

Pacific Island Countries

Child Protection Thematic Report

January–December 2016



Prepared by:
UNICEF Pacific
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for every child

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Cover: William, a student at Mualevu District School, reads a book that he found in the rubble of his school library, which was destroyed when Tropical Cyclone Winston hit Fiji in February 2016. Credit @ UNICEF Pacific/2016/Mephem

Abbreviations and Acronyms

BAG	Brisbane Accord Group
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CYPFW	Children, Young People and Family Welfare Act
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
JJA	Juvenile Justice Act
NAACC	National Advisory and Action Committee on Children
NCCC	National Coordinating Committee on Children
PICT	Pacific Island Country and Territory
PSS	psychosocial support
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Social and economic pressures have stressed traditional support systems that historically have ensured children are protected in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Tensions between traditional and modern values and the erosion of the traditional family unit have caused children to become more vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation. These factors coupled with the fact that child protection is a relatively new concept in most PICTs make strengthening child protection systems challenging and arduous.

However, with an increased focus on strengthening service delivery and broadening geographic coverage as more countries in the Pacific come to realize the need to strengthen and, in some instances, establish and develop child protection systems to reduce violence, exploitation and abuse against children, UNICEF Pacific's Child Protection Programme continued to make meaningful progress on the Programme's two outcome areas during the reporting period.

Key results achieved during the reporting period included:

- Improved knowledge base on child protection to inform policy and planning, with the endorsement by the Nauru Government of a report on the review of the country's child protection system.
- Progress in legal reform initiatives, including the enactment of the 2016 Nauru Child Protection and Welfare Act, approval of directives on justice for children and juvenile justice practices in Vanuatu; and, continued advocacy for the enactment of the Solomon Islands 2016 Child and Family Welfare Bill, Samoa's Child Care and Protection Bill and Fiji 2016 Adoption and Community-Based Corrections Bills.
- Training on Inter-Agency Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect, which delineate the roles and responsibilities of professionals such as social welfare officers, health workers, police and teachers to report child abuse, was rolled out in all four divisions of Fiji.
- Training on strengthening data disaggregation to improve reporting under the Child Welfare Decree was delivered to Fiji Social Welfare officers and key stakeholder partners.
- Support was provided to strengthen Kiribati's legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for the protection of children, adolescents and youth through the roll-out of training on the 2013 Child, Young People and Family Welfare (CYPFW) Act and 2015 Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) to key stakeholder partners.
- The Government of Tonga established a Cyber Committee with church, youth, and private sector members and launched a website to address the problems of computer and Internet misuse. The new website contains information that aims to educate people about the benefits of Internet use and the dangers of cyberspace.
- Improved accessibility of birth registration services, which increased birth registration rates to 100 per cent in Cook Islands; 90 per cent in Fiji; 86 per cent in Vanuatu; over 60 per cent in Kiribati; and, 20 per cent in Solomon Islands.

Strategic Context of 2016

Social and economic pressures in many PICTs such as urban drift, economic empowerment and generational changes have stressed traditional family support systems, which historically have ensured children are protected. The erosion of the traditional family unit and tensions between traditional and modern values have caused children to become more vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation.

These factors coupled with the fact that child protection is a relatively new concept in most PICTs make strengthening child protection systems challenging and arduous. The process of building cohesive child protection programmes has been slow in most PICTs, where child protection is one on a long list of legal

reform priorities. Legal frameworks that are in place to protect children are weak and enforcement of legislation that does exist to protect children is poor despite efforts to strengthen the capacity of duty bearers, police, social welfare, health workers and community leaders to apply newly enacted child protection laws. Child protection programmes and service providers lack strategic direction to mitigate the myriad of vulnerabilities to which Pacific Island children are increasingly exposed.

Corporal punishment in homes and communities and bullying at school pose significant child protection challenges, according to a recent review of the Nauru child protection system as well as baseline reports from four countries in the South Pacific – Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – and three countries in the North Pacific – Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI).

Moreover, high rates of domestic violence have long been prevalent across the PICTs and an unacceptably high number of children grow up exposed to violence and abuse on a regular basis and in places that should be considered safe.

