2020/2021

PACIFIC RESILIENCE FUND

PACIFIC PEOPLES' PARTNERSHIP



For over forty-five years, Pacific Peoples' Partnership has supported the aspirations of South Pacific Islanders and Indigenous peoples for peace, environmental sustainability, social justice, and community development.

Situated on Lekwungen territories in Victoria BC, we are Canada's only non-profit organization and registered charity focused specifically on the island nations of the South Pacific. Our programs reach members and supporters in more than twenty countries worldwide.

Our Vision / Empowered people and thriving communities across the Pacific Our Mission / Actively working with Indigenous Peoples and South Pacific Islanders towards peace, justice, environmental sustainability, and community led development.

Our Values

We value an open process of multi-stakeholder dialogue through country-based thematic, regional, grassroots, and global consultations. PPP works as part of the team to help define common principles and goals within the countries we work with. We work in partnership to achieve those goals and principles. Above all, PPP values respect in every aspect of social and business interaction. **We practice respect through commitment to the following values**: PPP promotes human rights and social justice.

PPP embodies gender equality and equity while promoting women's rights.

PPP focuses on people's empowerment, democratic ownership, and participation.

PPP promotes environmental sustainability.

PPP practices transparency and accountability.

PPP pursues equitable partnerships and solidarity.

PPP creates and shares knowledge appropriately and is committed to mutual learning. PPP is committed to realizing positive sustainable change.

Pacific Peoples' Partnership is proud to be a situated guest on Lekwungen Coast Salish Traditional Territories, we are ever grateful for the opportunity to live and work in these beautiful and abundant lands which have been stewarded since time immemorial by the Coast Salish peoples.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, Pacific Peoples' Partnership (PPP) was grateful to have received \$50,000 USD in funding from the Full Circle Fund of RSF Social Finance to support a proposed deep listening "Wayfinding Tour" within parts of the South Pacific in 2020. The intention was to strengthen relationships with Pacific Island partners and communities, to listen and learn about how PPP can best serve them, to inform our strategic planning processes, and to introduce the concept of the Pacific Resilience Fund.

Given the COVID-19 global pandemic and indefinite travel restrictions, we requested a reallocation of those funds to complete a remote needs assessment, officially pilot the Pacific Resilience Fund (PRF) and develop our ten year vision and strategic plan.

The first stage of this work was to assemble a five member Pacific Islander Advisory Committee (PIAC) of trusted PPP friends throughout the South Pacific to assist with this work.

A draft survey questionnaire was then developed, reviewed and approved by PPP's board members and external experts including the PIAC. The survey questions explored the organizational structure of responder organizations (mandate, staff, budget); priority needs and resilience drivers; and engagement with PPP. Questions included gender dynamics and the impact of operations during COVID-19 context. Respondents were offered the choice of replying to an online survey or engaging in a telephone/Zoom interview and a draw was held to incentivize participation.

More than 300 survey requests were sent out. We had 22 respondents (12 female, 7 male, 3 gender not clarified), including representatives of 21 Pacific non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and one Pacific training consortium. Although a small sample size, responses were rich and diverse, coming from twelve Pacific Nations across the three Pacific regions: Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia. PPP extends heartfelt appreciation to all respondents for their comprehensive input during a time when many were contending with COVID-19 operational constraints, costly and intermittent internet, and destructive weather events. Data was collected via Google forms and interviews from January 31st - February 24th, 2021.

Concurrently, the PIAC met intermittently with our Executive Team to explore the concept, structure and role for the Pacific Resilience Fund. The committee met six times from November 2020 to June 2021 and we engaged several experts to provide support and guidance to the committee including Dr. Myrna Cain Cunningham, Chair of the Pawanka Fund. We also benefited from shared learnings from the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, and through our Executive Director's engagement in the working group for Indigenous-led funds, plus interviews with several global Indigenous-led funds.



Executive summary continued..

With PIAC guidance we developed the following definition adopted in part by the work of the Indigenous-led funds working group: As an Indigenous-led Fund, we believe when South Pacific Islanders direct the design, strategy setting, implementation, monitoring and funds disbursement, it results in empowerment, resurgence, and self-determination, leading to transformative impact understood by all stakeholders

The committee drafted a set of relevant indicators, developed a grant application process, and offered small grants to six organisations across all three regions of the South Pacific. Each project contributed to at least two of our drafted indicators.

