

## Save the Children Fiji Welcomes It's New CEO



# Save the Children

Quarterly Newsletter  
July—September  
2019

Save the Children Fiji is pleased to officially announce that its new Chief Executive Officer is Shairana Ali. Ms. Ali assumes the role from 14 August and looks forward to championing the organization.

Ms. Ali succeeds Ms. Iris Low-McKenzie, who will undertake independent consultancy work. Ms. Ali intends to build upon the solid foundations left by Ms. Low-McKenzie, and to continue to strengthen Save the Children's capacity as the leading child rights organisation in Fiji — dedicated to driving constructive change for children across the region.

Ms. Ali has over 10 years' experience working in the Fiji civil society sector and 9 years of experience working with UNICEF. Shairana previously worked with the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) for 2 years before joining UNICEF and then migrated to the United States. She returned to Fiji in November 2018 where she took on the role of Program Manager for Save the Children Fiji. Ms. Ali holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology and Language and Literature and has extensive international and Pacific experience in child rights, adolescent health and development and program management.

Save the Children Fiji ensures that children's voices are heard and it continues to build partnerships, share knowledge, influence, reach out to families and communities and build capacity to ensure children's rights are met."



**"I feel very privileged to take on the position of CEO for Save the Children Fiji and it is an honour for me to continue serving in a lead role in an organisation with such an important mandate of child rights." she said. "I believe I have come in at the right time, as Save the Children International celebrates its centenary this year and Save the Children Fiji continues to evolve and deliver, to ensure that children's lives in Fiji are positively transformed"**

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Save the Children  
100 YEARS

# A CENTURY OF CHANGE FOR CHILDREN



# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) Project

## WASH Symposium For Children

Save the Children Fiji, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project hosted its first ever Children Symposium in both Rakiraki and Bua in early August.

Shairana Ali, SC Fiji Chief Executive Officer said “We at Save the Children encourage child participation and getting the children together for this Symposium provides them a safe space and great platform to discuss issues pertaining to WASH.

This Symposium is a one of a kind event where children we have trained as CHP's are learning from each other and identifying water sanitation and hygiene standards that their schools and communities need to abide by.



### CHILD HYGIENE PROMOTOR

THE SYMPOSIUM WAS VERY EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIVE AND I AM VERY FORTUNATE TO BE PART OF IT.

“I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK SAVE THE CHILDREN FIJI FOR INTRODUCING THIS WASH PROJECT WHICH NOT ONLY EMPOWERS CHILDREN BUT ALSO BUILDS OUR CAPACITY TO BE CHILD HYGIENE PROMOTORS (CHP) AND BEING THE VOICE OF CHILDREN IN WASH AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES.



Hearing from the children has always been our passion as we believe that their voices matter and we adults need to consider their inputs in all matters concerning them.

We live in a modern world where children are so advanced therefore, we need to engage them in activities that improves their health and well-being Ali concluded.

The Symposium concluded with stakeholders visiting children's booths where children displayed their models and artworks from recycled plastics and waste papers.

Children also presented their WASH action plans to the stakeholders outlining their future activities and the support they need from stakeholders who were present during the event. The Bua Symposium was held at the Naulumautua House, Nabouwalu whereas the Rakiraki Symposium was held at Penang Sangam Primary School.

The WASH Project is implemented by Save the Children Fiji and is supported by the Australian Government.





# Child Protection

## Child Protection is Everybody's Responsibility

Save the Children Fiji, Child Rights Officer – Mere Krishna was invited to speak to the parents and teachers of Navesi Primary School in Lami in late September on Child Protection.

Ms Krishna reiterated the importance of working collaboratively between parents and teachers towards the protection of children in schools and at homes. She also highlighted the urgent need in addressing the rapid growth of sexual violence against children as well as child negligence.

Ms Krishna concluded the awareness session by reminding the parents and teachers that “Child Protection is Everybody's Responsibility



*CDRR Project Officer—Jofiliti Veikoso presenting the youth outcome during the PRM 2019*

## Child Protection Training For Fiji Women's Fund Grantees



Save the Children Fiji facilitated a workshop on Child Safeguarding and Child Protection for the Fiji Women's Fund (FWF) grantees.

This training is part of the partnership between the two entities whereby SC Fiji provides FWF grantees support and training on Child Protection and Child Safeguarding.

The 12 participants include representatives from Fiji Women's Rights Movement, Naitasiri Women in Dairy Group, Rotuma Heritage and Culture Conservation, Rainbow Pride Foundation 4 LGBTQ Rights and Equality in Fiji and staff members of FWF. This one day training is supported by the Australian Government through Fiji Women's Fund.

