



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 & BULA



## BEING SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

*Vodafone wins Prime Minister's  
International Business Award*



# passion for the vanua

BY PRADEEP LAL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VODAFONE FIJI

## Relationship Beyond Business!

Our recent win at the 2016 Prime Minister's International Business Awards, as the Socially Responsible Business of the Year did not come as a surprise. For the past 22 years, Vodafone Fiji has been committed to sustainable business practices and achieved a number of quality awards, both local and international.

Our commitment to enhancing lives and livelihoods, together with our longstanding commitment to operating responsibly, is integral to our duty to maximize returns to our shareholders.

Mobile and digital communication positively impact the quality of life for millions of people around the world. Communication networks underpin every aspect of a mobile and digital society, enabling citizens to increase their knowledge while providing access to services that can improve health and wellbeing, enhance skills and increase prosperity for the population as a whole.

As Fiji's largest communications network, we are proud of the role that we play in bringing this social good to 760k customers. Every hour of every day, our customers rely on our network and services to help manage their lives and achieve their ambitions. We

indeed take this very seriously and believe that it is our duty to help customers achieve what they want.

And our relationship goes beyond the customer touch point - we continuously strive to cultivate authentic relationships with clients and create lasting relationships that empower us both.

We make sure that we integrate external engagement deeply into business decision-making at every level of our business.

In doing so, our intention is to ensure an even closer alignment between the core commercial goals of our business and the maximum possible social and economic benefit achievable as a consequence of those goals.

Our 22 years of existence has given us a genuine understanding of the requirements and the expectations of communities we do business with. These requirements and expectations inform Vodafone's corporate and social investment policy, ensuring that no Fijian is left behind in our quest for a 'stronger and connected vanua'.

To uphold the status core of community engagement through our people, we will continue to build social relationships and catalyze economic growth, equality, and empowerment through our network and services.

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

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## Micro enterprise, technology, and sustainable livelihood

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) play a central role in our economic development. Micro-enterprises can be a major source of employment, however, they often do not survive as long as bigger businesses.

Micro-entrepreneurs face a number of challenges in their business operations that large businesses do not.

Poor infrastructure, including a lack of facilities, access roads, and consistent electricity supply, constrain business activities and increase operational costs. Legal, financial and regulatory requirements also impose an administrative burden on micro-entrepreneurs, while limited access to credit constrains their ability to expand the business. These challenges greatly disadvantage micro-entrepreneurs compared to larger enterprises.

When we look at economic growth, the real test is whether people's quality of life has changed - the growth that brings young people out of poverty.

One of the best ways to do this is to ensure the social and economic participation of vulnerable groups, including young men and women with new disrupting ideas to become meaningful contributors to society.

Smart phones, the most accessible technology for micro-entrepreneurs, offer them an opportunity to access new information and new revenue, enhancing the chances of business survival and a sustainable livelihood.

One of the most exciting aspects of our work is how we are connecting micro entrepreneurs to other networks for resources, knowledge, and partnerships. These networks are fundamental to connecting Fijian MSMEs to innovative thinking and solutions, and are also intrinsically linked to re-shaping our society - the power of networks truly is transformative.



*Vodafone ATH Foundation is really a blessing to the four youth clubs who will be assisted by the Foundation.*

*Thank you so very much for the generous support and open minded to come down to the grassroots level and show your support to all levels of the community at Cakaudrove. Your contribution will lead to a positive change to the lives of our future generation and will make their dreams come true at the right time.*

*Thank you for opening this door of opportunity, which is a huge step for the youth groups, to begin with and surely they will never forget Vodafone brand all the time.*

*On behalf of all the Youths in the Province Of Cakaudrove we would like to say a big VINAKA VAKALEVU to Vodafone and we hope that there will be more to come for Cakaudrove in years to come.*

*V.B. Talemate  
Senior Assistant Roko Tui  
Cakaudrove Provincial Council  
NASAVUSAVU.*

## 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 programme that has 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 fund strategy aimed to link corporate to other civil society organizations and also network for better results.

