



Vodafone
ATH Fiji
Foundation

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jeevan

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JEEVAN IS THE HINDI WORD FOR LIFE



CONNECTED EMPOWERMENT

Our strategy for a more equal society

pg3



*\$12 million
devices pg4*



*Social rehab
through sports pg9*



*Philanthropy
seminar pg12*



passion for the vanua

BY PRADEEP LAL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, VODAFONE FIJI

Deriving value from broadband access

The use of mobile broadband in Fiji is growing apace. At Vodafone, we have seen a significant growth in consumer mobile traffic over the years.

We also note that smart phones and data subscriptions are beginning to reach more widely among lower income groups.

Statistics from at least one social media channel (Facebook) show over 360,000 locals using the platform, with a male to female ratio of almost 50:50. Additionally, over 80% of Fiji locals access the channel from smart phones.

This statistic is of much significance and calls for everyone - individuals, and both the private and public sector to think beyond using data for just basic communication and entertainment needs.

The internet economy has much to offer, both commercially and on the social development front.

There are opportunities for education, health improvement, employment, and business.

Online course offerings for students in primary, secondary, post-secondary, and continuing education programs have improved educational opportunities, especially in rural areas. Moreover, interaction

among students, parents, teachers and school administrators can be enhanced via online forums, which is especially crucial given the importance of ongoing parental involvement in children's education.

Globally, telemedicine and tele-health have been hailed as vital to health care provision in rural communities, whether simply improving the perception of locally provided health care quality, or expanding the menu of medical services. More accessible health information, products, and services confer real economic benefits on rural communities.

The Internet also allows more practical options for workers and businesses - people with disabilities and expecting mothers can work from home, micro-entrepreneurs have greater access to the market, and transactions can be done through facilities like MPAISA.

The internet is a great tool to get involved with the community, discuss issues, ideas, and collectively develop solutions to improve the quality of life.

It's time that we all move ahead, innovate, and start deriving value from broadband access beyond regular usage.

Jeevan

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Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation is a registered charity. The

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Creating synergy and working towards a common goal

A positive that we can pick from TC Winston is our partner synergy that worked in favour of those that were affected. The Foundation, through this column, applauds the efforts of all its charity partners for your prompt response and dedication in helping people get back to life. Disasters are testing times for civil society organisations. It is when we all are required to put our hands together and work towards a shared goal of helping people. Our organisations differ in form, in particular goals we are trying to achieve, and in whom we bring together. Yet we all share a common impetus: an appreciation that, in today's environment, most objectives related to social development cannot be achieved by a single person, organisation, or sector working alone.

There is need for greater collaboration. We must acknowledge that

Foundation's charity partners the Fiji Council of Social Services and the Spinal Injury Association were invited by government and regional organisations for post disaster recovery consultations.

This has opened up the doors for greater collaboration with these agencies. Synergy will not take place if there is no collaboration. Hence, our efforts now should be geared in this direction. The synergy that we can achieve through collaboration is more than a mere exchange of resources. By combining our individual perspectives, resources, and skills, we will create something new and valuable together - a whole that is greater than the sum of its individual parts. There is great potential in partnerships that enable different people and organisations to support each other by leveraging, combining, and capitalising on their complementary strengths and capabilities.



CONNECTED EMPOWERMENT

Our strategy for a more equal society



Foundation Chairman
Lionel Yee

“We have the opportunity to use this medium to change lives by providing information that will enable people to make better decisions.”

The UN’s Sustainable Development Goals enshrine the global agreement around addressing inequality. The goals highlight the importance of empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all people, irrespective of status, and of ensuring equal opportunity and reduced inequalities of outcome.

Vodafone believes that investments in mobile broadband network and offering widespread access to online services can potentially decrease inequalities.

“Access to high quality and secure mobile broadband networks is more important to marginalised or disadvantaged groups than to others,” says Vodafone CEO Pradeep Lal.

“This vital ‘public infrastructure’ requires investment in reliable, high quality networks and affordable services; a second-class service or a failure to enable the investment could embed or deepen existing inequalities.”

To ensure that such services are available to the population, Vodafone has been consistently upgrading its infrastructure, most recently enhancing its 4G network to 4G+. 4G+ has faster mobile data speeds.

Second point Lal pointed out is the provision of structured information to people.

“The services and information available via mobile broadband need to be relevant to users. Affordable

access to the network by itself is not enough; the value equation requires local information and services, and, crucially, an adequate level of education and digital literacy among users,” he said.

To this end, the Foundation has launched ‘Mobilise’ - an online portal providing information to drive social change.

“Mobilise is an up scaling of the Foundation’s SMS-based mChannels, said Foundation Chairman Lionel Yee.

