aim to reduce poverty

**Beyond Funder:** Business cannot succeed in the failed community is the punch line for Beyond Funder. The Beyond Funder programme aims to link corporates to other civil society organizations to achieve maximum social impact of charitable contributions.

**Double Your Dollar:** An employee engagement project that supports a cause the staff is passionate about. DYS also enables staff to raise funds and volunteer with the customers to address the pain of the community.

**Mobile for Good:** M4G programme uses Vodafone's technology and its people to bring about social change in the community that we work with. The platform shares information pertaining to the face to face symposiums and training of trainers programme we run in the community in partnership with the charity organizations. Our cross-cutting strategy for any M4G initiative is to develop, partner, or provide assistance for programmes/projects that promise or meet the essential needs of people in our communities. We work in collaboration with partners to identify opportunities and develop tailored mobile services and applications that meet these needs. These are 'lifeline' rather than 'lifestyle' services because they help improve people's quality of life.

# ANTE UP FOR NORTH PARTNERS



From Left: Vodafone Chief Marketing Officer Rajesh Prasad, Vodafone Fiji Festival of the Friendly North president Subhash Chandra, Lions Club of Labasa member Rajesh Rishiram and Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi during the cheque presentation at Subrail Park in Labasa.

The Foundation has anted up support for its charity partners in the north to power their services. Over \$90,000 was given to Northern Charity Alliance (NCA), Lions Club of Labasa, Rotary Club of Taveuni, and mEducation partners.

“Vodafone supports organisations whose main purpose is about helping young people in the most precarious positions, where making the transition to adult independence is most challenging. We support organisations which work with young people experiencing disadvantage in a way that recognises and builds on their strengths and potential,” said Vodafone’s Chief Marketing Officer Rajesh Prasad.

Prasad said that in order to achieve greatest positive impact in the lives of young people, “we must continuously support our charity partners who are already doing a great job”.

“The Northern Charity Alliance, Lions Club, and Rotary Club of Taveuni have been our long-term partners and together we have achieved great results in addressing the pain of our communities,” said Prasad.

NCA received \$56,000, at the 2017 Festival of the Friendly North, to assist 18 youth clubs. The grant includes

health, education, income generation for youth, women’s clubs and community-based organisations.

NCA treasurer Jagat Prasad thanked the Foundation for supporting them five years in a row now.

“With this assistance, we are going to help out 18 clubs in different locations in the Northern Division,” Mr. Prasad said.

“Such kind support is very helpful as we have many clubs coming up with new projects that will benefit communities, and villages.”

Lions Club of Labasa received \$20,272 for NCD screening, hearing, and eye projects.

\$10,000 mEducation grant was given to Naleba College, Tabia Sanatan, Ucunivatu Primary and Lavena Primary schools. The grant includes tablets, Wi-Fi device and internet connection free for a year.

The \$90,000 grant is in addition to the \$300,000 three-year commitment that Vodafone Fiji has made to the Vodafone Festival of the Friendly North for projects in the north.

Projects included the Northern Dialysis Centre, the Fitness Gym, and the Children’s Park amongst others.





## WOMEN AND YOUTH CLUBS IN RA RECEIVE \$22,500

Nine women and youth clubs in the Province of Ba received \$2,500 each for micro-business projects.

The grants were presented by the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation at a Capacity Building Workshop in Ba.

Bucalevu Village Turaga Ni Koro, Epeli Sasau thanked the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation team for the support.

“This money will build the capacities of youth in the village, said Sasau.

He added that they were impressed with

the holistic sharing and how they have a challenge ahead to generate revenue and look after their community’s health and well-being.

“This grant will help the clubs extend their projects and we will monitor them to ensure that it’s implemented according to plan,” said Ra Provincial Youth Administrator, Tevita Nakaba

During the grant signing, Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi challenged club members to grow the \$2500 to \$25,000

through income-generating projects.

She shared success stories from other projects in various provinces and how some of them were raising good revenue.

Devi said that the Foundation would continue to strengthen women and youth clubs around Fiji through capacity building and social media workshops.