Public acceptance of violence as a suitable punishment for children remains high in PICTs. More than 70 per cent of adults admitted to using corporal punishment on children at home while 80 per cent of children indicated they had received corporal punishment in countries where baseline data exists – Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Adults in the five South Pacific nations possess a high level of awareness of positive forms of discipline and proactive techniques to nurture children, but such practices are undermined by high rates of name calling and other behaviour that makes children feel unwanted. Baseline data from the North Pacific (FSM, Palau and RMI) reveal that more than 20 per cent of parents use physical punishment “that hurts a child” daily and at least 12 per cent of children experience “verbal humiliation” daily.

The Child Protection Programme strategy is twofold: 1) to improve child protection services, laws and regulations and increase enforcement of these laws and regulations; and 2) to address community practices and behaviour. Inherent in the strategy is a focus on prevention of violence, abuse and exploitation of children by tapping into communities’ resilience and capacity to care for and protect children from harm.

Results in the Outcome Area

The following two outcomes are associated with the UNICEF Pacific Child Protection Programme:

- Child protection systems (including justice and police; child and family social services; health and education; and communities) provide improved quality of and access to services for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children at all times.
- Parents, caregivers, and children demonstrate skills, knowledge and behaviour enabling children to grow up in caring homes and communities, including schools that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Progress on Outcome 7

UNICEF continued to support efforts to strengthen child protection systems through legal reform by providing technical support as well as training to draft, revise and implement a wide range of legislation, including: the Cook Islands' Family Law; Fiji's Adoption Bill (to ensure compliance with the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption) and Community-based Corrections Bill; Kiribati's 2013 CYPFW Act and 2015 JJA; Nauru's 2016 Child Protection and Welfare Act; Samoa's 2015 Child Care and Protection Bill; and Solomon Islands Child and Family Welfare Bill.

UNICEF Pacific continued to advocate for the enactment of draft bills on children in need of protection, children in conflict with the law and community-based corrections in all countries where programme activities are carried out.

UNICEF also supported policies aimed at strengthening child protection systems, including Fiji's National Child Protection Policy, Samoa's National Policy for Children, Solomon Islands Child and Family Welfare Policy and the Vanuatu National Child Protection Policy.

Outcome/Programme Component 7: Child protection systems (including justice and police; child and family social services; health and education; and communities) provide improved quality of and access to services for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse and exploitation of children at all times.			
Outcome 7 indicator	Baseline (2013)	Target by December 2017	As of December 2016
Number of countries with over 60% coverage with formal birth registration	4 (Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, Cook Islands)	5 (Palau)	On track in target countries: Kiribati 88%; Vanuatu 80%; Solomon Islands 65% (in target provinces).

Fiji

Following Tropical Cyclone Winston, Governments and civil society strengthened their capacity to provide children and families improved access to child and family services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation, including in emergencies. An example was the strengthened capacity of 100 Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's Department of Social Welfare staff members who received training on community-based psychosocial support (PSS) in emergencies; self-care and awareness; stress management and psychological first aid to respond to emergency needs of children and refer cases of psychological trauma, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health PSS sub-cluster.

Training on Inter-Agency Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect, which delineate the roles and responsibilities of professionals such as social welfare officers, health workers, police and teachers to report child abuse, was rolled out in all four divisions

Fiji's development of a draft inter-agency referral protocol for child protection will strengthen the quality and timeliness of key services for child victims of violence and abuse. The draft inter-agency referral protocol identifies safe places at the community level where protection of victims is ensured. Local

officials and community members have agreed that village halls, elders and church leaders' homes could be designated as safe places for children. The police also have agreed to ensure that alleged perpetrators maintain a safe distance from children. Because the reach of formal services is limited, particularly on outer islands, engaging informal mechanisms and existing community structures in the prevention and protection against violence is critical to ensuring victims are protected.

Training on strengthening data disaggregation to improve reporting under the Child Welfare Decree was delivered to Fiji Social Welfare officers and key stakeholder partners.

Kiribati

Support was provided to strengthen Kiribati's legal, regulatory and policy frameworks for the protection of children, adolescents and youth through the roll-out of training on the 2013 CYFW Act and 2015 JJA to key stakeholder partners, including to the outer Islands of Abaiang, Makin, Abemama, Onotoa, Kiritimati including in South Tarawa and Betio. The Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs supported capacity development to implement these laws through the delivery of training to church-based organizations and professionals from health, education, police and social welfare sectors. Training on the CYPFW Implementation Manual was further rolled out in Kiribati in 2016. The manual stipulates clear roles for social welfare officers, the courts, the police, parents, families and communities to ensure that response and prevention efforts are implemented and referrals for care and protection services are carried out promptly and appropriately.

