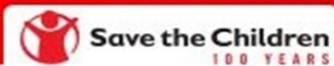


Save the Children Fiji

Newsletter



A CENTURY OF CHANGE
FOR CHILDREN





Save the Children

Quarterly Newsletter
October—December

As the incoming Chief Executive Officer for Save the Children Fiji, I wish to reflect on 2019 and share my thoughts on the breakthroughs we have had in serving children in Fiji this year.

In 2019, with a team of 40 staff and 23 volunteers, we embarked on an ambitious journey to reach many underprivileged children throughout Fiji through our core projects and programs on Child Rights, Child Protection, Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction, Child Centred Livelihoods, Education Assistance and Child focused Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in schools and communities.

We started the year by assisting children to return to schools. Access to quality education remains a priority for SC Fiji and thus, this year, we provided school bag kits to 1520 children throughout Fiji. These children came from remote communities and maritime islands and the assistance we provided has helped them to learn and thrive in schools.

This year, we have implemented our strategic ambition to 'put child rights at the center of what we do'. We conducted a Child Rights Situation Analysis (CRSA) and consulted directly with children who voiced their opinions freely on issues that concern them and had key 'asks' from SC Fiji that would enable them to practice their rights and responsibilities in a more effective way. Children's voices and their participation has enabled us as Child Rights Custodians to advocate at the highest level for and with children and led to important policy outcomes for children such as the national disaster risk reduction policy being more child-centered. Key findings and recommendations from the CRSA has been acknowledged widely by various stakeholders and the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC) has pledged to support SC Fiji to address the recommendations from the report.

We participated actively in country level reporting and worked in partnership with civil society organizations to assess Fiji's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the 2030 Agenda and we commented on goals related to child rights and protection. Our contribution to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes at the highest level are indicative of the need for all stakeholders including the government to accelerate action in communities to meet the SDGs particularly goals that advance the health, protection and well-being of children.



Shairana Ali—SC Fiji Chief Executive Officer

Based on the findings of our Child Rights Situational Analysis, we wrote our **2019-2021 Strategy** which is aligned to Save the Children's global ambition on Children:

Survive: No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday

Learn: All children learn from a quality basic education

Be Protected: Violence against children is no longer tolerated

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CEO's Reflection (continued)

We re-affirmed our priorities in our new strategy and these are that Save the Children Fiji will remain committed to working with the most vulnerable and marginalised children, including children living with disabilities, from poor families, and girls.

These are the children in Fiji who face many more barriers to the full realisation of their rights, affecting their ability to survive, develop and thrive. Save the Children Fiji will ensure their voices are acknowledged throughout its programming.

Child centred research will be built upon to become a trademark of Save the Children Fiji. The needs of children will be further investigated and prioritised, and annual planning processes, as well as strategies must continue to be informed in this **innovative** manner by the perspectives and experiences of children and youth.

Save the Children Fiji will advocate, as well as develop training and capacity building for all those involved in the implementation process of child rights. Through its partnership with the government, SC Fiji will look for opportunities to promote the dual concepts of child rights and responsibilities. The partnership with the Department of Social Welfare Child Services Unit will be strengthened to promote child rights education and positive discipline approaches at the community level through programming and advocacy work.

Save the Children Fiji will partner with Faith Based Organisations to promote and take positive disciplining initiatives to scale, and campaign for the integration of child protection mechanisms within existing community structures. The 'Steps to Protect' approach will be **rolled out** through new partnerships at the regional level.

Save the Children Fiji will advocate for and support the development of a National Plan of Action for children. This framework will enable the National Coordinating Committee on Children to analyse effective policy implementation and to perform its duties of monitoring progress of the realisation of child rights.

Save the Children Fiji will contribute to filling research gaps concerning vulnerable children. This will assist Save the Children Fiji carry out **evidence-based advocacy** to influence the development of child rights laws and policies that recognise sub-national inequalities.

This year, we commemorated 30 years of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC@30) and the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN) to spread the message on the importance of Child Rights and Child Protection and advocated to communities to commit to and uphold children's rights and end violence against children. A lot more work is needed in communities to end violence and abuse of children particularly sexual violence which has severe implications on children's future.

