

# The Project for Pacific Co-Learning Towards Resilient Health System

## First Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

### Press Statement

7 November 2023



The Project for Pacific Co-Learning Towards Resilient Health System held its First Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting today (7<sup>th</sup> November 2023), at the Ministry of Health. The five-year project was launched in June aiming at strengthening the health systems in Fiji and Tonga, to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential health services during health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Tonga JICA Office, the Ministry of Health and the Project Team. The main purpose of the meeting is to present the results of the Situational Analysis carried out earlier this year and the Project Workplan from 2023 to 2025.

The Chairman of the Committee, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Reynold Ófanoa commented in his opening remarks “... earlier this year we have heard from the JICA experts on the results of the Situation Analysis, which is not surprising. However, there are concrete recommendations, and these recommendations are an outcome of successful collaboration, commitment and passionate team effort between the Ministry of Health and the JICA Project Team...”

The Project Work Plan focused on four key outputs including reviewing of key NCDs guidelines, capacity building and most importantly is the enhancement of the hospital digital health features. The new features will allow the system to automatically send a SMS to NCDs defaulters by reminding their clinic appointment. Furthermore, the new feature will reduce the workload of health workers who have been using telephone for follow ups.

Mr. Hiroaki Takashima the Resident Representative of the JICA Office in his closing remarks “...this first Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting is a good start for the Project. Now we are at a stage of rolling out the first phase of the Project from 2023 to 2025. There is a possibility this Project will come again after the 5 years but on a different health thematic area...”

The Project has a local office in the Ministry with hybrid support from the Project Expert Team in Japan. The Joint Coordinating Committee platform is served as an oversight body of the Project. The Committee next meeting will be in November 2024.

End

For further information please contact Sioape Kupu at [sioapekupu@gmail.com](mailto:sioapekupu@gmail.com)