

## Government of the Republic of Fiji

### Survey Response for the Secretary-General's Report in 2019 on the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

#### Question 1: Financial Support

Fiji is a Small Island Developing State ('SIDS') with big aspirations. We Fijians are determined to build an inclusive, prosperous, resilient and low-carbon future for ourselves, and so remain steadfast in our commitment to regional and international agreements on Sustainable Development.

Over the past decade, Fiji has carried out a consistent strategy of investing in the resilient development of the transport, education, housing, agriculture and water sectors. These strategic investments have been matched by investments in our people in the form of innovative social protection schemes for the poorest and most vulnerable and economic, legal, educational and infrastructural reforms to create greater opportunities and a more level playing field. We intend to continue investing in a resilient future for our people, and we intend to do so with utmost accountability and financial innovation.

**Table 1** below provides a summary of the Fijian Government's annual budget allocations categorized by relevant thematic areas of the SAMOA Pathway. A detailed breakdown of these allocations by specific programmes can be found in the attached data sheets. These data sets have been compiled bearing in mind two key factors:

- i) The financial year of the Fijian Government is from 1 August to 31 July; and
- ii) The shift from calendar year (January to December) to the financial year began in 2016. Therefore, the budget for 2015 was not considered and the 2016-2017 National Budget was taken as a starting point. Moreover, to capture the budget allocations for 2018, the national budget for the 2018-2019 financial year was used as an ending point.

Between August 2016 to July 2019, the Fijian Government has increased its allocation to programmes aligned to the SAMOA Pathway by FJ \$994.5 million, an increase of approximately 7.4 percentage points. Moreover, the budget allocation for SAMOA Pathway related programmes as a percentage of total national budget also increased from 66.23% in 2016-2017 to 73.27% in 2018-2019. This increase has been the result of renewed emphasis on achieving rapid economic growth and inclusive social development in line with the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan.

As the Tables shows, significant emphasis has been placed on enhancing social development with large scale spending on education, health and social security. Total allocation social development projects for the period August 2016 to July 2019 is approximately FJ \$4.85 billion. This reflects the Fijian Government's commitment to ensure that no-one is left behind as Fiji moves towards a development trajectory that is well aligned with its 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan.

Fiji is enjoying its 9<sup>th</sup> year of consecutive economic growth and is projected to grow further over the next 3 years. Amongst numerous regulatory and policy reforms, the Fijian Government has catalyzed this unprecedented economic boom through substantial investments in infrastructure development. With an aim to curtail years of underinvestment, approximately FJ \$2.21 billion has been allocated over the past three years to improve roads, water reticulation and access to energy.

These investments are closely followed by investment to prevent the single greatest threat to our national development – climate change. With strong impetus from Fiji’s Presidency of COP23, there has been substantial investment in adaptation and mitigation initiatives. From building back better after Tropical Cyclone Winston to investments in renewable energy solutions, the Fijian Government has allocated approximately FJ \$910.1 million in climate change and disaster programmes. This allocation is expected to grow further as Fiji strives to fortify itself against the growing perils of climate change.

As much as the aforementioned investments have helped increased economic prosperity, reduce poverty and increase employment rates, the Fijian Government is cognizant of the need to create an enabling environment for long term socio-economic development. In this regard, significant emphasis has been placed on improving means of implementation for consistent sustainable development that includes, strong regional and global partnerships, seamless access to finance, abundance of capacity building opportunities, access to productive technology and credible data and statistics for informed decision making. For the period August 2016 to July 2019, approximately FJ \$550.6 million has been allocated on improving means of implementation in Fiji.

In true spirit of sustainable development, the Fijian Government has ensured that adequate financing is programmed to preserve Fiji’s pristine and famous flora and fauna. Approximately FJ \$88.1 million has been allocated for the period August 2016 to July 2019 in this regard.

*Table 1: Fiji's National Budget Allocation According to SAMOA Pathway Thematic Areas*