“With the proliferation of smart phones in Fiji, we have the opportunity to use this medium to change lives by providing information that will enable people to make better decisions.”

Mobilise focuses on current and emerging social issues on health, youth, girls and women, food security, and environment.

“This initiative is a giant step and we look forward to feedback from the community to tailor content that would make a difference in people’s lives,” said Yee.

“The mobile network has become a key communications infrastructure in Fiji and has proved to be an effective medium to support marginalised and disadvantaged groups,” says Lal.

“It enables individuals and business to tap into new opportunities, thereby having the potential to reduce inequality,” he said.

MPAISA scales up microfinance service delivery

The Fiji Council of Social Services [FCOSS] Microfinance Unit [MFU] has been able to enhance its service delivery by using MPAISA.

In July 2015 MFU started offering MPAISA money transfer option to its clients in order to efficiently facilitate loan disbursement and collections.

“MPAISA has significantly scaled up our service delivery,” said FCOSS Executive Director Neil Maharaj.

“Our members are happy as they don’t have to travel or wait in queues at the bank.”

“It has also minimised risk as there is less handling of cash directly in the office,” said Maharaj.

Vodafone Corporate Affairs Manager Shailendra Prasad said “MPAISA reduces

the cost of doing business for micro entrepreneurs, is convenient, and safe.”

“One of the biggest problems when it comes to finance and banking for the extreme rural poor is how to disburse loans and payments, you don’t want to give large amounts of cash to them because they have to cover long distances on foot, have no secure place to keep the cash, and robbery and theft are real concerns,” said Prasad.

“MPAISA is a low-cost option to address these issues and assist the disadvantaged and micro enterprises to focus on business,” he said.

FCOSS microfinance client Mrs Mereoni Vakalolo selling crabs and fish on the road side at Dranikula Village Serua. That’s her only source of income and has managed to save some money with the microfinance savings scheme. She has also taken small loans to renovate her house and has paid very well through that income.





PhysioNet UK loading the container for Fiji. (centre left to right): Jitoko Tikolevu (Fiji High Commissioner), Peter Thompson (PhysioNet Founder), Andrew Jones MP, David Kaye (PhysioNet Chairman) together with PhysioNet volunteers

Partnership leads to over \$12million benefit for people with disabilities

The partnership between the Spinal Injury Association (SIA), PysioNet UK, and Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation has brought in \$12million worth of mobility device and medical supplies into Fiji since 2010.

In March, the SIA requested PhysioNet UK for an emergency shipment following the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Winston in late February. The container was loaded on 2nd April and included 113 boxes of relief supplies in addition to routine aids for the disabled. UK supporters responded to Fiji's problems by contributing £3.3K towards the consignment whilst Vodafone Fiji covered the shipping costs.

This 9th shipment, worth \$1.2m, arrived in July and is for Tropical Cyclone Winston post disaster assistance.

Handing over a \$20,000 cheque to SIA, Vodafone Fiji Chief Marketing Officer Rajnesh Prasad said: "The donation has been made possible through the dedicated work of Vodafone's World of Difference candidate Joshko Wakaniyasi who initiated the move back in 2010 and has continued to deliver the consignment every year ever since," said

Mr Prasad said the nine consignments delivered to date has a total value estimated in excess of \$12million.

"These medical supplies and mobility devices are in great need by those affected by TC Winston and will be put to very good use for the benefit of people in TC Winston red zones."

The consignment consists of: Dressings, bandages, hospital

gowns, beds, ward and operational accessories, medical supplies, children and women's dignity packs, and mobility devices.

Mr Prasad acknowledged the efforts of volunteers and staff from Physionet UK for assisting in packing the items in the containers.

Acting British High Commissioner Dave Jones said he hoped the consignment would provide assistance to those who needed it the most.

"Supporting, empowering and assisting people with disabilities ensuring their recovery is an issue that is close to my heart," said Jones.

"As many of you know PhysioNet has been working with SIA to provide much needed equipment. I would like to pay tribute to the great work done by Joshko at the SIA in coordinating the distribution of the equipment across Fiji."

"We at the British High Commission are very pleased and proud to be associated with this project and to raise awareness on people with disabilities."

The areas that will be receiving the consignment of items includes: Rabi, Kioa, Ba, Naitasiri, Lomaiviti, Tavua, Nadi, and Savusavu.



\$40k worth of mobility devices for CWM

The Foundation handed over mobility devices worth \$40,000 to the CWM Hospital.

Spinal Injury Association (SIA) Executive Mr Joshko Wakaniyasi said “our key focus is trying to improve the standard of living of persons with disabilities, this is a very important aspect in what we try and do to improve that standard and the other is that these equipment’s that are being handed over is to try and support institutions to ensure that there is better care, there is a better focus for the person’s rehabilitation to try and get them back to normality.”

