



Coordination Group Meeting
Fiji Police Force Support Project

Meeting minutes

Location: Judges Common Room High Court Level 2 Govt Bldg.

Date: October 14, 2021

Time: 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Kamal Kumar, Hon. Acting Chief Justice, [Chairperson of the Meeting] (**Chairperson**)

Itendra Nair, Deputy Commissioner of the FPF (**DCP**)

Andrew Jack, Assistant Directors of Public Prosecution (**ADPP**)

Ashwin Raj Director of HRADC (**HRADC**)

Shahin Ali, Director of LAC (**LAC**)

Aiyaz Ali, Deputy Director Organized Crime, FPF (**DDOC**)

Courtney Rose, Second Secretary of the New Zealand High Commission to Fiji (**NZ**)

Siniša Milatović, UNDP Consultant for early access to justice research (attended online) (**Consultant**)

Revai Makanje Aalbaek, UNDP Governance Team Lead (**UNDP TL**)

Rustam Pulatov, UNDP Project Manager (**UNDP PM**)

Adarshana Narayan, UNDP Finance Officer

Tomoko Kashiwazaki, UNDP Project Communications Specialist

1. Welcome

CHAIRPERSON opened the meeting with welcoming and introductory remarks expressing sincere gratitude to all members of the Coordination Group Meeting for attending the meeting and supporting the implementation of the UNDP Fiji Police Force Support Project (FPFSP). He also welcomed two UNDP consultants for the early access to justice M&E who participated in the meeting online.

Consultant introduced himself to the meeting participants expressing appreciation for the collaboration.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Hon. Kamal Kumar presented moved that minutes as circulated be adopted as minutes of last meeting. Seconded by **Mr Itendra Nair**.

3. Matters Arising out of the Minutes

There were no matters arising out of the minutes.

4. Implementation status of the project

UNDP PM presented the status of the project implementation and key achievements along its overall financial delivery to date. Upcoming priority areas of work were also brought to the attention of the participants. A few areas have been discussed in detail:

Personal protective equipment (PPE) for the FPF – The immediate needs of the police have been met with the support of the project. The delivery of all requested items will be completed by end of November 2021.

Emergency response to TC Yasa – The procurement is ongoing with the support of the Project.

Counseling services to the police officers and their families by Medica Services Pacific (MSP) – MSP RPA first tranche was paid out in August.

- **UNDP PM** added that after some delay in provision of services by MSP due to the COVID situation, MSP started activities, including counselling service to the police officers.
- **DCP** shared an update on the work with MSP: **The FPF** and MSP have signed on the MOU on the provision of counselling to police officers while limited services have been provided by MSP to date. Given the existing MOU with MSP and FPF's inhouse psychologist who provides counselling to officers, the allocated budget could be utilized for major priorities of the project. He suggested a consideration of re-allocation of the budget to the renovation of VRI rooms as a priority area of the project.
- **CHAIRPERSON** advised that the issue be discussed between **the FPF** and **UNDP** before taking the discussion to the MSP.

COVID and SGBV communication via radio with engagement of all Members of the Group – The initial three months radio awareness raising programme has been completed thanks to the members' and CSOs' engagement. The data of the outreach was briefed as annex.

First Hour Procedures and Investigative Interviewing Trainings - The training activities have been scheduled in November 2021. He thanked **LAC** and **HRADC** for their participation in the upcoming training to be conducted in November 2021. There is a coordination between NZ Police Advisors and UNDP work in Police Academy which aims to help ensure a common approach and synchronization of capacity development initiatives. This needs to be continued in 2022.

Video recording equipment and pilot VRI rooms - The progress was made in VR equipment installation as a photo of the pilot VRI room in the Lautoka Police Station presented. The need of renovation and furniture in the VRI rooms was highlighted. Based on the pilot of one or two VRI rooms and one Green Rooms, a case for renovation of VRI rooms in all police stations will be submitted for consideration of the Project Board (scheduled for Nov 2021). The implementation of the plan can start in 2022 if approved.

- **DCP** added to the update that the national rollout of VR equipment installation had been conducted with the Western Division which was completed last week, and the Central Division currently being conducted. He highlighted the need of renovation for the VRI rooms, as some of the buildings were quite old, some rooms were quite small.
- **UNDP PM** drew their attention also to the matter of storage for DVDs produced from the VRIs. He suggested a cloud-based storage as alternative option, which, as it would have a few implications including infrastructure matter, could be tabled at the Board Meeting with more details.
- **DDOC** added that coordination between the stakeholders and legal implication needed to be discussed regarding the operationalization of the cloud-based storage option.

Specialized training and Green Rooms in relation to victims of sexual offences; domestic violence; and interviewing of child victims - The complete plan had been developed for the training for the Sexual Offence Unit and ready for conducting training sessions in 2022. It is suggested a 'Green Room' renovation pilot to commence in 2021. The costing of the equipment for a few rooms in some selected police stations should be made and the budget be proposed to the Board.

Financial update – The expected delivery for 2021 is conservatively at 86% of the planned budget, but aiming to achieve 100%.