<b>SAMOA Pathway Priority Areas</b>	<b>Budget Allocated (\$) 2018-2019</b>	<b>Budget Allocated (\$) 2017-2018</b>	<b>Budget Allocated (\$) 2016-2017</b>
Sustainable tourism	44,389,430	75,232,860	190,000
Climate change & Disaster risk reduction	252,485,519	318,859,394	338,800,000
Sustainable energy	64,797,063.0	44,452,940	19,800,000
Oceans and seas	7,018,451	5,929,825	3,080,000
Food security and nutrition	124,453,994	117,851,927	50,750,000
Water and sanitation	238,881,211	217,400,000	138,500,000
Sustainable transportation	525,681,909	548,640,044	421,600,000
Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste	8,486,200	4,177,129	0
Health and non-communicable diseases	337,741,455	322,841,455	196,700,000
Gender equality and women's empowerment	13,040,100	2,898,000	1,900,000
Social development			145,950,000
Culture and sport	26,504,273	185,577,006	18,900,000
Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities	296,800,300	245,500,000	374,505,000
Social Security	211,285,449	23,236,750	145,950,000
Education	1,023,733,033	889,343,545	383,300,000
Biodiversity			
Desertification, land degradation and drought	11,707,871	28,514,300	12,100,000
Forests	3,824,523	4,166,059	2,780,000
Invasive alien species	5,882,540	10,164,206	9,000,000
Means of implementation, including partnerships			
Partnerships	98,491,106	86,746,958	94,930,000
Financing	53,024,444	55,170,959	22,000,000
Capacity-building	4,817,439	4,093,339	7,891,000
Technology	52,037,573	29,867,580	16,440,000
Data and statistics	2,461,636	14,756,757	7,882,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,407,545,519</b>	<b>3,235,421,033</b>	<b>2,412,948,000</b>
Total Budget	4,650,546,000	4,356,830,800	3,643,360,000
<b>Percentage of Budget Allocation</b>	<b>73.27%</b>	<b>74.26%</b>	<b>66.23%</b>

**Question 2: Measuring the Progress/Implementation Status of SAMOA Pathway thematic areas**

- a. Fiji does not have indicators specifically related to the SAMOA Pathway. However, we do use Sustainable Development Goal indicators that are mainstreamed into the 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP). The baseline data for the SDG indicators contained in the NDP is presented in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Key Development Indicators from the 5-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan for Fiji**

	2015	2021	2026	2031	2036
<b>Inclusive Socio-economic Development</b>					
Access to clean and safe water in adequate quantities (% of population) (SDG 6.1)	78	90	95	100	100
Access to clean and safe water in adequate quantities, rural (% of population) (SDG 6.1)	58	85	90	100	100
Access to clean and safe water in adequate quantities, urban (% of population) (SDG 6.1)	98	100	100	100	100
Access to central sewerage system (% of population) (SDG 6.2)	25	40	50	60	70
Access to central sewerage system, urban (% of population) (SDG 6.2)	25	40	50	60	70
Access to central sewerage system, rural (% of population) (SDG 6.2)	0	40	50	60	70
Access to electricity (% of population) (SDG 7.1)	90	100	100	100	100
Percentage of population with primary reliance on wood fuels for cooking (%)	18	12	6	<1	0
Energy intensity (consumption of imported fuel per unit of GDP in MJ/FJD) (SDG 7.3)	2.89	2.86		2.73	
Energy intensity (power consumption per unit of GDP in kWh/FJD) (SDG 7.3)	0.219	0.215		0.209	
Renewable energy share in electricity generation (%) (SDG 7.2)	67	81	90	99	100
Renewable energy share in total energy consumption (%) (SDG 7.2)	13	18		25	
Increase home ownership (% of total households) <sup>1</sup> (SDG 11.1)	43	50	TBD <sup>2</sup>	TBD	TBD
Food sourced domestically compared to total food available (%)	32	42	TBD	TBD	TBD
Net enrolment rate for early childhood education (%) (SDG 4.2)	80	95	100	100	100
Net enrolment rate for primary education (%) (SDG 4.1)	99	100	100	100	100
Net enrolment rate for secondary education (%) (SDG 4.1)	82	86	90	90	90
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births (SDG 3.2)	12.7	< 10.7	<10	<9	<8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (SDG 3.2)	13.8	< 8	<8	<7	<6
Under 5 mortality rate per 1,000 live births (SDG 3.2)	18	< 12	<10	<8	<6
Average Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) Male	67.1	68.1	68.9	69.7	70.5
Average Life Expectancy at Birth (Years) Female	71.9	73.0	73.9	74.8	76.0
Premature mortality due to NCDs (< age 70 years) (%) (SDG 3.4)	68.2	49.7	34.9	20	<20
Doctors per 1,000 population	0.7	1	1	1	1
Incidence of Poverty, National (%) (SDG 1.2)	28.4 <sup>3</sup>	25	20	14	10
Incidence of Poverty, Rural (%) (SDG 1.2)	36.3	35	32	18	10
Incidence of Poverty, Urban (%) (SDG 1.2)	20.8	15	13	10	5
Gini Coefficient (0 – 1) (SDG 1.2)	0.32			0.16	
<b>Transformational Strategic Thrusts</b>					
Container port traffic (tonnes)	1,755,670 <sup>4</sup>	1,865,836 <sup>5</sup>	TBD	TBD	TBD
Average GDP growth rate in period (%)	3.6	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5
Income per capita (\$) (SDG 8.1)	10,617		21,233		42,466
Investment (% of GDP) (SDG 17.3)	25	25	25	25	25
Private Sector Investment (% of GDP) (SDG 17.3)	20.9	>15	>15	>15	>15
Public Debt (% of GDP)	48.7	47.7	45	40	35
Unemployment Rate (%) (SDG 8.5)	6.2	4	4	4	4
Merchandise trade (% of GDP)	68.1	68.6	TBD	TBD	TBD
Tourism earnings (% of GDP) (SDG 8.9)	17	20	TBD	TBD	TBD
Increase in wired and wireless network coverage in Fiji (%) (SDG 9.c)	95	100	100	100	100
<b>Environment</b>					
Reduction in Greenhouse gas emissions from 2013 baseline (NDC target) (%) <sup>6</sup> (SDG 13.2)				30	TBD
Establish MPAs targeting 30% of Fiji's marine areas (%) (SDG 14.2)	1.8	30			
Forest area under long term conservation (%) (SDG 15.1)	3	5			16