Mr Wakaniyasi said the partnership with the SIA and the Vodafone ATH Foundation was extremely important in improving the lives of people with disabilities.

The Director of Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Mr Arun Narsey said the handover of the mobility devices marked another level of strengthened partnership with the CWM Hospital.

“Our partnership with Spinal Injury Association goes back to 2007 when we first provided support



The CWM Hospital Board of Visitors and Medical Superintendent Judith Bulikoto and the Director for Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Mr Arun Narsey during the handover

and today we stand to see that SIA is bringing in some \$2m worth of mobility devices on an annual basis since 2010. We are aware that the needs of the community are growing due to NCDs and we are happy to be able to provide support in areas that matters most,” said Narsey.

Mr Narsey said the Spinal Injury

continued to provide support to those affected by Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD’s).

According to the Ministry of Health 2008 statistics, 82% of the population die between the ages of 35 to 59 whilst Spinal Injury shares that they may acquire some sort of disability before they die.

Charities get together to assist community

Korolevu Health Centre receives \$17k worth of equipment

Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation in partnership with the Spinal Injury Association and Warwick Foundation handed over \$17,000 worth of mobility devices to Korolevu Health Centre for 33 cases from Tikina Komave and Tikina Korolevuiwai.

The partnership came about when need for wheel chairs was identified by Dr Elizabeth Dass and the medical team at Korolevu Health Centre.

A team from Tamavua Rehabilitation Centre went to screen the cases and help out with the needed devices.

Final Nauloga of Namatakula Village of Tikina Komave, in her mid 40s, had a leg and an arm amputated after an accident. Since the amputation Nauloga has been using a generic equipment.

“I was using a wrong device until the team came and did proper measurement and gave what suits me best”.

With joy of happiness and tears in



Mr. Dean Swaagman of Warwick Hotels and Resorts with the equipment ready for delivery to Korolevu Health Centre

her eyes, she thanked the team and said that “words may not be enough as this is really going to change my life.”

“Such partnership has seen us reach larger population,” said Mr Joshko Wakaniyasi, Executive Director of Spinal Injury Association.

Board of Visitors Chairman for Sigatoka Hospital and Korolevu Health Centre and Regional General Manager Warwick Hotels and Resorts

- Pacific, Mr. Dean Swaagman thanked the partners for concerted effort and said that such partnerships had the potential to help the needy.

“We are happy as today we will see smiles on the faces of those in need,” said Ms Mereisi Ratulevu, Community Liaison Officer for Warwick Hotels and Resorts Fiji.

“We will continue to identify needs of our communities and access support where possible,” she said.

OUR TC WINSTON RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE

Recovery focuses on sustainable livelihoods



Foundation discussing projects on Qamea Island

Post TC Winston, the Foundation embarked on a post disaster response strategy to rebuild lives and livelihoods in a manner that paves a way for long term sustainable development.

“Our response strategy is for the creation of sustainable livelihoods,” said Foundation Executive Ambalika Kutty.

“Disasters and their adverse impacts set societies back by decades and leave them vulnerable to physical, social and economic hardships.”

After providing immediate relief catering to communication, food, sanitary, water, and medical assistance, the Foundation began its rehabilitation efforts.

“Our approach is to focus on rehabilitation that looks at more long term inputs of reinstating lost livelihoods, introducing new economic opportunities, and improving food security mechanisms so as to reduce people’s vulnerability and enhance capacities to handle future calamities,” said Kutty.

“And working with our charity partners and stakeholders is crucial to this effect,” she said,

The Foundation engaged over 50 corporates to share its strategy aptly titled “Road to Resilience” via its Corporate Philanthropy Seminar held in June.

\$125,000 for affected communities

The Foundation continued with post TC Winston recovery and ‘Road to Resilience’ efforts which saw the dissemination of over \$125,000 in grants.

A total of 33 charitable and community organisations were given this sum for projects ranging from village canteen, farming, fishing, piggery and other micro-business projects.

“Sustainability” was a key criteria for the funding whereby recipient organisations were required to demonstrate project viability, impact, and self-sufficiency.

“The funding is to ensure that affected communities can restart life and work towards sustaining themselves through these projects,” said Foundation Executive Ambalika Kutty.

“Since TC Winston ravaged Fiji, we together with our charity partners and their network partners have collectively managed to provide social rehabilitation service of over \$5m and the efforts continue,” said Kutty.

400 on Taveuni & Qamea get timely assistance

Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation convened consultation with communities of Cakaudrove, Taveuni, Qamea and Kioa Island immediately after tropical cyclone Winston left devastations, said the Foundation Executive, Ambalika Devi.

