

Fiji Preschools Development Project

Project Update



August 2018



Fiji Preschools Development Project

In January 2018 we launched the Fiji Preschools Development Project. This newsletter contains general updates for the project as well as some information about some exciting work that is taking place in relation to preschool teacher training outside of this project.

The major objective of the project is:

To have eight fully functioning preschools complete with facilities that meet government and OHS standards, trained and certified teachers, and sewing courses to empower mothers and other women in the preschool communities.

This project has three main goals through which the major outcome will be achieved. These are outlined in the next column.

Goal one is to establish and maintain preschool facilities that meet government and OHS standards. The outcome of this goal will be to have fully functioning sanitary toilet facilities and safe playgrounds in every preschool by the end of 2020.

Goal two is to improve quality of education and management of the preschools through enhancing teacher capacity. The outcome of this goal will be to have preschool teachers that are professionally equipped to run preschools and deliver quality education.

Goal three is to provide sewing courses to empower mothers and other women in preschool communities to better provide for their families. The outcome of this goal will be to have women who are equipped with skills that enhance employability and improve the livelihoods of target communities.

We have been able to maintain tax deductible benefits for this new three year Fiji Preschools Development Project thanks to our partnership with Global Development Group (GDG).

If you would like to donate towards the Fiji Preschools Development Project with the benefit of receiving tax deductibility please follow the instructions below.

Step 1: Direct Bank Deposit (online)

Direct Deposit tax deductible donations can be made using the following details.

Account Name: Global Development Group
BSB: 064118
Account Number: 10200094
Reference: e.g. J. Smith J352N

Make sure you include your initials (e.g. J. Smith), followed by **J352N** in the reference section so GDG can trace your deposit.

Step 2: Email GDG your donation details

Email info@globaldevelopment.org.au with the following details.

- Your name and address
- Amount and date of donation
- Project number - **J352N**

GDG will send you a receipt for your tax deductible donation.

If you would like to contribute to the Fiji Preschools Development Project on a regular basis you will need to set this up with your bank and then let GDG know that it will be a recurring donation.

We would like to thank everyone for your support towards the preschools in Fiji. We are excited about all that is taking place within the project.

Enjoy reading through the following updates for the project.



General Update of the Project

In the first six months of the project we have been focused on raising funds for the project. We will hopefully be receiving a government grant that will enable us to complete an outside verandah and entrance into our Suva preschool building. This grant will also go towards finishing off the ceiling inside the preschool. The photos above show the ceiling, the front of the building where the verandah will go, and the land on which a playground will be built.

A church in New Zealand has offered to build a playground for our Suva preschool. This work will take place in the remaining months of 2018. We are very excited to see how the playground turns out.

In addition to this playground, we have funds to begin work on the playgrounds of

the other seven preschools. We will begin working in the preschools with the greatest needs first. Our aim is to build a fenced playground in each preschool. We will then move onto preschools that already have playgrounds. We will perform upgrades on these playgrounds and fence them where funds permit.

We have refined our third goal and are looking at creating a basic accredited sewing course that we will run in each of our preschools. Beginning next year we will run the course in Suva as a trial. Other preschools will run basic sewing classes each week but will not run the accredited course until the following year.

Preschool mothers will have the opportunity to gain valuable skills that will assist them with future employment. We would love to hold a graduation service for these mothers at the same time as the preschool graduations each year.

Preschool Teacher Training Workshop

On Tuesday 21st of August, 2018 we held our preschool teacher training workshop. Sue Shemeikka from Adelaide ran the workshop. Sue is an accredited trainer with years of experience. We received very positive feedback for the workshop.

The main topic for the workshop was about children's learning and development, and how children learn during the preschool years. They focused on children's learning through all their experiences including play, routines and relationships. They reviewed some development theories of learning, and how the principles can be applied when observing children and when planning in order to 'scaffold' further learning. They also looked at inclusive practices, and how to support every child's right to participate in a preschool program.

Sue is in the process of writing our accredited preschool teacher training course that will be used in Fiji. She was able to meet with some prominent people in the education department while she was in Fiji. We have received positive messages from these people. We are very excited to see what will happen with this course in the future. This course will begin next year.

Our next preschool teacher training workshop will hopefully be held in April 2019. The government supports the running of these workshops and have asked that we let them know details in advance so they can promote the training among their own teachers. Next year's teacher training will run for three and a half days and be open to teachers outside our preschools as well as those within. Running the workshop over a longer period of time will enable us to train the teachers in more areas through lecture style sessions as well as practical lessons.



Additional News Outside of the Project

Under goal two of our project we are developing an accredited preschool teacher training course that will be used to train our preschool teachers in Fiji. In addition to offering this training in Fiji, we also want to offer this course in Papua New Guinea at Bethel Centre in Port Moresby.

Preschool teacher training in Papua New Guinea is not included in the Fiji Preschools Development Project and is therefore not eligible for tax deductible donations through Global Development Group.

Existing preschool teachers and future preschool teachers will be sent to Port Moresby from many nations to complete their training. We have already received

interest from people in Vanuatu, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka in addition to local students from Papua New Guinea.

This course will have accreditation in Fiji and will be sufficient for use in other developing nations where preschools have already been established and in other nations where preschools may be established in the future by our students after they graduate.

Our team at Bethel Centre are currently in the process of constructing a building that will be used for the preschool teacher training. This building will only be used for preschool training purposes and will be fully equipped with all of the necessary equipment needed. This is an exciting time and we are looking forward to the completion of the building. It should be complete and ready for the course to begin running in the beginning months of 2019.

In order for this course to run efficiently we need an experienced trainer. Viema and Ilisoni Vakacegu have been approached and have agreed to move to Papua New Guinea at the beginning of 2019 with their two children. Viema will be our course coordinator and Ilisoni will complete Bible School at Bethel Centre, which has been a desire of his for a long time now.

Viema is currently our head preschool teacher in Suva. She has been involved in the preschool for 18 years. She has completed formal training and is a very gifted preschool teacher. Although she will notice a difference in training adults rather than small children, we are confident that she will do an excellent job training preschool teachers in Papua New Guinea.

Ilisoni has been working in the ministry for nine years and is a big help to the CRC work in Suva. He helps Ps Alipate and is

part of the leadership team in Suva. He is also involved in the church worship team and is excited to become involved in the worship team at Bethel Centre.

In addition to all of these roles, Viema and Ilisoni are in their second year of leading the CRC work in Lakena, a squatter settlement located just outside of Suva and the location of one of our preschools. They have approximately 30 people attending the church in Lakena.

We are intentional about creating educational and training opportunities for people around the world. We hope that through training preschool teachers they themselves will be empowered and better equipped for their own futures. We also believe that well trained teachers will be able to play a vital role in the lives of young children around the world as preschools continue to be established in many nations.

Partner Information

Bethel Crusade Preschools is a partner for project J352N Fiji Preschools Development Project with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for this approved development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J352N. If funds raised exceed the requirement for this project, funds may be directed to another approved activity.

Please note, no non-development (evangelistic, political or welfare) activities are a part of, or funded by, GDG projects.

For more information about Global Development Group please visit:
www.gdg.org.au

For more information about the project please visit:
www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ352N



PROJECT VIDEO LINKS

Fiji Preschools Development Project - Goal 1 Overview
<https://youtu.be/40XXW1fZF6Q>

Fiji Preschools Development Project - Goal 2 Overview
https://youtu.be/RBgDW5xb_zE

Fiji Preschools Development Project - Overview
<https://youtu.be/vVbdkv5-3ww>