Financial literacy and business tips were also shared at the workshop.

The Foundation has so far assisted over 300 clubs around Fiji.



## SUSTAINABLE GRANT TO 31 CHARITY GROUPS

The Foundation approved grants for 31 charity organisations to a tune of \$77,500 under its Sustainable Funding programme.

Prior to handover of the grant, the Foundation had discussions and consultative meeting with line ministries, provincial authorities, and councils to ensure that the grants are put to good use.

Funded projects ranged from bakery and

handicraft to project, village canteen and farming.

Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi said the Foundation will provide ongoing training in areas of financial literacy, project management, and business management to the groups so that the projects get implemented effectively and are sustained.

See grant table on page 6

“  
This grant will help the clubs extend their projects and we will monitor them to ensure that it’s implemented according to plan.”

**Tevita Nakaba**  
Ra Provincial  
Youth Administrator



## SHARING STORIES TO INSPIRE AND ENERGISE YOUTHS

The Foundation used the International Youth Day to inspire youths at the University of the South Pacific (USP). Together with its World of Difference charity partner Capacity Building and Story Telling [CBST] and the USP Student Association, the Foundation met student to discuss youth issues and share stories to mark the day.

Informal talanoa sessions included storytelling around youth issues, community solutions, and motivation.

“The objective of the talanoa was to relay that constructive development begins when we hit rock bottom,” said Eliki Dakuitoga, former Cultural Chair of USP Student Association.

Dakuitoga said that their network of youths would ensure that they left a sustainable legacy through their leadership and vision.

CBST project officer and WoD candidate Roneet Prasad said the outreach and celebration was part of CBST’s vision is to ‘Transform connected generations’

CBST is committed to energizing youth through the positive use of technology and establishment of a network of passionate

youths. We are pleased that our networks are vibrant and we aspire to motivate youths to go beyond the range, limits, and conceptual sphere,” said Mr. Prasad.

We are mindful of the issues and we will rise above, go beyond and cut across all challenges said, Shalvin Chand, Welfare and Development chair, USP, Student Association. We have discussed issues we are passionate about and we will ensure that we will start addressing issues through platforms and channels available, said Mr. Chand.

The UN dedicated the International Youth Day 2017 to celebrate young people’s contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace”.

We can effectively achieve conflict resolution, inclusiveness, social justice and peace when young people ignite their passion for transformation and transcend to discuss issues that matter to them most, said the Foundation Executive, Ambalika Devi.

## 80 MORE GET WHEELCHAIR

The Foundation’s WoD charity partner, the Spinal Injury Association Fiji (SIA), distributed 80 more wheelchairs during its outreach visits in the Northern, Western and Central divisions in July.

The outreach visit is a structured programme to assess the status of persons with disability, particularly in remote areas.

SIA sent out teams of personnel who were dispersed into the field to provide the service. The teams consisted of clinically trained staff to complete the assessment and prescription of mobility aids and appliances, and technical staff who have the skills to build and set-up the prescribed equipment. This ensures that clients get an appropriate and safe mobility device for their medical condition. The SIA teams worked with local counterparts in these areas including Commissioners, District Officers, Village Headman’s, Social Welfare Officer, Ministry of Health Physiotherapist and Community Rehabilitation Assistants (CRA).

This provided an opportunity to establish partnerships with these local counterparts with the focus of continuity of services for clients and facilitating ongoing partnerships with the SIA to provide professional mobility aids and appliance service Fiji



wide.

The current outreach visits were planned based on data collected regarding the needs of disabled persons in various communities. This data was collated from the SIA data (including data collected during visits by the SIA in July-August 2016) as well as data from SIA networks including the Ministry of Health (Physiotherapists and CRA’s), Fiji Disabled People Federation and ATH Vodafone Fiji Foundation. It was really happy to see people smiling after receiving their wheelchairs.

# WHEEL CHAIRS BRING SMILES

THE Spinal Injuries Association and Vodafone World of Difference have done assessments and handed over mobility devices to two people in Tailevu North.