GDP: Gross Domestic Product; MJ/FJD: Mega joules per FJD; kWh/FJD: Kilowatt hour per FJD; MPA: Marine Protected Area; NCDs: Non-Communicable Diseases; NDC: Nationally Determined Contribution for reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; SDG: Sustainable Development Goals; TBD: To be determined.

1. Fiji Bureau of Statistics, 2014, Household Listing Exercise Survey: This includes homes owned on freehold and leased State and iTaukei land.
2. TBD: To be determined
3. FBoS, 2014, Preliminary HIES Report 2013-2014, Suva, Fiji.
4. Source: MSAF: 2015 estimates
5. Source: MSAF: Based on estimated average tonnage from 2016-2018.
6. For the 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, a 10% reduction will be achieved through implementation of the GGF for Fiji using available domestic resources with a further 20% reduction conditional on external funding.

A review of the SDGs progress currently is underway. This process, called the Voluntary National Review (VNR) will inform the progress Fiji has made in the achievement of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway.

Indicators relating to the SAMOA Pathway that have updated indicators are presented in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Updated Indicators for Fiji**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Unemployment Rate	4.5% (2017)	This is from the 2017 Population Census. The lowest unemployment rate in 20 years.
Labour Force Participation Rate	57.1% (2017)	This is from the 2017 Population Census. This has increased from a low of 55.07% in 2007.
Human Development Index	.741 (2017)	This has increased from .711 in 2010.
Tourism Earnings	FJ \$1.8 (2017)	Increased from FJ \$1.2 in 2010 and expected to increase to FJ \$2.08 billion for 2018.

In addition to the indicator progress above, Table 4 below shows the actual budget utilization for the Fijian Government's National Budget. The utilization rate has an upward trajectory since 2016. With almost 86% utilization of the national budget, it is envisaged that most of the finances allocated to programmes related to the SAMOA Pathway are being implemented well.

**Table 4: Budgeted Vs Actual Utilisation of Fiji's National Budget**

DESCRIPTION	2016-2017		2017-2018	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL
ESTABLISHED STAFF	\$ 837,823,001.75	\$ 800,546,116.20	\$ 984,511,899.36	\$ 900,550,166.26
GOVERNMENT WAGE EARNERS	\$ 55,866,975.15	\$ 53,462,154.34	\$ 63,762,236.64	\$ 58,825,345.81
TRAVEL & COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 40,478,461.60	\$ 36,571,470.82	\$ 45,489,296.02	\$ 38,484,680.65
MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	\$ 76,833,604.95	\$ 69,927,885.02	\$ 84,388,809.00	\$ 75,434,698.62
PURCHASE OF GOODS & SERVICES	\$ 151,208,908.51	\$ 140,315,711.33	\$ 174,214,388.82	\$ 151,358,939.02
OPERATING GRANTS & TRANSFERS	\$ 539,357,711.74	\$ 518,445,776.18	\$ 719,444,780.92	\$ 680,568,974.76
SPECIAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 113,141,836.29	\$ 67,863,213.51	\$ 118,347,318.19	\$ 88,283,283.28
CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION	\$ 159,584,016.20	\$ 83,016,151.38	\$ 158,649,942.94	\$ 103,616,312.48
CAPITAL PURCHASE	\$ 65,391,231.79	\$ 48,526,289.74	\$ 95,881,525.97	\$ 75,721,479.42
CAPITAL GRANTS & TRANSFERS	\$ 1,217,048,389.16	\$ 894,059,353.53	\$ 1,497,850,459.18	\$ 1,203,332,689.47
PENSIONS, GRAT. & COMPASS. ALL	\$ 42,409,700.00	\$ 34,880,413.43	\$ 46,221,100.00	\$ 36,956,687.41
FIN CHRGS ON PUB. DEBT-MISC PY	\$ 10,499,999.96	\$ 1,867,168.79	\$ 10,093,132.00	\$ 1,935,831.35
VALUE ADDED TAX	\$ 48,774,081.92	\$ 35,913,967.88	\$ 59,998,789.97	\$ 37,548,372.24
FIN CHRGS PN PUB DEBT-DOM LOAN	\$ 52,478,439.74	\$ 45,538,169.87	\$ 54,480,228.00	\$ 48,864,350.70
FIN CHRGS PN PUB DEBT-OS LOAN	\$ 232,460,357.35	\$ 229,340,750.74	\$ 243,496,909.00	\$ 240,702,829.39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,643,356,716.11</b>	<b>\$ 3,060,274,592.76</b>	<b>\$ 4,356,830,816.01</b>	<b>\$ 3,742,184,640.86</b>
		<b>84.00%</b>		<b>85.89%</b>

