

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: PAHQ

TA No. and Name TA 6065: Assessing Community Perspectives on Governance in the Pacific			Amount Approved: \$200,000	
			Revised Amount:	
Executing Agency Asian Development Bank		Source of Funding: Governance Cooperation Fund	TA Amount Undisbursed \$0	TA Amount Utilized \$200,000
Date			Completion Date	
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Description The Pacific Strategy for the New Millennium 2000-2004 focused on five objectives: (i) sound economic management, good governance, and public sector reform; (ii) private sector development; (iii) improvement of women's welfare in the social, economic, and political spheres; (iv) supporting sustainable environmental management; and (v) supporting poverty reduction as a unifying theme. Assistance efforts in the Pacific have focused on the role of governance in the economic development process. As part of these efforts, governance assessments have been conducted in several Pacific developing member countries of ADB.				
Objectives and Scope The technical assistance (TA) aimed to examine, through collaboration with a Pacific regional nongovernment organization (NGO), the role of citizens and leaders in a democracy, differences between traditional and modern forms of governance, and strategies to bridge the identified gaps. In addition, the TA also aimed to raise awareness of the potential impact of governance on people's lives as well as provide input into the development of a Pacific governance strategy for 2005-2009. The TA also aimed to provide information on the understanding of governance concepts by grassroots communities, to complement ADB's country governance assessments. Another objective of the TA was to recommend strategies to enhance community participation in the development process and improve the governance environment in the Pacific. The objectives and scope were relevant and appropriate.				
Evaluation of Inputs The TA directly selected the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) Regional Secretariat, a regional NGO with representation and operations in many PDMCs, as the consultant for the community mapping exercise. FSPI's performance was satisfactory and within budget. The Inception, Mid-term, and Draft Final Reports were of high quality. The performance of the consultant was rated as satisfactory. The performance of ADB as the Executing Agency was satisfactory. Timely and appropriate supervision was provided by ADB staff. The economy and productivity of the input provision, including community participation, were satisfactory. No risks were encountered during the TA implementation.				
Evaluation of Outputs The major activity of the TA was the governance mapping process in a number of communities in Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. A total of 20 case studies of communities were identified: five in Fiji Islands, three in Kiribati, four in Solomon Islands, and eight in Vanuatu. Six urban and 14 rural communities participated in the research. Information was collected from a total of 1,324 participants out of which 585 were women. The key output of the TA was the community governance mapping (CGM) report. The report described and analyzed the survey findings to derive lessons on ways to help rural communities to get their voices heard by the government on important issues such as development planning and service delivery. It also provided insights on the influence of the chiefs and its impact on community development. This understanding is important to help improve the level of political engagement in rural communities.				

The CGM report specifically highlighted (i) a lack of understanding by communities on ways to participate in the national governance processes; (ii) the authority and influence of chiefs and elders; and (iii) the incompatibility between 'modern' governance with its top down approach, and community governance based on local participation and consensus in decision making.

The report served as an important input to the policy dialogue on the formulation of assistance programs in ADB's Pacific developing member countries. Suggestions were provided on ways governments can strengthen community participation to improve its relevance and responsiveness to its citizens' need and aspirations.

Overall Assessment and Rating

Based on the outcomes, the goal of the TA was achieved and the TA was successful.

Major Lessons Learned

- Participatory methods are appropriate success when working with grassroots communities.
- Local level training to develop leadership and management skills, and technical and financial knowledge is essential.
- Community development activities should be locally self-driven and require long-term commitment.
- Recruitment of NGOs needs to be more stringent to ensure better impact at community level.

Recommendations

A multifaceted approach, that includes facilitation of community understanding of modern governance system, as well as the exploration of mechanisms that assist communities to communicate and interface more effectively with the modern governance system, is warranted.

The lessons learned and recommendations arising from this TA have been incorporated in two TAs: one funded by the Governance Cooperation Fund will improve NGOs' and community groups' knowledge of governments' budgeting and resource allocation processes and enhance NGOs' financial advocacy skills; the second TA funded by the Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund will help selected community groups understand participatory budgeting principles and practices, leading to the preparation of project proposals for consideration of governments and donors.

NGOs can be effective partners in participatory poverty reduction projects, because NGOs are often closer to grassroots communities. However, there is a need to improve the ADB's internal procedure of engaging NGOs. The current contracting process requires NGOs to submit the same information and documentation as a consulting firm. Some of these requirements are not appropriate for NGOs and non-profit organizations, and may discourage NGOs from working with the ADB.

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