**Double your \$:** An employee engagement project that supports cause the staff is passionate about. DY\$ also enables staff to raise funds and also volunteer with the customers to address the pain of the community.

**Mobile for Good:** M4G programme uses 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.

# Sharing the joy of Christmas with a difference

Vodafone staff once again shared the joy of Christmas, and this time their passion went beyond helping individuals only. A team of employees chose to visit the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Against Animals (SPCA) with some goodies for the animals.

Team leader Mere Fa said that “SPCA was the only animal welfare charity in Fiji and assisting them means a better care and blissful Christmas for the SPCA residents.”

“There has been an increase in the number of stray cats and dogs at the shelter and they are in dire need of essentials such as food and medical care,” said Fa.



Vodafone Team delivering the Christmas gifts to SPCA in Walu Bay, Suva

“Most of these stray/abandoned animals require surgeries and need items such as towels, blankets and soap powder. They need as much help as they can get to give lost/abandoned pets a temporary home until a responsible and loving home can be found,” she said

The team delivered the following gifts to SPCA: puppy dry biscuits, dog adult dry biscuits, washing powder, janola, towels, blankets, cat food, and few treats.

Every year the Foundation gives \$1000 each to the five staff teams to deliver Christmas gifts to a charity they are passionate about. The four other teams chose the Babasiga Ashram of Labasa, Golden Age Home of Lautoka, CWM Hospital of Suva, and Father Law Home of Suva (see pictures on page 15).

Gifts delivered included food items, confectionary, utensils, beddings, clothes, sanitary, and baby gifts and toys.

## Foundation moves to provincial level engagement

The Foundation has been consistently engaging with provincial leaders by having consultative meetings to create awareness on avenues available to address pressing social issues.

Recently, the Matani Tikina of Ra invited the Foundation to share how the women and youth of the province could be helped.

Ra Provincial Administrator Mr. Mosese Nakoroi said that “it is an opportune time for Foundation to share what is available for the youth and women’s clubs and how the same model can be replicated from one Tikina to another.”

Stakeholders from Land Transport Authority, Police, Health, Education were also present.

“The aim of the consultation with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Provincial, and District Councils are to build capacities and also raise awareness and bring the community to the doorsteps of those who have the resources and potential to generate revenue for economic and social prosperity,” said Foundation



Consultation meetings

Executive Ambalika Devi.

“The aim also is to establish lasting relations with the provincial administration, provincial and district councils through capacity building with the aim of effective advocacy collaboration and engagement around social media and use of technology to bring about

positive social change.”

“Through such initiative, we will be establishing effective humanitarian relations where we see everyone with same love and compassion. We are mindful that everyone has the potential to do better,” said Devi.



**Prime Minister's  
International Business  
Awards 2016**  
Fiji's most prestigious Business Award

## SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Vodafone Fiji won the inaugural Prime Minister's International Business Awards (IBA) in the 'Socially Responsible Business of the Year Award' category.

The award recognises Vodafone's commitment to managing its social, environmental and financial obligations in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

"Corporate Social Responsibility and social investment is at the heart of our business and we are thankful for this recognition at the IBA," said Vodafone CEO Pradeep Lal.

"Our social investment is executed through our philanthropic arm, the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation, which has delivered life-changing social interventions since 2004, to a tune over \$18million.

"The impact that we have created is the result of our business practices - innovation, accountability, agility, speed, simplicity and passion for people make up the Vodafone Way, said Lal.

"The IBA win complements our recognition at the 2016 Fiji Business Excellence Awards where Vodafone received the President's Award for the fifth time in the past 12 years."

"Our quest to become world-class is never-ending and so is our passion to do social good," said Lal.

The Foundation has continuously transformed itself to meet the changing social and environmental needs.

"From proactively addressing the Social Development Goals to being the first responders in times of natural disasters, we have seen and addressed the pain of

communities in need, said Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi.

"We support projects that contribute towards wholesome development for a balanced and more equitable society."

Some of the innovative programs that have changed the way the communities connect around Fiji are World of Difference which is a paid volunteer program to help build capacity and sustainability in various communities.

