



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu The Project for Strengthening Border Control Capacity for the COVID-19 Crisis 31 December 2022



[Project Information]

Reporting Period	13 months
Start Date - End Date	November 2021 – December 2022
Implementing Partner(s)	UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji
Total Contribution	US\$4,238,306
Project Location	Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu
Project Beneficiaries	Border management agencies and users of the airports and seaports in Fiji, Palau, and Vanuatu
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Executive summary

UNDP launched the ‘Strengthening Border Control Capacity for the COVID-19 Crisis’ project (hereafter, the project), funded by **the Government of Japan**, in Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu in November 2021 as a three-year project with a total budget of US\$4,238,306. The project’s overall objective is to establish the border agencies’ governance systems, infrastructure, and capacity to effectively implement public health protocols while maintaining smooth border services with a focus on Integrated Border Management (IBM).

2022 was notable for the launch and implementation of the project, laying a strong foundation for the achievement of all four outputs for the next two years. In 2022, UNDP made considerable progress, especially in **capacity building, regional networking, knowledge management, digitisation, and mitigation of risks of COVID-19/pandemic** under Output 1 and Output 2, while a series of preparations were made for the achievement of Output 3 and Output 4.

During 2022, UNDP contributed to increasing **border agencies’ officers’ knowledge** of international practices and effective border management innovative tools, such as digital arrival cards and eGate systems by leading three national consultations in Fiji, Palau, and Vanuatu with a total of **86 border agencies’ officers (of which 19 were women)**. These UNDP’ capacity-building activities focused on a **prevention-oriented** approach, incorporating **human security** principles. The Fiji Immigration Department also accelerated the **digitisation** of the border control processes with **15 Fujitsu scanners** provided by UNDP. UNDP also strengthened its **strategic partnerships** with IOM, UNCTAD, and the Fiji Immigration Department.

Furthermore, UNDP encouraged **South-South Cooperation** and built **regional networks** among border agencies, enabling them to exchange their experiences and lessons learned, by hosting **two regional consultations**, namely the IBM Regional Consultation, and Video Bridge. With UNDP support, border agencies strengthened their capacities **to mitigate risks towards any pandemic**, particularly **COVID-19**, with medical equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by UNDP to **seven entry points in Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu**. Over **213,000 people** indirectly benefitted from the equipment at Nadi International Airport in Fiji alone. Moreover, across all outputs, UNDP introduced **gender mainstreaming** in IBM work and secured **women’s representations** in national consultations and regional consultations to ensure **gender equality** in IBM.



213,000 people benefited from PPE, Tensa Barriers, and hydration stations at Nadi Intl. Airport.



South-South Cooperation - first IBM Regional Consultation organised with **53** participants (including **17** women) from Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu.



3 national consultations with **86** border agency officers with increased knowledge of a prevention-oriented approach.



Strengthening partnerships between IOM, UNCTAD, and Fiji’s Immigration Department.



Digitised border control process in Fiji with **15** new digital scanners for use at Nadi Intl. Airport.

In addition, the project implementation identified lessons learned for further improvement of the project and future programming. **Joint risk assessment, risk mitigation, and active risk/crisis communication** are essential elements of effective border management pre/during/post-pandemic. Border management agencies require not only a provision of ICT equipment and its installation but also **national and institutional frameworks** and **capacity-building support** to maximise the use of these ICT solutions. **Digitalisation** of border management systems in line with national strategies should be given a high priority for national governments in the Pacific.

Finally, on 1 December 2022, UNDP held its first Project Board in Fiji where the board members approved the revised Work Plan, Result Framework, and Theory of Change.

I. Background

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. More than 18 months later, the world is slowly accepting that the COVID-19 virus will be endemic – meaning that the virus will be permanently circulating. With regional vaccination rates climbing, considerations around travel corridors and risk management to enable cross-border movements within the region have resumed. By the summer of 2022, most countries had eased border restrictions to restore related social and economic benefits and supply-chain security, which have been severely affected.

Often border agencies have been tasked with managing COVID-19 and related policies at the border, together with a ‘new actor’ the Ministry of Health. However, those border agencies have limited budget, infrastructure and capacity to respond to the crisis and adopt and implement regional/international arrangements and standards, which streamline risk and public health protocol.