b. Please refer to Tables 2 and 3 above.

c. Does not apply to Fiji.



### Question 3: Successful Examples

Name of Project/ Programme/ Activity	Main Themes/Goals addressed		Target Countries, Regions, Sectors	Goals	Intervention type (Tech transfer, capacity development etcetera)	Total Budget (\$ FJ)	Implementation Period
	SAMOA pathway	SDGs					
Global Leadership and Advocacy on Climate Change	Climate Change	SDG 13	Global community	Ø Through the COP23 Presidency draw the attention of the world community on the vulnerability of small island states to climate change.	Ø Political leadership and advocacy.		2017 – 2018
Installation of Solar Home Systems (P1)	Sustainable Energy	SDG 7	Fiji	Promote clean energy development	Ø Infrastructure Development	6,280,998 (2017-2018)	2017-2019
<a href="#">Rural Electrification Programme</a>	Sustainable Energy	SDG 7	Fiji	Promote clean energy development	Ø Infrastructure Development	50,827,349 (2018-2019)	Ongoing
Global Leadership and Advocacy on Ocean	Oceans and Seas	SDG 14	Global community	Ø Through the UN Ocean conference bring a spotlight on the critical importance ocean.	Ø Political leadership and advocacy.		2017
Rural Water Supply Programme (P3)	Water and Sanitation	SDG 6	Fiji	Promote access to clean and safe drinking water	Ø Community intervention	6,311,789 (2017-2018)	2017-Ongoing
Construction of Naboro Landfill - Stage 2 (P2)	Management of Chemicals and Waste, Including Hazardous Waste	SDG 12	Fiji	Responsible Management of waste and hazardous substances	Ø Infrastructure Development	2,851,628 (2017-2018)	2017-2018
Increased Women Representation in Fijian Parliament	Gender equality	SDG 5	Fiji	Ø Achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.	Ø Advocacy.		2014 and 2018 General Elections
Rehabilitation and Construction of Schools Damaged by Tropical Cyclone Winston (P4)	Social Development	SDG 4	Fiji	Access to quality education	Ø Infrastructure Development	45,906,073 (2017-2018)	2017-2019

100 Percent Access to Quality Free Education	Social Development	SDG 4	Fiji	Ø All Fijians to have access to quality education at all levels.	Ø Increased public sector expenditure on education.	66,433,440 (2018-2019)	Ongoing
Increased Social Security	Social Development	SDG 1, 2 and 10	Fiji	Ø Ensure no one is left behind.	Ø Social protection programmes of the Fijian Government.	211,285,449 (2018-2019)	Ongoing
First Home Purchase Programme	Social Development	SDG 10 and 11	Fiji	Ø Promote human development through home ownership.	Government subsidization.	20,000,000 (2017-2018)	2014 – current
<a href="#">Issuance of the first-ever Sovereign Green Bonds</a>	Means of Implementation	SDG17	Fiji	Ø Raise money from the Fijian private sector to finance climate change projects, in particular those related to climate change adaptation and resilience building.	Ø Financial sector innovation	100,000,000 (2017-2018)	FY 2017 - 2018
<a href="#">Creation of a dedicated pool of financial resources through Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy to fund climate and environment related projects</a>	Means of Implementation	SDG17	Fiji	Ø Ring fence tax revenue collected from a few sources to finance climate and environment related projects.	Ø Domestic tax revenue innovation.	106,000,000 (2017-2018)	2015 – current

The above projects are few of the many implemented by the Fijian Government across the SAMOA Pathway/SDGs themes. These projects are successful because of the investments Government has made with a vision of leaving no one behind and delivering on the vision of equality and prosperity for all Fijians.