Sustainable Funding supports projects that have the potential for holistic development, projects that result in multiplier and replication effects to benefit the community.

The Double Your Dollar program is an employee engagement scheme to help raise funds and address the needs of the community.

Mobile for Good program uses Vodafone's technology and its people to bring about social change. "The Foundation is always there to share love, happiness and smiles with the network of the people and to the place we live in, developing the world around us, enriching the lives of the people and the communities of Fiji," said Devi.

"We thank our stakeholders, charity partners, volunteers, and communities for being part of this journey. It is truly the choices that we make that will shape our lives and impact our community," she said.

# 12 great years of passion, philanthropy, and excellence

By *Ambalika Devi*  
Foundation  
Executive



What drives us is the passion that we have for doing social good - addressing the pressing issues affecting the fabric of our society! Our passion is driven by the needs of our communities, the institutions that serve them, and the people who aspire to bring about change.

Since inception, the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation has transformed itself to meet the changing needs of the people we serve. The test of agility is an everyday affair for us as we try to achieve the maximum impact of our activities.

Underpinning our passion for the vanua and our charitable giving is Vodafone's business excellence agenda - where we continually refine our processes and measure performance to achieve the best results.

The past 12 years of passion, philanthropy, and excellence has been a great journey shaping the lives of our people.

Leadership and strategic direction have been fundamental to our success. Starting with funding sustainable projects in 2004, we changed strategy in 2009 where funding and activities were aligned to Foundation thematic areas. In 2012, there was a further change in strategy, focusing on Mobile for Good.

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation Board provides the oversight and endorses programmes and activities, making sure technology is used as the cross-cutting strategy so that we reach a larger population and empower everyone.

This approach ensured that we had multiple beneficiaries of any Foundation activity.

Foundation activities range from coaching, advocating, mentoring, capacity building, information sharing, and social profit generation.

The secret to the productive implementation of these activities was our ability and capacity to change our approach to suit the needs at various levels ranging from communities, institutions, and relevant stakeholders. Our model involved everyone horizontally and vertically in the structure.

We believed in what we did, we banked on lasting relations, and we built on deep emotional connections with people that we worked with. We saw everyone with the same love and passion.

The Foundation team were forever on a path of excellence - analysing and judging where we were heading.

And the results we have is phenomenal. While \$18million worth of social investment was made in these 12 years, the true value of our work is immeasurable.

The network of love that we have created is in itself an institution that people can tap on anytime for help.

This network will only get stronger and stronger.

## AWARDS

- 2000 - Achievement Award
- 2001 - Fiji Quality Awards Prize Award
- 2002 - Fiji Quality Awards Prize Award
- 2003 - Fiji Quality Awards Prize Award
- 2004 - Fiji Quality Awards Presidents Award
- 2007 - Fiji Quality Awards Presidents Award
- 2010 - Fiji Quality Awards Presidents Award
- 2013 - Fiji Business Excellence Presidents Award
- 2014 - World Class Global Performance Excellence Award - Asia Pacific Quality Organization
- 2015 - Global Telecom Business Innovation Award 2015
- 2016 - Fiji's Fastest Mobile Network, Fastest 4G and Fastest Internet Provider
- 2016 - Fiji Business Excellence Presidents Award
- 2016 - PM's Socially Responsible Business of the Year Award



# Prabhu Nand's new lease of life

Fifty-seven-year-old Prabhu Nand of Kinoya Road in Nasinu was issued a new lease of life with more mobility with the provision of a wheelchair through the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation.

After an assessment carried out by the Spinal Injury Association of Fiji's volunteers last week, Mr. Nand received a wheelchair for his mobility support.

Mr. Nand found out that he was suffering from kidney problems after he shared with his wife, Sarita Nand, of body pain and movement difficulties.

His wife took him for a checkup and later found out that he was suffering from kidney failure following an assessment by the doctor at Valelevu Health Centre.

Despite the hardships faced financially, Mrs. Nand said she has managed to keep the family together with what little food and finances they could save with their three daughters.