We thrived on partnerships with our key members, namely Save the Children New Zealand and Save the Children Australia and with the support of the New Zealand and Australian government, we were able to advance impactful activities for children in over seventy communities nationwide. As a result, children in these communities have improved knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction, improved nutrition, knowledge and skills to improve sanitation and hygiene practices and improved access to education. Communities have improved knowledge on better protection of children and are more supportive to children's rights being upheld and protected at all times. While we are increasingly doing more, there are gaps and sometimes, we miss a child in need. Therefore, our goal is to ensure that no child is left behind in the communities we serve and we are constantly improving our activities to reach the more vulnerable especially children living with disabilities and those more vulnerable to exploitation due to their circumstances.

Children from our child clubs namely, Kids Link Fiji, Disaster Risk Reduction Clubs and our Child Hygiene Promoters achieved extraordinary and remarkable breakthroughs in their homes and communities by taking responsibility of their well-being and advocating for change in their communities. As a result, teachers and parents report improved attendance in schools, improved learning and improved discipline. The highlight of child participation was when we trained 135 child hygiene promoters.



CEO's Reflection (continued)

This year, we leveraged partnerships and successfully trained more than 40 civil society organisations on child safeguarding and protection. As a result, these organisations have supportive child safeguarding policies in place and thus, reduce risk to children they serve.

Child Safeguarding is still a new concept in Fiji and there is room for us to do more especially in industries where children are at increased risk. Therefore, our priority for 2020 is to advocate to these industries and implement child safeguarding trainings for key personnel.

We spoke and advocated at the highest level through mass media (Fiji TV, FBC, Fiji Times, Fiji Village, Fiji Sun) and social media to ensure that Fiji upholds the universal rights of children. We amplified our voice in strategic partnerships for example, through rights based coalitions and civil society consortiums to demand for justice for children who were victims of violence and exploitation and to resource child protection awareness and capacity building trainings for communities.

Globally, Save the Children commemorated a 100 years of saving children's lives. The 100th anniversary of Save the Children was extra special in Fiji as we celebrated the Centennial event with a charity fundraiser for Children that was hosted by the Australian High Commissioner for Fiji. Our centennial event was attended by our core partners and the public who provided valuable support towards our planned education assistance projects in 2020.

Looking forward, our goal for 2020 is to resource our organizational strategy and work harder to reach the most under-privileged children in Fiji. We will work closely with our Board and our key donor partners to implement actions that ensure long term sustainability of our projects and programs. Our team will continue to champion child rights and ensure that children's voices are at the core of all our project based activities.

I wish to thank everyone who has contributed to our 2019 ambition and I am looking forward to your continued support in 2020. We depend on the generosity of our donor partners, our corporate partners and the general public and therefore, every dollar counts and will help a child in Fiji reach their true potential.

On behalf of Save the Children Fiji, I am urging everyone to donate generously to our collective cause for children and am thanking you in advance for your support. Wishing everyone a merry Christmas and a blessed and prosperous New Year.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) Project

Hygiene Promotion Awareness Training

The Rakiraki Public High School Child Hygiene Promoters (CHPs) carried out a Hygiene Promotion Awareness Training Session with children of Vitawa and Narewa in Rakiraki.

This child led initiative coincided with the global 'Fruit and Water Day' and was supported by Save the Children Fiji and the Ra Health Office. The highlight of the activity was the participation of the children of Vitawa and Narewa villages whereby a total of 97 children took part in the event.

The event highlights the importance of proper hygiene practices like hand-washing with soap and water, keeping their surrounding clean, destroying vector disease carriers' breeding places and sharing ideas with other children.

This activity addresses the WASH project outcome of improved knowledge of school/ECE children on hygiene practices and is supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Students with their banner highlighting the Fruit and Water Day event.



Hygiene Promotion Awareness Training—ECE Children.

Save the Children Fiji's, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Project Officer, Ana Dimate conducted a Hygiene Promotion Training at the Golden Straw Early Childhood Education Centre, Rakiraki.

The 7 participating students were trained with the aim of improving their hygiene practices in schools, home and community.

The Children also developed their action plan on the sustainability of the Hygiene activities in their ECE with the support of our WASH Project Officer and their Teachers.

Child Protection Awareness For Seminarians

Save the Children Fiji is conducted a Child Protection awareness training and Child Safeguarding for a group of young men who have expressed their interests in becoming priests at the Pacific Regional Seminary, Suva earlier last month.