### ***Solar Home Systems Project***

Through its 5-Year & 20-year National Development Plan, the Fijian Government is committed to provide access to energy for all Fijians by 2030. This in line with Fiji's Nationally Determined Contribution commitment to reduce national carbon emissions by 30% in the lead-up to 2030, by endeavouring to achieve 100% renewable energy power generation through economy wide-energy efficiency. These dual objectives are aimed at easing the heavy reliance on fossil-fuel imports, transitioning Fiji towards a low carbon future and creating greater socio- economic equality by providing access to basic needs.

As solar power projects displace electricity generated from the burning of fossil fuels, they achieve savings in greenhouse-gas emissions that are proportionate to the carbon intensity of local grids. To provide access to clean energy for rural communities and achieve Fiji's emission-reduction targets, the Fijian Government has used FJ \$6,280,998 to install 2,635 cyclone-resilient solar home systems across the Western, Northern and Eastern parts of Fiji. The installations are expected to reduce up to 1,038 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually. These panels will generate 3,820 kilowatt hours of renewable energy per day (1.39 million kilowatt hours per year), giving access to clean and safe energy to approximately 13,175 people across rural communities throughout Fiji. Through this project, Fijian families will have access to clean energy to enable children to study after dark, extend commercial hours and provide more opportunities to socialise.

### ***Landfill Project***

The Naboro Landfill is the largest waste-disposal facility in Fiji, serving the municipalities of Suva, Lami and Nausori, or approximately one-third of Fiji's population. Commissioned in 2005, the landfill is divided into four stages consisting of a total land area of 31.1 hectares. In 2017, the landfill handled approximately 92,846 tonnes of waste, and accumulation has been increasing at an average of 6.9% per year since 2010.

The municipal solid waste deposited in the landfill is deposited into land cells (pits) lined with protective liners and a leachate collection system. As the cells reach capacity, they are covered with soil to catalyse anaerobic decomposition. During decomposition the methane gas generated escapes into the air and contributes to greenhouse-gas emissions. This indicates promising potential for methane-capture systems that could ultimately be used to generate electricity.

Stage 1 (7.09 hectares) of the landfill has nearly reached its capacity at 900,000 tonnes of waste, and works have begun on Stage 2 (8.47 hectares). Studies have indicated that waste collected from stage 1 alone does not provide economies of scale to invest in a methane-capture and electricity-generation system. The construction of Stage 2 is expected to provide the required scale by adding up to 500,000 tonnes of capacity.

There is a promising opportunity to create the enabling environment for renewable investments in the landfill by expanding its capacity to achieve economies of scale. This is in line with the Fijian Government's decision to expand town and city boundaries, enabling more waste collection.

The Stage 2 construction of the Naboro Landfill has been funded from Green Bond proceeds. The Fijian Government used FJ \$2,851,628 for Stage 2 Construction of the Naboro Landfill in the 2017-2018 financial year. The funds have been used to clear vegetation and construct a 42-metre culvert, compact waste pits and lay liners, leachate pipes and leachate aggregates at the landfill.

### ***Rural Water Supply Project***

Access to clean and safe water is a basic right for all Fijians under the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji and a key priority of Fiji's 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan. The Rural Water Supply Programme has become a crucial deliverable for the Water Authority of Fiji, helping provide access to water for consumption and sanitation in rural communities.

Rural communities that depend on rivers, streams and unsafe sources of water are the most vulnerable to climate-induced water-borne diseases, particularly in the aftermath of climate adversities. These communities are either far away from a reliable water source or cannot be connected economically to the national water-reticulation system.

As 22% of the population, largely rural, are living without access to treated or reticulated water, the Rural Water Supply Programme enables community-based, tailor-made reticulation solutions that include modern catchment systems, portable treatment plants and innovative ecological purification systems ('EPS').

The Fijian Government expended FJ \$6,311,789 for the Rural Water Supply Programme in the 2017-2018 financial year. The funds were used to implement 120 rural water schemes and to install 2 EPS throughout Fiji.

This spend has provided 42,670 people in 120 rural communities throughout Fiji with access to water from a clean and managed water source. Of this number, 6,122 people have access to 20,000 litres of clean, treated water through EPS installations, while the remaining households will have this benefit by August 2020.

