



FIJI

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2023-2024



UNITED NATIONS
FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS,
TONGA, TUVALU AND
VANUATU

Foreword

This Fiji Country Implementation Plan for 2023 – 2024 (CIP) builds upon the Pacific United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 (UNSDCF) developed by the United Nations (UN) and 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). It has been developed through extensive and inclusive consultations with the Government of Fiji and the UN development system in Fiji, including non-resident entities. The CIP aims to define the UN actions and deliverables in Fiji to help achieve the outcomes of the UNSDCF and is firmly anchored to country-level needs and structures. The UN and the Government of Fiji are committed to working together to achieve Fiji’s national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations. The CIP will guide the joint efforts, and the collective results expected will help Fiji to ensure all people are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoy gender equality and peace, remain resilient to existential threats, and live in harmony with the Blue Pacific Continent.

In signing hereafter, the partners endorse this CIP for Fiji and underscore their joint commitment toward the achievement of its results.

Government of Fiji



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United Nations



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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADO	Asian Development Outlook
CATDDO	Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Operation
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCCPIR	Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DBS	Direct Budget Support
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFI	Digital Finance Institution
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FP	Family Planning
FPLAC	Family Protection and Legal Aid Centre
HDI	Human Development Index
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Background

Country Context and Development Trends

The Republic of Fiji consists of an archipelago of more than 330 islands—of which about 110 are permanently inhabited—and more than 500 islets, covering a total land area of 18,300 square kilometers (7,100 sq mi). About 87% of the total population of 924,610 live on the two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

Fiji has one of the most developed economies in the Pacific through its abundant forest, mineral, and fish resources. Like most other countries in the Pacific, the Fiji economy suffered from the combined impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the knock-on effects of the war in Ukraine. However, Fiji's post-COVID-19 recovery is well underway, and the economy grew by 15.9% in 2022¹ on the back of strong tourism recovery with 71% tourist arrivals compared to pre-pandemic levels. The economy is expected to grow at 6.3% in 2023 and 3% in 2024.²

Despite this recovery, Fiji's economy remains vulnerable to external shocks—particularly natural disasters and the effects of climate change. The 2020 World Risk Report ranked Fiji as 15th among the countries with high exposure to disaster risk. This includes an increased risk of flooding and inundation to coastal settlements due to climate change. In December 2020, Fiji was hit by Cyclone Yasa which caused an estimated loss of almost US\$250 million to infrastructure, livelihoods and agriculture.³ For Fiji, managing vulnerabilities through systematic poverty reduction, social protection and welfare services is increasingly necessary in a context where livelihoods and lives of people are dependent on the environment and systems highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The war in Ukraine has resulted in significant indirect economic impacts in Fiji including rising commodity prices, global growth prospects affecting major economic partners, and exchange rate movements. Rising fuel costs, which constitute 22% of total imports, has had a compounding effect throughout the economy and on the price of commodities.⁴ Fiji's 2022-2023 national budget was focused on inflation mitigation measures and the National Economic Summit, held in April 2023, identified sound fiscal management to address critical operational and investment needs and bring Government debt down to fiscally manageable and responsible levels.

Climate change adaptation and resilience building is critical for Fiji, alongside a policy to grow Fiji's blue and green economy. The sustainable development of Fiji's considerable natural endowments must take place alongside the protection of its biodiversity, marine and coastal resources, forests, and seabed(s) for current and future generations. Fiji's blue assets provide commercial and non-commercial opportunities that include subsistence and commercial fisheries, tourism, shipping, coastal protection, research and education, and carbon sequestration. A future modern agriculture is also part of the equation to increase Fiji's comparative advantage in the production of environmental goods and services.

The digital economy and the potential for digital transformation represents a significant avenue for Fiji's economic development and fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. This will require significant investments to improve digital infrastructure and to update Fiji's legal framework and policies. Fiji has the potential to develop 'smart cities' and adopt modern urban management practices. Services, e-commerce, e-trade, e-Government, digital payment ecosystems, and enhanced Government capacities all offer tremendous promise but will require significant investments in digital infrastructure, literacy and skills.

Fiji can maximise its 'demographic dividend' and offer its youth a bright future. Harnessing the demographic boom is an essential component of economic and social transformation for Fiji to recover from COVID-19 and achieve higher income status. Fiji will need to continue nurturing labour mobility with neighbouring countries and partners who open their borders to migrant workers, and with Fijian migrant workers themselves, preparing them for the future and offering opportunities to reskill. This will need to be balanced with labour market policies to address rising shortages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Gender inequality remains a major challenge in Fiji. Violence against women and children and the prevailing discriminatory attitudes towards women constitutes a major obstacle to their full participation in development opportunities.⁵ There is need to build on Fiji's National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls 2021 – 2026 to change cultural norms, target the underlying causes of inequality, and gradually modify the prevailing set of exclusionary cultural norms and attitudes. A central part of this is ensuring more women are given access to decision-making responsibilities in the public sphere and supporting women's economic empowerment.



This includes addressing women's lower labour force participation rate; addressing the gender pay gap; improving the quality and conditions of informal work; supporting women-owned MSMEs; increasing women's access to finance; and addressing the high level of poverty amongst female-headed households.

Fiji has ratified all core human rights treaties and is the only PIC to have ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Fiji has abolished the death penalty in all remnants of legislation where capital punishment was still contemplated. Fiji is considering ratifying Optional Protocols including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. As regards reporting obligations to international human rights mechanism, some of Fiji's reports to various treaty bodies are overdue.

In 2022, Fiji held a general election with a change of government for the first time in 16 years. A coalition Government of three political parties, led by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, was formed with no single party able to form government. Women represent only 20% of seats in the new Parliament. The Government has announced plans to review laws and legislation which restrict freedoms of expression and assembly, to comply with Fiji's obligations under the International Bill of Rights. The Government intends to establish a Law Reform Commission to oversee the revision of laws.

Any national development journey depends on the governance that steers it, and on the protection of the human rights that represent its values. Fiji has an opportunity to continue to ease tensions - generating social cohesion and equal opportunity. A better governance will also require increasing civic space and openness of state actors to interact with non-state actors and supporting Fijian civil society, women's organisations and human rights defenders. Taken together, and with the support of the United Nations, Fiji can continue its path to development and prosperity based on national priorities and the SDGs.

Leave No One Behind

Leave no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity. LNOB not only entails reaching the poorest of the poor but requires combating discrimination and rising inequalities within and amongst countries, and their root causes.

The most excluded populations in Fiji include women and girls, women survivors of violence, persons with disabilities, persons living in urban, rural, and maritime settlements, older persons, single mothers, LGBTQI+ persons, sex workers, persons living in poverty, people with limited access to technology and informal workers⁶.

Each of these groups intersects with most or all the others, with women and girls intersecting with all groups.

Due to the culture of discrimination against women and girls, various discriminatory attitudes, behaviors, structures and processes lead to unequal distribution of social and productive resources among men and women. Despite balanced school enrolment and girls performing better than boys in education⁷, women are left behind in all socio-economic groups due to structural factors such as Fiji's land tenure system that is skewed in favor of men, low representation in governance and decision-making, and bearing the dominant share of unpaid domestic responsibilities including subsistence farming.⁸ The disempowerment of women is reinforced by domestic and other forms of violence against women.

Women are relegated to poorly paid, informal, and precarious sectors of the economy, which are also susceptible to climate and environmental disasters, having a disproportionate impact on women and girls' income and nutrition. In the aftermath of disasters, women face challenges accessing credit services and income diversification opportunities.⁹ Most older people in Fiji are also women, and data shows that they earn less, have less savings, and face less secure employment opportunities than their male counterparts. The 2018 Fiji National Provident Fund Report indicates a high probability of women experiencing greater income insecurity and vulnerability as they age, with many having low account balances and limited pension recipients.¹⁰

Children in Fiji are at a high risk of poverty, with 44% of children and youth aged 0-14 living in poverty, compared to 24.1% of the general population.¹¹ Poverty negatively impacts their development, with consequences that can last into adulthood and limit national development opportunities. Poverty rates have likely increased further since the COVID-19 pandemic and severe cyclones hit the country. While social protection systems in Fiji have progressed over the past decade, they still require additional resources and wider coverage to effectively protect vulnerable populations, including children. COVID-19 has highlighted the need for social protection systems, as only 3% of children aged 0-14 receive conditional child grants.¹²