The consultations included meeting with community leaders, movers and shakers and field visits. Assessments revealed that communities may need to kick start with community projects to help them fast track recovery. During this visit, numbers of income generation projects were identified by the communities’ youth and women’s group.

During our visitation, we distributed clothing, mobility devices and medical supplies which were collective efforts of Vodafone New Zealand staff, Spinal Injury Association



Foundation with Vuna Tikina representatives in Taveuni

and our network partners. Whilst, going around, we immediately provided walkers, wheelchairs and crutches where needed.

The Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation also handed over 4 wheel chairs and 4 walkers worth \$6000 to Chief of Kocoma Village.

The village coordinator, and Chairman of Kocoma School and Kocoma Development committee, Mr

Ilisoni Vakaloloma said that they only found out during the Foundation’s visit that they could access such help.

Kocoma village Youth, Maunicake club, Vuanimaba Women club are also recipients of \$7500 for micro business projects.

“I thank the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation for the timely assistance. “We don’t get to access or receive grants of this nature due to

our remoteness. This will immensely help the women, youth and the village for generating revenue. The grant will also enable us to contribute towards Kocoma Village School which is badly damaged and children are studying in tents”, said Mr Vakaloloma.

“I was empowered by the information and knowledge that the Foundation shared when they visited us,” he said.

“TC Winston dragged us two decades back and we were sitting around discussing and having sleepless nights, when Foundation visited us on the Island,” said Mr Vakaloloma.

“The support will help rebuild our community and more importantly our children.”

Mr Vakaloloma said more than 400 villagers would benefit from the support from Vodafone.

Breaking barriers to youth entrepreneurship

The Fiji Council of Social Services has challenged youths to take advantage of its Microfinance Unit and create self employment.

Speaking at the National Youth Conference on Serua Island, mYouth coordinator and FCOSS Executive Director Neil Maharaj said “we are trying to break the barriers to youth entrepreneurship and our microfinance facility is a step in that direction.”

“We want more youths to take advantage of this facility.”

Youths can easily tap into this and start micro-enterprises.”

The FCOSS Microfinance Unit has over 5000 members who take advantage of its savings and loans products. With branches in Suva, Sigatoka and Nadi; and coordinating sites in Ovalau, Naganivatu, Malolo, and Lomaiviti, the unit has 90% success in its transactions.

“We serve exceptional women and men who have skills, motivation and an enterprising spirit, said Maharaj.

“We target the low income



Participants at the National Youth Conference on Serua Island

entrepreneurs, unestablished workers and factory workers who are unable to access traditional financial institutions.”

“Many of our clients run home-based business, others engage in food parcel selling, market vendors, handicrafts, sewing, hair salons, and

others work in the service sector and factory outlets;” said Maharaj.

The unit also provides non financial services including Financial Literacy Training, Basic Business Skills Training, and capacity building and consistent empowerment through weekly visitations.

‘Meaningful engagement is crucial’

Foundation charity partner the Fiji Council of Social Services has called for a more ‘meaningful engagement’ and inclusion of civil society organisations (CSO) in national development agendas.

“Such engagement is crucial for reducing inequality.”

For the first time in its history FCOSS was invited to a Non State Actor dialogue on PACER Plus negotiations.

FCOSS Executive Director Neil Maharaj said FCOSS would ensure that the space for national CSO would allow meaningful engagement.

“We will ensure that relevant checks and balances are in place for sustainable development.”

“We also hope to engage more in any space available for more meaningful dialogue.

“Also there is a need for more clarity of the processes ahead so we can engage in more dialogue, knowing that the negotiations are expected to finish in 2016,”



Foundation Charity partner FCOSS represented by Neil Maharaj (fa right) at the Non-State Actors Dialogue Workshop on PACER PLUS

said Maharaj.

While the timing of the invite into the dialogue process was bit late, Maharaj said that when it came to PACER PLUS and trade negotiations, there was a serious need for capacity building for national CSOs in order for them to be active participants.

“SDG 10 talks about reducing inequality, so

when it comes to supply chain, it is important that the person who works at the grass root understands how such agreements will benefit them. More importantly it is about how the last man in the supply chain, such a poor farmer, will get benefit. The benefits actually filter down to reduce the gap between rich and poor,” said Maharaj.

Informal employment

The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) believes that there needs to be a support system in place for people working in the informal sector.

FCOSS Executive Director, Mr Neil Maharaj said data released by the Bureau of Statistics had shown a trend towards informal employment since 2005.

He said 57.2% of women were in casual jobs in 2005, and this had increased to 64.7% in 2011.

