



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6th September 2023

Save the Children in partnership with the USAID, launched the Child-Centred Innovative Resilience Outreach Project

Save the Children Fiji, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), proudly launched the transformative Child-Centred Innovative Resilience Outreach (CIRO) project in Vanuakula Village, Ra, last week Thursday on the 31st of August 2023. This remarkable initiative, backed by generous funding of US\$991,881 from USAID through the Pacific American Fund (PAF) signifies a momentous stride towards cultivating innovative strategies that fortify the resilience and well-being of communities and children across Fiji.

With a steadfast commitment to the welfare of children, Save the Children Fiji has taken a momentous step forward with the CIRO Project. Designed as a comprehensive endeavor, the CIRO Project not only underscores the organization's dedication to the holistic development of children but also embraces inventive methodologies of WASH, Environment, Child Protection and Livelihood activities towards resilience-building efforts with the fifty Project communities and twenty schools in the North and West.

The project's launch event at Vanuakula Village, Ra, exemplified the shared vision and collaboration between Save the Children Fiji and USAID. By harnessing the strengths of both partners, the CIRO Project aims to create a lasting impact that reverberates across fifty communities, nineteen communities in Ra and Thirty-One communities in the North including twenty schools, elevating the lives of children and bolstering their ability to overcome challenges with innovation and determination.

As the project unfolds, Save the Children Fiji and USAID stand united in their commitment to empowering children and communities, fostering an environment where every child's potential is maximized and their future is resilient.

Delivering an opening speech at the launch event yesterday was the Chief Executive Officer for Save the Children Fiji, Mrs. Shairana Ali expressed her sincere thanks to USAID and PAF for supporting the project activities for the next two years. A total of 50 communities and 20 schools from the western and northern divisions are going to benefit from livelihoods, health and hygiene programs thereby improving the lives and well being of thousands of children from these communities.

The Mission Director for USAID in the Pacific Islands, Ms. Zema Semunegus also expressed, *"USAID aims to establish and have a closer partnership with people of the Pacific Islands and definitely here in Fiji. Our overall goal is to support programmes and efforts that chart an inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous future. I see today's event as a way to highlight how we want to partner with your country and with your communities and to deliver good results in our programmes. Through PAF, we have been supporting several local organizations in the Pacific to tackle various development challenges, such as climate change, which is a big one, disaster resilience, poverty alleviation and of course water sanitation and hygiene."*

The Chief guest of the event was the Divisional Medical Officer – West Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Abdul Shah said, *"This is a momentous occasion, that reflects our collective dedication in enhancing the mind of communities, including children. The field project is a significant undertaking by Save the Children Fiji in 50 communities in the North and in the West and 20 schools. It is centred on comprehensive child-focused methodology designed to address the challenges prevalent in remote communities and schools. Today, we are gathered here in Vanuakula Village, realizing the importance of access to safe sanitation, and im glad we're involving our children, our future generation, through the CIRO project teams mentoring and coaching phases aimed at involving children to assume the role of change agents within their schools and communities."*

The project is centered around the enhancement of clean water accessibility, concurrent elevation of proficient sanitation methodologies, and the amplification of hygiene awareness among both children and communities. Within this context, the CIRO organization duly recognizes the paramount importance of establishing a sustainable and resilient environment as a cornerstone for nurturing robust and thriving communities.

Through this initiative, the project endeavors to actively engage children and communities in the noble pursuit of environmental conservation. This engagement serves to cultivate a profound sense of stewardship and accountability towards their immediate surroundings.

The inauguration event itself stands as a testament to this holistic approach, as it saw the participation of children, families, and members of the community. This collective involvement not only reinforces the core principles of inclusiveness but also signifies a shared ownership over the endeavor. By empowering these communities to take proactive roles in the implementation and stewardship of project activities, its lasting influence and efficacy are duly fortified, thus ensuring a sustainable trajectory of impact.



Save the Children Fiji's Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Shairana Ali accepts the grant certificate from the Mission Director for USAID in the Pacific Islands, Ms. Zema Semunegus, as they're joined by the USAID Pacific American Fund Chief Of Party, Ms. Grace Kim, the Divisional Medical Officer – West Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Abdul Shah and the USAID Pacific American Fund Acting Senior Development Advisor, Mr. Patrick Bowers . Photo credit: Save the Children Fiji



Save the Children Fiji's Chief Executive Officer, Mrs. Shairana Ali (standing center with certificate), is joined by her team for a group photo after the official launching of the CIRO project. Photo credit: Save the Children Fiji



Students of Nasau District School pose for a group photo after the official launching of the CIRO project. Photo credit: Save the Children Fiji



Students of Nasau District School pose for a group photo during the cake cutting ceremony to officially launch the CIRO project. Photo credit: Save the Children Fiji.

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