Rural households in Fiji are more vulnerable to poverty than urban households, with a poverty rate of 41.5% compared to 20.4% in urban areas. Low-lying coastal areas, remote outer islands, and peri-urban informal settlements are the most at risk of displacement due to disasters. Rural populations are also more likely to be impacted by disasters and have less access to nutrient-rich foods. Urbanisation is occurring rapidly in Fiji, with 50% of the population residing in cities and towns, and residents in informal settlements face a range of challenging conditions and deprivations.¹³

Informal sector workers face vulnerability due to natural disasters and a lack of individual protections associated with informal employment. Many workers are forced to move from stable jobs to lower-paying, precarious, and informal jobs. The informal economy is largely unmeasured and undervalued, despite 66.2% of Fiji's workforce being employed in informal jobs. Developing effective response measures

for informal workers is challenging due to the fluid nature of the informal economy and a lack of reliable data on their needs and circumstances. The collapse of the tourism sector due to COVID-19 hit informal workers and enterprises the hardest, with many facing significant losses in workdays and income, and potentially pushing wages down.¹⁴

People with disabilities (PWDs) represent 13.7% of Fijians.¹⁵ Fiji has progressed and can be considered a leader in disability issues in the Pacific including the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 and implementation of legislative initiatives towards PWDs.¹⁶ However, PWDs continue to face considerable barriers in Fiji. About three in ten (27%) of persons with disabilities are in the labour force and economically active in Fiji compared with about three in five persons without disabilities (58%).¹⁷ Of those, 15% have paid work compared with 45% for persons without disabilities. Further, persons with disabilities have lower enrolment rates and are three times more likely to have never attended school than those without disabilities.¹⁸

Although Fiji decriminalised homosexuality in 2010 and included sexual orientation and gender identity in the Constitution of 2013, LGBTQI+ individuals still face significant stigma and discrimination. They are denied equal rights such as marriage, adoption, and blood donation, and are subject to community control, marginalisation, and violence.¹⁹



Progress Towards The 2030 Agenda

Fiji's progress towards the 2030 Agenda displays heterogeneity across the SDGs as illustrated in the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) dashboard below and the summary that follows against each of the Goals.



Source: 2022 Sustainable Development Report, SDSN.

Planet



- Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6): Fiji has made progress in providing access to clean water and sanitation in urban areas, but challenges persist in rural areas and building resilience to climate.
- Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12): Fiji has made efforts in promoting responsible consumption and production, but challenges persist in waste management and reducing environmental impacts of consumption and production patterns.
- Climate Action (SDG 13): Fiji faces significant climate change impacts, and efforts are being made to promote climate action, including through Fiji's Climate Change Act 2021 which sets the legal framework to enable the country's mitigation, adaptation and disaster management actions.
- Life Below Water (SDG 14): Fiji has made efforts to promote marine conservation and sustainable fisheries, but challenges remain in addressing pollution, overfishing, and marine biodiversity loss.

People



- No Poverty (SDG 1): Fiji has seen a decline in poverty rates from 35.2% in 2002 to 24.1% in 2019, but challenges remain, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Zero Hunger (SDG 2): Fiji faces challenges in achieving food security and nutrition, with about 30% of the population estimated to be food insecure.
- Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3): Fiji has made progress in improving health outcomes, including high immunization coverage and declining maternal and child mortality rates, but challenges persist in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – responsible for 80% of deaths in Fiji - and communicable diseases.
- Quality Education (SDG 4): Fiji has made progress in improving access to education, but challenges remain in improving the quality of education, particularly in remote areas.
- Gender Equality (SDG 5): Fiji has made strides in promoting gender equality and empowering women. However, rates of women's participation in formal employment and women in leadership positions remain low.

Prosperity



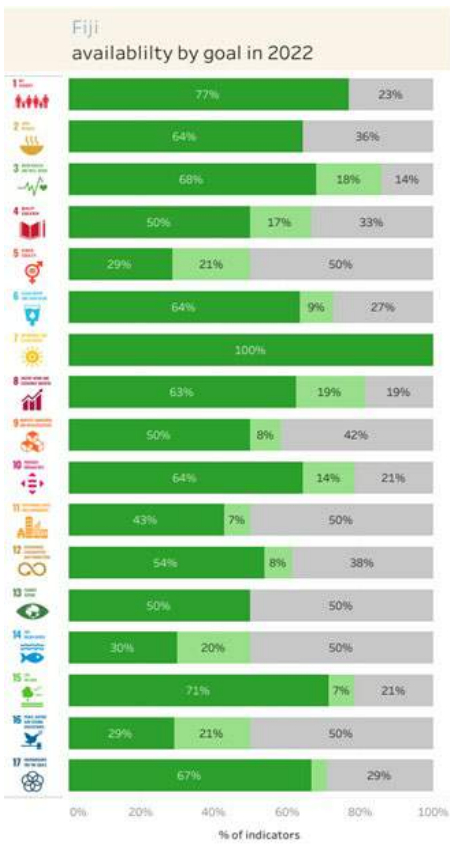
- Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7): Fiji has made progress in renewable energy development, but there is a need for increased access to affordable and clean energy, particularly in rural areas.
- Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8): Fiji has made efforts to promote economic growth and decent work, but challenges remain in addressing decent work for all, particularly in informal sectors.
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9): Fiji has made progress in infrastructure development, but challenges remain in promoting innovation and sustainable industrialisation.
- Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10): Fiji has made efforts to reduce inequalities, but challenges persist in addressing disparities based on income, gender, and geographic location.

Peace



- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16): Fiji has made progress in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions, but challenges remain in addressing issues such as corruption, human rights, and access to justice.

Data Limitations



As shown in the chart, data limitations continue to cloud the measurement of progress against SDG indicators. While Fiji is in a better position than other PICTs, significant data gaps remain in Goal 5 (gender equality) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), each with less than 30 per cent sufficient data available. Opportunities for improvement remain visible on areas such as disaggregated data by gender, age groups, and island groups. Those details will enable a better understanding of equality issues, geographical challenges and age-appropriate interventions that can push forward development, particularly the SDGs indicators that are lagging or need acceleration.



National Priorities and Plans

Fiji's National Development Plan (NDP) 2017 – 2036 - with the vision of "Transforming Fiji" - maps out the way forward for Fiji and all Fijians to realise their full potential as a nation. The NDP is aligned with global commitments including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It mainstreams cross-cutting issues such as climate change, green growth, the environment, gender equality, disability and governance. It is noted that the new Fiji Government may update or replace the NDP, particularly following the National Economic Summit held in April 2023.

In 2021, Fiji approved the Climate Change Act setting the legal framework to enable the country's mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management actions. The Act recognises Fiji is facing a climate emergency and 1) aims to provide for the relocation of at-risk communities and safeguard their rights, 2) sets a net zero emissions target for 2050, 3) sets the legal framework to enable carbon sequestration, carbon stocks and emissions reduction projects, 4) charges relevant agencies to conduct risk assessments and to decide on new buildings and infrastructure approvals based on resilience estimates, and 5) makes provisions for the implementation of sustainable financing.

The Government of Fiji published a Fiji Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy in February 2023, outlining the Government's fiscal consolidation plan to ensure debt sustainability. It notes that Fiji must rebuild its tourism offer with added value, including safety as a defining characteristic, and an essential investment in sustainability and greening the tourism sector given environmental impact concerns.

In April 2023, the Government convened a National Economic Summit which identified priorities for sustainable and inclusive economic development. This included an economic strategy focused on trusted leadership and good governance, climate change and environmental sustainability and improving the climate for investment and business to thrive. The Summit identified a critical need to prioritise human development including in the areas of health, education, housing, youth, women, abuse of children and poverty alleviation. Further priorities included infrastructure and resources for rural areas and outer islands; improving commercial participation and sustainable commercialisation of Fiji's marine resources and the development of land-based economic activities; increasing technology use and development; the indigenous community leveraging its land and natural resources; and water, sewerage; electricity and transportation system upgrades.