The subsequent socio-economic benefits resulting from this programme are expected to far outweigh the initial spending. Communities will be less prone to diseases and germs, productive time will increase as fetching water becomes unnecessary, and overall community well-being and productivity will improve. To create a sense of community ownership for the water solutions implemented, the Water Authority of Fiji trained communities to manage the systems and undertake periodic minor maintenance.

### ***Rehabilitation of Cyclone Damaged Schools***

Amongst widespread damages to homes, infrastructure and livelihoods done by Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016 was the mammoth damage to more than 196 (R3-R5) schools throughout Fiji. Education was interrupted for many Fijian children, and the overall learning environment was damaged as children were forced to attend makeshift facilities. In a true spirit of resilience and resolve, the Fijian Government undertook the largest cyclone- reconstruction initiative in the South Pacific to rebuild and repair those 196 severely damaged schools.

Based on the “Build Back Better” principle, the Fijian Government rolled out its Cyclone Rehabilitation for Schools Programme administered by the Construction Implementation Unit (‘CIU’) of the Ministry of Economy. The CIU formed a robust partnership with the Fiji Institution of Engineers (‘FIE’) to rapidly assess damages suffered by the schools. Most schools were built many years ago and did not have proper construction plans. The FIE was instrumental in developing engineering plans for each school and establishing cyclone-resilient engineering standards that are being strictly followed for all reconstruction activities under the rehabilitation programme.

Approximately FJ \$45,906,073 has been utilised to build back 101 schools in the 2017-2018 financial year. The rebuild has benefited approximately 33,209 students, as approximately 1,283 structures consisting of school blocks, staff quarters, dormitories, ablution blocks and dining halls have been rebuilt.

Of the 1,283 structures, 352 meet the Category 5 resilient standard and 931 meet the Category 2 resilient standard, in accordance with the National Building Code of Fiji. Moreover, 65 of these structures can be used as evacuation centres during disasters. The rehabilitation program also instigated private-sector involvement, with 17 local companies being part of the program, leading to more employment opportunities as well as growth opportunities for the private sector in Fiji.

### ***Critical factors for success***

The projects highlighted above have been successful because of political leadership, executing on a bold vision of transforming Fiji into a modern state that ensures prosperity of all Fijians. This has translated into the allocation of financial resources and the engagement of the private sector knowledge and know-how in delivering key projects such as the rehabilitation of schools that needed to be built to withstand intense cyclones. Other driving factors include the increased recognition of the effects of climate change and the need for investing in resilience to protect public sector investments and ensure the development of Fijians through uninterrupted service delivery. One of the most important lessons in the overall project delivery by the Fijian Government is to ensure the integration of sustainability concepts, ensuring climate and disaster resilience to fortify all investments.

## **Question 4: Addressing Gaps and Challenges**

### **Project Implementation Challenges**

It is very evident that the challenges encountered in implementing programmes/projects compound onto another causing the inability to reach programme/project or national targets. The first and foremost challenge for project implementation for sustainability, resilience and durability is the inability to identify sustainability concepts and how this can be incorporated in the overall project design. As a result, serious problems in project execution are directly due to ineffective planning and management arising from inadequate institutional capacity or trained personnel to plan and implement projects effectively. Conventional public administration training — based on legalistic, centralized, regulatory procedures — are not adequate to deal with the dynamics of change.

The remoteness of islands and maritime communities poses development challenge as well. From facing traditional exclusion and access issues, some of these communities now face the challenges of sea level rise and coastal inundation. Government's ability to respond to the climate vulnerabilities of these communities is also affected by the lack of access to these communities. Some current planned climate change relocation projects are plagued by these problems.

In addition to the challenge of capacity, resources, access including technology for implementation, it is very clear that climate-induced natural disasters pose the biggest challenge to project implementation. It derails progress and often renders countries into the rebuild mode affecting implementation of projects. In 2016 when Fiji experienced category five tropical cyclone, the entire Fijian economy was affected. Given the major focus of the Fijian Government on infrastructure development, most infrastructure projects were delayed or put on hold given the massive rebuild efforts that had to be deployed to ensure essential services like health centres and educational facilities continue to operate.

Limited fiscal manoeuvres, especially in relation to public sector projects are a challenge. For instance, making a traditional infrastructure development project into a climate resilient one will include revisiting the overall project design and deploying resources and technology that is able to withstand climate adversities. Building back better after climate-induced natural disasters and investing in resilience is often a costly exercise and one that often results in debt accumulation for economies like Fiji that have limited fiscal base.