Mr Maharaj said the number of youths in the informal sector also increased from 50% in 2005 to 62.9% in 2011.

“More Fijians have less access to social security such as FNPF and therefore vulnerable especially during times of national and economic crises.”

He said while the general working population increased, the informal economy also grew in parallel. Youth unemployment increased from 11% to 15% for the same period.

Social rehab through sports



The Foundation has taken another leap in supporting individuals with disabilities by providing rehabilitation through sports.

“Vodafone Fiji has been supporting mainstream sports for quite some time and its only right that we support minor sports which can include people with disabilities,” said Vodafone Corporate Affairs Manager Shailendra Prasad.

Handing over \$5000 to the Fiji Table Tennis Association, Prasad said that supporting inclusive sports was crucial because it would provide opportunities to people with disabilities to reintegrate in society.

“Our aim is to increase the quality of life of people with a disability in Fiji.

“Sport is a perfect tool because it is a universal activity that can be accessible to all.

“While sport has value in everyone’s life, it is even more important in the life of a person with a disability because of its rehabilitative influence, and the fact that it is a means to integrate the person into society, sport teaches independence,” said Prasad.

Spinal Injury Association executive Joshko Wakaniyasi said ‘Vodafone’s approach was exemplary and others should replicate it.’

“With this kind of support we will get to see more persons with disabilities to become productive members of society,” he said.

“Sports plays a very big role in this

because it can be used as a tool to encourage and empower people.”

“Sports reduces the focus on disability and focuses more on a person’s abilities, leading to empowerment and greater self-confidence that can be applied to other areas of life example, education and employment,” said Wakaniyasi.

Prasad said the initiative would also increase peer interaction and socialisation, since people with a disability often remained in the home environment, protected and guarded by their families.

“We will also support more sport that promotes inclusion of girls and women who are often stigmatised by their sex as well as their disability,” said Prasad.

Thank you for preparing me for Rio, says Rodan



Mere Rodan, an athlete who represented Fiji in table tennis at the Rio Paralympics, is out to make a difference in the sporting field.

And she is thankful to everyone who has helped her come this far.”

“I particularly like to thank Vodafone for providing the financial assistance that helped me travel overseas and get an experience with top players,” said Rodan.

Mrs Rodan, 48, says she has an attitude of accepting her limits and going beyond them.

“I always wanted to explore and excel in all aspects of my life.”

“This sport (table tennies) doesn’t really matter about age barrier so you could be 60 playing an 18-year-old”

The Koro Island native competed in the Class Five category in Rio.

Mrs Rodan started her table tennis career in 2014, and in her first international tournament was able to conquer Australia’s number one in

the ITTF championship.

She said her participation at the Rio Olympics would be a special one for her as she will be celebrating her birthday in September.

Being the youngest in her family, she says her motivation was always her mother who passed last year as she moulded her to be the best of who is she today.

“My mum Talica Dilomaria was an inspiration to me, she was always there encouraging each one of us. If I win a gold medal in Rio it will surely be dedicated to her.

Rodan has been using a regular wheel chair for all her tournaments. A chair made for Table Tennis costs close to \$15,000. The Fiji Table Tennis Association, Fiji Sports Council and the Spinal Injury Association worked together to get Rodan the proper chair for her Rio bout.

mCorp helps raise funds for Children of Taveuni

Vodafone mCorp is helping raise funds for the 'Children of Taveuni Project.

mCorp is a Foundation initiative that aspires to engage corporates to raise funds for the cause that they are passionate about. A mCorp Challenge fund allows corporates to apply for funds to top-up their own fund raising.

Post TC Winston while providing relief assistance in Taveuni, the Foundation met Eunice Osborne of Tidesreach Resort who was passionate to help children on the island.

The Foundation helped

develop a concept to raise funds for the "Children of Taveuni" project. The effort materialised into raising \$7,916.80 in Malibu California.

Tidesreach Resort then applied for the mCorp challenge fund and successfully received \$5000 from Vodafone.

The "Children of Taveuni" project will be executed in partnership with Vodafone World of Difference programme. The total sum of \$12, 916.80 will be used to help children in the Taveuni Red Zone areas who have been studying in tents.



In a bid to empower youths in the Nadroga/Navosa province, the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation handed a cheque of \$42,000 during the Vodafone Coral Coast Carnival in Sigatoka last Saturday.

An improvement from last year when Foundation donated \$35,800 for 15 community based clubs.

Foundation Executive Ambalika Kutty said: "As a follow on from last year, the Foundation continued to reach Nadroga/Navosa province building capacities of youth and women's club to access grants for social entrepreneurship and income generation."

She said the aim of the programme was to share information and knowledge on successes from other

provinces.