5. Item 3 of the Agenda: Baselines Report: Monitoring and Evaluation of Early Access to Justice

UNDP PM provided a brief:

- The result of the M&E can be utilized wider than the project, including an assessment of the impact of the early access to justice on torture prevention.
- UNDP will facilitate the assessment for potential institutionalization in one of the justice institutions. Key offices of **FPF** and **LAC** will conduct the exercise, and the **Judicial Department** and **HRADC** will join with each own vision and policy.
- This is the first exercise to collect data as baselines of measuring the effectiveness of early access to justice in Fiji. It is expected that the baseline assessment will be completed

in 2021, subsequent mid-term assessment in 2022-23, followed by the final impact assessment in 2024.

- International Consultants introduced today are renowned scholars with work experience in Fiji. The contract with a National Consultant is being signed by end of this week, who will lead the research on the ground.

CHAIRPERSON advised the importance of sustainability and institutionalization of the M&E exercise.

Consultant greeted online and briefed on the M&E exercise:

- M&E tool he provides will serve to monitor performance on early access to justice. It will guide self-evaluation exercise with assistance from the National Consultant.
- The comprehensive indicators will be provided that are consistent with the international standard, including the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT), reports by the UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on torture, Fijian Constitution and domestic legal framework and SOPs. The institutions may select among those indicators as they see most relevant to their institutional mandates.
- The data and analysis will be helpful for Fiji's periodic reporting to the Committee against Torture.
- The methodology includes:
 - Data collection in the **FPF** and **LAC** using the questionnaires provided, including annual reports and reflection of a past few years.
 - The National Consultant will examine, triangulate and assess the data before conducting a collective analysis.

UNDP PM added that before the commencement of the data collection, a discussion would need to be conducted to adjust some specific indicators, finalize the framework, and select the data to collect. He mentioned the data would serve for internal consumption for policy making before considering publishing.

CHAIRPERSON added that this was also for the donor to assess the effectiveness of access to justice in Fiji, and invited **NZ** to provide its input to the draft M&E tool. He advised that members of the meeting give perusal to the draft M&E tool and have discussion during the next Coordination Group Meeting, the result of which would be provided as input to the Consultant.

UNDP TL provided her comment to the draft M&E tool, pointing out that in addition to the indicators on detainees, more indicators on victims should be included.

NZ pointed out that the desk research described in the workplan might also consider the Police Bill. She asked about the countries for comparison with Fiji.

Consultant responded those issues: Victims will be taken into account; Police Bill will be included; the countries with common law jurisdiction would be considered while it will be guided by the international standard and the reports by the UNSR.

HRADC shared his concern on some issues:

- Sensitive issues pertaining to vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, children, women should be considered making sure the data is not susceptible for generalization.
- The data collection and analysis should be grounded on Fijian Constitution, while adhering to the international law and reports of the UN human rights treaty bodies.
- The ways of presenting the collected data need careful consideration when the data is presented to the outside of this project.

CHAIRPERSON advised that the data collection and analysis should only be used for the project and donor to assess effectiveness of access to justice.

UNDP PM agreed the data should primarily be used for internal consumption. He added a suggestion that some potential use of the data, which could expose other interrelated issues and real changes made on the ground, could include informing the UN treaty body reporting.

CHAIRPERSON advised that the result should be only for internal consumption until an agreement was made by this group.

Consultant agreed on the importance of the Fijian context, the data collection to serve as baselines, and sustainability for the institutions to be able to measure without consultants later on.

ODPP highlighted that potential consequence of a confession measure should be dealt with very carefully, particularly for extreme cases such as child sex victims when trials get longer.

DCP pointed out that the distinction between use of force and torture allegation should be made in data collection, questionnaires and other parts.

CHAIRPERSON advised that the language of the assessment and M&E tool should be carefully checked to ensure that proper legal terminology is used as appropriate in Fiji.

The members thanked the **Consultant**, when he left the meeting.

6. Item 4 of the Agenda

UNDP PM advised the schedule of the next Board Meeting be 23 November.

NZ informed that she would discuss with new High Commissioner on the key outcomes and risks of the project upon her/his arrival in December. She also informed that the New Zealand police programme would conduct an Executive Board Meeting in November. She suggested all involved could meet together if it could be seen helpful.

CHAIRPERSON advised that the Board Meeting start with a presentation by **UNDP**, from which members discuss further in detail. He also advised that **UNDP** provide Board members with background and update reminding them of the objectives and outcomes of the project.

UNDP PM asked the members regarding the way forward on the process for the data collection, whether the **FPF** and **LAC** to directly communicate with the consultants. It was agreed that all initial communication will be sent to the members of the Coordination group.

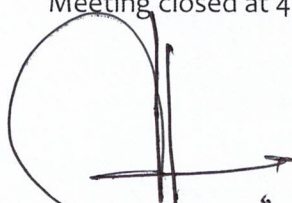
CHAIRPERSON advised that the review of the presented draft M&E tool and its draft results be tabled at the next Coordination Group Meeting.

7. Closing remarks

UNDP PM advised the minutes of the meeting be circulated for members' review and input shortly.

CHAIRPERSON closed the meeting thanking the participants.

Meeting closed at 4 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a vertical line and a horizontal line ending in an arrowhead.

Chairperson

UNDP PM