The awareness session is aimed to help participants understand the global context in which child protection occurs and how that is translated in each countries national laws and services. Also helps them understand Child Protection and Safeguarding at corporate level with the professional standards and boundaries associated with them and to improve their understanding of institutional commitments regarding Child Protection.

Most importantly, the seminaries have to understand risks associated with working with children, families and communities.



Participants from the Seminary which consists of Pacific Island countries representing Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the Caroline Islands in FSM, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Kiribati.

KLF Presents During Multidisciplinary Conference

Kids Link Fiji (KLF) Members under the guidance of Save the Children Fiji presented at the Multi-Disciplinary conference on Education in Emergencies at the Australia Pacific Lecture Theater in USP in early November.

The five enthusiastic children presented on the importance of Education in Emergencies and also highlighted some common barriers associated with it. Common barriers presented includes, schools still used as Evacuation Centres when school needs to be resumed, schools totally destroyed as an aftermath of the disaster and loosing of all educational kits one need for a complete school term.

The children also reminded stakeholders present on the importance of collaboration in order to provide alternative educational programs in disaster.

SC Fiji acknowledges Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji for this initiative and for including the KLF children to be part of the conference.



Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR)

Financial Literacy Training For Women's Group

Save the Children Fiji in collaboration with the National Centre for Small & Micro Enterprises Development (NCSMED) hosted a 3-day financial literacy training, in Suva for the Valenicina Women's Group, Lami.

The training aimed to equip participating women with financial knowledge for a successful business operation.

Participants were also taught mechanisms and skills on management and sustainability in ensuring their business is a success. The 12 women graduated with a certificate in recognition of their participation accredited by NCSMED.

SC Fiji would like to sincerely thank the NCSMED for the great facilitation of the training and for coming on board in supporting the empowerment of women in business.

The Valenicina Women's group is supported by SC Fiji, Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction, Livelihood Project through Save the Children New Zealand.



Cash Preparedness Project



SC Fiji staff members registering interested individuals who took part in the Cash Simulation Exercise.

Save the Children Fiji in partnership with Save the Children Australia carried out the first Community Cash simulation exercise in collaboration with the Community Disaster Committee (CDC) of respective chosen communities.

The Cash Simulation provides a better understanding of Save the Children staff members on roles and responsibility in implementing Cash response during humanitarian responses.

The Cash Simulation tested M-Paisa Vodafone Fiji platform as its delivery mechanism and others without mobile phone access received through cash on hand.

The three chosen communities were Narewa Village in Rakiraki, Votua village in Ba and Vio Island, Lautoka.

This project is funded by Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Disaster READY program, of which Save the Children is a member.

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



HVCA Training For Farmers

Save the Children Fiji in collaboration with one of its key Project Partners, Ministry of Agriculture is conducting training in Navaga Village, Koro Island this week.

This initiative is under the Resilience through Knowledge and Action in Agriculture and Food security (KANA) Project where one component is to mitigate farming risks identified during the recent Hazard, Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (HVCA) Training.

The training aims to support farmers and communities in mitigating farming risks in areas including sustainable land management, promoting clusters as basis of consolidating production in Koro and Ra as well as proper production practice to improve production and increase knowledge in pest/disease management.

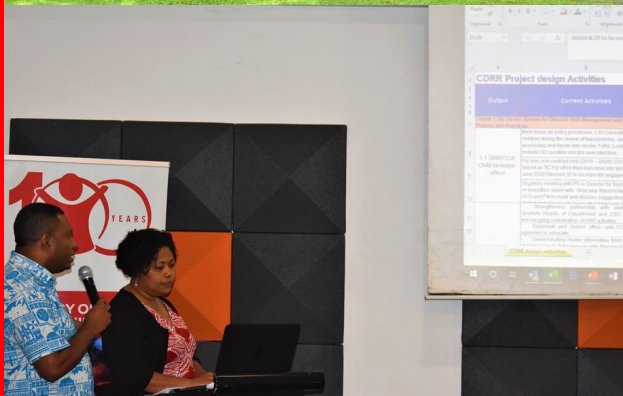
The facilitators includes representatives from the Plant Protection and Product Development Unit, Land Use Unit and Agronomist from Ministry of Agriculture.

MFAT Design Planning Workshop



With 2 days of intensive planning, teams from Save the Children Fiji in partnership with Save the Children New Zealand completed project designs focused on Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction, Child Centred Livelihoods and Child Protection.

These projects will strongly feature children's voices and their participation will be key to making an impact in the communities we serve.



