

CHANGES FROM SUBPROGRAM 3 INDICATIVE POLICY ACTIONS TO FINAL POLICY ACTIONS

| Subprogram 3 Indicative policy actions | Subprogram 3 Final policy actions | Reason for changes |
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| <u>REFORM AREA 1: FISCAL MANAGEMENT IMPROVED</u> | | |
| 1.1.1 Cabinet shall have approved a Public Financial Management Bill for tabling in Parliament that will strengthen accountability and clarify the financial authority of Permanent Secretaries. | | <u>Action removed</u> A change in the development partner providing support caused delays. Due to a departure there was also some internal capacity gaps requiring the terms of reference for the consultant to be reviewed, causing further delays. The consultant has now been recruited, but due to COVID-19, the focus on supplementary budget and then 2021 national budget, this action will be delayed but is recognized as part of the post-program partnership framework. |
| 1.1.2 Ministry of Economy shall have completed public expenditure reviews of expenditure categories according to the national budget and a synopsis shall have been made available to the public through the Ministry of Economy's newsletter. | 1.1.2 The Ministry of Economy completed a public expenditure review (PER) that includes high level sector reviews on education, health, capital spending, personnel, and transfers and subsidies, and a synopsis of the PER was published on the Ministry of Economy's website. ^a | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 1.1.3 Ministry of Economy shall have fully implemented the Medium Term Expenditure Framework through the use of costed sector strategies, forward estimates and clear links between investments and recurrent cost requirements. | 1.1.3 The Ministry of Economy implemented the Medium Term Expenditure Framework through the incorporation of forward estimates and clear links between investments and recurrent cost requirements in the FY2021 budget submission template. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 1.1.4 At least three additional Ministries shall have adopted use of the planning framework that will aid Ministries to better align their service delivery, staffing and corporate planning requirements. | 1.1.4 All Ministries have adopted use of the planning framework that will aid Ministries to better align their service delivery, staffing and corporate planning requirements. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| | 1.1.5 The Ministry of Economy (i) completed a Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Assessment | <u>New action.</u> |

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| | and the final report has been published on its website, and (ii) completed a PEFA self-assessment of gender responsive public financial management which has been approved by the PEFA Secretariat. ^b | |
| | 1.1.6 Parliament passed a supplementary COVID-19 Response Budget for FY2020 that allocates additional resources for COVID-19 containment and treatment and reduces total budgeted expenditure to contain the fiscal deficit in a fiscally sustainable manner. | <u>New action.</u> |
| 1.3.1 Minister responsible for finance shall have approved the recommendations of the FMIS review, and Ministry of Economy shall have commenced implementation of recommendations. | 1.3.1 The Minister responsible for finance approved the recommendations of the FMIS review, and the Ministry of Economy commenced development of business and technical requirements to enable procurement of software modules (budget reporting and monitoring, and business intelligence) that include capability to tag gender expenditure. ^c | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 1.3.2 At least 80% of government payments shall have been made through digital platforms. | 1.3.2 92% of government payments have been made through digital platforms during 1 August 2019–31 March 2020. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| | 1.4.1 Ministry of Economy submitted a Cabinet information paper that outlines the steps taken to introduce gender-responsive budgeting principles in the annual budget process. | <u>New action.</u> |
| | 1.4.2 The Ministry of Economy issued budget submission templates that include gender-responsive budgeting principles, and, as a pilot, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Tourism and Ministry of Fisheries, are required to make budget submissions for at least 2 programs in line with the new methodology. | <u>New action.</u> |

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| <u>REFORM AREA 2: POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SOEs AND PPPs IMPROVED</u> | | |
| 2.1.1 Minister responsible for public enterprises shall have made regulations under the Public Enterprises Act 2019 in relation to the percentage of share ownership or control for the purposes of section 43(2)(e). | 2.1.1 Minister responsible for public enterprises made regulations under the Public Enterprises Act 2019 in relation to the percentage of share ownership or control for the purposes of section 43(2)(e). | <u>No change.</u> |
| 2.1.2 Department of Public Enterprises shall have conducted training programs for 75% of directors and 75% of senior management (defined as chief executive officer and chief financial officer, or equivalent positions) of public enterprises on the compliance requirements of the Public Enterprises Act 2019. | 2.1.2 The Department of Public Enterprises conducted training programs for 76% of directors and 80% of senior management (defined as chief executive officer and chief financial officer, or equivalent positions), including 90% of women directors and senior managers, of public enterprises on the compliance requirements of the Public Enterprises Act 2019. ^d | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 2.1.3 Privatization Guidelines shall have come into force and the Fijian Government shall have made the guidelines available to the public. | 2.1.3 Privatization Guidelines came into force and the Ministry of Economy published the guidelines on its website. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 2.1.4 Cabinet shall have approved, and Ministry of Economy shall have published, PPP implementation guidelines. | 2.1.4 Cabinet approved, and the Ministry of Economy published on its website, the Public Private Partnership implementation guidelines. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 2.1.5 Cabinet shall have approved and made available to the public a new policy framework for on-lending to public enterprises. | 2.1.5 Cabinet approved, and the Ministry of Economy published on its website, a new policy framework for on-lending to government entities, including public enterprises. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 2.2.1 Fijian Government shall have progressed a minimum of one additional transaction comprising either (i) a reform of a public enterprise or Government department or agency which may consist of a corporatization, (partial) privatization, divestment, liquidation, or substantial restructuring; or (ii) a PPP formation. | 2.2.1 Two public enterprises, Food Processors (Fiji) Limited and Fiji Rice Limited, have restructured their balance sheets, including through the sale of non-core assets. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |

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| 2.2.2 For any PPP transaction undertaken, the Fijian Government shall have either appointed a transaction advisor or incorporated the advice of a transaction advisor. | | <u>Action removed</u> As no new PPP transactions were commenced the action has been removed. Existing PPP transactions continue with advisors. |
| <u>REFORM AREA 3: BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT CLIMATE IMPROVED</u> | | |
| 3.1.2 Cabinet shall have approved the Investment Bill for tabling in Parliament. | 3.1.2 Cabinet approved the Investment Bill for tabling in Parliament, and the Solicitor-General has notified the Secretary-General of Parliament that the Bill will be introduced as soon as practicable in a regular 2020 sitting of Parliament through the Solicitor-General's letter of 23 June 2020 on <i>Introduction of Certain Bills to Parliament</i> . ^e | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 3.1.3 Fijian Government shall have completed at least 4 additional Category B commitments. | 3.1.3 The Fijian Government completed five commitments under the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement. ^f | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 3.2.1 Fijian Government shall have established the Personal Property Securities Registry. | 3.2.1 The Fijian Government established the Personal Property Securities Registry that captures sex-disaggregated data. ^g | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| 3.3.1 Regulation of Building Permits Act 2017 shall have come into force; the Minister responsible for industry and trade shall have made regulations under the Act that include harmonized forms, and shall have appointed the Building Permits Evaluation Committee members; and an online information portal on obtaining a building permit shall have been launched. | 3.3.1 Regulation of Building Permits Act 2017 came into force; the Minister responsible for industry and trade made regulations under the Act that include harmonized forms, and appointed the Building Permits Evaluation Committee members; and an online information portal on obtaining a building permit was launched. | <u>No change.</u> |
| 3.3.2 Cabinet shall have approved (i) a Bill relating to trademarks, (ii) a Bill relating to designs, and (iii) a Bill relating to patents, in each case for tabling in Parliament. | 3.3.2 Cabinet approved (i) a Bill relating to trademarks, (ii) a Bill relating to designs, and (iii) a Bill relating to patents, in each case for tabling in Parliament; and the Solicitor-General has notified the Secretary-General of Parliament that the Bills | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |

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| | will be introduced as soon as practicable in a regular 2020 sitting of Parliament through the Solicitor-General's letter of 23 June 2020 on <i>Introduction of Certain Bills to Parliament.</i> ^e | |
| 3.3.3 Cabinet shall have approved a policy framework and drafting of a Bill relating to competition and consumer law. | 3.3.3 Cabinet approved a policy statement and drafting of a Bill relating to competition and consumer law which includes recognition of the specific needs of women, rural and disadvantaged groups and a commitment to supporting women's consumer rights. | <u>Language updated with more specific information.</u> |
| | 3.4.1 Government introduced, via the supplementary COVID-19 Response Budget for FY2020, measures to assist the private sector and workers, including (i) a reduction in employers' statutory Fiji National Provident Fund contributions until 31 December 2020, (ii) 21 days Government-paid sick leave for workers who test positive to COVID-19, (iii) tax deductions afforded to employers for wages and salary paid to employees who are self-quarantined, (iv) additional contributions to financial sector schemes that boost SME lending, and (v) relief payments to informal sector workers, including for women-owned micro-enterprises such as hawkers, in lockdown areas. ^h | <u>New action.</u> |
| | 3.4.2 The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (i) prepared and presented to Cabinet a guidance note on the gendered impacts, of COVID-19 in Fiji, including recommendations on supporting women's economic empowerment; and (ii) established a multi-stakeholder COVID-19 response gender working group. ⁱ | <u>New action.</u> |

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease, FMIS = financial management information system, FY = fiscal year, PEFA = public expenditure and financial accountability, PER = public expenditure review, PFM = public financial management, PPP = public-private partnership, SMEs = small and medium-sized enterprises.

- ^a PER is a key diagnostics instrument used to evaluate the effectiveness of public finances. The PER analyzed government expenditures during FY2009–FY2018 to assess consistency with policy priorities. This aggregate PER was a first step and a detailed education sector PER is now underway.
- ^b The PEFA gender responsive public financial management self-assessment was done as one of the seven pilot countries chosen to trial the new framework, which was launched in January 2020. The PEFA Secretariat approved the self-assessment by issuing a ‘PEFA Check’.
- ^c The budget reporting and monitoring module and the business intelligence tool form phase one of the approved recommendations from the FMIS report approved by the Minister.
- ^d 18 out of 20 women directors and senior management have improved capacity in ensuring SOE compliance with Public Enterprises Act 2019.
- ^e All legislation that is tabled in Parliament will undergo a validation by the Parliament Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights for review and consultation, including gender analysis.
- ^f These commitments are provisions that the World Trade Organization member will implement after a transitional period following the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The five commitments completed are: Article 1.3 Enquiry Points; Article 1.4 Notification; Article 3 Advance Rulings; Article 7.7 Trade Facilitation Measures for Authorized Operators; and Article 10.3 Use of International Standards.
- ^g The Personal Property Securities Act enables lenders to accept movable assets as security for loans more easily, cheaply, and securely. This particularly benefits women owned businesses who are less likely to have fixed assets (such as land).
- ^h Additional contributions were made to the Credit Guarantee Scheme and Natural Disaster Rehabilitation Facility, which makes loans available to banks at very low interest rates to pass on to SMEs impacted by COVID-19 at a capped interest rate. These schemes are administered by the Reserve Bank of Fiji, and are particularly important to provide finance for women-owned SMEs, who are less likely to have capital or insurance to sustain operations.
- ⁱ The Working Group is led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, and includes representatives of civil society and women’s rights organizations, ADB and UN Women.