As with any pilot, we experienced a learning curve and are still discovering ways to improve. Given the time limitations, and complications with transferring funds overseas, not all PRF funded projects have been completed; however, they have all successfully commenced with all funds allocated.

With the support of our partners, and the feedback we have already received throughout this journey, we truly believe that this fund has immense potential in creating a positive, collaborative impact across the South Pacific region, and we look forward to the next phase of this integral process.

This report gives an overview of the needs assessment, as well as summaries of the projects funded during the pilot of the Pacific Resilience Fund, lessons learned, and our next steps.

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Timely partly because there is an exiting of funders from the region, and particularly small granting funders from the region. Trends are moving toward large parts of funds which means most grassroots communities cannot apply... so moving toward small rapid funds at the scale you're looking at... that's really important, well placed, and extremely timely that you're stepping into grant making right now. This is just the right way. Lots of dismissal around small grant making and that's a tragedy and lack of imagination, but this is one way to reach community. Pleased to be part of the

process and see where we can take it next.

-Maureen Penjueli

Coordinator, Pacific Network on Globalisation







WHAT IS THE PRF?

Pacific Peoples' Partnership's Pacific Resilience Fund (PRF) is transforming into an Indigenous Led Fund (ILF). The distribution of PRF and its complementary programming, are guided by a Pacific Islander Advisory Council (PIAC) of trusted members, all of whom are deeply involved in grassroots community development throughout the South Pacific.

The PIAC recommends grants through a self-determined, peer reviewed process and grants are awarded to South Pacific grassroots organizations working to build resilience within their own communities.

Grants are provided on an invitation basis only and awarded equitably throughout the South Pacific regions. The PRF is intended to build resilience in Pacific Island communities as they define it. While ultimately supporting the livelihoods and adaptation measures of Pacific communities facing the dual challenges of climate change and COVID-19.

The PRF is in its trial phase for 2020/2021; throughout this process we have engaged in active listening and learning, to better understand the needs of Pacific Island communities and allow for partners voices to be heard throughout the process, with the ultimate goal to refine the PRF and complimentary programs for Pacific Islanders.



As an Indigenous-led Fund, we believe when South Pacific Islanders direct the design, strategy setting, implementation, monitoring and funds disbursement, it results in empowerment, resurgence, and selfdetermination, leading to transformative impact understood by all stakeholders







The size of responding organizations varied. Five organizations were 100% volunteer run. Six have 1-5 staff or volunteers, seven have 4-15, five have 16-29, and two have 30 or more.

Annual budgets, in USD, also span a wide range. Nine organizations have budgets of less than \$100,000, six of which provide services for less than \$50,000 each year. Eleven organizations have annual budgets exceeding \$100,000, two of which have budgets of \$1 million or more.

Respondents identified their services, by sector:

Education: Mentoring, scholarships, technology, tutoring (5) Counselling: Gender based violence, children, families (5) Legal: Providing legal services or advice, reintegration services, policy (3)

Health: Water and Sanitation (WASH), COVID-19 response, distribution of hygiene products **(3)**

Environment: Conservation, rehabilitation, climate change (3)

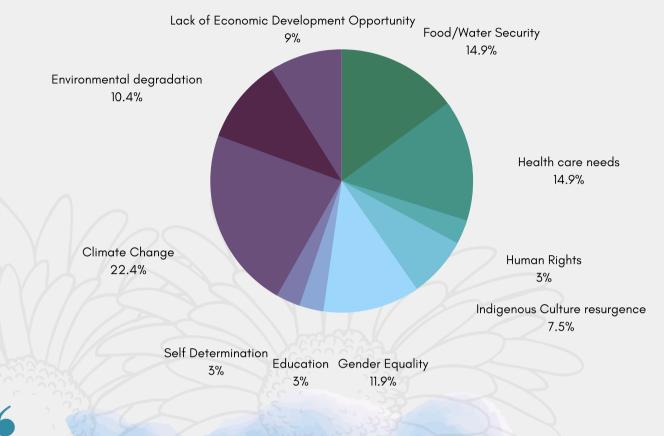
Disaster and Risk Reduction: Disaster preparedness, readiness, and response (2)

Organizational development: Strategic planning, advising (2)

Art and Culture: Preservation of artifacts, art exhibitions, traditional knowledge sharing (1)

Human Rights: Advocacy, engagement (1)

Question 2.2 What are the 3 most urgent issues facing Pacific Islanders today?



