

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Sanitation projects dramatically improve standards of hygiene in Vanua Levu communities**

**Suva, Fiji – Two sanitation projects for villages in Kubulau and Wailevu have been completed, providing the communities with access to flush toilets for the first time. The project, implemented by NGO Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF), has dramatically improved the standard of hygiene and sanitation and enhanced the everyday lives of villagers.**

15 flush toilets were installed in Nadivakarua village, Kubulau and 14 flush toilets in Keka village, Wailevu - both communities had been struggling with sanitation until now and were using pit toilets located far away from individual houses.

It took only six weeks to complete the projects, due to the remarkable team spirit amongst community members who worked tirelessly together to dig the tunnels, join the pipes and construct the sewage systems.

The project was implemented as part of PCDF's MORDI (Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations) programme, which works to lift rural communities out of poverty.

Nadivakarua resident Iosefa Malakai, 41, says, "We are so grateful to MORDI for giving this project to us. We approached many organisations beforehand but eventually MORDI were the only ones who offered to help us. What we have achieved now will benefit generations to come."

Village elder Sevesaini Dikalouniwai, 80, adds "During the rainy season I used to walk a long distance to reach the old toilet, but now it's attached to my house and so easily accessible"

Sowani Nalico, 56, contracted as External Service Provider (ESP) in Keka, says "A lot of the homes, especially the ones situated on the hills, will be getting a flush toilet for the first time"

"There's still a lot to be done in the community but the key to development stems from working together and supporting each other at all times. Here, I see a lot of support amongst the community members and their leaders."

The MORDI Fiji programme, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is in its fifth year of operation at PCDF. It has proven to be innovative in the ways it

responds to the changing needs of communities and the way it involves them in their own development.

External Service Provider in Kubulau, Aisake James Vokula, 39, reflects: "When I first started working with MORDI, Kubulau and Wailevu were quite behind in regards to development both in food security and infrastructure in the village, especially water and sanitation."

"It is easy to work with MORDI communities as they have been trained which has really changed their mentality and the way they think towards development - they really want to improve their lifestyles"

MORDI aims to contribute to sustainable, improved livelihoods of vulnerable communities, living in remote rural areas of Pacific Island countries, in line with the Millennium Development Goals. This is achieved through four key components: community empowerment; economic empowerment; learning, sharing and upscaling; and programme management.

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

**For more information, interviews or high quality images please call Iliapi Tuwai on: Tel.: 3300 392 or email: [media@pcdf.org.fj](mailto:media@pcdf.org.fj)**

Photo captions:

01: Before: The pit toilets in Nadivakarua that were used before project implementation

02: After: Nadivakarua resident Aborosi Rabolamasei, 48, posing next to one of the new flush toilets

**Partners in Community Development Fiji** is one of Fiji's longest established development NGO's carrying out community development projects across Fiji. We assist communities in all aspects of environmental, infrastructural, governmental and social development.

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