Vodafone World of Difference candidate and SIA executive director Joshko Wakaniyasi said the gift of mobility devices such as wheelchairs to those who suffer from spinal injuries was to provide assistance to those in remote areas.

The team visited the three persons who live in Tailevu North.

A 28-year-old woman diagnosed with a brain injury after meningitis was assessed at her home while a six-year-old boy diagnosed with a brain injury after suffering from meningitis was provided with a wheelchair specially crafted for children.

A 55-year-old woman with lumbar back pain resulting in lower limb weakness and chronic arthritis was given a standard orthopedic chair by the team.

The Spinal Injuries Association device service team was very happy to be in Tailevu North to work with the Tailevu subdivisional hospital in Korovou, said service delivery team co-ordinator Edwin Kissun.

“There is a great need for mobility devices here, particularly for those who need to travel long distances to seek assistance and attend to daily activities,”



**Beneficiary Lui Acareva with Mom Diana T and SIA member Eloni Qaqa**



**Beneficiary Varesila Veinaturaga with Edwin Kissun and Eloni Qaqa from SIA.**

he said.

“It is really great to see people smile when they sit in the wheelchair for the first time. We visited Matacaucau Village and Korovou.”

He said two teams did assessments and handovers simultaneously in the Tailevu North area.

“We would like to acknowledge SIA teams led by Edwin Kissun and Jane Savou for their efforts. Spinal Injury Association in partnership with Fiji Disabled People’s Association and Latter Day Saints continue to assemble customised wheelchairs for people with different abilities,” he said.

## YOUTH CLUB PROJECT GRANTS

YOUTH GROUP	PROJECT	\$GRANT	YOUTH GROUP	PROJECT	\$GRANT
Agape youth Club	Baking and pastry	2,500	Kunaniu Brothers	Canteen project	2,500
Toki Village Youth	Beekeeping	2,500	Vunikeli Youth Club	Fish Business	2,500
Bucalevu Youth	Agriculture Farming	2,500	Senikakala Youth Club	Farming Project	2,500
Nadanaivalu Youth	Beekeeping	2,500	Lomate youth club	Lomate Baking	2,500
Tobu village Youth	Beekeeping	2,500	Nadula New Generation	Fishing	2,500
Chevalier Training	Capacity building	2,500	Nawaiseke Youth Club	Agriculture Projects	2,500
Tuvutau Voca Group	Proverty Alleviation	2,500	Waitunutu Youth club	Dalo Farming project	2,500
Family Unity Club	Canteen project	2,500	Duavata Youth Club	Cookies, cakes & craft	2,500
Siberia Islamic Youth	Poultry Farm	2,500	Medamu Youth Club	Yaqona & Dalo project	2,500
Vanuakula Youth Club	Agriculture Farming	2,500	Suweni Womens Club	Handicraft skills	2,500
Delaibau Youth Club	Tausala Project	2,500	Naselesele Womens	Bakery project	2,500
Labasa Special Youth	Income Generation	2,500	Seninawanawa Youth	Farming Project	2,500
Veitacini Family Youth	Piggery & Cattle	2,500	Nacaya Youth Club	Fishing Business	2,500
Kabokira womens Club	Ploultry Farm Project	2,500	Vugalei Youth Club	Chicken Coop Project	2,500
Erenalaya Youth Club	Canteen project	2,500	Sasa Youth Club	Farming Project	2,500
International Kung Fu	Beehive Project	2,500	TOTAL		77,500



## 8 YEARS OF WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS HEALTH ISSUES

The Lions Club of Ba received \$15,000 from the Foundation for their cancer and non-communicable disease (NCD) project, bringing the total amount given to the club since 2009 to \$90,000.00.

“The key issues around non-communicable disease and cancer is prompting charities to step in and make informed decisions on how in solidarity and collectively we can address and arrest the situation at hand. The project aims to benefit communities in the western division,” said Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi.

“Our efforts are to continuously support organisations that initiate projects and put in every effort to share success stories to inspire as many charities and communities,” she said.

