



UNDP GOV4RES PROJECT

Project Board Meeting Summary Note



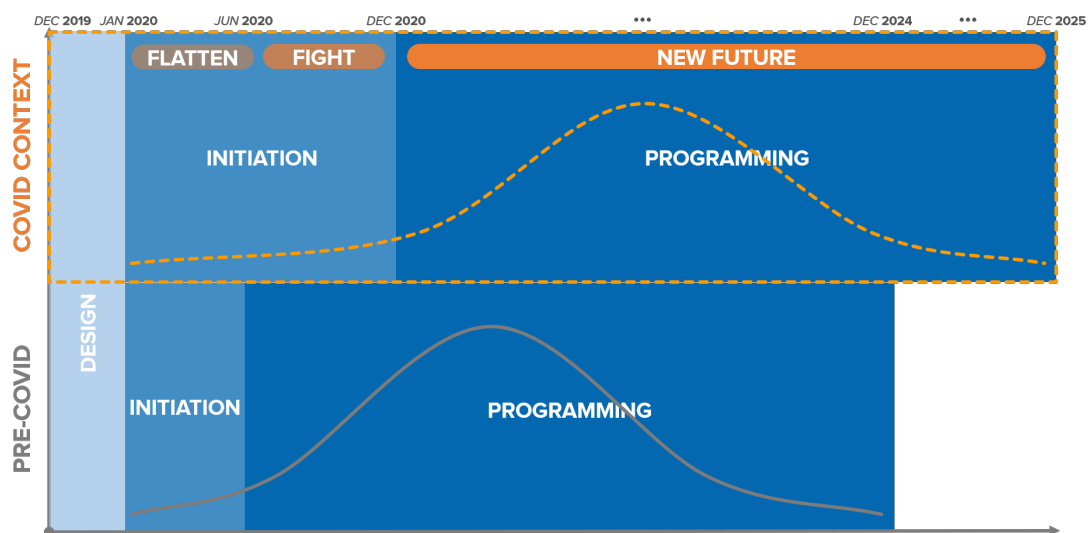
19 November 2020

Introduction

The UNDP Gov4Res project hosted a Project Board Meeting on 19 November 2020, with representatives from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu, and donor partners or representatives from the Australian, New Zealand, Korean and Swedish Governments. The meeting was facilitated in three sessions, the key discussion and decision points from which are summarised below. See also accompanying presentation material and Annual Report 2019/2020, which includes the endorsed workplan for 2021.

During discussions, some key messages from government representatives included that development portfolios are a key vehicle for achieving their countries resilience ambitions, that subnational government play a critical role in translating and coordinating national resilience objectives into realities for communities, and that gender and social inclusion needs to be central to any risk informing agenda.

Project Management Session



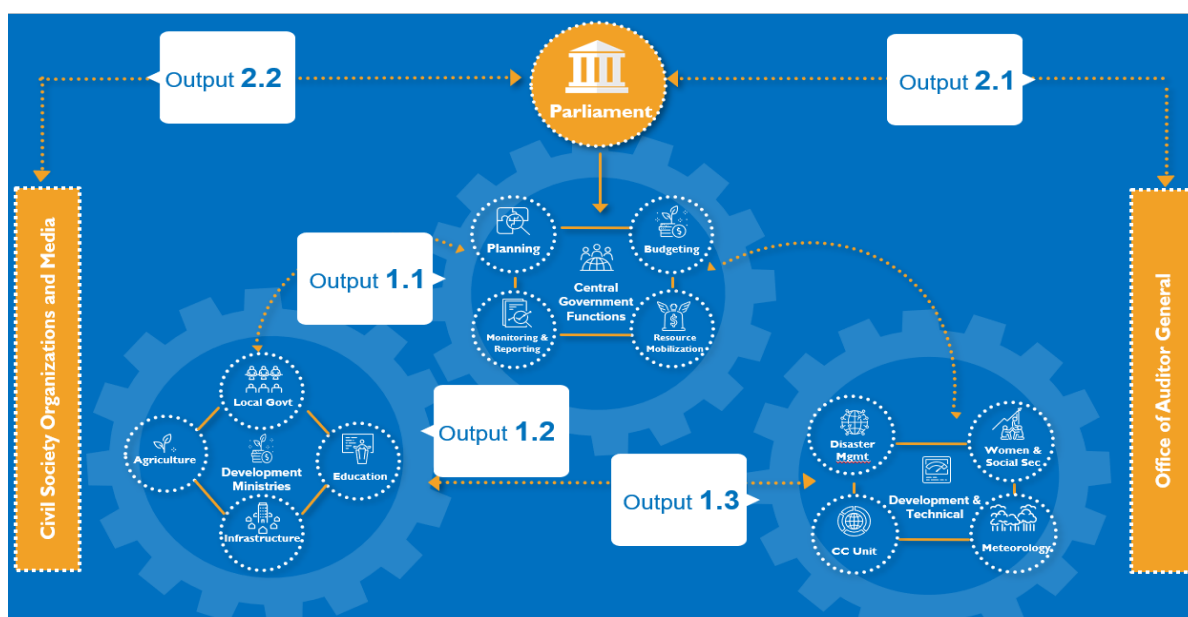
Key Discussions

- Two new donors have formally joined the project since the previous board meeting (November 2019), the governments of Korea and New Zealand.
- The significant and ongoing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates a considerable pivot from the project to ensure it can continue to provide appropriate and efficient support to countries in this new context.
- Gov4Res has proposed a one-year extension to the project timeframe to compensate for the significantly reduced expenditure and delivery in 2020.
- UNDP regard Gov4Res as an example of the next generation (NextGen) of projects which will accelerate impact and progress, particularly noting its agility and ability to be responsive to changing development needs.
- Maintaining a flexible approach will continue to be critical in such uncertain times.