## Leadership Training for Children

Providing safe spaces for children to have their voices heard and effective learning will continue to be at the core of our work.

Our commitment also includes building the capacities of children and moulding them to be effective Leaders in the future. SC Fiji hosted a Leadership Seminar for children from our Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) Club and Kids Link Fiji.

The seminar with the theme “Enhancing Children's Leadership to impact Family and Community Preparedness in Emergencies” is part of our continuous efforts to enhance Children's Participation through shared learning and enhancing Leadership Capacity of Children in Emergencies.





# CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

## CDRR Annual Divisional Meeting

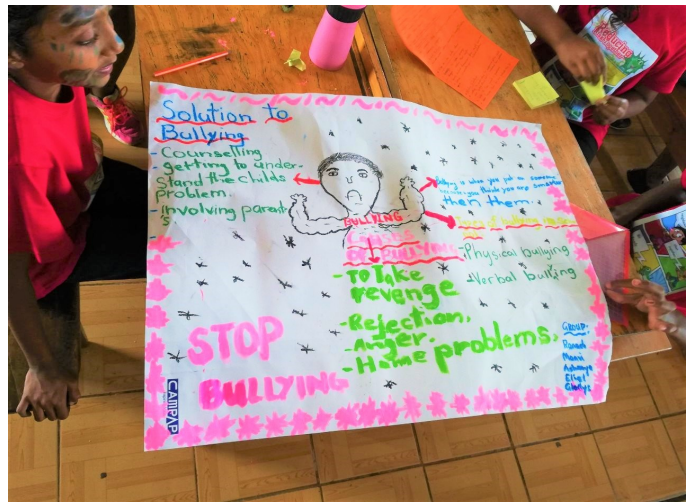
Save the Children Fiji held its annual divisional meeting for its Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction Club (CDRR) on Saturday, 27/07/19 at the Saint Mary's Primary School in Labasa.

There were 45 participating children who represented 9 DRR clubs in the North. The meeting was an educational one where children shared their experiences and learnt from each other.

The meeting also gave children an opportunity to socialize and establish networks amongst them as they continuously advocate on issues affecting them.

The three issues raised by majority of the children during the meeting was on Neglect, School Absenteeism/School Dropout and Bullying.

The children came up with advocacy messages which was presented to the stakeholders during the meeting. Stakeholders present included Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons Fncdp, Youth Champs 4 Mental Health, Ministry of Women Children and Poverty Alleviation - Social Welfare, Labasa District Council of Social Services and Community Centred Conservation.



## Positive Discipline Awareness At Vio Island



Save the Children Fiji in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation through the Department of Social Welfare conducted an awareness session on Positive Discipline at Vio Island in Lautoka.

Parents and community leaders learnt about tips for disciplining children effectively without resorting to violence.

Vio island is one of communities that is benefiting from SC Fiji's Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) Project. The Project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Public and is supported by Save the Children New Zealand



# ***Resilience through Knowledge and Action in Agriculture and Food Security (KANA Project)***



The Resilience through Knowledge and Action in Agriculture and Food Security (KANA) Project has been working with 7 schools on Koro Island.

The schools have established school gardens and a variety of vegetables including beans, cabbages, tomatoes, cucumber, egg plants, lettuce, spring onions, dhanian and carrots have been grown and harvested which is used to prepare healthy meals for children.

Our recent monitoring visit has shown that this initiative is impacting a total of 850 students directly in schools

Teachers have shared that changes have been noticed in students, students looking more healthier than before as a direct impact of accessing fresh nutritious vegetables.

This has also led to improvement in attendance amongst students. Remaining vegetables are sold and the money is utilized by teachers to purchase stationary for students to use in school. SC Fiji acknowledges the schools for driving and taking the ownership of the school gardens.

## **Project Updates**



KANA team with the Head Teacher of Nabasovi Primary School discussing the progress of their school gardens



Women of Navaga Village, receiving their farming tools and seedlings as part of the small grant initiative.



Save the Children New Zealand visit to Namarai Village.



Participants of the Financial Literacy Training at Delaiyadua village in Ra.



# CASH Transfer Program

## GIHA Training

Save the Children (SC) Fiji in partnership with UN Women hosted a three-day workshop on Gender in Humanitarian Action, (GiHA) at the Peninsula Hotel, Suva.