“The team of Lions Club of Ba also did other projects simultaneously during 2017, like the Go Green where cemetery car park was upgraded, seedling projects, water projects, Golden Age Home upgrading, cancer screening, NCD screening and 25 wheelchair handovers,” said President Pradeep Chandra.

Lions Club of Ba Project Director Brij

Dayal said the Foundation continued its support for the past almost eight years to better the health status of our people.

“As the team will continue to identify the needs of the community we will also endure to partner with as many associates to ensure that we are able to address the pain of the community,” Dayal said.

“The need for NCD screening and mobility device continues to increase and we are in need for more support from the corporate sector organisations and donors all over Fiji,” he said.



## FOUNDATION SEEKS FEEDBACK, CONDUCTS TRAINING

The Foundation, together with its charity partners, conducted empowerment, feedback, and training sessions in 70 communities in the central and western divisions. The outreach was to re-energise existing relationships with communities and take their feedback and suggestions on problems and solutions impacting them.

“People and communities experiencing disadvantage, isolation or exclusion are in the best position to describe what it’s like and are therefore well informed to develop responses to

their situation. It makes sense then to facilitate the participation of groups and organisations in planning and decision-making,” said Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi.

“Networking, collaborating and partnership can help in the development of better solutions and outcomes. Training can help in building skills to better serve the community or equip individuals with the know-how to better manage their lives,” she said.



# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

## Our contribution to the UN SDGs

Mobile and digital technologies play a powerful role in today's societies and in building 'a better tomorrow', improving lives and livelihoods and creating new business opportunities and industries. Vodafone Fiji is committed to leveraging the power such technologies to better the lives of all Fijians, leaving no one behind.

Vodafone Fiji is a leading advocate of sustainable development. We pursue an active social agenda through the work of the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation and work in partnership with civil society organisations and statutory agencies.

The Foundation's strategy is founded on Vodafone's longstanding commitment to societal responsibility and community well-being. At the center of that strategy is our intention to work towards the global transformation goals. Our focus areas have the potential to deliver meaningful socio-economic benefits for our customers and for wider society.

Vodafone Fiji's investment in providing extensive network coverage across Fiji ensures affordable communications are available to a vast proportion of the population. Access to innovative services - including MPAISA money services - helps to deliver empowerment and economic inclusion for all.

Increased access to connectivity and our digital services - especially for women, youth, and those living in rural areas - through our network offers the possibility of greater equality of opportunity for economically disadvantaged people.

Extending Vodafone's networks to connect the unconnected and improve broadband access enhances the opportunities that flow from that. Many of our products and services promote sustainable industrial development and foster innovation.

The Foundation translates Vodafone Fiji's 'intention to work towards the global transformation goals' into meaningful activities that have a real impact on people and communities.

"We are strongly committed to diversity and inclusion. We bring the

benefits of mobile - enabling access to education, health and wellness, and mobile money services - to more women in some of the poorest and remotest communities," said Foundation Chairman Lionel Yee.

"We continuously apply our expertise in digital technologies to help young adults enhance their skills and secure employment as industries and companies embrace digital ways of working."

"Our sustainable funding grant provides seed funding to micro-enterprises to help foster self-employment and community enterprises," said Yee.

In the last 13 years, the Foundation has made a social investment of over \$18million to transform lives of ordinary Fijians.



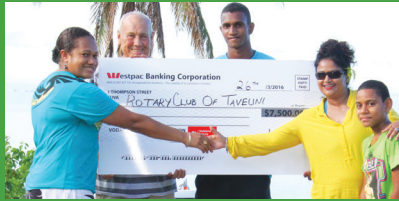


# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



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# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



Our mHealth SMS service support preventative health by increasing awareness of health issues. We provide support for children's heart treatment, eye screening and surgeries, and elderly and disabled through our charity partners Spinal Injury Association, Childrens Heart Foundation, Rotary and Lions Clubs, and Hilton School.

# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation use mobile technology to provide learning opportunities for students. The provision of free mobile and internet technology, particularly to rural schools, offers enhanced opportunities to achieve academic success and therefore improved life opportunities.

# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



We provide women with access to life-enhancing services unlocking socio-economic opportunities and helping to address inequality. Our micro-business funding to women's groups is part our efforts ensure inclusion of grassroots women in economic activity. mWomen, mCounselling services provide timely help to these women.

# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



Increased access to the internet and mobile-based services improves economic opportunity. We promote this by tying micro-entrepreneurs to mPAISA services, providing grants for income-generating projects, and facilitating training workshops. Several projects have created spin-offs and are helping rural communities.

# LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



The Foundation partners with civil society organisations, government agencies, and businesses to achieve its goal of improving the quality of life ordinary Fijians. Our 'Partner Synergy' approach to grant management ensures that we align with organisations that would help up deliver maximum socio-economic impact.

# WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The Foundation's WoD programme provides employment for individuals who are passionate about charity and wishes to deliver programmes that address the issues of our grass roots community. Two candidates continued to work for distinctive charities advocating, collaborating, and engaging on community issues and influencing policies that matter to the key communities. Spinal Injury Association and Fiji Council of Social Services continued to manoeuvre and moot programmes that sought to benefit wider community throughout Fiji. The accomplishment of this year's programmes is embedded in high-level strategic plans and fine-tuning of policies, processes and procedures to deliver a high rate of return on social investment for Foundation and the two member based organisations.



## NEIL MAHARAJ HAS A REASON TO SMILE

World of Difference (WoD) candidate and Executive Director of the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) Neil Maharaj has successfully secured a \$100,000 grant from a regional body.

FCOSS has been awarded a grant by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the European Union through Strengthening Non-state Actors (NSAs) Engagement in Regional Policy Development and Implementation Programme to implement "Fiji Civil Society Public Policy Capacity Building Programme" for 15 months.

The Fiji Civil Society Public Policy Capacity Building Programme will contribute to an effective and vibrant civil society sector working collaboratively to

sustain good governance in Fiji.

It aims to reinforce an enabling environment and build capacity for Fiji CSOs to engage in public policy dialogue, influence national and regional decision-making processes and hold policymakers accountable for regional and international agreements.

"This achievement is a reflection of the level of work we do at FCOSS. It's also a reflection of the organisational and personal capacity that has been build through Vodafone's WoD platform," said Maharaj.

Maharaj was recently reappointed to the WoD programme as a long-term candidate for the third time.

## HELPING MICRO BUSINESSES LIFT THEIR GAME

The dream of almost all small business owners is to increase their earnings. To earn more money year on year you need growth. True business success, however, is achieving sustainable growth.

It is crucial that growth is understood in a small business otherwise costs could soar and profits could dip.

WoD candidate Selita Donu Saula has been helping micro businesses in the western division lift their game by providing practical hands-on advice and linking them to key agencies.

Saula has successfully linked a number of micro-entrepreneurs to the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) microfinance unit. The unit helps micro and small businesses with savings and loan facilities.

Saula has also taught them how to connect with other available business networks on Social Media. Most of these micro-businesses now have Facebook pages to promote their products.

In a recent effort, meetings were held with a buyer of farm



Women waiting to sell produce at Navosa Collection Centre.

produce and 45 farmers from Navosa, to discuss market price, demand, quality & of the produce and consistency of supply.

Saula also held meetings

with the 150 farmers registered with Ministry of Primary Industries and advised of capacity building, market demand and supply, and financial management.

## FCOSS STRENGTHENS PARTNER CAPACITY

**Code of Minimum Standards** - As the chairperson of the Code of Minimum Standards Working Committee, Neil Maharaj is working 10 civil society organisation to develop minimum standards for accountability of civil society organisations. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure consistency of practise, transparency, accountability of civil society organisations in Fiji. The CSOs code of minimum standards is a set of values and standard which CSOs in Fiji can have their performance measured. It will also define behaviour expectations within the CSOs for good development practice. It is expected that following the launch of the code, the civil society organisations will have a self-assessment tool for accountability standards.





