

PROJECT Governance

THE WEEK'S INSIGHT

10 June, 2024



Participants of the workshop during the event

PPAC's Regional Disability Inclusion Event Highlights Achievements in Kosrae, FSM

28-30 May

From May 28 to 30, the Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) held a Regional Disability Inclusion host exchange in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This significant event, organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the FSM National Government and the Kosrae State Government, was supported by USAID Pacific Islands through #PROJECTGovernance and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through Pacific Women Lead at SPC.

(Continued on page 2)

The event was marked by notable achievements that reflect progress in disability inclusion in the region. During the official opening ceremony, the Governor of Kosrae State, T.H. Tulensa W. Palik, signed two important documents:

1. Executive Order #03-24: This order established the Kosrae State Disability Taskforce, which will oversee the implementation of the Kosrae State Disability Act. This achievement was an advocacy success for the PPAC grantee, the Kosrae Special Parent Network.
2. State Law No. 13-77: This law introduced a new public holiday on December 3, designated as “Kosrae Disability Day,” to commemorate International Disability Day. This move demonstrated significant ownership and commitment from the state government, a result of SPC’s influence.

These actions highlight the collaborative efforts between various organisations and governments to advance disability inclusion in the Pacific region. The establishment of the Kosrae State Disability Taskforce and the new public holiday represent substantial strides toward recognising and supporting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Kosrae.



Presentation by Melino Moe Ofa Women’s Development Group member

So what?

From the perspective of #PROJECTGovernance, these achievements underscore the transformative impact of strategic support and collaboration in fostering inclusive governance. The establishment of the Kosrae State Disability Taskforce and the recognition of International Disability Day through a new public holiday are tangible outcomes that reflect the commitment to inclusive policies and practices. These milestones not only improve the lives of individuals with disabilities but also set a precedent for other regions to follow. By supporting initiatives like these, #PROJECTGovernance is helping to build more inclusive, equitable, and resilient communities throughout the Pacific.



The Department of Public Works representative participates in a joint planning session with members of the Lamalalmita Community Development Committee. The priority discussed was public road maintenance for the Lamalalmita community. Standing is Central Tanna Area Administrator, John Bill lamul.

Five more community development committees interface with sector agencies of government



27-28 May 2024

Under the PROJECT Governance initiative, CARE International in Vanuatu's Inclusive Governance project facilitated the second interface meeting between Community Development Committees and provincial representatives of government sector agencies in Ikapou village, Central Tanna Area Council on 27 and 28 May.

A total of 131 of which 49 were male and 75 were female participated in the event. Among them were seven persons with disabilities- one woman and six men.

Participants included executives (chairs, vice-chairs, treasurers and secretaries) and sector representatives of five local development committees, namely, Louakal Development Committee; Dayspring Development Committee; Lamalalmita Development Committee; Lamanaouk Development Committee; and Ikapou Development Committee.

From the Vanuatu Government, there were four provincial officers from the Department of Water, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Public Works.

The interface meeting is a key component of the Community Score card approach that CARE is implementing in Central Tanna as part of the PROJECT Governance initiative. This is the space for the people (service users) and government (service providers) to have a face-to-face discussion on priority development needs and agree on actions that will be individually or jointly undertaken to address them.

This interface meeting completes Phase 4 of the adapted Community Scorecard approach that CARE is implementing with the nine development committees who have already been established, trained and functional. The final phase is action plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

So what?

Strengthened relationships, coordination and collaboration between citizens and government is paving the way for increased transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in government service delivery.



PROJECT Governance Fellows Visit Washington, DC



20-26 May 2024

At the end of May, the second cohort of PROJECT Governance Fellows traveled to Washington, DC for their capstone experience after graduating from the University of Hawai'i. While in DC, they had a full week meeting with several key organizations working in law or with the Pacific, including USAID, the State Department, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), congressional offices for Hawai'i and American Samoa, and the East-West Center's own Washington, DC office. They also participated in a number of cultural activities including visits to national landmarks and even a Major League Baseball game.

Each of fellows noted that they felt the most valuable part of the trip was the opportunity to make direct connections with leaders working in their fields or with the Pacific, discuss issues of concern in their individual countries, and share their achievements with USAID as the funder of PROJECT Governance.

Studying in Hawai'i itself was an absolute privilege and honor under the ProGov Fellowship, and this was enriched by the DC trip where we got to experience a snapshot of life on the mainland US and how the federal bureaucratic processes work and get a sneak peek into the priorities and goals of the ProGov partners...It was an eye-opening experience that I feel gave a somewhat rounded perspective of the aims of the fellowship and in a way helped me to think about any focus areas back home and how I get to be more proactively involved back in Papua New Guinea

So what?

The Washington, DC capstone trip has proven to be a valuable professional and academic development opportunity for the PROJECT Governance fellows. During this trip, they gain exposure to the central hub of law and governance in the United States, as well as the broader US context and culture outside Hawai'i. Through meeting with key US leaders working with the Pacific, the fellows not only learn more about their work in US-Pacific relations but also have a platform to discuss issues of concern in each of their individual countries. The experience expands their professional networks while also granting them a more contextual understanding of the PROJECT Governance mission.



Deputy Secretary Kara, Department of National Planning and Monitoring, opening the workshop

Papua New Guinea Prepares Communication Strategy under Open Government Partnership



11-12 May 2024

On May 13, 2023, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) hosted a briefing on the draft communication strategy for the Open Government Partnership (OGP). This initiative follows PNG's adoption of a two-year National Action Plan (NAP) in 2022, aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and public participation.

The briefing brought together 24 stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM), the Department of Information Technology and Communications, the Department of the Treasury, and Transparency International PNG. Discussions at the briefing, facilitated by IFES, focused on aligning the communication strategy with OGP plans, particularly emphasizing outreach to rural areas and trust-building.

Recommendations included refining mission and vision statements, defining terms, setting implementation timeframes, incorporating OGP branding, and integrating the strategy into government plans. The Deputy Secretary of DNPM proposed a follow-up workshop to finalise the strategy before its adoption by the OGP national steering committee.

So what?

Overall, this activity is helping to foster more transparent and accountable governance in PNG. By developing and implementing an effective OGP communications strategy, the government can ensure important information about government initiatives reaches more Papua New Guineans, thereby enhancing public trust and participation. With respect to the briefing, in particular, the active participation of key stakeholders is a cause for optimism because it demonstrates their commitment to promoting accountability and openness in governance. Additionally, the DNPM Deputy Secretary's proposal for a closed-door workshop to incorporate the stakeholders' feedback highlights a proactive approach to refining the communication strategy before its adoption, showing a dedication to continuous improvement and effective implementation.

Snapshots from Fellows Visit to Washington, DC



Fellows at DC Capitol



Fellows outside White House



Visiting the Supreme Court



Fellows at the State Department

MARK THE DATE

12 June:

Workshop on Countering Threats of Disinformation and Other Harmful Speech for Elections at Grand Pacific Hotel, Fiji.

13 June:

Project steering committee meeting

17-18 June:

Media Literacy Workshop for Fiji Youth and Influencers at Tanoa Hotel, Fiji

19-20 June:

IMPACT OSS Scoping workshop in Kiribati

23 June:

FIRM journalists attend International Media Conference in Manila

27 June:

Presentation to the UN Treaty Body Chairpersons Annual Meeting, United Nations, New York

28 June:

Side event to the UN Treaty Body Chairpersons Annual Meeting on Pacific Follow-Up review experiences, United Nations, New York

3 July:

Side event to the High Level Political Forum, on Digitalisation of Human Rights and SDG Monitoring, United Nations, New York