With the assistance of key partners IOM and UNCTAD, UNDP proposed to support border agencies, along with air/seaports authorities, to build their capacity to implement international standards and practices on public health protocol and mitigate risks of COVID-19 impact and future pandemics. In addition, UNDP supports border agencies to establish an effective governance mechanism and regional network to meet the expectations of travellers and countries from a health, safety, and security point of view.

The project was designed over three years (2021-2024) and composed of four outputs, including establishing isolation facilities to implement COVID-19/pandemic response, strengthening the IBM e-Government services, and building the IBM monitoring mechanism at national and local levels. The project’s overall objective is to establish the border agencies’ governance systems, infrastructure, and capacity to effectively implement public health protocols while maintaining smooth border services through four outputs: 1) Strengthen border agencies’ capacities to implement international standardised policies to mitigate Covid-19 risks; 2) Provide critical equipment to implement public health protocols; 3) Rehabilitate infrastructure to ensure quarantine facility in place; and 4) Build national and local capacities to monitor the IBM work.

II. Results

Output 1: *Establish and strengthen Border agencies services with the capacity to develop and implement standard practices and policies that reflect global standards for managing COVID-19 cases and the roll-out of a vaccine in a transparent, accountable and effective manner*

Adjusted to International Standards: With support from UNDP, frontline border management agencies, such as Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd, **gained knowledge of the international standards and practices on the Public Health Cases On Board Ships and Cruise Vessel Safety Operating Procedures** through the consultation and development of **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**. This is a key milestone for UNDP to support border agencies to implement the developed SOPs on the Public Health Cases On Board Ships and Cruise Vessel Safety Operating Procedures to ensure **public health protocol is in place at the seaports**.

Gained Knowledge of Innovative Solutions: UNDP contributed to increasing **the border agencies' knowledge of innovative ICT solutions to consider their roadmap to improve IBM** through national consultations with the participation of **86 border agencies personnel** (of which **19** were **women**). During the national consultations, UNDP introduced global good practices and trends, such as **Digital Arrival Cards** and the **eGate system**, to border agencies to accelerate seamless border control. This will serve as the building block for UNDP to help each country identify the best **ICT solution** in national consultations in 2023.

Built South-South Network: UNDP spearheaded **knowledge sharing on integrated border management** between Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu, bringing in a total of **53 participants (of which 17 were women)** from border agencies in the respective countries as well as international partners to the first IBM Regional Consultation. During the consultation, participants exchanged their experiences and lessons learned during/following the pandemic period and **established a peer-to-peer learning approach and regional network**. According to a feedback survey, among 35 survey respondents, **31 participants (89 percent** of the survey participants) felt that **their takeaway from the regional consultation was very relevant (46 percent** of the participants) or **relevant (43 percent)** to their duties in border management.

Activity 1.1: *Share knowledge and provide technical advice to border agencies on international standards and best practices for border control and management that reflect COVID-19 protocols, related risk-based travel and supply-chain facilitation, and considerations around managing gender impacts.*

A. SOP development for Public Health Cases On Board Ships

Based on the request from the Government of Fiji (see Activity 1.2) to determine immediate actions for the pandemic situation on ships, UNDP developed **SOP on the Public Health Cases On Board Ships** and revised **SOP on the Cruise Vessel Safety Operating Procedures** through cooperation with Fiji Ports Corporation Ltd. in line with global standards and policies, such as *International Health Regulation - A guide for Public Health Emergency Contingency Planning at Designated Point of Entry (WHO, IHR-2005)*.

UNDP led discussions on these SOPs with Fiji Ports Corporation Pte Limited (FPCL) and identified the **actions that need to be taken by relevant local authorities and stakeholders** in the case of a ship reporting public health cases on board. UNDP also initiated the preparation of a workshop to verify the developed SOP with the relevant stakeholders, including FPCL and the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), in February 2023.

B. Integrated Border Management (IBM) Assessment for the Government of Palau

Based on the outcome of the national consultation in Palau (see Activity 1.2), UNDP conducted an IBM assessment of the current structure in Palau. The main findings highlighted: 1) The need for the **joint coordinated border management system and end user's capacity development** in line with the key initiatives, such as the **ASYCUDA**¹ project; 2) The importance of **joint risk management of travellers**, including pre-travel engagement with travellers and carrier,; and 3) The necessity of **legislative framework concerning health and pandemic management**, adopting an **IBM-integrated approach**.

UNDP initiated the preparation of a national consultation in February 2023 where the outcome of the assessment will be presented to the border management agencies and action plans will be formulated.

***Activity 1.2:** Provide technical advice and coordination support to border agencies in the development of national and regional standard practices, policies and protocols for ensuring public health is maintained while effectively managing border services, delivering services in a way which ensures access to services takes into account gender considerations and vulnerable groups.*

A. National Consultation – Fiji

UNDP led discussions on the **potential ICT solution to accelerate effective border management** in a national consultation with the border agencies in Fiji in May 2022. **23 participants** (of which **five** were **women**) from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, National Security and Policing (MoD), Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Ministry of Communications, and Immigration identified the **Digital Arrival Card system** as an efficient solution. The Digital Arrival Card system allows for the quick and secure data collection and analysis of travellers to meet health and other security requirements for entry into Fiji. This will lead to UNDP organising a further consultation to finalise the action plan to introduce the Digital Arrival Card system in February 2023.

B. National Consultation – Palau

With request from the Government of Palau, UNDP successfully engaged all stakeholders (a total of **37 participants**, of which **nine** were **women**), including representatives of the Office of the Attorney General, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection under the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Health in a national consultation on 25-26 May agreed to draft an **Executive Order establishing a Coordinating Body for IBM**, which was approved by the President in September 2022 (**Annex 1**). UNDP agreed to support: 1) An IBM Assessment for the Government of Palau; and 2) The establishment of the Coordinating Body to accelerate **efficient border management**. This Coordinating Body will help empower agencies to streamline processes and allow for the efficient processing of passengers promptly, and for the authorisation of cross-agency collaboration and information sharing.

¹ Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) created by UNCTAD– an e-system supporting customs automation and trade facilitation reforms.

C. National Consultation – Vanuatu

In collaboration with IOM, UNDP brought together **26 participants** (of which **five** were **women**) consisting of key senior government stakeholders from the Ministry of National Security Council, Internal Affairs, Immigration, Passport Services, Health, Customs, Inland Revenue, Biosecurity, and Tourism in the Vanuatu National Consultation on 13-15 September 2022. While discussing the IBM National Strategy, participants identified the importance of the creation of a **Border Risk Assessment Centre (BRAC)**, along with related governance mechanisms, including a **National IBM Governance Committee**. The BRAC will manage pre-arrival risk profiling and assessment to better facilitate legitimate travel and trade whilst focusing resources on identified risks in an integrated manner. UNDP agreed to support a **needs assessment of the BRAC**, in addition to establishing the **isolation unit** and providing **PPE to border management agencies**.

***Activity 1.3:** Convene a regional network and cooperation of border agencies to standardise procedures, share experiences, gather lessons learned and consider longer-term reforms to effectively manage the national borders.*

A. Regional Consultations

UNDP led an **IBM Regional Consultation** with three countries' representatives and regional border management institutions (with **53 participants**, including **17 women**) on 29-30 November 2022 to: **1) Take stock of practices and lessons learned** in the Pacific Region, identifying strategic partnerships, and reinforcing regional cooperation; and **2) Encourage the adoption of regional across-border standards, agreements, and governance mechanisms** to maximise the benefits of cross-border trade and travel.

With the presence of the Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, and the Chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Fiji, Mr. Kenichiro Tanaka, UNDP launched the consultation where the **participants exchanged their experiences in the field and gained new knowledge from their peers** (a detailed report is in **Annex 2**). According to the feedback survey, **29 persons (88 percent)** of the participants) felt the **workshop was very practical (30 percent)** of the participants) or **practical (58 percent)** for enhancing regional collaboration.

B. Video Bridge

UNDP spearheaded a **video bridge consultation on the reopening of borders for border agencies in Fiji and Vanuatu** before the Government of Vanuatu reopened borders to international visitors in July 2022. This enabled both countries to **share best practices and challenges for the safe re-opening** of borders while addressing the risks related to COVID-19. In this consultation the Government of Fiji provided their recent experience of successfully re-opening its borders to international travellers with the Government of Vanuatu.

***Output 2:** Procurement, installation, and maintenance of critical equipment and infrastructure is supported to implement COVID-19 public health protocols and standards while managing border services*

Mitigated Potential Risks at Air/Seaports: UNDP strengthened border agencies' capacity, particularly frontline agencies, such as air/seaports authorities in Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu **to mitigate risks to the safety and wellbeing of the workers**, including women, at the air/seaports and travellers through the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), tensa barriers, and hydration stations. **These PPE and medical equipment benefitted air/seaports users at seven entry points in Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu (Fiji: Nadi, Nasouri, Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka; Palau: Koror; Vanuatu: Port Villa) in**

2022. For example, **213,144** users at Nadi Airport indirectly benefitted from PPE and medical equipment in 2022.

Accelerated Border Control Processes: With support from UNDP, **Fiji Immigration Department is now able to process arrival cards in a timely manner rather than manually inputting data.** UNDP provided digitalisation tools (15 scanners and one UPS) to the Immigration Office at the entry points to digitally process arrival cards and accelerated their border control processes. **Digitalisation minimises the contact between officers and travellers and mitigates the workers to expose potential risks.**

Activity 2.1: *Identify, procure and deliver the equipment, systems and infrastructure, including that required for paperless travel processing and online pre-travel health declarations, trade and cargo documentation, PPE for agency staff, and support services including dedicated quarantine, medical and counselling service support required by each participating border agency/airport, including considerations around gender impacts.*

Needs Assessments: During national consultations (Activity 1.2), UNDP identified the **critical equipment to implement COVID-19 public health protocols** in consultation with border agencies, in particular, airport and seaport authorities. UNDP also conducted needs assessments with the representatives of Airports Fiji Limited at Nadi Airport in Fiji in February 2022, and identified the need to: 1) Establish a temporary **medical quarantine room** to isolate COVID-19-infected passengers; and 2) Provide **digital information boards** for passengers to increase their awareness of public health and so on.

Activity 2.2: *Procure and deliver personal protective equipment (PPE) effective to manage COVID-19 for Border agencies services/Airports*

Delivery Equipment: Based on Activity 2.1, UNDP delivered **PPE items** (detailed refer to **Annex 3**), including hydration stations, to a total of **seven airports and ports** in Fiji (Nadi, Nasouri, Suva, Lautoka, Levuka), Palau (Koror), and Vanuatu (Port Villa)². Tensa barriers and digital signage will be delivered in the first quarter of 2023.

Activity 2.3: *Procure and install critical infrastructure to enable border security services/airports to ensure staff are able to manage border services and community exposure to COVID-19*

Support Digitalisation: After entering a Standard Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the Fiji Immigration Department on 2 November 2022, UNDP supported the Immigration Department in **digitalising passenger data** in line with the Government of Fiji's digitalisation policy through the provision of **15 Fujitsu scanners** and **one UPS** for the border management system. Due to the national election in December 2022, the procurement process was delayed, and the Immigration Department will deliver the remainder of the 15 scanners by the end of March 2023. UNDP also identified possible **digitalisation solutions** and required equipment and systems, such as **MIDAS**³ and **ASYCUDA**⁴ systems, in consultation with other border

² The estimated total number of beneficiaries at the airports, including Nadi, Nausori, Koror (Palau), and Port Villa (Vanuatu) will be presented after all deliveries take place in 2023.

³ Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) created by IOM – a comprehensive Border Management Information System that collects, processes, and analyzes traveler information in real-time and across an entire border network.

agencies. The potential solutions will be determined by the national consultations in the first quarter of 2023.

Activity 2.4: *Support and train Border agencies/airports personnel in maintaining critical equipment and infrastructure to ensure COVID-19 public health protocols are maintained while managing a COVID-19 endemic within their respective country*

Training Plan: IOM will design and deliver training once the critical equipment and infrastructure are in place in 2023. UNDP will coordinate with IOM to ensure the results and outcomes of the training.

Output 3: *Establish support services for national border agencies implementing COVID-19 public health protocols*

There was no major output-level progress under Output 3 in 2022, except for a dedicated quarantine facility (an isolation unit) at border management agencies identified in Fiji and Vanuatu. More activities are being implemented in 2023 to contribute to the achievement of Output 3.

Activity 3.1: *Provide support for dedicated quarantine facilities for border agencies/airports in the three focus countries*

- A. Fiji:** Based on a site visit and discussion with the Airports Fiji Limited, UNDP identified the need to establish an **isolation unit at Nadi Airport**. However, since the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also planned to support the isolation unit at the same location, UNDP coordinated with ADB and consulted to support the unit jointly (for example, ADB supports the rehabilitation of the facilities, and UNDP will provide medical equipment for the unit).
- B. Palau:** IOM will implement this component following the Agency-to-Agency Agreement. IOM has not identified the potential quarantine facilities to support as yet.
- C. Vanuatu:** IOM also supports Vanuatu to implement this activity. After a quick needs assessment, **IOM identified an isolation unit at the seaport** to be upgraded. The rehabilitation of the isolation unit will be initiated in the first quarter of 2023.

Output 4: *Establish capacity within independent institutions and civil society to monitor the implementation of COVID-19 public health and border protocols to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability*

There was no major Output-level progress in 2022, as this Output 4 is built upon the achievement of three other Outputs. More activities are being implemented in 2023 to contribute to the achievement of Output 4.

Activity 4.1: *Provide technical advice and support to independent oversight commissions, including Auditors-General and parliaments, to routinely conduct monitoring of national health and border agencies*

and their implementation of COVID-19 public health protocols, including considerations around treatment of vulnerable groups and gender considerations

Parliaments oversight commissions: UNDP discussed potential cooperation to engage parliaments in Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu with the Parliamentary Support Project under the UNDP Pacific Office. The project plans to establish a designated committee to monitor border agencies' work through cooperation with parliaments.

Activity 4.2: Build capacity of civil society to monitor and report on implementation of COVID-19 public health and border protocols, including considerations around treatment of vulnerable groups and gender considerations

Social Listening Project in Palau: UNDP led a discussion with local radio, which is the only public radio broadcaster in Palau and an indispensable media source for the entire population, during the Palau mission in May 2022. UNDP, in coordination with the radio station, is currently considering opening an avenue for community members to report any issues and ask questions concerning border management and/or pandemic-related measures, and for the government to be able to easily disseminate key information in return. This will lead to UNDP assessing the radio station's capacity and discussing a roadmap to implement a social listening project in 2023.

Key Results in Numbers (from indicators of approved results framework)⁵

Output	Indicators	Baseline 2021	Target 2022	Achievement	Remark
Output 1	1.1: No. of SOPs, protocols, and policies adopted to the international standard	0	1	3	On track
	1.2: No. of border agencies personnel with improved knowledge and capacity development on implementation of national & regional standard practices, policies and protocols	0	0	86 (women 19)	
	1.3: No. of regional consultations held among border agencies	0	1	2	
Output 2	2.1: No. of sites where equipment, systems support, and infrastructure are procured and installed	0	2	7	On track
	2.2: No. of Border Agencies/Airports/Ports personnel supported and trained in operating maintaining project equipment and infrastructure to ensure COVID-19/Pandemic public health protocols are satisfied	0	0	0	
Output 3	3.1: No. of target countries with dedicated quarantine facility at border management agencies identified	0	2	2	On track
	3.2: No. of quarantine facilities furnished with medical equipment for emergency response to the global pandemic	0	0	0	

⁵ The results framework was revised with the Project Board's approval in December 2022.

	3.3: No. of border management agencies/airports/ports personnel who has sufficient level of understanding about safety protocols and quarantine facilities usage and protocols	0	0	0	
Output 4	4.1: No. of oversight and monitoring reports produced by oversight institutions on monitoring of national health and border agencies	0	0	0	On track
	4.2: No. of CSOs/Institutions/Private Sectors engaged in monitoring and ensuring efficient and transparent border management work	0	0	0	

III. Lessons Learned

- Having a whole government coordinated COVID-19 response was key to the success of the national-level programs. WHO recommends that national authorities continue to apply a **risk-based approach** when implementing measures related to the COVID-19/pandemic and international travel while respecting the dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms of travelers.
- While the coordination between immigration, customs, and health authorities has been set up at the national level, a systemic approach and **governance mechanisms** for such coordination also need to be developed and implemented.
- **Risk assessment, risk mitigation** and **active risk/crisis communication** are essential elements of effective border management pre,during, and post-pandemic. National agencies need to cooperate and coordinate better for the risks assessments and set the system for the joint risks assessment.
- **Digitalisation** and **modernisation** of border management systems and services need to be a priority for national governments. But such processes should be well aligned with the national strategies on digitalisation and engage other, non-traditional border management actors in its design and development, for instance, the following thematic ministries: communication, national development, local governments, and others.
- Only a provision of ICT equipment and its installation with national agencies is not a sustainable solution. Border management agencies require **national and institutional frameworks** and **capacity-building support** to maximise the use of these ICT solutions. Each country needs to have its assessment and analysis of the business requirement and needs, which will provide a basis for evidence-based solutions in the areas of border management. Such solutions should be based on wide consultations at the senior and middle-level, and operational levels of each national agency involved. It will help ensure that the solution considers the needs, capacities, and practices.