# SIA PRESENTS AT GENEVA MEETING

Spinal Injury Association of Fiji Executive Director Joshko Wakaniyasi was invited to the Global Research, Innovation, and Education in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit held on the 3rd - 4th August 2017 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva.

The Summit brought together nearly 200 high-level representatives from governments, NGOs, expert users, and academia, including leading researchers, innovators, and educators, to discuss how to advance the global priority research agenda on assistive products and service, accelerate innovative education and training certification, and exchange best practices.

The Summit was held under the auspices of the WHO GATE initiative (Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology), a partnership of key stakeholders representing international organisations, donor agencies, professional societies, academia and user groups, striving to improve access to high-quality, affordable assistive products globally as a means to enable people with disabilities and impairments to participate fully in daily life.

Joshko met various stakeholders and stressed the need to address the need for inbound mobility devices into Fiji and the Pacific.

Joshko is a Word of Difference candidate who also got elected as the president of Fiji National Council for the Disable Persons [FNCDP], now overseeing Fiji Paralympic, Spinal Injury Association [SIA] and Fiji Disable Peoples Federation [FDPF] with an aim to consolidate service delivery programs and upscale Include Disability and Employ Ability [IDEA] and also develop programme for disables families.

## RONEET PRASAD



WoD candidate Roneet Prasad's dream is to see that we have a transformed society where generations are connected and live a life of peace and prosperity.

Prasad believes this could be achieved by inter-generational storytelling and building capacity of the youth.

Prasad is currently working to capture stories of youths and clubs and inspire others through relaying these stories and experiences.

During his WoD term, Prasad intends to reach youths and community groups all over Fiji by effectively utilizing Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly social media and SMS.

Currently, Prasad is in the process of identifying and capturing community success stories to share through social media.

## JEREMAIA MEREKULA



Jeremaia Merekula works for charity partner Lifeline Fiji creating awareness of managing stress and suicide prevention. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death not only in Fiji but in the Pacific and the rest of the world. Merekula helps Fijians who are facing any sort of crisis through counselling. Lifeline Fiji has a National Toll Free Line 132454, this is for every Fijians who are going through any sort of crisis and needs urgent support.

During 12-month WoD candidature Merekula will help Lifeline Fiji strengthen existing programmes and moot new ones that address the issues of psychosocial wellbeing.

In the immediate term Merekula is working to expand the community outreach programmes so that all Fijians are aware of Lifeline services.

Merekula will also manage the Foundations mCounselling SMS platform to provide information and advice to those seeking help on stressing problems facing their lives.

## SELITA DONU SAULA



Selita Donu Saula is a new WoD candidate with previous experience in working with youth. Saula has worked as a District Youth Worker and Nadroga Navosa Provincial Youth Coordinator.

During her WoD term, Saula is working with youth and women community groups to assist them with business know-how so that they can start or upscale micro-enterprise projects.

With a Diploma In Business Economics, experience working as an Accounts Officer, and good communication skills, Saula's is able to effectively share knowledge in the community.

She initially conducted a needs assessments with community groups in the Nadroga Navosa province and now runs financial literacy training, helps develop business plans and set up Income generating projects.

Saula has held meetings with relevant stakeholders to link these community groups.

# LIFE IS FOR LIVING

## SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS



World of Difference charity partner Lifeline Fiji launched the Life is for Living campaign to raise awareness on suicide prevention.

The two-month campaign, which ended on Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th, was in response to the alarming increase in attempted suicide and suicided cases.

Fourty percent of the 2900 callers received by Lifeline Fiji in the first six months of 2017 was seriously considering suicide, according to Lifeline director Archana Mani.

Lifeline Fiji launched a social media campaign, shared the latest statistics on suicide in Fiji, and announced the planned activities of Lifeline Fiji building up to World Suicide Prevention Day.

Present in the Life for Living campaign launch day was Fiji Police Force director operations Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Maritino Qiolevu, Life is

for Living campaign champion Liga Gukisuva, and Lifeline Fiji representatives headed by Lifeline Fiji programs director and Vodafone World of Difference candidate Jeremaia Merekula.

Jeremaia Merekula said the campaign would promote the organisation's toll-free number, which so far had received 2900 calls of which 40 per cent of callers were those who were at high risk of completing suicide.

Merekula said five per cent of the callers were those who had made plans to complete suicide but decided to make one last call for help and 76 per cent of callers were males.

He said the second aspect of the campaign was to provide a platform for the organisation to reach out to more Fijians to build emotional resilience and create awareness on the various services available to Fijians.

### MEREKULA LEADS NA VEITAU

WoD candidate Jeremaia Merekula led "Na Veitau", a replica of the famous TV show "The Amazing Race", in August to raise awareness on suicide prevention in the Western Division.

"The Western division has had the highest number of suicide cases for the past 3 years. The event was planned in such a way that young participants would enjoy and also learn skills in reaching out to help people", said Lifeline Executive Director Archana Mani.

There were 10 Pit stops scattered from Lautoka – Sigatoka which included: Cutting sugarcane in Naviyago Lautoka, community work at The HART Homes in Lovu, the Are You Okay Challenge in Nadi town, a bath at mud pool in Sabeto, building wind breakers at the National Trust Park in Sigatoka and to close it off; a celebration with the Semo Villagers in Nadroga.



## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Capacity Building and Story Telling Fiji's (CBST) mission is to build the capacity of the grassroots community so that they have the power to make a change.

"We know that many young people are organising together to form networks and organisations leading the change they want to see in the world," says WoD candidate and CBST Project Officer Roneet Chand.

"We want o help these individuals and organisation to be connected and sustainable in pursuing their goals," he said.

"CBST aims to see not only individual young people but also youth-led organisations and youth networks at the grassroots empowered to be agents and partners of development. We offer support to these groups to expand their capabilities through

assessment, training, facilitated peer to peer sharing and learning, mentoring and advice, in an effort to strengthen the youth sector."

Sor far CBST has supported over 30 youth-led and community-based organisations to increase their impact and sustainability.

CBST works in partnership with the Foundation to train the grassroots organisations to enhance the ability of individuals, organisations and the network as a whole to deliver programmes and interventions which contribute to reducing youth problems, foster innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking, and contribute to improving quality of life.



## HELPING WOMEN MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation is assisting women's groups running micro businesses to market their products through the mobilise.com.fj platform.

The Foundation's World of Difference (WoD) candidates are currently compiling information on products, prices, and contacts so that potential buyers can directly contact the women and also do transactions through MPAISA.

"Marketing problem is common to all entrepreneurs and most of them find it difficult to market their products," says WoD candidate Selita Donu Saula.

"These micro businesses run by women do not possess the knowledge of how to market their products and whom to contact for this purpose. Along with this, there is competition with others offering similar products, exploitation by middlemen and difficulty in collecting dues, inadequate sales promotion avenues, lack of export marketing support to market their products. Some of them have to be at the mercy of middlemen who eat up a big chunk of profit," said Saula.

"The Mobilise platform will give these

hardworking women direct access to customers."

Saula said that rural women entrepreneurs were very sincere in maintaining the quality of their products, something that was very evident at the product displays during the 2017 Nation Women's Expo at Vodafone Arena in June.

The goal of the expo was to enhance economic participation of Fijian women and provide them with a platform to market their products.

With the theme, "Be Empowered – Be the Change" the expo showcased the talent of 500 rural women artisans from around the country. Women put on show their handicrafts, contemporary items, pot plants, food items and varieties of textiles.

The Foundation took advantage of the expo to gather information of products and talk to women about challenges they faced in the daily running of their businesses.

Some of the women and women's groups are recipients of the Foundation's Sustainable Funding Grant.



## SIA REVIEWS PERFORMANCE



Foundation charity partner the Spinal Injury Association of Fiji carried out its strategic plan workshop and training to its board, staff, and volunteers.

The training was facilitated internally by Vodafone World of Difference candidate Joshko Wakaniyasi.