[Resilience is...] The ability to overcome setbacks and challenges and changes. In practical terms this means having the connection and freedom to give and receive help with people of other islands. We have been cut off from our island partners and networks by colonization. But now we must rebuild that system and give our youth ways to work on it all together.

-Anonymous

Needs Assessment Survey, 2021



Climate change (22.4%) Food and Water Security (14.9%)

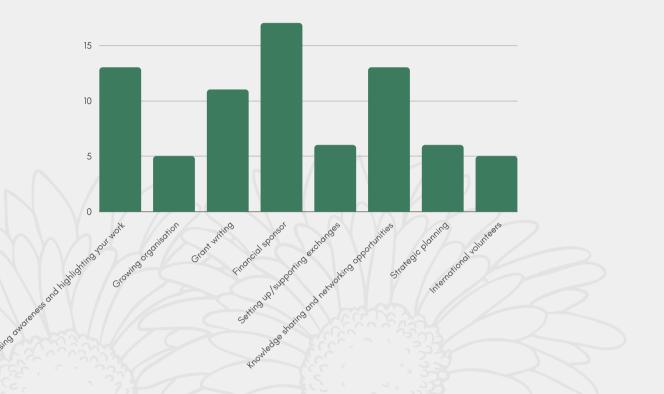
(agriculture, fisheries, potable water) and **Health Care** (14.9%) (COVID-19, HIV, access to medicine, training) were seen as the most urgent issues facing Pacific Islanders today

Resilience

Respondents documented strong momentum and commitment to ensuring resilience in both their organizations and their communities. Traditional, community, family, bounce back, peace, supporting others, sustaining, and persevering were all words respondents associated with 'resilience'. Responses centered on the importance of social cohesion and actively ensuring their food sources and natural environments can withstand stress and adaptation.

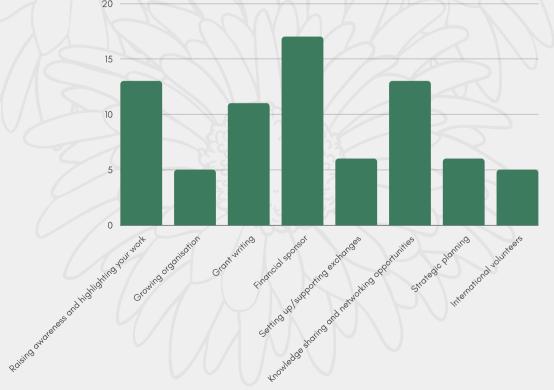
Question 3.2 What are the priority needs of your organization?

Respondents identified the priority learning needs within their organizations as: **fundraising** (and linked skill-building in proposal and report writing), **skill-sharing partnerships**, and **technology**.



3.3 What kind of external support would help your organization thrive/succeed? (Select 3)

Respondents were asked to identify external support that could be pivotal in helping their organization thrive. Key assistance is sought to gain financial sponsorship, raise their organization's profile and awareness, and strengthen knowledge-sharing and networking, as well as in grant writing.



REFLECTIONS ON GENDER

The majority of respondents stated that gender roles are clearly understood (although not always explicitly defined) and co-exist with men and women regarding each other with respect. Stopping gender-based violence, however, was reported as a key area of civil society focus. Respondents described their cultures as being predominantly patriarchal with men holding power and being in decision making positions while women are often seen as helpers who are meant to support men. Many responders also stated that it is important to continue progressing women's involvement in leadership.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT WITH PPP

The assessment sample included a near equal number of organizations that had previous involvement with PPP (12) and organizations that had not (10). Those who have been involved have predominantly been engaged as partners, financial supporters, PPP Networking Conference attendees or working in program development.

