Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion (REACH) for Rural and Urban Fijians Project

The key purpose of the REACH project is to promote peace building, social cohesion and inclusiveness through awareness of rights, access to services, provision of legal advice and institutional capacity building in Fiji.

The REACH project is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the empowerment of women and girls (SDG5) and the promotion of a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (SDG16).

The REACH project will support the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission on the following two components:

- To improve awareness and service delivery to people in urban informal and rural communities in the areas for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation of people’s right to social and economic wellbeing; and for the Legal Aid Commission in the area of people’s right to justice, focusing on legal aid.
- To support research and analysis for evidence based policy making.

The REACH project aims to accomplish the following key results:

- Increased awareness in urban informal and rural communities of constitutional rights in the areas of social and economic wellbeing and justice, focusing on legal aid, through the provision of mobile teams.
- Enhanced delivery of the services provided by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission through the provision of mobile teams visiting urban informal and rural communities.
- Strengthened capacity of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Legal Aid Commission through support to strategic planning, monitoring of results and support of coordination for effective and coordinated service delivery to urban informal and rural communities.
- Policy making informed and based on evidence through research and analysis on the relevant areas related to the empowerment of women and girls, promotion of peaceful...
and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

Result from the Pilot Implementation in 2015 (September – December)

- Pilot location: All three provinces of the Northern Division (Macuata, Bua and Cakaudrove), 10 of the 37 Districts in the Northern Division.
- 48 villages and settlements and 1,127 people (464 women, 507 men and 156 children) reached out by the mobile team.
- 729 services provided to these villages and settlements by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Legal Aid Commission.
- The project supported the Fiji National Women’s Expo 2015 in Suva organized by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation from 14-16 October 2015. Information and awareness sessions conducted before and during the Expo reached 201 people (Women: 199; Men: 2) and Radio Talk Shows undertaken reached audiences from across Fiji.

From left: H.E. Mr. Takuji Hanatani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan; The Hon. Rosy Sofia Akbar, Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation; Akiko Fujii, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative; Mr Sunil Sharma, Director, Legal Aid Commission.

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