The Kiribati Community Policing Unit carried out capacity building training on the CYPFW and JJA with police officers on Marakei, Abemama, Kiritimati, and Onotoa Islands. In addition, a standard operating procedure for those who interact with children in contact with the law was carried out to reinforce the roles and responsibilities of police. The capacity of around 150 police officers, including village wardens, was strengthened to better respond to children who are in contact with the law. Support was provided to deliver training to magistrates on South Tarawa and Betio on the CYPFW, JJA and Family Peace Acts that aimed to improve understanding of police powers in implementing these laws. Better understanding and application of these new laws is necessary to ensure quality services for child victims, witnesses and offenders. The Acts ensure child-sensitive justice procedures for child victims, witnesses and offenders, limit detention of children and mandate the separation of children from adults in custody as well as a separate juvenile court and child-friendly spaces in courts.

The Kiribati Social Welfare Division enhanced service response through the development of a social welfare handbook that includes clear guidance on how to respond to situations of women and children and includes a code of ethics and standard operating procedures that are aligned with existing child protection laws and policies.

Nauru

A report on the review of the Nauru Child Protection System was approved, published and launched in Cabinet. The 2016 Child Protection and Welfare Act provides the legal mandate in the establishment of the Child Protection Division and the roles and responsibilities of the Division, headed by a Director and five staff under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Samoa

The Samoa 2015 Child Care and Protection (CCP) Bill ensures the country's national child protection system is robust, informed and guided by child-specific legislation. A National Policy for Children (NPC) was reviewed, alongside the CCP Bill, to ensure mechanisms required under the Bill are strength-based, solution-focused, family-led and child-focused approaches. The NPC aims to formalize an inter-agency referral system that will promote collaborative partnerships among government and civil society sectors.

Solomon Islands

Focused advocacy from a UNICEF-supported legislative technical working group ensured the Solomon Islands Child and Family Welfare Bill was consistent with the Family Protection Act. Solomon Islands Government Caucus endorsed the Child and Family Welfare Bill (CFWB) and Cabinet subsequently approved the CFWB in August 2016. The Bills and Legislative Committee of National Parliament reviewed the Bill, taking into consideration an implementation plan. The Bill was tabled in Parliament for

debate at the end of 2016. UNICEF continued advocating with the National Advisory and Action Committee on Children (NAACC), Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Children's Development Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs to ensure the Bill is enacted.

UNICEF provided technical support to the Government to ensure that a proposed amendment to the Penal Code provided greater protection for children against sexual violence and exploitation. In addition to clearer definitions of sexual offences and stronger penalties, particularly for offenses against children, the 2016 Amendment to the Penal Code introduced offences related to sexual violence against persons with disabilities, sexual abuse perpetrated by a person in a position of trust, commercial child sexual exploitation as well as child exploitation materials.

In collaboration with Save the Children, UNICEF provided technical support to the Solomon Islands NAACC to facilitate a consultative workshop seeking agreement from NAACC members to support the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution. A statement of support was agreed at the workshop that is to be attached to a Cabinet paper seeking ratification of the Protocol. The Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs recognized the need to improve its Juvenile Justice System and UNICEF has provided support for the establishment of a working group with the aim of developing a protocol for those who interact with children who are in the justice system.

Solomon Islands' Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services improved its clinical guidelines for the provision of care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence with support from World Health Organization (WHO). UNICEF provided its technical assistance in ensuring that protocols for the health care response to child abuse are included in the guidelines.

Tonga

A national review of Tonga's legislative framework found that 39 articles complied with, 5 articles partially complied with and 4 articles did not comply with the Budapest Convention. Tonga continued nationwide community awareness raising on cybersecurity and digital citizenship for children and young people in response to increased incidents of cyberbullying. The Government of Tonga established a Cyber Committee with church, youth, and private sector members and launched a website (<http://stopthinkconnect.gov.to>) as part of its Stop, Think and Connect initiative to address the problems of computer and Internet misuse. The new website contains information that aims to educate people about the benefits of Internet use and the dangers of cyberspace.

Tuvalu

Tuvalu's Cabinet endorsed terms of reference for the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture and the Office of the Attorney General to co-chair the NCCC and a technical working group that will review a Child Protection Bill and Child Protection Policy in schools, which has been constrained by high turnover rates of Government staff.

Vanuatu

Directions on justice for children and juvenile justice practices in Vanuatu were approved following consultation with lay magistrates, magistrates and judges.

Despite the approval by the Public Service Commission of child-focused officer positions at national and provincial levels within the Vanuatu Ministry of Justice and Community Service, budget allocations to cover all new positions had not been forthcoming as of the end of the reporting period.

An evaluation of the Vanuatu Police Capacity Development Programme was completed with the participation of 14 senior police officers, who validated the findings and recommendations. The evaluation recommends integration of child protection in the existing police training curriculum and strengthened referral pathway among the police, Ministry of Health and key stakeholder partners.

Birth and death registration

Birth registration rates and improved accessibility of birth registration services resulted in the following birth registration rates: 100 per cent in Cook Islands; 90 per cent in Fiji; 86 per cent in Vanuatu; over 80

per cent in Kiribati; and, 20 per cent in Solomon Islands.

Decentralization of civil registration services in Kiribati has resulted in meaningful progress in real time registration at two main hospitals in Tarawa. During the reporting period, the birth registration rate increased from 89 per cent to 92 per cent. An upgrade of the database, which included enhanced security, made registration easier and more accessible through online and offline systems that connect outer islands to the central civil registration office. The expansion of a mobile registration campaign, which provided a mechanism to capture every child's birth was a significant factor in a subsequent increase in birth registration rates and reduced coverage disparities in the outer islands. Birth registration service points in Tarawa's two main hospitals also contributed to a boost in birth and death registration rates.

The timeframe for revision of the Birth and Death Registration Act in Solomon Islands changed in 2016. The Ministry of Home Affairs and development partners such as the Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) proposed that the revision of the Act should be informed by consultations on key fundamental structures such as the role of magistrates in birth and death certification and decentralization of civil registration functions. In the meantime, the Civil Registration Office began registering deaths following training support to medical personnel from the World Health Organization (WHO) on identifying causes of deaths. The Ministry of Home Affairs used a UNICEF-supported costed plan to improve the national civil registration and vital statistics systems in its five-year budget bid. UNICEF continued to partner with WHO, Pacific Community and BAG on efforts to review the legislative framework and strengthen registration system and processes.

Inter-sectoral coordination and mobile registration campaigns in Vanuatu significantly increased the rate of birth registration. All provincial hospitals except one were connected to the birth registration system, enabling hospital staff to directly register births in the system and issue birth certificates for newborns and children under the age of five while civil registration services were available for older children and adults at provincial civil registration offices. Consequently, 73 per cent of children under the age of five were registered while 86 per cent of children under the age of 18 years had their births recorded in the system as of the end of the reporting period.

Improvements to Vanuatu's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system continued to be a Government priority, with an active national CRVS committee through which a national CRVS policy was under development. Strengthened coordination between government agencies for birth registration and the use of birth certificates as a proof of age significantly increased the rate of birth registration. The Vanuatu State Law Office is amending the Civil Status Registration Act to legally allow stakeholders, including health workers, teachers, youth representatives and area secretaries, to carry out civil registration tasks at the subnational level.

Progress on Outcome 8

Families and communities in many PICTs seem to be struggling between traditional and modern methods of rearing and disciplining children. Baseline reports from five countries in the South Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) and three countries in the North Pacific (FSM, Palau and RMI) revealed significant protection issues, including corporal punishment in homes and communities and bullying at school. Moreover, high rates of domestic violence have long been prevalent across the PICTs.

Outcome/Programme Component 8: Parents, caregivers, and children demonstrate skills, knowledge and behaviour enabling children to grow up in caring homes and communities, including schools that are free from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Outcome 8 indicator	Baseline (2012)	Target by December 2017	As of December 2016
Proportion of selected parents, caregivers and community members, including faith-based leaders, who understand and demonstrate behavior that protects children from violence, abuse and exploitation	Caregivers admitting using physical punishment: Fiji 72%; Kiribati 81%; Vanuatu 78%; Solomon Islands 72%	Fiji: 50%; Kiribati: 50%; Vanuatu: 55%; Solomon Islands: 50%	On track. Population reached: Fiji: 30% Kiribati: 10% Programmes to be expanded at community level in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in 2016.

Kiribati

Kiribati's Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs promoted positive parenting through the development of a community facilitation package in consultation with faith-based organizations and community-based stakeholders to strengthen community action on child protection and prevention of harm to children.

The capacity of 20 adolescents and young people (15 females) from the Youth Division of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs to mitigate the effects of and adapt to climate change was strengthened to ensure youth are actively engaged in making their communities resilient to disasters.

Solomon Islands

In response to the violent discipline and bullying of children in Solomon Islands, a child protection community facilitation package, tailored to the local context, was developed and field-tested in Honiara and Western Province in close consultation with the child protection working group of the NAACC. UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs in developing and rolling out a community facilitation package aimed at enhancing knowledge of child development and parenting skills as well as mobilizing the community to abandon practices harmful to children including violent discipline.

Vanuatu

Legal reforms were slow to progress and positive changes in social norms remained challenging in Vanuatu. The 2016–2020 National Child Protection Policy was adopted, which strengthens institutional and coordination arrangements at the national, provincial and community levels for prevention and response to violence against children. The Policy sets standards for the implementation of child protection systems, capacity building of service providers and ensures implementation is monitored.

Provision of child protection services by state and non-state actors have improved through child protection systems piloted, with support from UNICEF, in the communities of Tanna, Erromango and Pentecost. Community-based child protection committees in the communities monitored the situation of children, conducted child protection awareness activities, assisted children and their families and referred 26 cases to state service providers. Coordination for child protection was strengthened through provincial child protection working groups in two provinces.

More than 50 child protection practitioners from Port Vila, Tafea, Sanma and Penama were trained on Child Protection in Emergencies and contingency plans were developed by participants.

Following the finalization of a child protection community facilitation package known as *Children are our Future*, more than 20 communities were reached and 27 community facilitators trained.

More than 40 children with disabilities and their parents and caregivers from four communities benefited from a UNICEF-supported early intervention programme implemented by the Vanuatu Society for Persons with Disabilities. The programme prepared the children for integration into mainstream schools and sport activities while acquainting parents and caregivers on providing care and learning stimulation.

Thirteen children were integrated in Government and private schools and sport activities. The programme subsequently has become a model for inclusiveness of children with disabilities with the Ministries of Justice and Community Services; Education and Training; and Youth and Sports Development.

In 2016, youth continued to engage with the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development on developing responses to violence against children in Vanuatu. Football-related activities that aimed at addressing a range of development issues, including child protection, reached 509 children (222 girls and 287 boys).

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development continued to support access to safe spaces, psychosocial support, peer education and disaster risk reduction. Peer education training was provided to adolescent boys and girls to enable them to reach out to their peers and expand the scope of psychosocial activities resulting in community initiatives such as the creation of a youth support group called Choosing our Future, formation of a futsal club and training and mentoring at a youth centre on Santo.

Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned budget by outcome area (in US\$)

Intermediate Results	Funding Type ¹	Planned Budget ²
	Regular Resources	868,000
	Other Resources - Regular	2,139,000
	Other Resources - Emergency	920,766
Grand Total		3,007,000

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2016 (in US\$)

Donors	Grant Number*	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
UNICEF Thailand	SC1499060040		245,238.10
Total		809,561.78	771,026.65

Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area (in US\$)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*			
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
06-01 Data and Child Protection		2,682	2,393	5,075
06-02 Child Protection systems	3	616,785	298,024	914,812
06-03 Violence, exploitation and abuse	2	450,761	180,423	631,186
06-04 Justice for children	2	180,986	550,755	731,743
06-05 Birth registration	1	154,344	46,527	200,871
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	920,758	79,182	4,638	1,004,578
06-08 Child Protection # General		28,523		28,523
Total	920,766	1,513,262	1,082,760	3,516,789

Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area (in US\$)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount*		
	Other Resources - Emergency	Other Resources - Regular	All Programme Accounts
06-02 Child Protection systems	-	409	409
06-04 Justice for children	-	39,302	39,302
06-05 Birth registration	-	17,112	17,112
06-06 Child Protection and emergencies	286,273	-	286,273
Total	286,273	56,823	343,096

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes (in US\$)