"As a lead on, we saw an influx of proposals from Nadroga/Navosa province for income generation and empowerment activities for women and youth," Ms Kutty said.

"The board managed to approve another grant of \$42,000 for 18 youth and women's clubs.

"We work closely with Nadroga/Navosa Provincial Council and relevant stakeholders to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of projects.

"The support will be pushed towards villages within tikina Nadrau, Draiba, NaKorovou, Komave, Nasikawa and Korolevu-i-wai. We received proposals from these clubs requesting for support. The projects

range from canteen, farming, catering, fishing, Internet Cafe, etc.

"Our handover of grants now sees building capacities and connecting clubs to microfinance services too.

"Our network on the ground with charities are forever evolving and complementing our vision for stronger and a connected vanua."

Since the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation's inception in 2004, it has contributed over \$18 million towards community projects.

Minister for Local Government Mr Praveen Kumar and Sigatoka Town Council and Nadroga Navosa Provincial Council youth Coordinator Selita Saula thanked the Foundation for the boost.





Connecting, Empowering,
and creating
network of smiles



Corporate Philanthropy Seminar

Theme: *Road to Resilience*



Vodafone's Director Corporate Ronald Prasad and Osea Kolonisau at Vodafone's 22nd birthday

Sharing our knowledge of the past 22 years

"The Corporate Philanthropy Seminar (CPS) is all about sharing our knowledge of the community that have done business with for the past 22 years," says Vodafone's Director Corporate Ronald Prasad.

"This year marks our 22nd birthday and in these years we have witnessed and felt the pain of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups."

"The CPS is our attempt to share that knowledge and also learn from others of what and how we can foster our efforts to bring about real change in people's lives," said Prasad.

Prasad said that since the inception of the Foundation in 2004, they have made many strides to make a difference but "that is not enough".

"We are continuously looking for better ways to maximise the impact of our philanthropic activities, learning from other stakeholders, and innovating our strategies," he said.

"I invite everyone to be part of CPS and share models and best practices so that we can work together to reduce the pain and inequality that exists in our society today," said Prasad.

It's about you, do your homework, know what works, says Edwards

Keynote speaker at Vodafone's' 11th Corporate Philanthropy Seminar Rob Edwards says the key to self resilience is taking care of your health.

"And in order to do this you must do your homework and know what works for you," he said.

Edwards said "the number one most important thing in your world today is you. If something is really important to you then do your homework."

"Do you know that more than 90% of people who go on a weight loss programme put that weight back on within a two year period? That's because they didn't do their homework, and their homework is to find out how that exercise programme works out into their daily lives. We need to find out how it fits our lifestyles rather than turning our lifestyles upside down because of it."

Edwards said the same applied to relationships.

"And your homework there is to put quality time into those relationships. There are three questions to ask yourself: Am I? Will I? Can I?. Am I doing the things that I am doing that I need to do to live the life I want to live? Can I achieve the goals I have set for myself? If you set yourself a goal, it depends on the strategy you've put in

place to achieve that goal?"

"When we did a health programme, we realized that within the first week that most people didn't get it. And after we analysed the data, we found out that 70% of people (out of 30,000 people) still had back pain because they didn't get it."

Edwards said that we must start thinking about those things in our lives that are going to make a difference to us, whether it's work, relationships or ourselves.

"We must think about who are the most important persons in our world, other than ourselves."

"What do you value the most? What have you been putting off till tomorrow? Who are the most important people in your world?"

"When you do these, you're putting together a very strong platform for yourselves."

If we're really going to make a difference, it's going to be a little start from day to day, from eating 2 pieces of fruit each day, putting little butter on that piece of bread or five minutes of exercise a day," said Edwards.

"These are little things, but they're the little things that will make a profound difference."



"It's the little things that will make a profound difference."

Taking responsibility for our own actions

Taking the queue from keynote speaker Rob Edwards, Climate Change presenter Viliamu Iese questioned the forum: “what is the use of building a resilient community if we all have diabetes, hypertension, and other NCD related problems?”

Iese said that just like our personal health problems, climate change was the consequence of our own actions.

“Climate change is a reminder to us all. When I hear about it, I think of two questions - what have we done to our earth and how much we have suffered from the consequences of our own actions,” said Iese.

“It is us who make the choice or the

decision and it is us who will suffer the consequences of those choices.”

Iese further questioned: Who will be responsible for climate change? What are the impacts of climate change? How many cyclones in the last 30 years? Is it going up?

“The rise in sea-levels and increase in temperature are the two direct impacts of climate change, this is what is happening. Yes, temperature is increasing, sea level rising. The issue is that this is a global problem which needs global solutions.”