*Manarusa Tamani hands over the wheelchair to Prabhu Nand's family.*

"We are grateful for the assistance and kindness bestowed by the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation staff and volunteers of the Spinal Injury Association for stepping in to help," Mrs. Nand said.

"We work towards minimizing the pain for our people," Vodafone ATH

Fiji Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi said.

"Through our partnership with the Spinal Injury Association, we are able to identify cases and mobilize ability devices in the communities," she added.

# Motorised wheelchairs are here

Foundation charity partner, the Spinal Injury Association (SIA) of Fiji has received its 10th consignment of mobility equipment from PhysioNet of UK, this time with motorized wheelchairs.

SIA Executive Director Joshko Wakaniyasi thanked Vodafone and PhysioNet saying the new wheelchairs would provide easier accessibility for the disabled.

"These chairs are the first of its kind to be available in the country. It comes with its own user manuals, instructions, and charger," he said.

"Because of the chairs now, the users will be able to move easily and they won't face difficulty in doing their daily work."

"People with disability can join the workforce and study at universities with such equipment,"

"We want to thank Vodafone Fiji, PhysioNet UK and the British Government for aiding us with this donation."

The consignment contained 24 motorized wheelchairs, 24 manual wheelchairs, 200 walking frames, and 100 pairs of crutches, worth \$800k.





## THE PINK LADIES OF VODAFONE GET INTO FUNDRAISING DRIVE

Vodafone Fiji staff collected \$12,112 during Pinktober - a month-long awareness campaign on risks, early detection, and prevention of Breast Cancer.

The collected funds were put through the Vodafone ATH Foundation - Double the Dollar initiative and donated to the Fiji Cancer Society.

The month-long campaign saw Vodafone Staff getting involved in fundraising drives.

"Pinktober has a significant

meaning that is centred on the initiative to show holistic support for those who have fallen victims to breast cancer", said Vodafone's CEO Pradeep Lal.

"Charity in these areas are crucial to support the victims and their families. Vodafone is proud to be engaged in supporting this worthy cause".

Vodafone's Head of Customer Service Vishala Raman said: "We do this every year and this is so far the biggest amount we've contributed.

"We are proud to be associated with this particular initiative and it's going to be an ongoing initiative," she said.

Fiji Cancer Society board member, Makrawa Wilson said they were thankful to all the organisations that had donated funds towards the Pinktober awareness campaign.

"Funds help us continue with the awareness programmes and patients with cancer," Mr. Wilson said.



## A GRAND NOVEMBER SHAVE FOR A GRAND CAUSE

A number of male staff members of Vodafone Fiji grew their moustache throughout the month of November to show support for the prostate cancer awareness campaign.

The staff undertook a number of fundraising activities throughout the month to raise funds for Fiji Cancer Society.

"After the resounding success of

the Pinktober campaign by the staff, our male workers have taken on the 'grow and show' your moustache as part of their Movember campaign," said Vodafone's Shailendra Prasad.

Campaign leader and Vodafone's Digital Business and Service Innovation lead, Rizvi Amith said campaigning for breast cancer and prostate cancer awareness

were two important components of the company's corporate social responsibilities.

"When it comes to awareness, it is sometimes considered a taboo for our people here, so that's why we want to create awareness among the people and make them understand the importance of this particular month," he said.

# Double Your Dollar uses MPAISA for funds transfer

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation is now using MPAISA for all its Employee Engagement handovers.

Double Your Dollar is an Employee engagement programme where funds raised by Vodafone staff for community causes are topped up by the Foundation by a maximum of \$1000.

“Vodafone MPAISA programme is a social programme that can address a lot of administration and logistical issues and also help generate a report to track the progress of Double Your Dollar and small income generation projects we fund, said Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi.

“For the last four years we have been paying World of Difference candidates and volunteers via mPAISA,” said Devi.

“We have also witnessed an influx in MPAISA transactions by these candidates, paying their volunteers and recharging their voice and data using MPAISA. This also helps in financial reporting.”

The Foundation in the last quarter handed over eight MPAISA cheques to eight charities in partnership with eight employees who raised funds on their own accord for the causes that they were passionate about.