A key part of the planning workshop was to review SIA's current growth and capacity, and how it would meet its obligations to

its members and partners.

SIA also reviewed its current process and procedures to better serve its members.

"The outcome of the workshop was the understanding of the important role that SIA plays in national development and the empowerment to individuals and their families of persons living with spinal injuries and disabilities in Fiji," said Wakaniyasi.



## OPEN HEART INTERNATIONAL

Vodafone once again supported the Open Heart International team from the Adventist Hospital in Sydney with their communication needs for the duration of their stay in Fiji.

“We are once again very fortunate to be able to assist Melanie and her team of doctors and support staff with mobile phones, air time, Wi-Fi devices and data to assist with the communication needs of the team whilst in Fiji,” said Head of Vodafone E-Commerce and Corporate Affairs, Shailendra Prasad

Vodafone also assisted the team stock

up blood supplies needed for the heart surgeries through their SMS broadcast for Blood Drives.

“Five years ago, whilst performing surgery on one of their patients at CWM, the team ran into some complications which urgently required the blood of a certain blood type. It was around 11.00PM late in the night when Melanie requested Vodafone to assist in contacting a donor through our SMS blood donation program to donate the urgently needed blood type. Vodafone was able to immediately send an SMS

message to its registered blood donor base with the required blood type.

Within minutes of receiving the message, a taxi driver turned up at CWM and gave blood that helped save a life,” said Prasad.

In last 25 years, more than 800 patients have had cardiac surgery at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, operated on by the visiting surgeons who volunteer their time for this noble and humane cause.

## RASUKA'S LOVE FOR FARMING

Mrs. Makereta Rasuka of Nadroga works as a civil servant and in her spare time and during the weekends she works on her farm.

Rasuka loves farming and has turned her passion into profit by taking small steps.

When the Vodafone WoD team visited her, tourists were making their way to her farm known as D'Los Farm Tour on Facebook. Rasuka provides farm tour and activities for tourists.

Tourist activities include feeding fish, fishing, and prawn-catching.

A very creative thinker, Rasuka started her farm on a small piece of land and since traveling is part of her work, she is able to gather new plants and herbs from various place.

Rasuka also helps other women in the village display and sell their products on her farm during the tour day so that they are able to generate income and help their families.

She encourages women to practice organic farming, aquaculture, and floriculture, including ornamental plants.

Wod candidate Selita Donu Saula is helping Rasuka market her farm through digital media. Rasuka has now opened



a Facebook page which she expects will market her product with tour companies and also connect her to other women who are selling handicrafts.

Saula also introduced Rasuka to the Nadroga Navosa District Council of Social Services where she was able to connect herself to other markets available within the network.

“I had shared with her some tips on how to link her business with FCOSS Microfinance and get her business

registered as to avoid future disruptions with other competitors as her farm tour business is expanding. Her story is an inspiration to other women who are market vendors and have been selling for more than a decade now, says Saula.

For Rasuka, she only wishes she could spend more time at her farm to operate 24 hours from home and make lots of money every day to support her four daughters and also achieve her long term goals.



Talanoa session with the village tour committees, womens group & youths on what other means of activities they can do to boost tourist attraction in their village apart from handicraft



Wheelchair handover to Patrick Prasad with CBST team. The need for more wheelchair and mobility device continues due to NCD crisis.



Foundation charity partner Lions Club of Labasa at Festival of the Friendly North conducting NCD screening. The team was also selling eye glasses for \$3.



Vodafone's Rajeev Krishneil collected \$1093.00 to help Dharendra Chetty suffering from kidney disease get overseas treatment. The Foundation contributed \$1000.00 making a total donation of \$2093.00.



Grants signing with Togi Youth Club



Neil Maharaj and Ambalika Devi at the Pacific Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the SDGs Roadmap meeting.



Physiotherapy students from FNU's School of Medicine received their graduation certificates following an intensive five-day practical assessment with help of Foundation charity partner Spinal Injury Association.



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people,  
transforming  
lives**



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