Fiji Country Implementation Plan

Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the instrument agreed by UN member states and the UN system for planning and implementation of the UN development interventions. In the Pacific, the UN, together with the 14 PICTs, resolved to develop an overarching UNSDCF 2023-2028 in line with regional strategies - the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031 and the Framework for Resilient Development in

PACIFIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK			
UN 2030 Vision for the Pacific Region			
<p><i>“All people in the Pacific, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent.”</i></p>			
<p>Regional Strategies: i) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; ii) the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031; and iii) the Framework for Resilient Developments in the Pacific 2017-2030</p>			
 Planet	 People	 Prosperity	 Peace
<p>Resilience to shocks/ CC and ecosystems restoration</p> <p><i>Outcome 1</i></p> <p><i>By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.</i></p>	<p>Access and quality to essential services, social protection systems and nutrition</p> <p><i>Outcome 2</i></p> <p><i>By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems</i></p>	<p>Equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods</p> <p><i>Outcome 3</i></p> <p><i>By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity.</i></p>	<p>Peace, Human Rights, gender equality and participation</p> <p><i>Outcome 4</i></p> <p><i>By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights</i></p>
<p>Enablers: Civil society engagement / Innovation and Digitalization / Harnessing the demographic dividend / Disaggregated data for development / Partnership for development & realisation of HR & GE / HVT based financing / Capacity development / Traditional knowledge and culture / South – South & triangular cooperation</p>			
<p>Intersectional approach: Resilience to existential threats / Gender Equality / People empowered to exercise their rights / Harmony with the blue continent</p>			
<p>LNOB: Women and girls/ Person with disabilities/ Persons living with HIV / Children / Youth / Indigenous people / LGBTIQ+ people / Older persons / Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers/ Detained person / Victims of trafficking and others form of violence/ Dwellers of informal urban settlements / people engaged in the informal economy and vulnerable employment / People living in remote poor, rural areas and outer islands.</p>			

the Pacific 2017-2030. The UN system aspires to a Pacific region where “All people, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent.”

The UNSDCF for the Pacific is based on four priority areas: i) Prosperity; ii) People; iii) Planet; and iv) Peace; which are captured in four outcomes statements and contribute to the seven thematic priorities of the 2050 Strategy. The areas and outcomes identified in the UNSDCF are common to all 14 PICTs but the selection of outputs and sub-outputs reflect the specific interventions that respond directly to national priorities.

In-country Consultations

The UN’s collaboration with the Government of Fiji and other stakeholders falls into two broad categories: interventions by operational agencies working closely with national counterparts; and interventions that seek to include Fiji within both regional and international processes and bodies as part of an on-going commitment to South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This ability to merge national knowledge and operational experience with the technical expertise and access to international best practices represents one of the critical comparative advantages of the UN in the Pacific.

To ensure the CIP is firmly anchored in country-level needs and structures and that the role of the UN is responsive and aligned with that of other partners, the UN held consultations across Government, civil society organisations (CSOs) and development partners in March 2023. The UN presented an overview of the UNSDCF and the purpose and approach of the CIP and heard from stakeholder groups on priorities, opportunities and proposed engagement mechanisms to focus and strengthen the impact of the UN in-country.

The Government was able to use the consultations to identify priority areas for action by the UN, and these have been reflected under the four pillars of the CIP. The UN interventions discussed below and captured in the accompanying results framework represent both general and specific responses to requests from Government. It is understood that the complexities of the Pacific pose its own set of challenges for the UN system relating to financial and human resource constraints, requiring the UN and partners to make difficult choices and to acknowledge there are areas where the UN does not possess a comparative advantage to act in the Pacific.

The CSOs participating in consultations highlighted the importance of integrating the UNFCCC process into the Planet pillar, with urgent climate change action critical to the Pacific including the loss and damage fund and ending fossil fuels. For the pillar, CSOs outlined priorities as including women’s leadership and ending gender-based violence; sexual and reproductive health and rights; disability inclusion; WASH and waste management; combating NCDs; early childhood development and

addressing skills gaps. For the Prosperity pillar, CSOs discussed the importance of economic empowerment of women; addressing barriers to employment for people with disabilities; strategic policy discussions on labour migration; and the development of the agrifood system to alleviate poverty and support low-carbon development solutions. Regarding the Peace pillar, CSOs noted the importance of supporting women and youth leadership; the need to address cybercrime; and to ensure accessibility of legal and government information particularly for outer islands and remote areas. Across the CIP more broadly, CSOs emphasised the need to integrate local and traditional knowledge; evidence-based policy making and strengthened data collection particularly on poverty in Fiji. Further, they called for regular engagement and information sharing between the UN and CSOs and increased funding support by the UN at the community level.

Development partners discussed the context for CIP development including rising costs, fiscal imbalance, outward migration and vulnerability to global shocks, and the need to consider this in setting realistic priorities. Development partners noted the opportunity for greater coordination to maximise results, for example around major infrastructure investments. They discussed food systems as a priority area including a whole of government and society approach to combatting NCDs linked to initiatives such as sport. For the Prosperity pillar, they highlighted the need for vocational training and upskilling to pre-empt labour shortages given outward migration. For the Peace pillar, an ongoing focus on reconciliation and political settlement was seen as important for stability.

The UN team also engaged in consultations with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) to ensure alignment in the implementation of the UNSDCF and the CIP with the implementation plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, as well as to support greater joint planning and programming at the country level. This work is supported through the establishment of a CROP – UN Pacific Islands Taskforce and CROP – UN Principles for Dialogue and Engagement.



PILLAR 1: PLANET

Outcome 1: By 2027, people, communities, and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed, and restored.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- **Preparedness for and response to natural hazards including strengthening DRR policy and risk assessment tools and empowering first responders**
 - **Harnessing the sustainable use of natural resources**
 - **Accessibility of climate/green financing**
 - **Labour mobility for sustainable development and climate resilience**
 - **Building resilience in the fisheries sector**
- **Awareness and training in emissions reduction and climate-resilient crops**
 - **Recognition of indigenous ecological knowledge**
 - **Nature-based solutions and the reforestation of coastal areas**
 - **Encourage locally/traditionally managed areas**
 - **Revitalise traditional food preservation and farming techniques**
- **Support Fiji to effectively protect, conserve and manage natural and cultural heritage**

The following areas was also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: transforming the livelihoods of coral reef-dependent communities; biodiversity protection through ridge to reef approaches; and establishing community environment committees.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
UNEP, ESCAP, FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, IAEA, IFAD WMO, WHO and WFP	Including Government Ministries of Disaster Management, Finance, Land & Mineral Resources, Public Works & Meteorological Services; Agriculture; Fisheries, Forestry; Waterways. NDMO, Fiji Meteorological Service, national youth councils, Pacific Disability Forum, Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network, faith-based organisations, insurance companies, USP, SPC, SPREP, PIFS, FFA	21,640,592	16,768,446	4,872,146

With building resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters a key priority for the Government, the Planet Pillar is focused on supporting Fijian communities and institutions to build resilience in the face of diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and to ensure ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored. UN interventions cover four sub-outcome areas and 54 outputs.

Ecosystem and Biodiversity Management

In order to better support the protection and management of the environment and, in particular, preserve biodiversity and ecosystems, the UN will provide capacity development for improved environmental management; the protection of the Pacific Ocean including through ecosystem-based approaches; accelerating flows of impact investment for the protection and enhancement of marine and coastal natural capital; strengthening sustainable fisheries management and increasing Fiji's ability to combat marine pollution and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing including the use of satellite technologies.

UNEP, FAO and ESCAP will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and sound chemical management in agriculture and strengthen the prevention, early warning and management of pests and diseases, including to reduce the threats from invasive alien species to terrestrial, fresh water and marine biodiversity. UNEP will support efforts to ban and phase out the use of plastic bags and polystyrene products. UNESCO will strengthen water management capacities and enhance the use of water for community resilience.

As part of a commitment to increased use of evidence-based approaches and nature-based solutions, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP will provide capacity development on the management, protection and use of natural resources and climate change adaptation through enhanced scientific cooperation and the science policy interface. The approach will emphasise community and ecosystem-based natural resource management and gender-responsive actions on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and climate security.

UNESCO will support the preservation of natural and cultural heritage by implementing priority actions identified in the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage for the Pacific 2021-2025. This will include the development of a regional world heritage collaboration mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and effective coordination with other relevant organisations. Capacity development support will be provided to national efforts to review and update the Tentative List of potential World Heritage sites; to assess geological heritage to promote geoparks; and support linking of heritage preservation to sustainable tourism and land management.

Climate Change Action

UN Habitat, FAO, IAEA, UNEP, IFAD, UNESCO, UNICEF and WFP will focus on increasing the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change impacts including children, adolescents and people with a disability. UN Habitat will help to enhance climate resilient policies and infrastructure for human settlements. Fijian national and local authorities will be supported to implement priority actions for climate resilient informal settlements and further improve housing and urban policies. Fiji will also be supported to undertake urban and local action including SDG localisation and updating the New Urban Agenda in the Pacific, building on the outcomes of the 6th Pacific Urban Forum.

multi-hazard early warning services. UNDP and WHO will work with Government to ensure climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and actions are gender responsive and inclusive.