Organizational Targets	Expense
06-01-02 Child Protection and violations # routine administrative data collection and analysis	4,213
06-02-01 Child Protection systems strengthening	796,277
06-02-02 Child Protection # mapping and assessment	8,941
06-03-01 Violence against children (general)	508,760
06-04-01 Access to justice (for all children)	501,034
06-04-02 Diversion programmes and other alternatives to detention of children	21,591
06-05-01 Birth and civil registration	183,005
06-06-01 Prevent and address violence, exploitation and abuse of children in humanitarian action	465,357
06-06-03 Psychosocial support and child-friendly spaces	180,831
06-06-05 Child Protection # sub-cluster coordination in humanitarian action [for GBV, MHPSS and mine/ERW Risk Education (MRE)]	242,189
06-06-09 Child Protection # Emergency preparedness	23,215
06-08-01 Child Protection # general	28,295
08-01-01 Country programme process	15,784
08-01-04 UNDAF preparation and review	3,421
08-01-06 Planning # General	28,459
08-02-01 Situation Analysis or Update on women and children	40,417
08-02-08 Monitoring # General	6,928
08-02-10 Humanitarian performance monitoring	16,301
08-03-01 Cross-sectoral Communication for Development	88,188
08-05-03 Logistics	18,933
08-09-06 Other # non-classifiable cross-sectoral activities	187,478
08-09-07 Public Advocacy	908
08-09-08 Engagement through media and campaigns	17,760
08-09-09 Digital outreach	3,543
08-09-11 Emergency preparedness and response (General)	25,905
4023 Legal and policy reform on child justice standards	13,570
4054 Prevent and respond to sexual abuse and child trafficking	55,465
5903 Support to C4D interventions for multiple OTs within FA5	150
6902 Operating costs to support multiple focus areas of the MTSP	764
7921 Operations # financial and administration	64
Unknown	29,045
Grand Total	3,516,789

¹ Planned and Funded budget for ORR (and ORE, if applicable) excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on total RR approved for the Country Programme duration

² Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2016.

Future Work Plan

The following are key priorities for the Child Protection Programme in 2017.

- Documentation and sharing of lessons learned through South-South cooperation on activities such as the finalization of national CRVS action plans; review of the Nauru child protection system, which informed policy and the strategic roll-out of the 2016 Child Protection and Welfare Act; and, the launch of similar reviews in Tuvalu.
- Reaching the hardest-to-reach: The decentralization of civil registration service points in Kiribati and Vanuatu has strengthened access of remote communities to registration services. Following the completion of similar activities in selected pilot areas, decentralization efforts will be scaled up nationwide in Solomon Islands.
- Legal reforms: Work will continue to ensure that legal reforms are finalized in countries where reforms are ongoing (Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) and initiated in others (Tonga and Tuvalu). The legal reform process resulted in harmonization of legislation, allowing for improved management, coordination and accountability of child protection systems across sectors. Future efforts will focus on responding to legal gaps and fostering the development of service delivery responses to child protection.
- Modelling service delivery approaches: Technical support will be tailored to the context of the country, with a focus on multi-sectoral partnerships and ensuring protocols and standards are in place. Child Protection in Education Policy will be developed and rolled out in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Modelling integrated service delivery and inter-agency collaboration for prevention and response to violence against children will be developed in selected locations in Kiribati and Solomon Islands and lessons learned documented to contribute to knowledge sharing in the Pacific region.
- Tool development: Violence is widely accepted in PICTs. Community facilitation packages aimed at enhancing knowledge of child development and parenting skills and mobilizing the community to abandon practices harmful to children, including violent discipline, will be important to eradicating violence against children.

Table 6: Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2017 (in US\$)

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget ¹	Funded Budget ¹	Shortfall ²
06-02 Child Protection systems	RR	662,000	575,162	86,838
	ORR	1,420,800	1,872,338	(451,538)
06-08 Child Protection # General	RR	206,000	150,825	55,175
	ORR	718,200	444,022	274,178
Subtotal Regular Resources		868,000	725,986	142013
Subtotal Other Resources - Regular		2,139,000	2,316,360	(177,360)
Total for 2017		3,007,000	3,042,346	(35,346)

¹ Planned and Funded budget for ORR (and ORE, if applicable) excludes recovery cost. RR plan is based on total RR approved for the Country Programme duration

² Other Resources shortfall represents ORR funding required for the achievements of results in 2016.

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Pacific's Child Protection Programme expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners who contributed to strengthening child protection systems in the Pacific region. The flexibility of the thematic funds has allowed UNICEF Pacific Office to provide support yielding positive results in improved child protection data, stronger child protection legal systems and policies, improved preparedness and response to emergencies, increased awareness of violence against children and more robust engagement with young people. We would like to make a special acknowledgement to UNICEF Thailand for their excellent fund raising efforts to support the child protection work in the Pacific.