### **Lessons Learned and Key Approaches Deployed**

Some of the key approaches deployed by the Fijian Government to overcome project implementation challenges include the engagement of private sector where conventional public sector administration is inadequate to deal with the dynamics of change and is capacity constrained to deliver key infrastructure such as roads, bridges and jetties. The success of Fiji's development is dependent on infrastructure that is reliable enough to encourage people and businesses to invest in the future. Reliability means that the service being delivered by the infrastructure is consistently available without interruption. Infrastructure standards are largely driven by the need for reliability. The core element of this infrastructure is the road network. It provides the means for the movement of people and goods between businesses and local and international markets. Roads enable

people to get to jobs, education and health facilities. Without reliable transport these vital connections will remain fragile and Fiji's development will be constrained.

Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) is the organisation responsible for planning, developing and maintaining Fiji's \$11 billion road infrastructure. The infrastructure primarily consists of approximately 7600km of road, 1200 bridges, 9000+ streetlights and 47 jetties. FRA operates as a body corporate governed under the leadership of a board and manages the roading assets primarily through out-sourced contracts with the private sector. The exception to this is certain maintenance work carried out by Municipal Councils and the management of roads on the Outer Islands which are administered by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development under a Memorandum of Understanding with FRA.

The Fijian Government is also encouraging project implementation and delivery through public-private partnership (PPP) in the health sector that will bring higher quality health services to Fijians. The Fijian Government has secured an internationally certified hospital operator to work with Government to develop, upgrade, equip and operate the Ba and Lautoka hospitals to raise the quality of their health services to meet full international standards. The private sector hospital operator will provide staff at both hospitals with more modern medical equipment and relevant training, as well as operate and maintain the hospital facilities. The operator will also construct a new hospital wing with new, modern facilities at the Lautoka divisional hospital and massively upgrade the hospital's existing health facilities.

The shift towards a climate conscious development regime is the cornerstone of Fiji's 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP). The recognition of sustainability and the mainstreaming of the SDGs and climate resilience in the NDP is fundamental for delivering on the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda include the 17 SDGs. Rooted in the national development agenda, Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) developed in 2017 and 2018, respectively are key policy documents for advancing the sustainable development agenda. These critical documents will guide all aspects of planning, policy development and budgeting and ensuring that development outcomes are sustainable.

In addressing the financial gaps and unlocking the innovation of the Fijian financial sector to create greater investments on sustainable development priorities, Fiji issued the first-ever sovereign green bonds in 2017. The bond proceeds were used on climate change related projects. Innovation in domestic tax revenue through the creation of the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) is also another measure deployed by the Fijian Government to generate finance for climate change and environment related projects, a critical area of the SAMOA Pathway.

The Fijian Government also approved the accreditation of the Fiji Development Bank (FDB) to the Green Climate Fund to secure more public finance for climate related projects. With the accreditation now complete, the FDB will serve as an important vehicle in the delivery of climate change related projects with the possibility of crowding in greater private sector finance.

The financial sector is key for unlocking financial opportunities and therefore achieving progress on the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

## Question 5: Outreach/Publications

Fiji's 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP) reflects Fiji's development priorities across the SAMOA Pathway areas and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan also reflects the outcome of exhaustive consultations with various stakeholders across Fiji, including private sector entities, civil society groups, non-governmental organisations, community groups, village settlements and individual citizens at large. In summary, the NDP provides the forward-looking vision for “**Transforming Fiji**” towards a more progressive, vibrant and inclusive society. This vision builds on past efforts to empower Fijians with the knowledge and resources to take the country forward and secure a prosperous future; one that unlocks opportunities for all Fijians to flourish and fully realise their true potential.

The 20-Year NDP is built on two key foundational prongs or approaches which are as follows:

1. **Inclusive socio-economic development** – will ensure that all socio-economic rights in the Constitution are realised and inclusivity will be at the centre of growth and development; and
2. **Transformational strategic thrusts** – are game-changing, forward-looking policies that seek to revolutionise development in key priority sectors to boost future growth and ensure Fiji continues on a path of sustainable economic development.