Further, UNEP will support Tuvalu to develop policies, legislation, and capacity building and outreach activities to phase out the use of HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) to reduce ozone depletion. ESCAP will support Tuvalu to strengthen regional cooperation with other PICTs to address transboundary issues and build resilience. FAO will focus on supporting enhanced water-food security and climate resilience. IOM will support Government on the development of rights-based policies to address climate mobility.

Effective Disaster Management

Supporting effective disaster management in Fiji brings together UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, WMO, UNESCO, WFP, OHCHR and ESCAP.

The WMO will support Fiji's technical and institutional capacity to provide hydro-meteorological and other related services on hazards and risks for development and safety, to empower women working in these fields, and to engage and participate in regional and global mechanisms. UNESCO will partner with the NTWC and NDMO to work with 100% tsunami at-risk communities to be officially recognised as Tsunami Ready by 2030. UNESCO will continue to advocate for the inclusion of culture in emergency management plans and will also assist to improve water security through adaptation and resilience in water management, including enhancing capacities to deal with water-related disasters.

UNDRR will support Fiji Government agencies to strengthen multi-hazard early warning systems and actions. This includes working with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Institutions, Mineral Resources Department and NDMO to establish and implement multi-hazard early warning systems. The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management will be supported to finalise its Disaster Management Act and other frameworks related to early warning systems including disaster risk data governance and usage, and development of comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessments and frameworks.

UNESCO will work with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the NDMO to support the integration of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) safeguarding into disaster risk reduction strategies, helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies through capacity-building approaches. Actions include community-based needs assessments and training, establishing national mechanisms and strategies through multi-stakeholder consultations, and intra- and inter-country cooperation through information exchange and networking.

Under the leadership of UN Women and UNFPA, the UN will focus on the needs of women and children with a particular focus on reducing violence during emergencies and disasters. This will aim to increase the meaningful inclusion of women, young

people and persons with disabilities in decision-making in disaster risk reduction and climate work. The UN will strengthen inter-agency coordination for sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence in emergencies and work with Government and stakeholders to ensure national and sub-national strategies and budgets for preparedness, response, disaster risk reduction and climate change integrate language on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, and disability inclusion. UNFPA will support capacities of the health workforce for prepositioning and supply chain management to meet SRH/RR and protection needs and will intensify capacity development for the flagship Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations.

UNICEF will continue supporting the WASH and education sectors to enhance their coordination and preparedness for disasters. A key focus is improving data collection and analysis, to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities of communities and to ensure the response to disasters is effective and targeted. UNICEF will work to increase the resilience of these sectors, providing training and capacity-building for staff, and strengthening partnerships and collaboration between organisations and stakeholders.

WFP will work to strengthen data collection for food security and livelihoods to enable national authorities and humanitarian actors to analyse the vulnerability of populations and the impact of disasters and shocks. Better coordination and information management will enhance national capacities to respond to disasters, while the provision of common logistics services will ensure more effective disaster management operations.

The UN, through the IAEA, will support Fiji's national and subregional capabilities for the systematic assessment and resolution of water resource and coastal zone management issues to support access to clean water. The focus will be on the utilisation of isotopic techniques and relevant complementary methods to assess water resources in support of integrated water resource and coastal zone management. The UN will also work to strengthen mechanisms to track mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.



PILLAR 2: PEOPLE

Outcome 2: By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition, and social protection systems

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Primary health care service planning ensuring focus on vulnerable groups
- Health-promotion programmes in schools and correctional facilities
- Limiting accessibility of processed foods, perhaps through taxation/ legislation
- Child protection in schools and increased awareness of child protection reporting processes
- Shifting from welfare to workfare, with welfare only provided to the most vulnerable
 - Mapping and extending WASH
- Education curriculum aligned to international standards with E-learning integrated
 - Revision TVET policy to meet demand
- Supporting Naboro Training Academy including upskilling staff, advance teaching equipment and
 - capability of training

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: managing migration from rural to urban areas and relocating schools; home visits programmes for offenders and victims of crime; ambulatory health care focus; food security monitored by provincial/divisional councils and use of traditional knowledge in farming and consumption; and addressing gaps in speech therapists and autism specialist teachers.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO	Government Ministries of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation; Finance; Education; Health & Medical Services; ITaukei Affairs; Youth & Sports; Justice. Council of Chiefs, FemLINK, Pacific Council of Churches, Fiji Higher Education Commission, Partners in community Development Fiji, PIFS, SPC, USP, FNU, national youth councils, women and youth focused NGOs, persons with disabilities organisations, media	19,266,443	9,929,672	9,336,771

The People Pillar is focused on ensuring Fijians, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, quality and gender-responsive basic services, food security and nutrition and social protection systems. Reflecting the UN's commitment to Leave No One Behind, the interventions are spread across seven sub-outcome areas and 52 country specific sub-outputs and represents an area of strong comparative advantage for the UN.

Child and Social Protection

UN agencies are committed to strengthening social protection mechanisms and, in particular, the ability to identify and target the most vulnerable including women and children. This includes WFP building the capacity of national authorities, in particular the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA), to assess

Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) systems for Cash and Voucher (CVA) mechanisms including climate risk insurance. UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen capacities to deliver child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection while UN Women will work with Government and humanitarian actors to ensure social protection tools and schemes pay particular attention to inclusivity and gender.

UNICEF will work with the Government to support stronger evidence, legal and policy frameworks to plan, coordinate, monitor and adequately resource the delivery and expansion of quality and resilient child protection services. UNICEF will undertake analyses of social sector investments for children; advocate for adequate, efficient and effective spending; strengthen public financial management capacities of relevant Government authorities; and promote budget transparency and accountability. Further, UNICEF will work with national stakeholders to institutionalise meaningful participation and civic engagement by children and adolescents in local, national and regional decision-making spaces. UNICEF will also work to ensure caregivers, communities, youth, adolescents and children are better informed, equipped and supported to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices.

UN Women will work to strengthen gender machineries, CSOs and service providers to lead and contribute to humanitarian preparedness and response. This will include ensuring women and girls have voice and agency to withstand multiple hazards, recover from disasters, and increase their resilience to climate change and future crises. ESCAP will provide support to strengthen national capacities for disability-inclusive development and to accelerate the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023 – 2032.

Inclusive Public Health System

UN agencies, in particular WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, will come together to help strengthen public health systems in Fiji. The Ministry of Health and partners will be supported to further develop capacities for affordable, inclusive and equitable quality primary health care services and practices, including in emergencies.

UNICEF will work with the Government, civil society and Fijian people to strengthen health systems to accelerate progress towards universal access to quality and climate-resilient health services that are appropriate, affordable and accessible to children, adolescents and women, especially those in remote settings. Efforts will be made to improve the competency of primary health-care workers, including through team-based approaches, and to build the technical, managerial and leadership skills of sub-national primary health-care teams. UNICEF will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to strengthen health worker engagement with communities, including outreach to remote households, focusing on improving caregivers' knowledge of essential care practices. UNICEF will continue to work with children and adolescents to promote physical exercise and sports, to contribute towards reducing the incidence of NCDs and towards better mental health.

UNFPA will work with Government, implementing partners, other UN agencies, regional entities and international financial institutions to strengthen the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender based violence, and women and youth empowerment into national socio-economic development plans and budgets. Attention will be given to strengthening partnerships with, and capacities of, regional, national and local feminist and other women's rights-based organisations and of the health workforce for meeting sexual reproductive health, rights and protection needs. UNFPA will work to strengthen the pre- and in-service capacity of the midwifery and sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health workforce. They will also work alongside UNICEF to scale up adolescent and youth access to quality youth-friendly and disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health services and information.

Building on assessments of the environmental resilience of primary health-care systems, UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Health to strengthen the inclusion of climate and other emergency risks in health policies and plans. Technical assistance will be provided to identify solutions to improve the resilience of health facilities and equipment to natural disasters, and to increase the use of renewable energy. Support will be provided to update preparedness plans and UNICEF will pre-position emergency supplies for rapid deployment.

UNAIDS will support the establishment of differentiated HIV testing and technology and differentiated service delivery models which include community led and community-based services with equitable access to HIV medication, viral load testing and monitoring.

Food Security and Nutrition

UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP will support Government capacities for climate risk informed and evidence-based primary health care, resilient food system pathways, nutrition policy, planning and financing and the promotion of healthy diets. UNICEF will continue to promote multi-sectoral actions for approaches to reduce stunting and improve the quality of foods, food environments and nutritional practices of children, adolescents and women and ensure household food security. Further, UNICEF will prioritise expanding high-impact nutrition interventions, including micronutrient supplementation, and support the Government in promoting a legislative framework for healthy, available and affordable nutritious foods.