All respondents expressed interest in strengthening their engagement with PPP in the following ways:

Financial Sponsor/Funding (8) Knowledge Sharing (5) Networking (5) Capacity Building (3) Climate Change (2) Professional Development (2)

Respondents identified involvement in the following PPP programs and offerings as being of most benefit or interest to them: **partnership and funding**; **Indigenous community engagement and solidarity**; **a portal for Pacific connections and North/South exchanges**; and **information sharing**, which includes having a Canadian voice advocate for the South Pacific

A PACIFIC HEALING CIRCLE

PPP partnered with Tonga's Women and Children Crisis Centre, Centre for Indigenous Research and Community Led Engagement (CIRCLE) at UVIC to facilitate knowledge sharing between Indigenous Peoples across Canada and South Pacific Islanders in order to raise awareness around gender based violence and culturally appropriate interventions. This virtual summit was available online globally and aimed to unite a multidisciplinary, multicultural and multi-generational community of Indigenous leaders, academics, community organizers and creative thinkers to explore critical issues surrounding women's rights, gender equity, and gender based violence.



Learn more here: https://pacificpeoplespartnership.org/a-pacific-healing-circle/

Panelists:

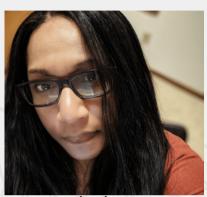
Culturally Appropriate Healing Practices

Lorelei Williams Tura Lewai Wilma Eileen

Decolonizing Partnerships

'Ofa Guttenbeil-Likiliki Raven Lacerte Sage Lacerte

PACIFIC ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE



DR. MÉRÉ SOVICK Founder and Executive Director of Melanesian Women today

We are females and we have great ideas and great aspirations; we work within our communities, so we know the stories that are important and we know what they are requesting and we hear it all the time. **Kianna Juda Angelo**

Founder of Living Islands Non Profit



JENNIFER BAING-WAIKO

Founder of Save PNG



KIANNA JUDA ANGELO Founder and Executive Director of Living Islands Non Profit



MAUREEN PENJUELI Coordinator, Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG), Fiji



Indicators

The following are indicators we drafted in collaboration with the PIAC. We came to together to determine indicators that would be in alignment with the needs of South Pacific Islanders

WELL-BEING AND SELF DETERMINED DEVELOPMENT AUTONOMY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY, AND THE OCEAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

CULTURAL PRACTICES, SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO EACH OTHER, LAND, and SEA

EDUCATION: SYSTEMS OF LEARNING

HEALTH



SAFETY

GENDER EQUITY

*Specific sub indicators can be provided upon request

This is a part of the heartbeat where we can truly embrace support for the people on the ground.

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Dr. Méré Sovick Founder and Director of Melanesian Women Today

FUND DISTRIBUTION

For the first round of piloting the Pacific Resilience Fund, due to the tight deadlines and limited resources for grants we opted to entrust our Pacific Islander Advisory Committee and to two other trusted partners to distribute funds. Given the short turnaround and being in a learning phase, we wanted to be able to receive ongoing feedback and support and found this to be the most effective and efficient way for our first round of grants. We distributed USD \$23,423.91 between six organizations across the three South Pacific Regions.

We are embarking on an important role here to assist and help our communities and we know that there are so many people out there that will welcome this initiative with open arms.

Leaula Theresa Asiata CEO of Samoa Social Welfare Fesoasoani Trust

Living Islands Non Profit

"Living Islands [https://livingislands.org/] is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization, dedicated to supporting Pacific Islander Communities through cross-cultural education and awareness since 2013" (Living Islands, 2021).

Funding Received: USD \$4,207.11

Indicators:

Well-being and Self-Determined Development Autonomy and Economic Development Traditional Knowledge Gender Equity

The project:

Living Islands distributed the funds to two organizations: **Lihn Mwoakilloa Inc.** in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and **a Marshallese women's group** in Majuro, the Republic of the Marshall Islands for projects focused on **traditional knowledge sharing**, and gender equity.

Lihn Mwoakilloa Inc. is running a program to educate the next generation by re-introducing local food production, and teaching next generation of women to make natural oils. The oils are locally made from coconut, and scented naturally with a local flower found mostly on their atoll called Id. The group was subsequently selected to provide these oil and hand-sewn masks to be included in the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) COVID Dignity Kits distributed by IOM to the Covid-19 quarantine sites in FSM.