The workshop aims to equip participants and enhance their knowledge and skills in integrating Gender in Humanitarian Actions.

The training also allows participants to explore opportunities in mainstreaming Gender across Humanitarian Response Programming using appropriate standards and approaches.

The workshop also reminds participants on the importance of best practices ensuring gender equality and equity when responding as humanitarian workers.

Participating delegates include officers from the Fiji National Disaster Management Office NDMO , Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji, Live & Learn Environmental Education, Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, Rainbow Pride Foundation Limited and Save the Children Fiji

SC Fiji extends its acknowledgement to UN Women Pacific for this partnership. This training is funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through #AHP\_DisasterREADYCash Preparedness.



## SC Fiji CEO Hands Educational Assistance To Needy Children

Children dropping out of school remains a concern for Save the Children Fiji.

There are more than 274 children throughout Fiji who need some form of assistance to return to schools to complete their primary and secondary school education.

The Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MEHA) has partnered with Save the Children Fiji to support these children to return to school.

As part of this joint initiative, SC Fiji CEO, Shairana Ali handed over school bags and stationary items to 9 children residing in Ra province. Similar support will be provided to children in other provinces in the coming days



## Fundraising

# SC Fiji Raised More Than 16k Through Ambrose Golf

Save the Children Fiji (SC Fiji) raised more than 16- Thousand Dollars as part of its Annual Fundraising event in partnership with Telecom Fiji Limited.

The event was an Ambrose Golf Charity Tournament which brought about local golfers in teams of 4 to compete and at the same time raise money for SC Fiji.

SC Fiji is forever grateful to each and every one who turned up today to not only come and play but to contribute towards the betterment of the children of Fiji through SC Fiji programming around the country.



This year is an auspicious year for SC Fiji as we celebrate our Centennial year (100) of existence throughout the world, making changes in children's lives as we believe children are our future and by helping them in every means we can will contribute towards their betterment and give them a secure and promising future.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**We need your support in our development and humanitarian response programs in Fiji. Your contribution ensures we can positively impact children in need both now and in the future.**

### OUR PRIORITY

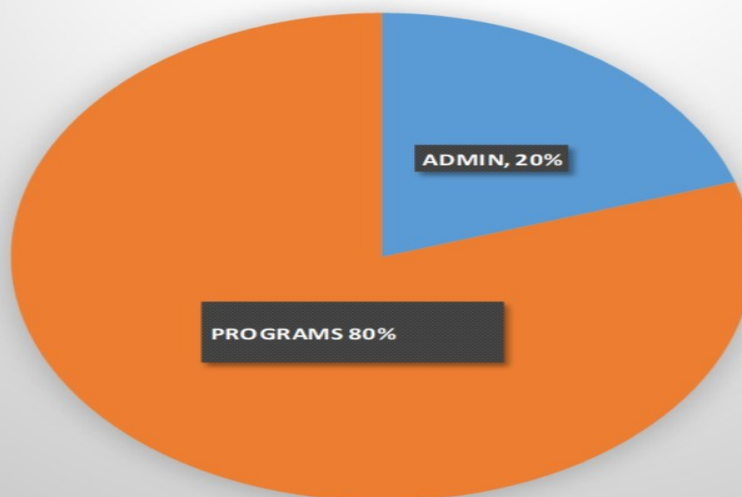
Child Protection underpins all of our work and, as such, we are dedicated to promoting and building the understanding and capacity as to how to effectively apply this to everyday life.

We are also bound by our Child Protection Policy and ensure our partners, and anyone involved in our work, understand and implement these standards.

Therefore we need your support in:

**Education | Child Protection  
Child Participation | Child Rights | Humanitarian Response**

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO



■ Admin ■ Programs

Education 20%  
Child Protection 20%  
Child Participation 15%  
Child Rights 15%  
Humanitarian Response 10%

# Register and become a member.

## ABOUT US

Globally, Save the Children protects the lives of children in more than 120 countries and each year we support millions of the hardest to reach and most vulnerable children and young people around the world.

Save the Children Fiji is the country's peak child rights organization and we have been helping make meaningful change in the lives of children for more than 40 years. Since our inception in 1972 we have worked to improve access to education and health programs for some of the countries most vulnerable and marginalized children and families.

We are a non-political organization that is dedicated to bettering the lives of children in a sustainable manner in Fiji.

## OUR WORK

Locally, we work to create long lasting, sustainable change in the lives of children in Fiji by driving change from the community level to government and policy.

We take a holistic approach to our advocacy and programmatic work by working directly on key areas of:

