



EUROPEAN UNION



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations | Association Des Ongs Desiles Du Pacifique



A very Happy New Year from the UNDP Vaka Pasifika team to yourself and families.

As we kick-start 2023, we decided to look back, take stock of what was accomplished over the last months and plan ahead.

The Vaka Pasifika Project 2022 in Review



One project
 15 countries
 More than 30 initiatives
 More than 1000 participants
 More than 12 workshops
 More than 7 budget guides

Here are some of the year's highlights:

It was a first for many Parliaments, Supreme Audit Institutions, civil society organisations and Ministries of Finances when in May 2022 they convened Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga and Marshall Islands at the invitation of the Pacific Alliance of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO) in May 2022. their insights at the regional level. Their learnings, shared during two regional events, were featured and informed recommendations at the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum in August 2022 as well as during global World Bank, International Budget Partnership and OECD events;

Supreme Audit Institutions secured additional 2million USD in donor funding for national level activities thanks to the support of the Vaka Pasifika project. Auditors General and their staff gathered for a first technical meeting in Nadi to examine the topic of planning and communicating around sensitive audits and reviewed the most recent UNDP publications on debt management, crisis recovery and Constituency Funds.

Parliaments continued to expand their budget oversight in Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji thanks to a flagship partnership between Pacific parliaments facilitated by UNDP. The initiative, featured by the OECD Innovation awards, provides reliable independent budget analysis to members of parliaments. UNDP's support continued to enable feature budget brief on climate change allocations and dissemination of the analysis to civil society organisations

200 visitors were welcomed to an exhibition of 50 illustrations, photography and country stories in Suva in May 2022 to mark the closure of the PFM project. Featuring hosts from 7 countries across the Pacific, the exhibition enabled students, visitors and partners to connect with recent developments and lessons learnt during the pandemic.

158 Pacific developers and aspiring developers took part in the first ever Pacific wide hackathon to amplify Pacific voices on accountability. Working with our partner the Pacific Internet Society (PICISOC), the ahava project, which supports homeless youth in Fiji, facilitated the participation of 20 of their members to the event exposing them to coding, social entrepreneur challenges and competitions.

3 common "dreams" were adopted by 24 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories of the PIANGO network in their first face-to-face council meeting since 2016, namely accessible public finance information for all, formal accountability and participation mechanisms in all pacific countries and citizen-centered budgets.

The Vaka Pasifika public finance e-learning course was launched for all after being tested by more than 300 participants across parliaments, supreme audit institutions, civil society and artist illustrators. It was adopted by the Fiji Public Service Commission as a foundation course for all civil servants in Fiji and incorporates modules on climate change, gendered analysis of the budget and budget advocacy for CSOs.

The “**Accountable Public Finances to serve Pacific people – Vaka Pasifika**” project aims to strengthen the governance mechanisms enabling Pacific countries to deliver calibrated public services to meet specific needs of the people. Funded by the European Union until 2026, the USD 6.5 million project’s focus is to ensure that scarce Pacific resources are better managed and the base available for achieving national development goals will be increased. This will require PIC economies to establish stable and reliable regulations implementing the right mix of creativity and rigor informed by ground reality.

The project builds onto the results of the Strengthening Public Finance Management and Governance project implemented from 2018 to 2022.



While doing this in the last year, we were:



Giving full attention to gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Our gendered analysis of the budget module shares insights about what we’ve learn providing gender briefs on the budgets to Parliaments for the past 5years for instance. Recognizing the need to address the challenge of gender-blinded public policies, including public finance, as barriers for women to gain full access to their civic, social and economic rights



Working with Pacific artists, illustrators, graphics designers, theater groups and embroidery experts to build their capacities to simplify and support communication on public finance management – because public finance is not only for experts;



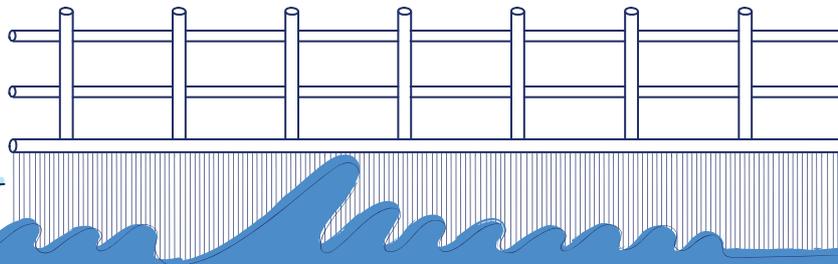
Producing promotional and communication multimedia materials for the media – our joint piece with the internet society was printed or quoted in 5 different countries;



Mobilizing citizens to understand and actively participate in budgeting process and reinforcing the work done by multiple development projects in the region on advocacy capacity strengthening, integrating budget process into advocacy and lobbying strategies



Developing key strategic relationships in several Pacific Islands to open new avenues for access to information and timely consultations



All of this would not have been possible without each and every one of you. We thank you for the continued support and look forward to the continuation of the implementation of the Vaka Pasifika project in 2023.

Don't hesitate to contact us at undp.pfm@undp.org if you'd like to know more.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your beloved ones a free, accountable and enjoyable 2023!

The Vaka Pasifika team