The Foundation is empowering its charity partners and network of beneficiaries to use MPAISA as it can provide better financial management reporting platform.

“Our aim is also to strengthen governance of the youth and women’s club that we support in the remote areas .”



“Social profit and income generation grants given may be small, consequently, making savings on transportation and time can furnish greater rate of return on result versus investment and addressing challenges in more proactive and holistic way.”

## FCOSS gets \$10k technology roll-out

The Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Fiji Council of Social Services for technology rollout.

FCOSS Executive Director Neil Maharaj said the assistance was timely as they just launched their new strategic plan.

“This will help us deploy technology solutions within the FCOSS structure and enable us realise our new mission and vision,” said Maharaj.



Lions Club of Ba received \$5000 for SightFirst project.



# Lions Club of Labasa gets \$5000



Vodafone's Chief marketing Officer Rajnesh Prasad hands over a \$5000 donation to Lions Club of Labasa

The Foundation donated \$5000 to the Lions Club of Labasa for mHealth projects. The donation was made at the Festival of the Friendly North.

The Club offered free non-communicable diseases check-ups for members of the public during the week-long carnival.

Lions Club's charity project coordinator Zahin Ibrahim said this year the club decided to change from only offering free medical check-ups to also selling second-hand clothing at a low price to collect money for the poor.

"Therefore we did a cloth drive where members of the club put up clothes that they were not wearing anymore for sale," she said.

"We did get a good number of clothes

from members and I would like to thank them very much for their support.

"We managed to collect a good sum from the week-long event and this would go towards assisting poor people that we have identified."

Ms. Ibrahim said it was also encouraging to see people flock into their shed for free medical check-ups.

"We provided check-ups on blood, sugar, pressure and cholesterol levels and those cases that were serious had to be directed to doctors at the Labasa Hospital," she said.

Handing over \$5000 cheque, Vodafone's Chief Marketing Officer Rajnesh Prasad said the donation will help the club with additional projects they intend to roll out to help the poor in Labasa.



The Lions Club of Labasa does free medical check-up at Festival of the Friendly North. The team did sugar and pressure tests, BMI analysis, and cholesterol tests for high risk groups.

## Leave no one behind

Charity partner Fiji Council of Social Services recently organised the 'Leave No one Behind' consultation forum to deliberate on who are the vulnerable groups who are at the risk of being left behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A total of 30 Civil Society Organisation representatives came together at the Victoria Palms Hotel Conference room on 14th and 15th November 2016.

The main objective of the forum was to identify innovative ways of addressing issues to enable the involvement of all groups in the progress and achievement of SDGs.

The forum identified the following groups: Young People, Women, and Girls, Indigenous People, Older Persons, LGBTQI, Ethnic and Religious Minorities, People with Disabilities, Trade Unions and Rural Population.

Discussions were held on issues and root causes for the 9 groups identified and solutions that could address these issues.

The forum proposed a call for action to all key stakeholders in Government, United Nations (UN) Organizations, Regional Organizations, Corporate Organizations, and Civil Society Organisations.

Call for Action:

We, as CSO representatives acknowledge the cross-cutting nature of our issues and recognize that building partnership, truly holds the key to sharing the quest to bring about progressive changes in the society, and where CSO's contributions matter significantly.

Our call is for:

- An Integrated approach from government ministries, development partners, and CSOs to address development issues, both internally and externally.

- National Development partners to ensure that No one is left behind ( based on age, gender, sexual orientation etc) in the localised planning, implementation, and reporting of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





# FCOSS launches new strategic plan



*Start adopting corporate thinking and social innovation, says Deo*

Congratulating the Fiji Council of Social Services on the launch of its new strategic plan, Vodafone’s Chief Financial Officer Divik Deo said that the nonprofit sector should start adopting corporate best practices.

“At the first glance of FCOSS Strategic Plan 2016–2020, I see innovation, collaboration, excellence, development effectiveness, inclusiveness, productivity, sustainability, and accountability are at the core of the plan. This paradigm shift ensures traditional civil society values remain intact with the mix of new corporate attitude and ambitiousness in service delivery,” said Deo

“It is about time civil society start adopting corporate thinking and social innovation,” he said.