FAO will support Government to strengthen capacities to undertake multi-sectoral coordinated actions to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition, including in emergencies. Efforts will be made to promote food safety education and regulations, food standards and fiscal policies. WHO will support the Government to implement technical packages and policy options to reduce prepartum mortality and morbidity due to NCDs through multisectoral approaches such as the WHO Best Buy Interventions.

IAEA will support enhanced national capacity to utilise stable isotope and

complementary techniques to improve national programmes on human nutrition studies and services with emphasis on childhood nutrition. This will include supporting post COVID-19 recovery of Fiji food systems and the economy through improved local food production and food preservation. Partners will include the Pacific Island Farmers Organisation Network, Rise Beyond the Reef, and Partners in Community Development Fiji. WFP will provide communities with working capital for land preparation and access to improved planting materials, trainings in improved farming practices, and provision of labour-saving tools and trainings.

Education and WASH

UNICEF, UNESCO, ESCAP, UNHCR and UNFPA will work on improving access to and quality of education, across all stages of education. UNICEF will continue to emphasise early childhood education including strengthened institutional capacity to develop and implement multi-sectoral, early childhood development policies. UNICEF will also work with the Fiji education system to strengthen capacity at the national, district and school level to develop risk-informed policies and plans to better mitigate the impact and respond to natural disasters. Additionally, to strengthen equitable access to learning and skills that are relevant for the future of work and life, UNICEF will support the modelling and scale-up of “transformed” teaching and learning approaches, including digital learning, with an emphasis on building literacy, numeracy and life skills for the most vulnerable, including children with disabilities.

UNFPA will work on strengthening skills and opportunities for adolescents and youth to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive rights. UNESCO will work to ensure regionally identified and agreed definitions and concepts of 21st century skills across curricula, teacher education and student assessments. UNESCO will also support transformative education through Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Education initiatives. UNESCO will continue to support increased national capacities to provide quality TVET and higher education and will promote knowledge sharing, South-South collaboration, and capacity support through the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES). UNHCR will engage relevant educational institutions to promote access to education for refugees.

UNICEF will continue to be the prime actor in the WASH sector in Fiji. Focus will be given to enhancing capacity among service providers to deliver safe, sustainable and climate-resilient WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities. This will be complemented by increased support to strengthen institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies to increase access to safe, affordable and equitable WASH services.

Gender-Based Violence

The UN—UNICEF, UN Women OHCHR and UNFPA—will prioritise work to combat gender-based violence including advocacy with and capacity development of religious and cultural institutions and community leaders. This will include strengthening the capacities of Fiji’s human rights institutions and human rights

mechanisms to further support the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender based violence prevention into programmes, with a focus on disability inclusion. Support will be provided for strengthening partnerships with regional, national and local feminist and women's rights-based organisations. Advocacy and support for implementation of human rights commitments related to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) will continue alongside strategic and behavioural change communications and public/media campaigns targeting men and boys.

Technical support will be provided to Ministries to develop and strengthen policies aligning to the UN Youth Strategy 2030 and other human rights international conventions. The participation of youth and their ability to collaboratively lead peace efforts and tackle other challenges that affect them will be promoted. The Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation will be supported to ensure disability inclusion across policies, services and interventions under the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PRPD) Programme.



PILLAR 3: PROSPERITY

Outcome Statement: *by 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive, and human-centered socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity*

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- *Digital transformation including developing fintech solutions, electronic payment systems, digitalisation of the labour market and digitalisation of correctional services records and statistics*
- *Link of macroeconomic stability with peace - externalities causing inflation and supply chain challenges*
- *Improved decent employment through human-centered approach and adaptation towards climate resilience*
- *Championing domestic food production, linked to tourism and transforming from net-food importer to food independence*
- *Creating new job opportunities through untapped opportunities such as sandalwood production*
 - *Resilient and green tourism and transport*
 - *Diversification of tourism sector*

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: enhanced rehabilitation and reintegration programs for MSMEs in correctional facilities; diversification in the sugar sector; and end to end business processes in the fisheries sector.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
ESCAP, FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNFPA and UN Women	Government Ministries of Finance; Sugar Industry; Trade, Cooperatives, Small & Medium Enterprise; Land & Mineral Resources; Agriculture; Rural & Maritime Development; Employment, Productivity & Industrial Relations; Fisheries & Forestry, Waterways. Reserve Bank of Fiji, International Solar Alliance, SPC, PIFS, Oceania Customs Organisation, Fiji Arts Council, industry associations, insurance providers, IT companies, national youth councils, MSMEs, municipal councils, market administrators	7,707,309	5,873,417	1,833,892

The Prosperity Pillar is focused on supporting Fijians, especially those at risk of being left behind, to contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centered socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods opportunities for all. UN interventions include six sub-outcomes and 57 outputs.

Moving to a Low-Carbon and Blue Economy

A UN Joint Programme will advance the SDGs by aiming to simultaneously advance sustainable development with a focus on the digital economy, supporting economic diversification and building greater community resilience. UNDP will focus on building policy frameworks and financing to leverage the potential of the blue-green economy while ESCAP will support strengthened institutional capacity to design and implement holistic policies to foster the blue, green and creative economy at the national and regional level.

UNIDO will continue to promote sustainable energy. This includes through the second operational phase of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) under the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres and implementation of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance across the Pacific. ESCAP will promote the acceleration of the transition to electric mobility for public transport and support the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport. It will also build the capacity of trade policymakers for sustainable development through international trade in the digital economy and supporting regional work on methodologies for the valuation of ecosystem goods and services.

UNESCO will build regional expertise in the development of intangible cultural heritage. This will include workshops and policy advice to provide a better understanding of the 2005 Convention and the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist in terms of their benefits and implications for Fiji. As part of a regional initiative, support will be provided to strengthen civil society capacities to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions through the cultural and creative industries. Support will also be provided to promote, monitor and measure the contribution of culture to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to identify, safeguard and promote living heritage.

ESCAP will support Fiji to strengthen regional cooperation by sharing knowledge, lessons learned and good practices to advance the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway. It will also support the development of the Pacific Small Island States Indicator Landscape to improve national SDG monitoring and reporting. This will include developing regional guidelines and providing technical support to relevant Government ministries.

Transformation of Agri-food Systems

IFAD will work with farmers organisations and farmer-led enterprises to deliver economic services and shape a more supportive business environment including smallholder competitiveness in the agriculture sector. This will include supporting a strengthened enabling environment for sustainable, climate-smart and gender-sensitive agri-food systems, including nutrition and organic food production, and ensuring individual producers benefit from farmers' organisations and economic initiatives through value chain addition and the increase in the value of marketed products. IFAD will also focus on enhancing women's entrepreneurial skills and

participation in agricultural value chains.

IAEA will work to enhance national capacities for the utilisation of mutation breeding techniques to achieve higher productivity/production and crop diversification to enhance food security and better adapt to biotic/abiotic stress. IAEA will also support planning and managing national mutation breeding programmes as an integral part of the national agricultural programme.

Decent Work

The “Decent Work” agenda under the leadership of the ILO and with significant interventions supported by UNIDO, UN Women, UNFPA, ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNESCO has an extensive programme of action in Fiji. Efforts will be made to improve the business environment and to promote investment through quality systems and conformity assessments.

ILO will work to enhance labour markets through the design, adoption and implementation of a national employment policy developed through consultations with Government and stakeholders. The institutional capacity of employers and workers organisations will be strengthened through the provision of support and capacity building.

UN Women will continue to prioritise the improved socio-economic security of women, including those from identified LNOB groups. This will involve working with members of smallholder groups to empower them to advocate for and contribute to gender, social and economic advancement in their communities. Government, local government, CSOs and the private sector will also be supported to implement gender-responsive policies, strategies, and programmes to advance women’s empowerment. Lastly, investments will be made in physical infrastructure, such as markets, to ensure it is gender-responsive, safe, accessible and resilient to disaster risks and climate change.

UNFPA will work to improve understanding of the ‘demographic transition’ by strengthening policy, financing and planning processes and building strategic partnerships to harness the demographic dividend. This will include strengthened national data systems and use of evidence on population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence for policies and programmes.

OHCHR will bring together representatives from key Government agencies and the extractive industries (mining, oil and gas) to map existing structures, mechanisms, and pathways; assess alignment to the UNHR Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; and identify opportunities for strengthening existing safeguards and mechanisms for embedding universal human rights principles in extractive contexts. UNHCR will strengthen collaboration among key actors to support and promote livelihood opportunities for asylum seekers and refugees.