“Pacific Island countries are very vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change and climate



variability. We need to establish, strengthen our collaboration, networking, technology transfer, and capacity building efforts.”

There is no one solution, however, resilience can be built through a holistic approach,” said Iese.

Provide the vulnerable with the tools to be independent



Hilton School CEO Sureni Perera said it was crucial to provide the vulnerable with the tools to be independent.

“This is the first step towards building resilience for this group,” she said.

“Children with disabilities are

the most vulnerable in society. We need to provide them with the tools to be independent and be resilient. We need to include persons with disabilities in every aspect of society.

“Inclusion doesn’t just come over night, because all this time we have been looking at disabilities from a charity model but now as we look at equal opportunities, disabilities shouldn’t stop someone from participating in society. It is the society that stops the person from participating in society,” said Parera.

“We need to rid of the barriers in society for every person with disabilities. We need to give them adequate options in life, and help them realize and achieve their potential.”

Parera said that resilience for the vulnerable groups, particularly children with disabilities, had more to do with the availability and accessibility of relevant resources and opportunities than with intrinsic factors.



The World of Difference programme is all about celebrating social innovation and giving people the chance to work for a charity of their choice for few months or a year. Our candidates are social innovators, who choose a charity they are passionate about and develop or are already involved in a project that they believe makes a world of difference to them. They then find themselves in the role of a lifetime, being involved in their community making a difference to people's lives - with a little help from us. So, what is social innovation? It's simply the act of using your creativity to do good. We admire that and actively seek to engage volunteers from around the country who are passionate about donating their knowledge and skill and get paid to do it.

Our candidates' projects are themed around "mobilizing communities and mobilizing social change". And how do we at the Foundation see the WoD programme working out - for us, for our candidates and for the nation? We want to prepare as many as we can to empower all those they come in contact with. The World of Difference works because the programme is focussed on the following: satisfying aspirations for self development, partnering positive social change, thinking big, reaching larger number of people, Increasing efficiency and value for resources, releasing the creativity and the potential of our people. The programme's success is based on initiating activities that engage young people at a deeper level, allowing them to channel their energies into activities that build lasting relationship and understandings and continue to advocate for activities that they are passionate about. Added to that, the programme offers opportunities for being innovative, creative and doing things differently like using mobile technology for multiplier impacts. The Vodafone World of Difference also aims to identify root causes of the problems and take proactive approach to addressing and preventing community issues.

Creating milestones in the western division



It was a challenge put to him by Foundation Executive Ambalika Kutty that saw the birth of Western Charity Alliance (WCA). Today, WoD candidate Jiten Naidu is leading WCA and he doesn't fall short of thanking people who have helped him come this far.

"Establishing a new NGO in western division was a challenge put on me and I am happy to see it where it is today."

"Since its inception in 2014 I had many challenges but was able to tackle all with the help of my mentor Ambalika Kutty, Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation, and WCA board members."

What motivates Naidu is his passion to help people, a reason why he left an office job to do community work.

"Empowerment and encouragement from Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation has moulded me very well to be a dynamic and passionate community worker."

Naidu is now planning to take WCA to the next level.

"I would like to excel in the field of community work and take WCA to another level. I plan to have a contact point /office setup for the charity and have few other passionate people in our team to share the workload and execute programmes."

WCA has two key focus areas - assisting poor & vulnerable farmers excel in farming and find right market; and health & wellness programme for schools, businesses, and communities.

"Assisting farmers to improve their farming skills, empower them on inter cropping skills, finding market for the produce, and empowering SMART farming practice where farmers work in groups sharing their skills and work load, has made real difference to these people," said Naidu.

"The School Health & Wellness Programme is where we empower students on healthy living style, choosing right food, consultation with dietician, engage parents and teachers for healthy environment, advice school health & wellness committee to look at the health issues of students. Community health screening and empowerment is also part of this," he said.

"WCA in conjunction with Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation has created a milestone in Western Division working towards a healthy and sustainable livelihoods for people.

"We have achieved a lot in terms of community output and recognition through this partnership," said Naidu.

"The Foundation has build my capacity and prepared me for life. I will make a difference in the lives of others now," said Naidu.

I didn't get there just like that, says Tevita



Tevita Tokalauvere (Te) is a community education coordinator with the Save The Children Fund, but he 'didn't get there just like that.'

Te's involvement with the WoD programme has had a significant impact on his career, knowledge, skills, attitude, and his passion for community work.

"WoD had helped me in so many ways, build my capacity and also empowered me to be a better person in life," says Te.

"It has made me into a stronger person. I see things differently now, mirror situations and address them accordingly."

Te stumbled upon WoD in late 2014 while in search for a job that would require direct interaction with the community, particularly women and youth.