Decision Points

- **Proposed extension.** It was agreed that the project completion date will be extended to December 2025.

Annual Reporting and Work Planning Session



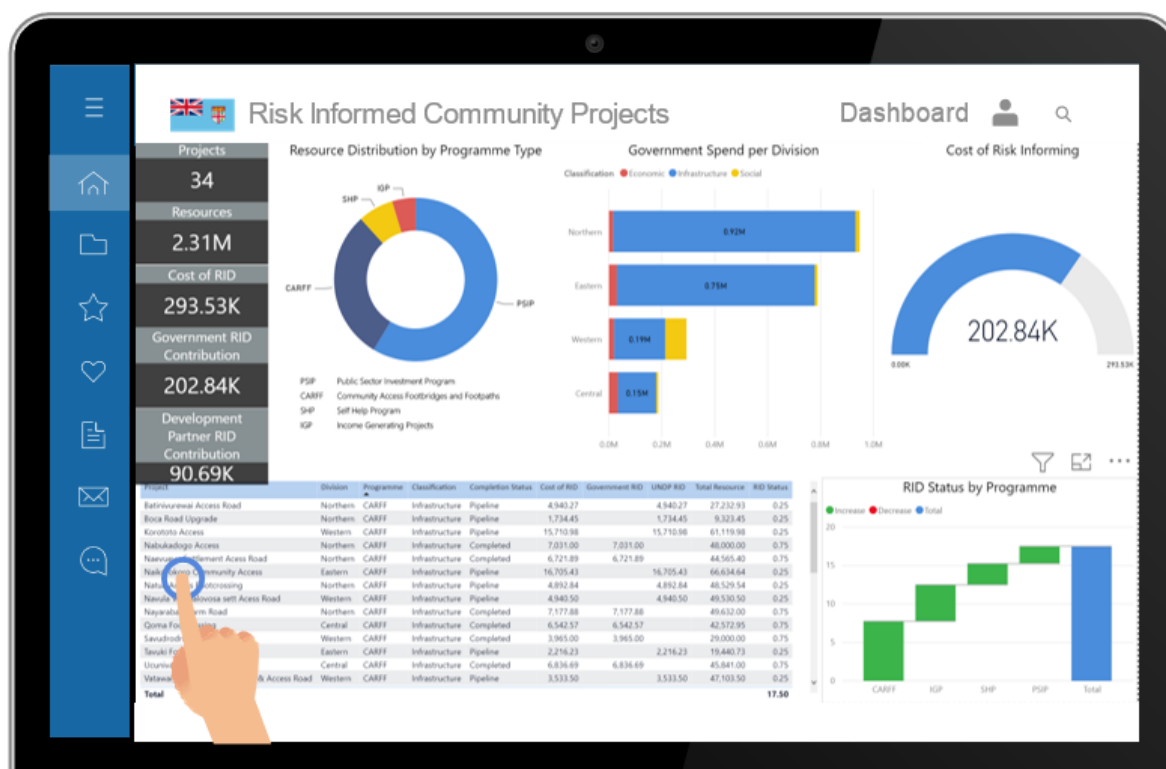
Key Discussions

- Challenges to risk informing development include meaningfully and sustainably embedding risks into public financial management, for instance into development plans (Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu), appraisal criteria (Tonga and Vanuatu) and monitoring and evaluation (Fiji and Solomon Islands).
- Resilience units located within the Ministry of Finance in Tonga and Fiji have a practical role to play in shifting the focus from climate finance access to internal systems reform for more risk informed development. Countries including Vanuatu are adopting a similar model.
- Tonga presented a Virtual Infrastructure Retrofit undertaken for Nuku'alofa using geospatial analysis, which Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, PIFS and others expressed interest in replicating or investigating further.
- Fiji Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development outlined the critical role subnational government play as an 'integrator' to enhance resilience through coordination across sectors and down to communities. This was reinforced by the Solomon Islands through the work of the Provincial Capacity Development Fund.
- Countries and donors noted that implementation of resilient community projects is critical in the coming project cycle.
- An agile approach to delivery of the Gov4Res is appreciated by governments. Solomon Islands noted that it ensures the project is able to effectively support governments own development priorities.
- The function of oversight and accountability actors, such as parliament and auditors-general, in holding government to account for implementation of resilience activities is relatively unexplored.
- The narrative at the regional level is shifting from a focus on accessing climate finance to better understanding effectiveness of different sources of finances at reducing climate change and disaster risk, however the research defining or validating effectiveness is still limited in the region.

Decision Points

- **Work plan.** The proposed work plan for 2021 for Gov4Res was endorsed by project stakeholders.
- **Geospatial** work to be explored with sectors, subnational government and regional partners by the UNDP.
- **PIFS and UNDP** to present preliminary climate and development finance effectiveness research results at 2021 Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, and identify countries interested in undertaking pilot research at the national level.

Emerging Strategic Opportunities Session



Key Discussions

- A new offering of support to risk inform community development projects has been developed by the Gov4Res project.
- Countries can access a package of seed funding for risk management measures, support to leverage funding, risk mapping, technical advisory support (e.g., engineering expertise), creation of internal risk informed development capacity and risk screening tools.
- Successfully implemented risk informed projects will be used to demonstrate the value of institutional reform across the rest of a countries public financial management system.
- Analysis of the project, sectoral and country risk informing needs, costs and funding gaps will be undertaken and be accessible on an online dashboard for all participating countries.
- An update on the projects COVID-19 pivot was not presented due to time restraints.

Decision Points

- **Adoption.** A number of country partners and donors expressed interest in replicating Fiji's Community Resilience Project pipeline.