Trade Facilitation

ESCAP will support Fiji to strengthen integrated planning and financing systems and promote policy coherence for trade facilitation. Regional capacity building on strengthening public investment, project planning and programming systems will also be provided.

To improve trade facilitation and border and customs procedures, UNCTAD will support a multi-pronged strategy that will include a gap analysis on customs-related WTO Trade Facilitation Agreements (TFA) and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) measures. In the area of compliance, the Trade Facilitation Assessment Framework including Time Release Studies (TRS) Customs-Business Partnership mechanism and the publication and availability of information through trade portals will be promoted.

Bridging the Digital Divide

The UN, in particular the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), will work to “bridge the digital divide” through enhancing the policy environment for entrepreneurship and business development, including for youth and women. Focus will be given to strengthening institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services and financial inclusion strategies for SMEs. Support will be provided to pilot and scale innovative, digitally enabled, climate and disaster risk financing and insurance solutions and financial markets to leverage digital technologies.

Support will be provided to enhance efficient internet traffic management through Internet Exchange Points in the framework of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Action Plan 2022-2026 (IDD). The ITU will support the development of digital infrastructure and connectivity for health and educational services in remote locations. The Smart Islands pilot, to be implemented in one project area, will focus on digital transformation at the community level. FAO will help ensure e-agriculture strategies are developed and implemented and that gender and youth-sensitive digital products and services are available to support agri-food systems.

OHCHR will provide technical support to Government on human rights-informed economic transformation, access to information, and digitalisation and digital services, with a focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities. OHCHR will also address challenges to the right to information and freedom of expression through increased engagement with communities.

UNCTAD will support efforts to define the requirements and guidelines for the “National Single Window” system including through the development of a National Implementation Plan. Support will be provided for the assessment, analysis and requirements for implementation. Through a series of sub-regional and regional validation workshops, Single Window system requirements - tailored to the Fiji context - will be developed, leading to a harmonisation of risk management processes of border agencies.

PILLAR 4: PEACE

Outcome 4: By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice, and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Building capacity for state party reporting to human rights treaty bodies
- Support community-based platforms for citizen engagement and awareness of human rights
 - Support Fiji Police Force on transparent, accountable and effective mechanisms
- Strengthening Fiji Parliamentary capacity development for oversight, legislation and representation
- Strengthen security agencies coordination and intelligence on security threats and transnational crimes
- Partnership and national approach to preventing trafficking in human beings and protecting the rights of victims
 - Coordinate and facilitate the Migration Governance Indicators assessment
 - Increasing capacities for leadership and decision-making within the civil service
- Support for policy development in recognition of vulnerable people and strengthened research capacities on gender relations
- Cybersecurity framework and legislation and data sharing mechanism including among government departments and citizens awareness
 - Support for whole of government planning including building capacity for a well-informed civil society and media
- Natural resources forums mainstreamed into national development planning and strengthening capacities for effective benchmarking
 - Support auditing and financial reporting capacities of indigenous institutions
- Support utilisation of community-based platforms for public engagement and awareness of those under correctional facilities

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: digitalisation of vital records and statistics such as civil registry and land titles and records; and support existing indigenous programs that enhance traditional and cultural norms.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNODC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO	Government Ministries of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation; iTaukei Affairs; Home Affairs; Justice; Civil Service; Local Government; Youth & Sports. Parliament, Pacific Council of Churches, PIANGO, PIFS, SPC, USP, electoral monitoring bodies	13,547,862	9,596,745	3,951,117

The focus of the Peace Pillar is to ensure Fijians enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security and justice and ensure participation and protect human rights. UN interventions include five sub-outcomes and 48 outputs.

Access to Justice and Human Rights

UNICEF, WHO, OHCHR, UNDP and UNHCR spearhead the UN's work in the area of access to justice and human rights. UNDP will provide support to strengthen the capacities of justice institutions including police, judiciary and correctional services to provide services using a gender transformative and human rights-based approaches. UN agencies will also work with Government officials and parliamentarians on the prevention of human rights violations and promoting international human rights standards.

ILO will provide capacity development support to Fiji on the ratification and application of international labour standards, as well as on reporting obligations. UNHCR will strengthen engagement with Fiji authorities to promote improvement in the protection outcomes for refugees and asylum-seekers as well as advocating for and providing technical support towards improvements to the legislative framework governing asylum-seekers and refugees in Fiji.

OHCHR, in partnership with other agencies, will continue to support the capacities of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and human rights mechanisms. OHCHR will also continue to work with all relevant duty bearers' to increase understanding and commitment to human rights standards outlined in international human rights treaties and mechanisms, and engagement with human rights mechanisms and processes throughout the implementation and reporting cycle. Support will be provided to increase national capacities (state and non-state) for coordinated, comprehensive and integrated reporting on human rights obligations. Technical support and policy guidance will also be provided to the Fiji Government and the Parliament of Fiji to review discriminatory laws and national policies to address, prevent and reduce human rights violations especially on freedom of expression, information, speech, assembly and media.

UN advocacy will take place to ensure high level political commitment for implementation of the National Health Strategic Plan and National NCD Strategic Plan (2023-2028), school health policies and nutrition policies. There will also be a focus on delivering quality, inclusive and integrated child protection services.

Inclusive Political Structures and Processes

The Fijian Constitution lays down the fundamental principles and the framework for the separation of powers between the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary. UNDP and OHCHR will support Fiji's institutions and systems to accelerate inclusive development through responsive, participatory, and transparent governance processes. More specifically, UNDP will work with the Parliament of Fiji to provide holistic institutional strengthening support including supporting the work of the committees of parliament and its secretariat. Further, UNDP will work with the Fiji electoral office to enhance capacities for inclusive electoral processes. The UN will also support the work of the Government on the re-establishment of the Great Council of Chiefs.

OHCHR will conduct advocacy around the 75th anniversary on the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR). Goals of the campaign include raising awareness about the universality and indivisibility of the UDHR and bringing together civil society, development partners and governments to identify future human rights challenges and opportunities. OHCHR will continue to partner with and support the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network and human rights defenders through training workshops and capacity building for CSOs and the media on human rights and strengthening networks. The UN Free and Equal campaign will increase awareness of and support for equal rights and fair treatment of LGBTIQ+ people. CSOs will be strengthened to participate in democratic processes through capacity building of human rights defenders.

UNODC will support the Government to monitor threats from transnational organised crime and work in partnership with other agencies to build capacity of law enforcement and border agencies to detect, investigate and prosecute crimes including human trafficking, environment crime, maritime crime, money laundering and drug trafficking.

Strengthened Multi-Level Governance, Institutions and Processes

The UN system will coherently and systematically contribute to progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Women and girls, including those from identified LNOB groups, will be supported to express their voice, agency, and priorities in public life, and will be empowered to access gender-responsive public goods and services. UNICEF will continue to work with child protection service providers and stakeholders to ensure effective birth registration systems are in place.

OHCHR will provide technical support to Government ministries and civil society on integrating human rights in SDG implementation. Government ministries and agencies, CSOs and human rights defenders will be provided with technical cooperation and capacity building opportunities to enhance their engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review and Treaty Bodies. This will include support for ratification of human rights treaties and optional protocols, reporting to human rights mechanisms, and implementation of human rights mechanisms' recommendations. It will also include working closely with the Attorney General's Office, Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, and other Government stakeholders to enable a whole-of-government approach.

OHCHR will support the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission to engage with human rights mechanisms. This will be part of support provided to the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission to facilitate its compliance with the Paris Principles, to re-gain its "A-status" accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and to carry out its mandate in an effective

and independent manner. OHCHR will provide technical support to human rights defenders on their human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Particular attention will be given to ensure that defenders are able to identify and collect data on human rights violations on the right to a healthy environment in their local communities and submit their case to the Special Procedures Office(s).

UNICEF will continue to support Government to meet their reporting obligations on key human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the universal periodic reviews, and to take forward the ensuing recommendations.

UN Women will provide support to gender equality advocates to attend and actively participate in global and regional intergovernmental fora on gender equality and women's empowerment, including the CSW67/68, the Pacific Women Leaders' Summit, the Triennial Conference for Pacific Women, the Beijing Platform for Action +30 review, and the Pacific Feminist Forum. This will take place alongside ongoing support to governments and other stakeholders on the implementation, monitoring and reporting of CEDAW. UN Women will also provide technical support to partners to strengthen gender analysis and reviews, and the uptake of findings. This is to build institutions with increased capacity to design, monitor, and advocate for gender-responsive legislation, policies, and action plans and to ensure gender statistics and gender-responsive budgets.