In addition, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) is integrated into these projects to provide more support to the communities and add more value to the project, along with a child led Water, Sanitation and Hygiene component that improves the lives of the children and members of the community.

Other News

Positive Discipline Training

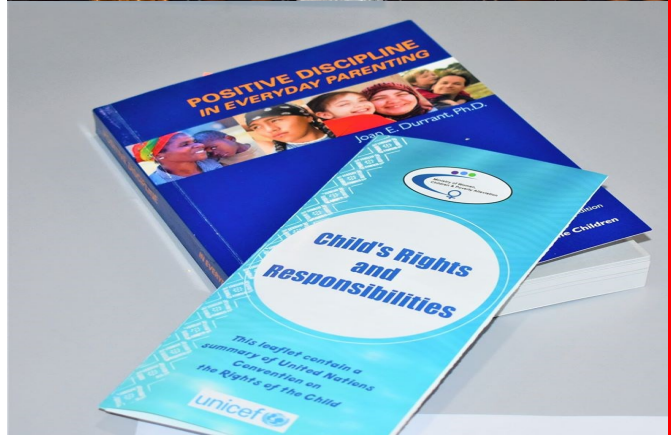
Fourteen Social Welfare officers from the Fiji Juveniles Rehabilitation and Development Center were trained by Save the Children Fiji on Positive Discipline Approaches for children under their care.

These positive disciplinary approaches would equip officers with the necessary skills in disciplining children under care without the use of violence.

The Officers shared challenging behaviors they encounter at the Center and collectively worked together to adopt positive approaches in addressing it.

The training included discussions around development stages especially of those within the age of 13 to 18 years old and in conflict of the law at the Centre.

The officers were also reminded that as duty bearers, it is everyone's responsibility to protect children.



SC Fiji Assists RKS Students

Children from Ratu Kadavulevu School who lost all their belongings in a dormitory fire received school bags and stationery items from The Honorable Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama.

This assistance was made possible by Save the Children Fiji in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts to ensure that every child has uninterrupted access to education.



Educational Assistance

Every year Save the Children provides education assistance in terms of School bag kits.

The kits consists of few exercise books, math's book, stationaries, bag and if the child is in high school a FX calculator.

This year the target was 1000 children but we exceed this number by 520, due to large number of applications that was received.

55% of the Education Assistance was supported in the North. 5% in the west with 45 % received assistance by the central office.

As for year 2020, SC Fiji is now receiving application with a prediction of exceeding our target as more and more applicants sought assistance from us.



Fundraising

**CHRISTMAS
CARDS**
NOW AVAILABLE



Save the children Fiji Office
25 Pender Street, Suva
Tel: 3313178



Register and become a member.

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**



Save the Children

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

Become a member of Save the Children Fiji ("SC Fiji") and support our development and humanitarian response programs in Fiji. Your annual contribution ensures that we can positively impact the lives of children in need.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	AMOUNT	BENEFITS
CHILD (6-18 years of age)	\$30.00 PER YEAR	For child members, opportunities to be involved in forums, training, workshops and conferences at regional and national level. For all members: - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-annual updates on SC Fiji's Programs• Opportunity to attend SC Fiji's AGM (as a non voting member)• Discounts on the purchase of SC Fiji's Merchandise
INDIVIDUAL	\$100 PER YEAR	
FAMILY	\$200 PER YEAR	
CORPORATE	\$1000.00 PER YEAR	For corporate members, one hour of free Child Safeguarding training (maximum: 20 staff)

Your Contribution will support our programs including: -

- CHILD PROTECTION
- CHILD PARTICIPATION
- EDUCATION
- HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Name : _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ Mobile : _____ Work Contact: _____

Company/Business Name: _____ (for corporate members)

Membership Type: CHILD ☐ \$30.00 INDIVIDUAL ☐ \$100.00 FAMILY ☐ \$200.00 CORPORATE ☐ \$1000.0

Mode of payment: CASH ☐ DIRECT DEPOSIT ☐ CHEQUE ☐

BANK DETAILS FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Bank Name: ANZ Bank Account Name: Save The Children Fund Fiji
Account #: 5047761 Swift Code: ANZBFIJX Bank Short Code: 010890

FOR OFFICIAL USE:

DATE RECEIVED: _____ RECEIVED BY : _____
PAYMENT AMOUNT : _____ RECEIPT # : _____



Save the Children