The FCOSS Strategic Plan 2016–2020 is geared ‘Towards a vibrant, innovative and collaborative platform for CSO excellence and development effectiveness.’

Deo said that meaningful partnerships were the foundation for their success.

“The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation prides its success through meaningful

partnership and collaboration with our partners at the grass roots level, the civil society organisations. With over a decade of a tightly knit relationship between the Foundation and FCOSS, we have proudly invested over a million dollars as our commitment towards social good.”

“Through our World of Difference Programme, we continue to support the role of FCOSS Executive Director for past three years, who has been very influential in providing strategic support in FCOSS reform process and development of the new strategic plan.”

Deo said that technology played a vital role in realising the sustainable development goals.

“Technology keeps people and the planet connected as one village. I am told that FCOSS will embrace cutting edge technology to keep civil society connected and will utilise mobile applications, portals, online discussion forums, SMS-based platforms, websites and social media as means of implementation for the new strategic plan. Similarly, we at Foundation share a common vision of a

tech-savvy society and creating digital champions to ensure no one is left behind,” he said.

“We are proud that in order to build resilient communities, FCOSS will provide a national platform for inclusive and improved humanitarian and climate change coordination from national to the community level and vice-versa. Consequently at the heart of our Foundation is the belief that mobile communication technology can address Fiji’s most pressing humanitarian challenges.”

“The SDGs set the ambition to end poverty, reduce inequalities and tackle climate change over the next 15 years. At the heart of the Goals is a commitment to ensure that ‘no one is left behind.’ The three strategic thrust areas and seven areas of engagement stipulated in the strategic plan are very well aligned to SDGs. With strong values adapted to the new strategic plan, FCOSS commits in ensuring no one if left behind,” said Deo.

## WoD candidate at ASPBAE General Assembly

FCOSS Executive Director Neil Maharaj attended the 7th General Assembly (GA) of ASPBAE in Bangkok, Thailand from 20th to 21st November 2016 which was the first GA after the 50th anniversary of ASPBAE and also the first after the new global development and education agenda articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Education 2030 Framework for Action have been agreed and set in place.

Civil society organizations and ASPBAE have played strong roles in informing this strong and ambitious new education and development agenda.

For education, the challenge now and in the coming period is to consolidate and preserve the hard-won gains as governments, the international community and other stakeholders begin



concreting the agreed commitments towards realizing the goal of Ensuring Equitable and Inclusive Quality Education and Promote Lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030.

Maharaj was part of the deliberations

on the future priorities and directions of ASPBAE. The workshop had more than 100 participants, including representatives of national education coalitions across the Asia Pacific region, strategic partners, and staff.

## OUR TC WINSTON RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE

Foundation charity partner the Spinal Injury Association (SIA) of Fiji continued recovery efforts in areas affected by TC Winston.

Between October and December visits were made to these areas to assist physically impaired people with dignity packs, mobility aid appliances, and maintenance to mobility devices.

The Spinal Injury Association team consisted of 16 personnel including admin staff, mobility device service personnel, and youths of the

organization.

This team was split into four and five member teams and dispersed into the field to provide the service and at the same time to collect information.

They worked with counterparts in these areas including District Officers, Roko Tui's, Village Headman's and Disable Person's Organization.

This provided an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with these local counterparts with the focus on continuity of services within their

given communities.

The data which was collected from Spinal Injury networks (Fiji Disable People Federation, Fiji National Council for Disable Persons) together with new data identified during July-August 2016 visitations provided a baseline within these communities.

SIA also identified individuals and organizations that had the potential to be its partners and provide community-based support.

The pictures below depict SIA's work.



## \$30k more to help SIA meet needs of the physically challenged

The Foundation gave an additional \$30,000 to the Spinal Injury Association (SIA) to uplift their efforts in assisting people with disabilities.