The Marshallese women's group spent half the grant on teaching and promoting traditional weaving for young women who wish to continue the tradition as well as provide a living this way. The second half used in a program encouraging women to take up fishing. Due to changes in cultural norms and the emergence of jobs in non-traditional sectors, women are increasingly becoming the keepers of traditional knowledges, including fishing. The group is involved with the largest yearly fishing tournament on the National Fishing Day, which is a national holiday in the Marshall Islands, and the funding allows the women's group to both organize and participate in the tournament.



A woman in the Republic of the Marshall Islands learning traditional weaving



Women gathered in FSM

Melanesian Women Today

"Melanesian Women Today [melanesianwomentoday.org] is an International Non-Profit that works with women and girls in the Melanesian region of the South Pacific to become leaders and conscious key agents of change in areas of education, health and entrepreneurship" (Melanesian Women Today, 2021)

Funding Received: USD\$4,350

Indicators:

Well-being and self-determined development Autonomy and economic development Gender Equity

The project:

To find out how successful small female business owners overcome constraints to remain in business for longer than five years. Also, to develop educational materials that are culturally appropriate to train future women entrepreneurs how to overcome those same constraints.

Outcomes:

Hiring the team on the ground gave them an opportunity to help out with the study. Additionally, they helped out with their own families as well by including their family members during community meetings to introduce the project to each of the five women participants.

Each participant was given a token of appreciation for their participation by way of money so that they can put it to use towards their business and families as well as their communities.

After developing the materials from the results of the study, more women and communities on both Efate and Santo Island will benefit from the materials that will be developed to enhance their business or start new business. Additionally, these materials will help small business owners identify strategies used to eliminate any constraints that may prohibit their business operation from being successful.

The materials will also serve as a guide to encourage other women entrepreneurs to enhance their professional practices and to adopt new business strategies to make better strategic decisions.

In the long run, helping women entrepreneurs succeed in their business by identifying the constraints and overcoming those constraints which could prevent them from fully participating in society only adds to community building as well as encouraging young women to start their own small businesses.



Jeanette Apriman - Owner and founder of Malsei Kindergarten or Santo Island in Vanuatu Photo Credit: Edward John (School Parent)



Mrs. Aspinol Tari in front of her shop

Save PNG

"Save PNG [savepng.org] is a Papua New Guinean founded organization and has played an instrumental role in addressing food, health and climate issues through media education and intercultural exchanges" (Save PNG, 2021)

Funding Received: USD \$4,551.41

Indicators:

Well-being and Self-Determined Development Autonomy and Economic Development Traditional Knowledge Gender Equity

The project:

Running awareness with women in Markham, Finschhafen, and Siassi Islands in Morobe Province on indigenous arts and crafts and organsing women into groups to market their products.

We have decided to work with communities that are rural and remote who little access to markets and are unable to market their perishable items such as food crops or fresh fish. Arts and crafts are non-perishable and can be made at anytime to bring income into the family.

The project is not yet complete; this is the beginning of the project however the project has initially helped the communities to see that all they need to make a living can be found directly from their natural environments and has given them an initial income.

The beautiful bilums (woven bags) from the Siassi Islands are woven with shells. A man has taken up bilum weaving in the Imane communities and has shown great talent in bilum making. Bilum making is traditionally a women's art.



Bilum samples from the Amberi Tribe of the Onga Waffa Local Level Government are of the Markham District of Morobe Province



Bilum samples from Malasiga Village in the Finschhafen District of Morobe Province

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Samoa Social Welfare Fesoasoani Trust (SSWEFT)

Based in Samoa, SSWEFT [www.facebook.com/ssweft] is a nongovernmental organization established in 2015. Its main focus is on assisting offenders and members of the community not only in court cases but also in counselling, immigration matters and providing legal advice.

Funding Received: USD \$4,027/SAT\$6,114.32

Indicators: Well-being and Self-Determined Development Health Safety

The project:

Implementing an assistance plan to the rural and urban community based on COVID 19 assistance to support in adapting to the global pandemic. The funds received allowed for SSWEFT to deliver 300 hygiene packs to people with disabilities and elders in both urban and remote rural communities. The hygiene packs included: Fabric face masks, hand sanitizers, soap, adult diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand towels and flannels.

