



19 October 2021

Introduction

The UNDP Gov4Res project hosted a Project Board Meeting on 19 October 2021, with government representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and donor partners and representatives from the Australian, New Zealand, Korean and Swedish Governments. The main objectives of the board meeting were to confirm the project's strategic priorities and approve the 2021/2022 Annual Report. During the talanoa sessions, it was also proposed and confirmed that the project will partner with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) to support work on climate finance through the PIFS Resilience Team.

The accompanying Annual Report 2021/2022 includes the updated workplan reflecting the board meeting discussions.

Project Management and COVID-19 Pandemic Context



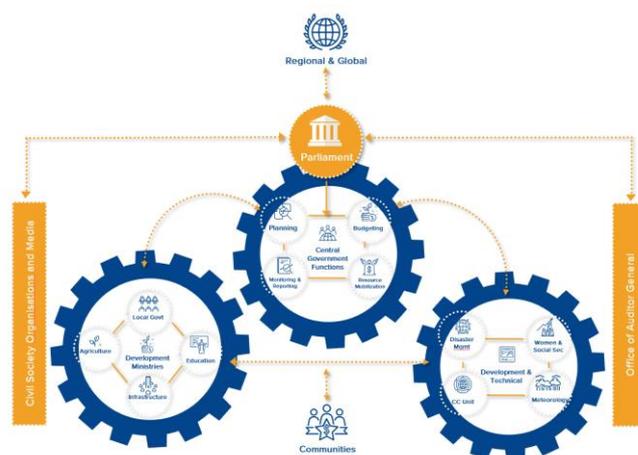
Key Discussions

- Gov4Res had underspent in the last financial year due to COVID-19. The project team has been working individually with each of its donors to delay and adjust payments, and collectively **adjust the planned budgets and targets**.
- The significant and ongoing impact from the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated an **adjustment to the implementation strategy**, which focused on partnerships and mobilising activities through partnerships at country level. Major achievements reflecting the adjusted implementation strategy include:
 - Launch of the Small Grants Initiative (SGI)** - 180 applications received, of which 67 have been shortlisted for full proposal development stage. The SGI accounts for a total investment of about USD2.2 million
 - Partnerships in 7 countries**, particularly with Ministries of Finance and local government.
- The **project mid-term review** is scheduled for the second half of 2022 (delayed due to the approved extension of the project to December 2025 during the last board meeting). This external evaluation will provide an opportunity for project stakeholders, government, donors, regional partners **to shape the design of the remaining project period, and any subsequent phases or partnerships**.
- UNDP have initiated the process to engage the **replacement of Gov4Res Project Manager**. In the interim, the Deputy Project Manager will be acting in the position.

Decision Points

- Adjusted Project Document.** The board endorsed the projects request to update the Gov4Res Project Document to reflect the adjusted budgets and targets.

Country Priorities



Key Discussions

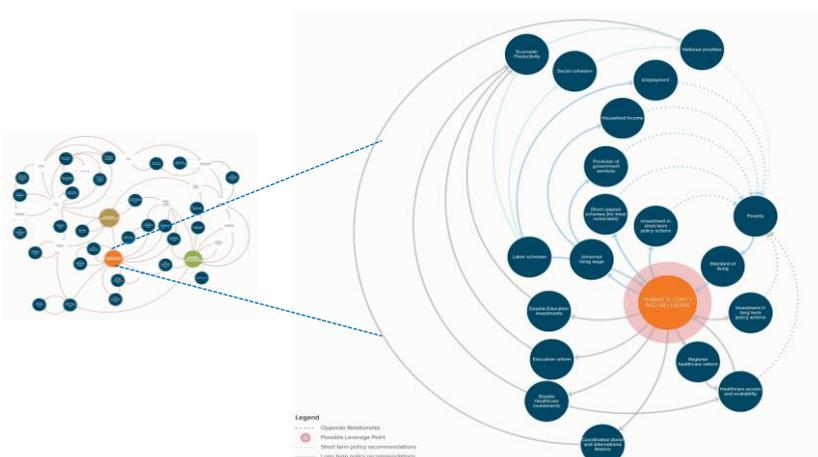
- During this session, each country presented on their respective risk informed development context, and collaboration with the project.
- Government stakeholders expressed the need to **strengthen risk integration into budgeting and planning**. Major work undertaken on this front included development of (i) climate budget typologies (Fiji, Tonga) and (ii) risk screening toolkits for project appraisals (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu).
- Outcomes related to strengthening national development planning and budgeting also included **establishment of new units (Tonga RDFD and Fiji PDU)¹ and establishment of new positions** Fiji and Tonga. Countries including Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have expressed interest in replicating these activities.
- Tuvalu Ministry of Finance highlighted support to **scrutinise budget submissions** through use of risk screening tools.
- Fiji Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development outlined the need for **community development planning processes to be aligned with national planning**. The efforts of sub-government partnering with industry experts to risk inform community development projects was reflected during the presentation of risk informed community projects. The critical role of sub-national government was reinforced by representatives from Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the latter of whom outlined Planning and Monitoring Guidelines for Community Development projects.
- All countries expressed **interest in peer-to-peer learning opportunities** to discuss risk informing development best practices. A few countries also highlighted their desire for support with accessing climate finance. It was clarified that Gov4Res can assist with risk informing development finance but is not a traditional readiness or climate finance project.

Decision Points

- **Letters of Agreement** to be signed between Gov4Res and Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and other countries as reflected in the project workplan for 2021/2022.

¹ RDFD – Resilient Development Financing Division; PDU – Project Development Unit

Strategic Priorities (Regional/Global)



Key Discussions

- During this session, regional and international organisations were asked to respond or react to what they heard from the countries in the last session. We had inputs from PIFS, SPC, Green Climate Fund, UN Women and FCDO. Reflections shared by each organisation are as follows:
 - i. GCF expressed interest to learn more about what they could do differently in response to concerns around access to climate finance. They also acknowledged that the Climate Finance research provided an avenue to have discussions around potential solutions
 - ii. FCDO expressed interest in supporting the Gov4Res project as part of their seven-year Indo-Pacific Pacific Adaptation and Resilience program
 - iii. UN Women shared opportunities for potential partnerships to mainstream GESI into national, sub-national, sectoral and community planning and budgeting systems. Their support is extended through the Women's Resilience to Disasters Programme in the Pacific.
 - iv. PIFS shared the importance of other actors crucial to the resilience agenda to be involved within the project, as the conversation of risk-informing development needs to be cascaded throughout all levels of planning.
- All regional organisations emphasised on the need for more joint regional programming on climate finance, which includes facilitation of information sharing (talanoa), institutional and policy reforms, and research. PIFS had proposed for the project will partner with the Pacific Islands Forum to support work on climate finance through the PIFS Resilience Team, including the Technical Working Group on Climate Finance and PFM and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).

Decision Points

- **Formalisation of partnership** – the board endorsed the request of the Pacific Islands Forum for Gov4Res to be a partner in undertaking climate finance work through the PIFS Resilience team (including support to the Technical Working Group on Climate Finance and PFM and the FRDP).