Annex A: Report Feedback Form

Title of Report/Project: Pacific Island Countries Child Protection Thematic Report

UNICEF Office: UNICEF Pacific

Donor Partner:

Date:

UNICEF is working to improve the quality of our reports and would highly appreciate your feedback. Kindly answer the questions below for the above-mentioned report. Thank you!

Please return the completed form back to UNICEF by email to:

Name:

Email:

**SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”**

1. To what extent did the narrative content of the report conform to your reporting expectations? (For example, the overall analysis and identification of challenges and solutions)

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

2. To what extent did the fund utilization part of the report meet your reporting expectations?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

SCORING: 5 indicates “highest level of satisfaction” while
0 indicates “complete dissatisfaction”

3. To what extent does the report meet your expectations in regard to the analysis provided, including identification of difficulties and shortcomings as well as remedies to these?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we could do better next time?

4. To what extent does the report meet your expectations with regard to reporting on results?

5	4	3	2	1	0

If you have not been fully satisfied, could you please tell us what we missed or what we could do better next time?

5. Please provide us with your suggestions on how this report could be improved to meet your expectations.

6. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

Thank you for filling this form!

Annex B: Human Interest Stories

Breaking the silence of violence in Samoa

Violence against children, of widely varying degrees, is commonplace across the South Pacific region. Recent research found a strong correlation between violence perpetrated against children and violence perpetrated against adult women, particularly in the home.¹

In Samoa, for instance, 46 per cent of ever-partnered women between the ages of 15–49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Sixty-two per cent of women have experienced physical violence by a non-partner and 11 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner. Female family members make up 39 per cent of perpetrators of non-partner physical abuse before the age of 15, fathers account for 36 per cent, teachers 19 per cent and a male in a family 4 per cent.

Violence against children can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse, and may involve neglect or deprivation. Violence also can affect children in an indirect way through acts such as witnessing domestic violence between parents or between a parent and his or her partner. Violence against children is typically perpetrated by those entrusted with their care. Parents, other family members, teachers and community members tend to be the most common perpetrators of violence against children. Research has found that violence can affect children's health and well-being on many different levels – physical, psychological, social and emotional.

One of the most alarming aspects of violence against children is the silence in which it breeds. Like other Pacific Island Countries where the social norm is acceptance of violence against women and children, such incidents of violence largely go unreported in Samoa. Those affected or witnessing violence usually do not speak up about it for one of two reasons: They assume the practice is socially acceptable and therefore they have no right or inclination to prevent it; or, they feel ashamed that the violence has occurred to them personally or in their family and stigma associated with survivors of sexual and/or physical violence prevents them from disclosing the abuse.

Child rights advocates in Samoa are determined to address these harmful practices and perceptions. In their advocacy, they underscore the fact that religion and cultural beliefs and practices are no justification for harming a child.

One such advocate is Supreme Court Judge Tafaomalo Leilani Tuala-Warren, who says violence against children and women stems from the erosion of the family unit due to variety of factors such as urban drift, economic empowerment and generational changes in traditional family coping mechanisms.

“Samoa has made many judicial strides in passing legislation and establishing a Family Court, a Family Violence Court and a Youth Court but all too often I see members from the same family appearing in these different courts. This points to a greater societal shift that is having a knock on effect for younger generations. Family is the foundation and we need to get that right,” he says.

There is broad consensus that the family unit must be supported more robustly to ensure children are protected because despite the challenges they face, the family remains the primary unit of social and personal identity in the Pacific.

Another long-time child rights advocate in Samoa is Justice Vui Clarence J. Nelson. A mentor and supporter of the Samoa Victims Support Group (SVSG), Justice Nelson became in 2014 the first Pacific Islander to be elected to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is based in Geneva. He agrees that supporting youth and families is critical to addressing violence against children.

“As a judge, you often see the worst end of the spectrum and the grave impact violence can have on individuals and especially children. Too often, children who come from disruptive and dysfunctional families fall through the cracks and often themselves become both a survivor and perpetrator of violence. The establishment of the Olomanu Juvenile Centre was an important move in trying to give young offenders a second chance at a better life. Rates of reoffending are low so we can see that the

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, Harmful Connections: Examining the relationship between violence against women and violence against children in the South Pacific, UNICEF, Suva, Fiji, 2015.

targeted approach is working,” he says.

