Pacific Island States
“Real momentum and gains in advancing disability rights can only take place if different stakeholders are enabled to work together, building on each other’s experience and recognizing the critical role of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. A genuine, flexible and empowering partnership between the Pacific Disability Forum, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and UN agencies was the key behind the success of Pacific Enable. The Pacific Disability Forum is a proud member of the Pacific Enable project and is thankful to the UNPRPD and its Technical Secretariat for the support provided under this initiative.”

Setareki Macanawai
Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum

UN organizations ______________________ ILO, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNV, WHO
Budget _______________________________ US$ 350,000
Duration _______________________________ Oct 2012-Sep 2015
The UNPRPD Pacific Enable project sought to leverage the unique relationship between the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in several Pacific Island States. In keeping with the priorities identified by governments and regional organizations of persons with disabilities, four related themes were selected as key focus areas for the project: strengthening legislative and regulatory frameworks; enhancing national-level data collection processes; improving education outcomes for children with disabilities; and increasing work and employment opportunities for men and women with disabilities.
RESULTS

PROMOTION OF CRPD COMPLIANT LEGISLATION

CRPD legislative reviews were conducted within the framework of the project in three countries: the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Nauru and the Republic of Vanuatu. More than 500 laws were examined as part of this exercise, of which a significant proportion were found to be inconsistent with CRPD provisions. The reviews established a strategic foundation for the development of CRPD compliant legislation, which will be further pursued in the second phase of the initiative.

In addition to the review, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the project supported the drafting of a dedicated disability rights law — the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill — which was enacted in September 2015. The codification of RMI’s Human Rights Committee which now has significant advisory, monitoring and complaint-handling powers in respect of human rights treaties ratified by RMI including the CRPD was another legislative outcome of the project and an example of how disability-specific work carried out in the UNPRPD context can have a positive impact on the broader national human rights machinery.

Project technical and financial assistance helped the PDF and the PIFS Secretariat produce a comprehensive study on barriers to CRPD adoption and compliance in Pacific Island States. This research will now be used as a basis for joint advocacy efforts and policy dialogue in the region.
ENHANCING DISABILITY DATA-COLLECTION SYSTEMS

As a result of UNPRPD analytical and advocacy efforts, the issue of disability statistics was tabled at the July 2013 meeting of regional Heads of Planning and Statistics. An important outcome of the meeting was the decision to reassess existing census and survey datasets in order to obtain a more detailed picture of disability in the region. Another key result was an agreement to include disability as a theme in the National Minimum Development Indicator Database, maintained by Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Following these commitments, the UNPRPD supported the national statistics offices of the Republic of Fiji, the Independent State of Samoa and the Republic of Vanuatu in introducing disability components based on Washington Group standards into their demographic and health surveys. In addition, the programme provided technical assistance to the Vanuatu National Statistics Office in the conceptualization and implementation of a study on the situation of children, women and men with disabilities, based on a detailed statistical analysis of the census, household surveys and education database. The study provides an updated and more accurate estimate of disability prevalence in Vanuatu, documents gaps in access to services and makes recommendations to improve the quality of future data collection.
Building Capacity for Inclusive Education

Training on early intervention and inclusive education was conducted jointly with the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People using resources developed by Education International. A total of 231 key Early Childhood Care and Education Teachers, including 12 Zone Curriculum Advisors and eight Heads of Primary Schools, were reached by the training. Parents, who were also invited to participate in the programme, reported “[being] delighted to have resources to learn how a child with a disability feels and how a parent or teacher can support this child [to] feel part of the community.”

Promoting Access to Sustainable Livelihoods

Technical support was provided by the project for the development of a national action plan for community-based rehabilitation in the Republic of Vanuatu. This plan outlines key elements to be put in place in order to provide services to persons with disabilities in a range of areas, including employment facilitation. Twenty-five representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities from four Pacific Island countries gained new skills through the ILO’s Start Your Business Programme Training of Trainers, held in Nadi, Republic of Fiji. The participants then delivered follow-up training for persons with disabilities in their respective countries.
Officially launched in 2011, the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, disabled people’s organizations and the broader civil society to advance disability rights around the world. The UNPRPD supports the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by facilitating policy dialogue, coalition-building and capacity-development at country, regional and global levels. In doing so, it leverages the comparative advantage of multiple stakeholders to advance the vision of a “society for all” in the 21st century.

The UN entities participating in the UNPRPD are the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNDP Inclusive Political Processes Team serves as the Technical Secretariat for the Partnership. The UNPRPD also works closely with multiple civil society organizations including the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

The UNPRPD is supported by the UNPRPD Fund, a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established to mobilize resources for the Partnership. The UNPRPD MPTF is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) and builds on the experience developed by the MPTF Office in managing multiple Multi-Partner Trust Funds and joint programmes around the world.