This project raised awareness around the extent of individuals with disabilities and the lack of support available; as Theresa notes many were adult children with disabilities being cared for by their elderly parents. The visits and delivery of necessary hygiene kits allowed SSWEFT to provide temporary support. It has helped the community tremendously with them being able to assist the members of their families who are disabled or who are elderlies. The project also raised awareness around the importance of health and sanitation in their homes, with SSWEFT informing the caregivers of basic care and telling them that their health is just as important as that of those they are caring for.



Theresa Asiata and members of SSWEFT deliver a hygiene pack to an elderly man

SSWEFT delivering support packages to an 84 year old lady who is paralyzed

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Lembaga Penelitian Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Bantuan Hukum (LP3BH)

LP3BH is a legal aid, research, and development institute in West Papua led by the prominent human rights lawyer, Yan Christian Warinussy.

Funding Received: USD \$2,589.34/RP 43.843.543.00

Indicators:

Well-being and Self-Determined Development Autonomy and Economic Development Gender equity

The project:

Performing a survey on COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts on Papuan Women's small businesses / micro-enterprise. Facilitating an interactive radio dialogue on the survey and its findings of the impacts of COVID-19 on Papuan Women's small businesses / micro-enterprise.

Activities have had the following impacts:

- 1. Survey revealed COVID-related changes/factors that have affected respondents' small businesses / micro-enterprises, which were previously unknown given they came on slowly over the course of the pandemic.
- 2. The live interactive radio dialogue has influenced the Manokwari Regency public that there government administrative systems and efforts to strengthen the community's economy that did not run optimally through the pandemic in Manokwari Regency [i.e., was impacted by COVID]
- 3.As an NGO, the survey results revealed changes for LP3BH to design program intervention approaches that is more accurate for the community, compared with conventional programs that have been carried out previously and limited to legal education and advocacy for women victims of violence.



Mama Ema Kendi (on right) Indigenous Papuan merchant selling vegetables at the Sanggeng traditional market, Manokwari.



Survey on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Papuan women's small businesses

Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG)

"The Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) [pang.org.fj] mobilizes movements and advocates based on substantive research and analysis to advocate and promote Pacific peoples' centered development agenda. PANG operates through a networking model to support and work with community level groups representing diverse constituencies and interests including trade unions, feminists, young people, traditional landowners, community and environmental groups, scientists, lawyers, economists, political analysts, academics, parliamentarians and governments" (PANG,

2021).

Funding Received: USD \$3,699.05

Indicators:

Well-being and Self-Determined Development Autonomy and Economic Development Health Gender equity

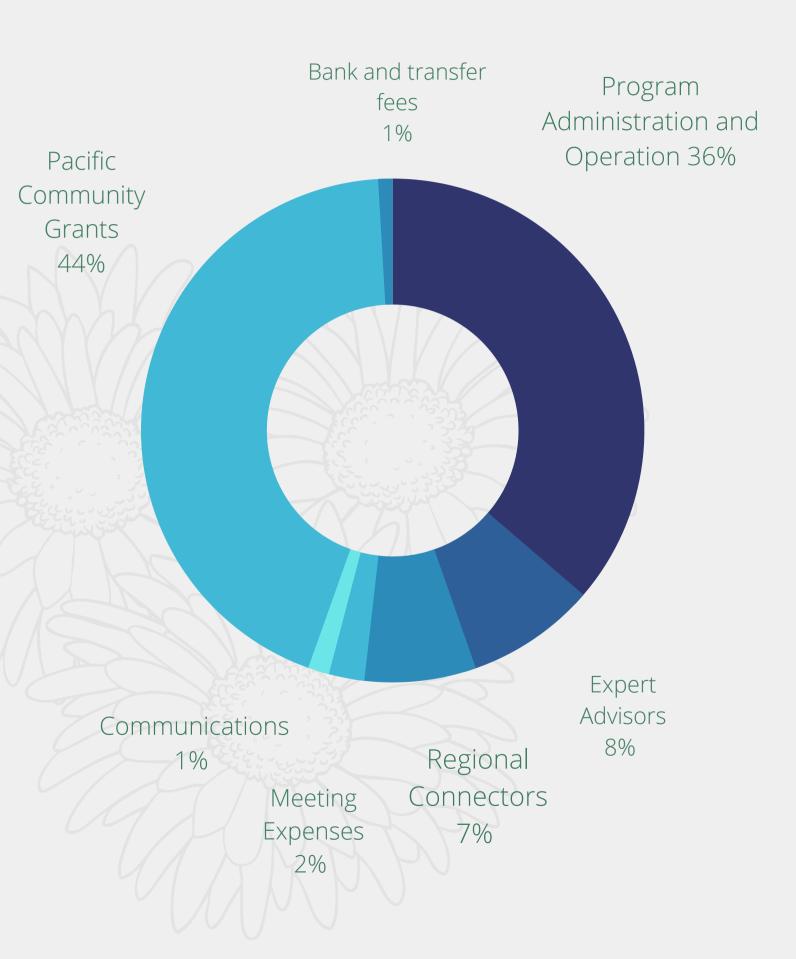
The project:

To build on the resilience of femLINK pacific's cadre of "women's weather watchers', within the Rural Women Leaders Community Media Network (RWLCMN) – in supporting their food and economic security initiatives in a multiple crisis, where severe tropical cyclones are occurring outside the cyclone season, as well as flooding, within a context of a 'double pandemic.'

The project had an intersectional focus with Food and Economic Security being the two areas of primary focus, and ensuring that these are done with COVID-19 awareness. A combination of food and dignity relief packs and seedlings or plant material enabled 10 - 25 women and their families in five locations to 'lift themselves up' with dignity, and also be able to grow their own food in which they could utilise for themselves to support their families.

The Food and Dignity Relief packs - considered the particular immediate plight of the women of the western division, where they are in localised lockdowns and "containment' areas." A total of 50 households were targeted: 10 from each of the districts. A total of 25 women were targeted who are our 'Women's Weather Watchers' - and who are also farmers and markets vendors. Farming implements were purchased. For those that managed small food businesses, food containers, and tarpaulin were provided as an injection of resourcing to help continue and maintain their economic security initiatives. The project also provided personal protective clothing, that would enable the women maintain their well-being so that they could continue to mobilise and relay weather, pandemic, and disaster safety, preparedness and protection messages.

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International transfers

CHALLENGES

Fees and regulations across banking systems resulted in delays in payments as well as loss in transfer fees and exchange rates during the initial transfer, and again if a transfer failed

Deadlines

Given the time differences and technological issues in varying locations, deadline continued to be extended to accommodate to the needs of our partners.

International transfers

PPP has researched varying methods of money transfers to theL IPacific and will be seeking to implement a more streamlinedL Iprocess to make transfers more efficient and less costly.L I

LESSONS LEARNED

Deadlines

For the next phase PPP will be setting a timeline with scheduled check ins and a reporting deadline prior to project start date to ensure that expectations are clear and agreed upon.

Our plan is to:

NEXT STEPS

- Bring together a guiding committee with clear terms of reference
- Further develop and clarify the indicators
- Determine more efficient ways of transferring funds overseas
- Seek funding for phase 2 of the Pacific Resilience Fund

THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTERS

PPP would like to thank the Full Circle Fund of RSF Social Finance for supporting the first pilot of the Pacific Resilience Fund.

PPP would also like to acknowledge and thank the International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP), and Lourdes Inga for their mentorship, knowledge sharing opportunities, and community.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Myrna Cunningham and the team (Marianna, Carla, Nidia, and Joel) at Pawanka Fund for their mentorship and support in developing the PRF.

We would also like to thank Elizabeth Liske at the Arctic Funders Collaborative, Pearl Gottschalk, Linda Pennels, Todd Biderman, Tamara Greenstone Alefaio, William Konsta, Evelyn Arce, Norman Kamsoo, Nicolas Sobourin, Stefano Katz, Raquel Carter, Kate Brown and Ellie Lanphier for their support and guidance through this process

And of course we thank the members of our PIAC: Kianna Juda Angelo, Méré Sovick, Theresa Asiata, Jennifer Baing-Waiko, and Maureen Penjueli for their guidance and support.



End of report

This report has been put together by Agnieszka Zuchora, with editing support from April Ingham and Hanna Seinen.

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