## 20-Year NDP Targets

### *Inclusive Socio-Economic Development*

Some of the key development targets as prescribed under Fiji's 20-Year NDP are discussed below. These targets have been aligned to the SDGs as well as key priorities on Government's policy agenda to be achieved by 2036 (unless stated otherwise):

- Achieve 4 to 5 percent growth rate per annum;
- A fourfold increase in GDP per capita;
- Government debt to be reduced to 35 percent of GDP;
- Reducing unemployment rate to below 4 percent;
- Reduce incidence of poverty to 10 percent;
- All Fijians to have access to clean and safe drinking water by 2031;
- All Fijians to have access to electricity by 2021. By 2036, 100 percent of Fiji's energy requirements will be supplied from renewable energy sources;



- All households to have access to affordable housing;
- All Fijians to have access to quality education at all levels;
- High quality health care system in line with international standards with a major focus on tertiary health care and overall medical service delivery;
- Raise the doctor to patient ratio to 1 doctor per 1,000 people;
- Ensuring food and nutrition security through increased local production, and raising farm efficiency and productivity;
- Women empowerment and development;
- Protecting culture and heritage and national environment; and
- Ensure security and effective crime prevention.

### ***Transformational Strategic Thrusts***

Fiji's geographical location and economic prospects, together with ongoing infrastructure development and strong institutions, has well-positioned the country to become the regional hub of the Pacific.

Some of the key targets under this approach include:

- Nurturing new and emerging growth sectors;
- Improving transport and digital connectivity;
- Improving skill development and enhancing demographic dividend;
- Adopting new technology for improving productivity; and
- Development of cities, towns and rural areas.

### **5-Year Development Plan**

The 5-Year Development Plan sets out priority areas for development under each sector of the economy. These are highlighted below:

#### ***Inclusive Socio-Economic Development***

The sectors on inclusive socio-economic development includes water and sanitation, energy, housing development, food and nutrition security, education, health and medical services, youth and sports development, women in development, culture and heritage and national security and Rule of Law.

### ***Transformational Strategic Thrusts***

The sectors under transformational strategic thrusts include modernising land transport, inter-island network, domestic air services, international connectivity (airports & sea ports), modernising the business regulatory environment, manufacturing and commerce, sustainable cities and towns, expanding the rural economy, sugar, non-sugar agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism and information and communication technology (ICT).

More details and specific targets and programmes are available in the 5-Year & 20-Year NDP, which can be downloaded from the Ministry of Economy website here: <http://www.economy.gov.fj/images/NDP/5-Year---20-Year-NATIONAL-DEVELOPMENT-PLAN.pdf>

Progressive review of the implementation of the Fijian NDP and through processes like the Voluntary National Review such as the one Fiji will be presenting at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019 will be basis of assessing progressing on SAMOA Pathway thematic areas.

With regard to innovation in financing and directly addressing the means of implementation, the Fijian Government has had a number of recent initiatives. This includes the issuance of the first-ever sovereign green bonds to finance climate change related programmes and projects and ring-fencing tax revenues into a pool called the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) to finance climate change and environment related projects.

The Green Bond Impact report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.economy.gov.fj/images/Fiji%20Sovereign%20Green%20Bond%20Impact%20Report%202018-FINAL.pdf>

The ECAL bulletin can be downloaded from: <http://www.economy.gov.fj/images/2017/ECAL%20Bulletin%20-%20Desktop%20Version.pdf>

## **Question 6: Preparation for the Mid-Term Review**

In the case of Fiji and given that the 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan has embraced the SDGs, it is envisaged that the process for producing Fiji's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) will be closely aligned to the process for reviewing progress under the NDP, with the VNR helping reinforce the strong connection between the priorities of the NDP and the underlying themes of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The VNR process will also provide Fiji with the opportunity to assess the performance of other global and regional commitments such as the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.

Fiji's VNR process will be inclusive and consultative using mechanisms for multi-stakeholder consultations for the delivery of the VNR report for Fiji. The VNR process is designed as a collaborative and inclusive exercise that provides a comprehensive and detailed understanding of Fiji's current status and progress with respect to the SDGs, and successes and challenges in achieving them. It will discuss initiatives taken to mainstream SDGs in Fiji. The VNR is intended to identify gaps and challenges and outline the steps that need to be taken to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Fijian VNR is employing a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection and analysis to allow for optimum reflection and evaluation. As such, both secondary data collection tools (that is, review of literature/ policy documents) as well as primary data collection tools (that is, stakeholder consultations, and key informant interviews) were utilized to gather information.

The Climate Change & International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Economy with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has embarked on the process of SDGs data collection since 2016. This will assist the Fijian Government in monitoring SDGs implementation and also identify data and capacity gaps that exists. The data that has been collected is also significantly contributing towards preparing Fiji's VNR.

A baseline database has been constructed, with indicators selected to reflect both SDGs and national priorities and data compiled for the past 20 years where possible, through consultation and extensive review of publically available data sources. A SDG data gap assessment report with relevant policy recommendations will also be produced.

The Fiji VNR will be presented at the meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development in July 2019.