UNDP will work to ensure that state-society relationships are more resilient to stressors and are inclusive in relation to women, youth, and people with disabilities as part of its support for strengthened legislative policies and participatory processes of parliaments, electoral systems and constitutional bodies. UNFPA will help ensure evidence generation, analysis and measurement of social and gender norms changes and increased availability and analysis of high quality and disaggregated data on population dynamics, sexual reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence through strengthening traditional data sources such as population housing census, supporting data governance and coordination, and increasing the availability of digital products.

IOM will work actively with the Government to enhance rights-based migration policy and its implementation while also supporting migration governance through enhanced border security and travel facilitation. IOM will help establish and promote border management and strengthened data collection and sharing systems. Support will be provided to increase capacities to protect migrants and prevent human trafficking and smuggling. OHCHR will provide technical assistance to Ministries at the national and sub-national level on managing and monitoring displacement, migration and planned relocation from a rights-based perspective.

ILO tripartite constituents' partnerships will be developed between Government, worker and employer associations to protect workers, especially those in vulnerable situations, from unacceptable forms of work. This includes the elimination of child and forced labour and the protection of migrant workers. ILO will also help strengthen

labour market information systems through capacity building measures and support to labour administrations/inspections in line with international standards.

UNODC will provide technical support to criminal justice authorities to strengthen cybercrime investigations including a cybercrime threat assessment, capacity building on cybercrime investigations and awareness of cybercrime.

Effective Public Resources Management

UNODC will work to ensure relevant institutions have the adequate power, mandate and capacity, and are sharing the responsibility to prevent, raise awareness of, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption. This will include strengthened institutional capacities for increasing access to justice, the rule of law and human rights especially those at risk of being left behind. Additional support will be provided to implement anti-corruption strategies and promote awareness campaigns through media, academia, and communities.

Women and Youth Empowerment and Leadership

UNDP and IFAD will work to ensure gender-sensitive mechanisms are in place to accelerate achievement of the SDGs and increase rural women's voices and agency for full and equal participation and leadership in their households, communities, organisations and governance systems. This will include strengthened organisational capacities and social capital to form, participate in and sustain producer organisations, cooperatives and unions, savings groups and self-help groups. UNDP will work with institutions of parliament to support women's political leadership. In addition, it will provide advisory support on policy and institutional reform to increase women's representation in the political sphere.



Implementation

UN Collaboration

Fiji is served by the UN Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu based out of Fiji and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. Together with the UN MCO, the UN Country Team (UNCT) Fiji provides leadership in meeting national development priorities and achieving the SDGs for the five target countries including Fiji.

There are currently 22 resident UN agencies in Fiji to support the UN's work. In total, there are 25 UN agencies implementing in Fiji as shown in the table below. The UNRC Regional Coordination Specialist provides in-country coordination for delivery on the UNSDCF and the CIP.

UN PROGRAMMING IN FIJI																												
	FAO	IAEA	IFAD	ILO	IOM	ITU	OHCHR	UNAIDS	UNCDF	UNCTAD	UNDP	UNDRR	UNEP	UNESCAP	UNESCO	UNFPA	UNHABITAT	UNHCR	UNICEF	UNIDO	UNODC	UNOPS	UNV	UNWOMEN	WFP	WHO	WMO	
Resident Agencies	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Interventions per outcome																												
Planet	X	X	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X						X	X	X	X
People	X	X	X				X	X			X			X	X	X			X						X	X	X	
Prosperity	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X					X			
Peace			X	X	X		X				X			X		X			X		X				X		X	
*UN MCO Fiji is supported by the Resident Coordinator Office in enabling UN coordination and has physical presence in Fiji																												

Fiji remains a partner country under several UN joint programmes/initiatives. Joint initiatives bring together two or more UN agencies, under a single programmatic framework, with a shared results framework and mutual responsibility for the achievement of planned results. This approach enhances national access to the multidimensional expertise of the UN system to tackle complex development challenges and allows coherent policy advice and support tailored to the national context.

Governance

The Fiji CIP will be governed and implemented under the principle of national ownership through the Joint Steering Committee (JSC). The JSC will be co-chaired by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics and the UN Resident Coordinator. In addition to the co-chairs, the membership of the JSC will include representatives of the key Government ministries; UN heads of agencies; and, representatives of other stakeholders, including civil society organisations and the private sector to ensure multi-stakeholder coordination on implementation.

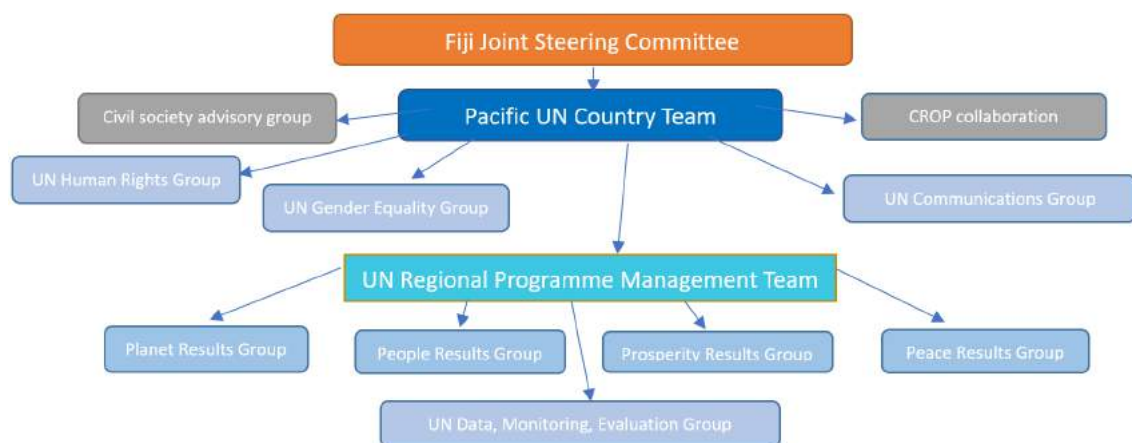
The UN agencies implementing in Fiji will be supported by the UN Country Team (UNCT), with technical and operational guidance from the regional Programme Management Team (PMT), under which four Results Groups (one per pillar) have

been established. The PMT (through its Results Groups) is responsible for the overall coordinated delivery of UN contributions under each outcome and for guaranteeing the application of key programmatic principles in their respective domains. In addition, thematic groups on Gender Equality & Women’s Empowerment; Youth; and Human Rights will provide advice and support regarding normative standards and frameworks. The UN Communication Group (UNCG) will support on communications and the Data, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (DMEG) will monitor progress towards CIP outputs and the Cooperation Framework outcomes.

The Fiji CIP programme management cycle underpins critical processes that both the UN and the Government of Fiji will jointly undertake to effectively deliver on country-level results and comprises the following phases 1) planning, 2) implementation and 3) results reporting. Each phase of the cycle is guided by its own set of tasks and relevant roles and responsibilities for the UN agencies and in-country stakeholders. The CIP cycle will align as closely as possible to national timelines and planning processes in support of effective implementation.

Monitoring of the CIP will involve an ongoing action-learning cycle that takes place throughout the implementation. Since the CIP operationalises the Pacific’s UNSDCF, it is fully aligned in terms of outcomes, indicators, baselines, and targets, at the country level. The JSC, or the technical group designated by it, will be responsible for monitoring the interventions and their contribution to the CIP. UNINFO - the UNDS planning, monitoring, and reporting system - will be fully operational to support joint monitoring of the Fiji CIP. It will be utilised by UN agencies, the Government, and other stakeholders.

An annual performance review will take place during the implementation of the CIP to take stock of achievements and challenges with the participation of Government stakeholders, UN agencies and partners, co-chaired by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics and the UN Resident Coordinator. This will enable partners to make necessary adjustments in UN programming. Once the full cycle is completed, key lessons learnt, and other evaluative findings will inform the transition and changes to the subsequent cycle.



Partnerships

Partnership is a foundational pillar of the UNSDCF, underpinning the four pillars of People, Planet, Peace, and Prosperity, and will be crucial to the success of the Fiji CIP. With the introduction of the CIP, and the rollout of UNINFO, the UN's development assistance activities are more accessible and transparent to the Fiji Government and partners.

The UN will work with a variety of implementing partners, including Government ministries, CROP agencies (including PIFS, SPC, SPREP, FFA and USP), and civil society (including disability, human rights, youth, women's rights, trade unions, employee organisations and employer organisations). Implementing partners also include faith-based organisations (such as the Pacific Council of Churches and other organisations), international NGOs (such as ADRA and World Vision) and the private sector (including mobile phone providers, insurance companies, MSMEs, and FinTechs). The UN plans to engage other implementing partners including universities, statutory bodies, the Reserve Bank of Fiji, Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation, Fiji Trades Union Congress, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, and the Oceania Customs Organisation.