IV. Way Forward

With UNDP's strong capacity and experience in governance support, UNDP will facilitate national consultations to build IBM governance systems through coordination with border management agencies. For the next step, UNDP will consult further to improve and strengthen border agency's capacities to establish **joint risk assessment mechanisms** and **inter-agency coordination structure** to respond to future pandemics.

UNDP also coordinates with other international partners, such as IOM, UNCTAD, WHO, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC), and Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) to support developing **new IBM strategies and action plans** and identifying possible best solutions, including digital solution, such as MIDAS and ASYCUDA, to build effective border management systems.

In addition, UNDP will provide the necessary expertise to ensure cross-cutting issues, such as respect for **human rights, gender sensitivity and mainstreaming, and youth empowerment, to the IBM legal frameworks, policies, systems, and mechanisms.**

V. Financial Status⁶

Output	Budget (USD) 2022	Expenditure including Commitments	Delivery Rate (%)	Remark
Output 1	257,000.00	248,285.38	97%	
Output 2	350,519.00	330,680.48	94%	
Output 3	12,222.00	1,875.00	15%	
Output 4	11,250.00	8,250.00	73%	
Effective Technical Advisory & Project Management	294,935.00	248,999.62	84%	
GMS (8%)	74,074.00	42,288.22	57%	
Total	1,000,000.00	880,378.70	88%	

VI. Human Interest Story and Visibility Achievements

This section showcase human interest story and visivity achievements.

1. Showcase at least one Human Interest Story focusing on **Human Security**.

⁶ *Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.*

"Prior to COVID-19, we had nothing in place should an event such as a pandemic occur. The equipment donated by the Government of Japan not only protected incoming passengers but also helped in keeping our operations teams at our ports protected against the virus," said Jope Serea, Risk and Compliance Analyst at Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (Fiji Ports).



Fiji Ports and UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji attended a handover ceremony of PPE in October 2022.

With thanks to the Government of Japan, via UNDP's Strengthening Border Control Capacity Project, Fiji Ports staff are now dealing well with COVID-19 risks and are better prepared for a future pandemic. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the value of US\$25,000, including masks and Rapid Antigen Tests donated by the Government of Japan strengthened the safety of both the port's operations team and incoming passengers.

The impact of donated PPE was significant. When COVID-19 first hit Fiji in March 2020, the country's border management agencies found themselves unprepared to deal with a pandemic. The situation was particularly concerning for Fiji's tourism industry, with cruise tourism alone contributing US\$21.4 million directly to the Fijian economy prior to COVID-19.

This support provided by the Government of Japan also has a broader implication across the Pacific for safety measures and business continuity amid the global pandemic.

Captain Laisiasa Gonewai, who has served as a ship captain with Fiji Ports for over 20 years, added, "*The Pacific region is now taking its cue from Fiji, in regard to our processes and practices around COVID safety at ports. It's an industry that is vitally important to our economy, so to have been provided with essential PPE this ensured business continuity for us at Fiji Ports.*"



With donated PPE from the Government of Japan, Fiji Ports Operations staff are using masks for protection against COVID-19.

Moving forward, UNDP is supporting Fiji Ports through the revision of the Standard Operating Procedures on Public Health Cases on Board Ships in line with global standards and policies to strengthen long-term measures against any future pandemic and enhance preparedness.

As the world continues to grapple with the global pandemic, Fiji's experience offers valuable lessons for other nations in the region on the importance of being prepared for the unexpected.

2. Showcase CO's effort on visibility of the project including relevant copies of media coverage, publications, etc. (i.e. pictures, screenshots of twitter/social media outreach, etc)

February 2022 - [Initiative towards resilient integrated border management takes off](#)

May 2022 - [Strengthening Pacific partnership in re-opening of borders](#)

June 2022 - [Palau looks at improving border management](#)

November 2022 - [Regional Border Management Meeting to take place in Denarau](#)

November 2022 - [Regional Integrated Border Management Meeting opens in Nadi, Fiji](#)

December 2022 - [Personal protective equipment delivery to strengthen border management in Palau](#)

VII. Annex:

1. Executive Order No. 475
2. Report – Regional Consultations on Practices and Lessons Learned on Integrated Border Management and COVID-19 Response
3. List of PPE Medical Equipment provided by UNDP to 7 Air-Sea Ports in Fiji, Palau, and Vanuatu
4. Social Media Content