"I found out that WoD was the only platform where you can get support for realising your passion for the community," said Te.

"With WoD I worked directly with grassroot people, especially women, children, and youths and their problems. What I liked was solving problems and helping people. Sometimes it took a lot of effort on my part, but it was very rewarding when they appreciated the advice and services that I would provide."

One tangible outcome of Te's WoD project is Kawai Kamica Creations, a micro-enterprise that he set-up to assist his villagers in Macuata.

Kawai Kamica Creations is a line of clothing featuring designs that depict traditional identities of the vanua of Caumatalevu in Macuata.

"Today when we meet the young children and even relatives of Macuata, they don't even know what their traditional food is or the fish that Macuata is known for," he said.

"So our designs will tell them about the traditional identities of Macuata and it will educate them as well. Many people know they are from Macuata but they don't know the traditional identities so we will help them through this new line of clothing.

"We do know that traditional knowledge for any part of Fiji is becoming unpopular among the younger generation so this clothing design will make a difference."

"The money that will come from the line of clothes will go back to our women and youths in Macuata to support them with their different projects.

"That has always been my passion. I am glad that my line of clothes has started off well," said Te.

Addressing the needs of 1027 affected



Post TC Winston, WoD candidate Joshko Wakaniyasi of the Spinal Injury Association (SIA) pioneered a survey to ascertain the number of persons with disabilities affected by TC Winston.

The preliminary survey identified 1027 individuals with varying abilities who needed help.

Josko then prepared a plan to assist these individuals.

Children in Northern Division needed specialised wheelchairs. Through liaison with UCP Australia Joshko managed to procure 88 specialized wheel chairs that were shipped to Fiji in June.

July saw the arrival of the ninth shipment of equipment from PhysioNet of UK, specifically for TC Winston recovery. The consignment was the first of its kind as it also had farming equipment, clothing, and building equipment together with sanitary packs for persons with disabilities.

These items were then sorted using the data collected to identify appropriate recipients against items received. Joshko managed to secure additional funding from the Australian High Commission through its Direct Aid Programme to support the distribution of these items in the disasters areas.

Joshko also provided feedback and advisory to national clusters for TC Winston and consulted with the Ministry of Finance on the 2016-2017 National Budget.

“This consultation proved positive as the allocation for the disability has vastly improved compared to previous years together with other historical milestones such as incentives to employers who employ person with disabilities,” said Joshko.

In his effort to empower his colleagues Joshko nominated Sainimili Naivalu to voyage on the SV Tenacious. One of the two Jubilee Sailing Trust Tall Ships, SV Tenacious, was in Fiji in June and sailed twice around the country with disabled and able crew. The Jubilee Sailing Trust is an international, United Nations accredited disability charity, promoting integration through the challenge and adventure of tall ship sailing.

“This was an experience of a lifetime as Sainimili participated in manning the vessel for the entire voyage. It was a confidence builder which enhanced her capacity and making her realise her hidden talents and abilities,” said Joshko. Naivalu was sponsored by the Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation.

Joshko was recognised by Rotary Suva and awarded the Paul Harris Award for his work in the area of disability. He is currently working on developing a comprehensive website for SIA with the help of an Australian volunteer over the next 12 months.

LEADING INNOVATION, LEADING SERVICE DELIVERY

Vodafone Instant Network

How we managed connectivity during TC Winston

When parts of its communication network infrastructure went down during TC Winston, Vodafone Fiji requested Vodafone NZ Foundation to deploy its Instant Network Programme to assist with the recovery.

The NZ team together with local counterparts began the restoration of services with a focus on smaller towns and communities is now the focus of activity.

The re-establishment of a communications network is critical for the recovery efforts, particularly as many of Fiji’s outer island communities are completely cut off and yet to receive aid,” said Vodafone Foundation Instant Network team leader, Lise Mackie said.

“Our first priority was to establish a communication link between Fiji’s islands to help officials and relief coordinators assess and report on the damage.”

“This will also support a communication link back to family throughout the Pacific, in New Zealand and Australia, which will hopefully alleviate anxiety for many who still don’t know whether their family members are safe”.

Instant Network, contained in a series of suitcases and supported by a mobile generator, is capable of supporting a local communications network (mobile and internet services). It is able to be set up and switched on almost immediately and operates by connecting via satellite.

Through its award-winning Instant Network Programme, the Vodafone Foundation provides free communications and technical support to those affected by natural or humanitarian disaster.

The New Zealand-based Instant Network team comprised of staff from all part of the business, who are specially trained for emergency and disaster situations.



“Our first priority was to establish a communication link between Fiji’s islands to help officials and relief coordinators assess and report on the damage.”

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