Contributing partners include the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Partnership for Education, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Development Fund, and the Joint SDG Fund. A number of UN agencies, including FAO, IOM, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Women, and WFP will use their own resources. The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative is another contributing partner.

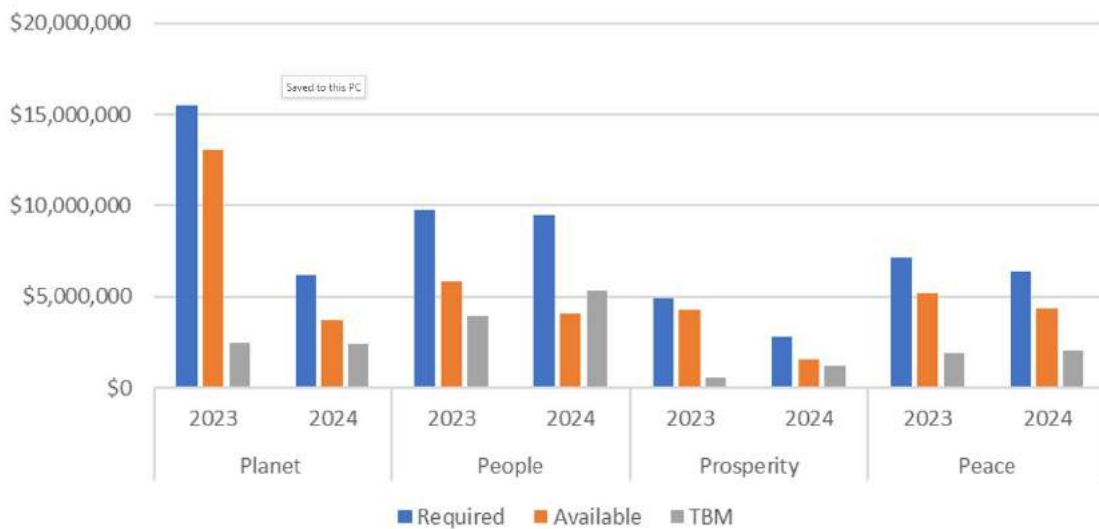
A wide range of state actors and their development agencies, including Australia, Austria, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United States support Fiji's development by financing the UN's projects and programmes. The UN will be actively looking to bring in additional partners to support Fiji during the CIP's implementation period.



Financing

The Fiji CIP tentative budget against the four Pillars and against sub-outcomes in set out in the Annex and summarised in the graphs below for the year 2023 and project budget for the year 2024. This includes UN interventions already underway in Fiji that continue into the 2023 – 2024 cycle as well as new interventions commencing in 2023 or planned for 2024. It should be noted that the CIP budget is more accurate for 2023 than 2024, due to annual budget cycles of some UN agencies. In addition, Fiji will benefit from UN regional programming from agencies including FAO, ESCAP, UNFPA, UNEP and WMO, noting that regional programming budgets are not included in the CIP budget.

Fiji Financing 2023-2024



Fiji CIP Budget 2023

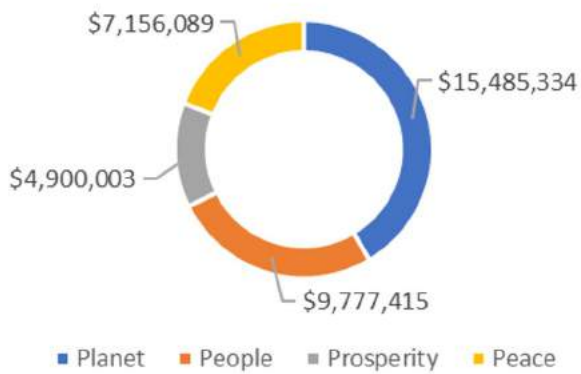
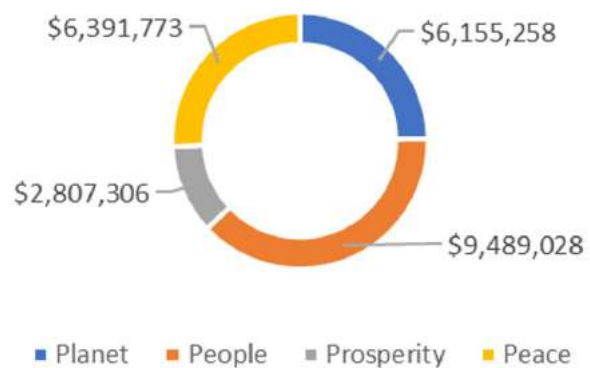


Chart Fiji CIP Budget 2024



Annexes

Fiji CIP Budget by Pillar (USD)

	2023				2024			
	Required	Available	TBM	% Funded	Required	Available	TBM	% Funded
Planet	\$15,485,334	\$13,027,751	\$2,457,583	84%	\$6,155,258	\$3,740,695	\$2,414,563	61%
People	\$9,777,415	\$5,816,632	\$3,960,783	59%	\$9,489,028	\$4,113,040	\$5,375,988	43%
Prosperity	\$4,900,003	\$4,290,057	\$609,946	88%	\$2,807,306	\$1,583,360	\$1,223,946	56%
Peace	\$7,156,089	\$5,234,591	\$1,921,498	73%	\$6,391,773	\$4,362,154	\$2,029,619	68%
Total	\$37,318,840	\$28,369,031	\$8,949,809	76%	\$24,843,365	\$13,799,249	\$11,044,116	56%

Fiji CIP Budget by Sub-Outcome (USD)

		2023			2024		
		Required	Available	TBM	Required	Available	TBM
Planet	1.1	\$4,992,754	\$4,342,754	\$650,000	\$1,379,595	\$879,595	\$500,000
	1.2	\$7,756,628	\$7,541,628	\$215,000	\$2,120,000	\$1,763,000	\$357,000
	1.3	\$2,515,952	\$1,123,369	\$1,392,583	\$2,635,663	\$1,078,100	\$1,557,563
	1.4	\$220,000	\$20,000	\$200,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
		\$15,485,334	\$13,027,751	\$2,457,583	\$6,155,258	\$3,740,695	\$2,414,563
People	2.1	\$707,655	\$585,155	\$122,500	\$664,155	\$616,655	\$47,500
	2.2	\$3,154,445	\$741,250	\$2,413,195	\$3,146,445	\$750,000	\$2,396,445
	2.3	\$1,048,450	\$792,535	\$255,915	\$1,103,800	\$1,008,790	\$95,010
	2.4	\$462,000	\$270,000	\$192,000	\$610,000	\$550,000	\$60,000
	2.5	\$971,103	\$386,141	\$584,962	\$1,159,781	\$9,500	\$1,150,281
	2.7	\$3,433,762	\$3,041,552	\$392,211	\$2,804,847	\$1,178,095	\$1,626,752
		\$9,777,415	\$5,816,632	\$3,960,783	\$9,489,028	\$4,113,040	\$5,375,988

Prosperity	3.1	\$100,000	\$30,000	\$70,000	\$200,000	\$30,000	\$170,000
	3.2	\$581,055	\$581,055	\$0	\$149,117	\$149,117	\$0
	3.3	\$231,000	\$231,000	\$0	\$731,000	\$231,000	\$500,000
	3.4	\$1,368,261	\$828,315	\$539,946	\$1,209,261	\$745,315	\$463,946
	3.5	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0
	3.6	\$2,519,687	\$2,519,687	\$0	\$417,928	\$327,928	\$90,000
		\$4,900,003	\$4,290,057	\$609,946	\$2,807,306	\$1,583,360	\$1,223,946
Peace	4.1	\$1,881,184	\$1,550,435	\$330,749	\$541,831	\$262,000	\$279,831
	4.2	\$220,400	\$136,000	\$84,400	\$179,400	\$50,000	\$129,400
	4.3	\$4,989,505	\$3,483,156	\$1,506,349	\$5,605,542	\$3,985,154	\$1,620,388
	4.4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	4.5	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$0	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$0
	4.6	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
		\$7,156,089	\$5,234,591	\$1,921,498	\$6,391,773	\$4,362,154	\$2,029,619

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- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ *Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality. 2019. Unjust, Unequal, Unstoppable: Fiji Lesbians, Bisexual Women, Transmen and Gender Non-Conforming People Tipping the Scales Toward Justice.*



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