SVSG is another strong advocate for the protection of children and their rights. SVSG is a volunteer organization committed to creating a safe space for victims of violence. Founded in 2005, SVSG It is now regarded as a key player in the ongoing effort to respond to and prevent violence and abuse in Samoa.

The large sprawling spaces that the Campus of Hope shelter and its administrative office in downtown Apia occupy were donated to the SVSG by the Samoan Government.

In addition to the shelter, which offers comprehensive care services, the SVSG recently expanded its range of support services to include a telephone helpline, counselling, youth employment and education programmes, legal assistance, men’s advocacy groups and an expanding network of SVSG representatives at the village level.

SVSG President Siliniu Lina Chang says of the organization’s evolution, “It wasn’t easy at first because nobody wanted to talk about (violence). But the more we keep hiding it, the worse it gets.”

Three SVSG staff members are employed with funds from UNICEF, which also provides technical support to SVSG on child protection training and procedures.



The House of Dreams is the name of the living quarters at the Campus of Hope shelter run by Samoa Victims Support Group in Apia, the capital city of Samoa. Credit: © UNICEF Pacific/2016/Mephram



Just Play uses football as a vehicle to communicate critical emergency-focused message about safe water, personal safety, preparedness and managing emotional issues resulting from a trauma. The Programme's 385 volunteers reached over 10,000 children in the 12 most affected regions of Fiji. Community response to the Programme was overwhelmingly positive. Credit @ UNICEF Pacific/2016/Palombi.

More than 10,000 score through Just Play Emergency Programme after TC Winston

Recognizing the important role that sport can play in supporting emotional recovery after an emergency, UNICEF Pacific and the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) completed a six-month programme in Fiji to disseminate critical messages and support a sense of well-being through football.

The Programme, which was part of UNICEF Pacific's emergency response to Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston concluded with a community festival in Ba, Fiji that brought together 500 children.

The Just Play Emergency Programme was built on UNICEF Pacific's Just Play Programme, which has engaged more than 220,000 children in 11 Pacific Island Countries. The Just Play Emergency Programme reached more than 10,000 children and trained 385 coaches in 12 of the most severely cyclone-affected areas in Fiji.

"The Just Play Emergency Programme has seen incredible success and it is an honour to attend the final community festival to commemorate these achievements," said UNICEF Pacific Representative Sheldon Yett.

"The Just Play Emergency Programme promotes emotional well-being through sports and helps children aged 6–16 years learn about and practice good hygiene, healthy eating, emergency preparedness and other life skills. Children are guided to safely share and reflect on the emotional impact that TC Winston had on them, their families and their communities."

As part of the final festival, programme impact results were revealed, showcasing the positive effect



Children participating in the Just Play Emergency Programme festival in Tavua learn how to keep themselves and their 'tails' safe through play. Credit @ UNICEF Pacific/2016/ Palombi.

the programme had in Fiji's recovery from TC Winston. Data indicated the following impact:

Of adults interviewed, 88 per cent reported that children were traumatized or distressed following the cyclone, while 81 per cent of children interviewed reported feeling afraid during the cyclone.

Two months after TC Winston, 88 per cent of children interviewed reported feeling happy, with 95 per cent reporting they had a safe place to play and 77 per cent indicating the safe space was the school playground.

100 per cent of adults interviewed said the Just Play Emergency Programme had been positively received by their community, while 63 per cent said that it was the only child-centred TC Winston programme delivered in their community.

Fiji Football Association's President Rajesh Patel added, "The Emergency Programme was devised and rolled out in record time within six weeks of TC Winston. It is recognized as the only child-centred TC Winston programme, with parents and teachers reporting that children are sharing messages and healthy behaviour practices from the sessions with their families and the wider community."

"Parents are also appreciative of the safe space the programme creates for children, allowing them to attend to rebuilding and other duties. Teachers have highlighted how activities and messages from the sessions build on the school syllabus and help children put knowledge into practice."

UNICEF Pacific's Just Play Emergency Programme was shortlisted for a United Kingdom-based Beyond Sport Innovation Award.



Just Play Emergency Programme Coordinator Filomena welcomes children from Nasavusavu Public School to the Just Play Emergency Programme festival in Savusavu Island. Credit @ UNICEF Pacific/2016.

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