Handing over the grant to SIA Vodafone's Shalendra Prasad said that the event 'marks another significant milestone for corporate social giving in the country.'

"Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation and its partnership with Spinal Injury Association has been a story of phenomenal success," said Prasad.

"In 2004, Vodafone adopted the path of giving back to the community. 12 years on, we have made more than \$18m in direct social investment that has helped changed the lives of thousands of people around Fiji.



Vodafone's Shalendra Prasad hands over the \$30k cheque to SIA

"The Spinal Injuries Association has for past several years, walked with us on this path to share the pain of disadvantaged communities, change lives, and make a real difference to their lives. Thank you for your unwavering support.

"Our partnership with Spinal Injury Association has grown from strength to strength annually ensuring much-needed mobility aid devices and appliances for Fiji's physically impaired community.

"At this time of Christmas when

the spirit of giving well everywhere, we are pleased to offer the gift of mobility and empowerment to the physically challenged."

"My sincere gratitude and heartfelt thanks go out to Joshko and his incredible team for the great work they been doing.

"It is the choices that we make that will shape our lives and impact our community. At Vodafone we have chosen to give back unconditionally through the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation," said Prasad.

# Youth projects get micro business funding

Over 400 residents of Nakalau Village in the province of Macuata will benefit from the micro-business grant given to two youth groups in the village.

The Valenimalumu and Tavunisici youth clubs received \$2500 each from the Foundation.

The funding is for income-generating projects undertaken by the clubs.

The Valenimalumu Youth Club has agriculture projects which currently earns the club \$400 per month.

Club President Samuela Uluikadavu said, "our aspiration is to generate revenue and also keep the village healthy at the same time by using the local resources."

Tavunasici Youth Club engages in Fish marketing.

"We are so thankful for financial assistance, not only in Macuata but Fiji as a whole," said Mr. Peni Rakanace, President of the Provincial Youth Forum of the Fiji Islands.

"We have experienced the impact of this financial assistance. It is improving the livelihood of underprivileged and vulnerable



groups," he said.

"We want the young generation to be independent and find stable employment in terms of utilising their natural resources. Unemployment and poverty should not exist when we have so much vacant land and marine resources", he said.

"We believe in creating impact with a difference and sustaining them is on top of the agenda," said Rakanace.

The clubs are at a distance of 25km from Labasa Town and use Nakalau communal land in part 675 acres to do farming whilst they also do farming in Seqqaqa on the 33 acres lease land.

"The Foundation will continue to build the capacity of youth clubs and mentor them to use technology for effective and efficient reporting," said Foundation Executive Ambalika Devi.

## Early Christmas for Vikram Chand



Christmas came early for 57-year-old Vikram Chand of Nagigi, Labasa, after receiving a wheelchair this week.

Mr. Chand has congenital achondroplasia/ dwarfism, having a history of bilateral leg pain in his knees.

The father of three sons has been selling peanuts and beans at Labasa

market for more than 20 years, but stopped this work in 2012.

"My legs since then had been very painful and I had to stay home to look after my mentally-challenged wife," Mr. Chand said.

"As time passed by, I tried to walk using crutches to attend my medical check-up, but often fell down because my legs are not straight.

"It had been almost a year since I have not been to town because I am unable to walk.

"Thank you Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation and Rotary Club of Labasa for working in partnership to bless me with what I had been praying for like four years," he said.

"This Christmas would be extra special for me because I got what I needed."

Vodafone Fiji North manager Arunesh Vishwa said they were pleased to help Mr. Chand.

"It is a joyful moment for us to know that we were able to bring a smile on a father's face this Christmas," Mr. Vishwa said.

Labasa Rotary Club president Rajneel Maharaj said they were honoured to help Mr. Chand who had worked very hard to support his family.

"Our club has more wheelchairs and if anyone is in great need, they can contact us and we are willing to help to make this Christmas special," Mr. Maharaj said.

# SHARING OUR LOVE THIS SEASON



Father Law Home, Suva



Children's Ward, CWM Hospital, Suva



Golden Age Home, Lautoka



SPCA, Suva



Babasiga Ashram, Labasa.

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