



Terms of Reference

Lead Researcher – COVID 19 Project

Innovation for Change – Pacific is engaging a Lead Researcher Short Term Consultant to conduct research on impact of COVID 19 legislations on civic liberties of citizens in Fiji and compile a report based on the findings from, Palau and Samoa.

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Hub is the newest I4C Hub and came together after a youth co-design workshop concluded in Fiji during ICSW 2017 that determined a loose organisational structure and potential products and services.

However, the Pacific region, described as the Ocean States, is home to diverse cultures and traditions beyond the Asian continent. This diversity gives the Pacific region its own unique identity, and because of its geographic location, it has its own set of challenges and needs.

One of the main challenges this region faces is the lack of inclusion and visibility, mainly due to the Pacific being identified as part of the Asia-Pacific region in international development conversations. Due to smaller populations, data gets clumped with larger Asian nations rendering it inconclusive of showing the real challenges faced by the region.

In response to the need to be seen and related to as a separate stand-alone region with its challenges and opportunities, today we have youth leading a Pacific innovation hub that would work specifically with Pacific Island Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

NEEDS ADDRESSED

The global Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the economic realities of Pacific Island countries (PICs). Civil society is under severely attacked worldwide, including Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs). Simply convening in the Pacific is a challenge due to distance, poor connectivity and limited access to technological advancements. Even harder to overcome than these physical obstacles are entrenched societal power dynamics that undermine inclusive and impactful collective action.

With the impact of COVID 19 and natural disasters such as Tropical Cyclone Harold, civic and human rights space in the Pacific has become tenuous over the past few months. Some countries have no cases, with others having varied numbers ranging from below thousand to below 100 or below 50.

With this advent, countries have started taking unprecedented steps to implement “State of Emergencies” or developed special promulgation legislation to address COVID and how they



can manage the spread of the virus within the national jurisdiction.

- Which COVID 19 related legislation has been enacted, introduced or implemented in Fiji, Palau and Samoa and how these have impacted civic liberties of its citizens in relation to freedom of movement, freedom of assembly and so forth.

OBJECTIVES

- With shrinking civic space and the advent of the Covid 19 Pandemic there has been huge impact on civic space and civic rights of citizens around the world, from job losses to loss of freedom to congregate, freedom to associate and so forth. Thus this study aims to provide a snapshot of the legislations and its impacts on the civic liberties that impacted the citizens of Fiji, Palau and Samoa.
- This study will take lead from the desktop legal analysis research conducted phase 1 of this project.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Conducting a series of focus group discussions, and individual interviews (add topic?)
- Collecting the relevant statistics and survey of news media which articulate information around civic liberties and its restrictions due to covid 19 state of emergencies and other relevant legislations introduced (this can be informed from Phase 1 legal study)
- Compile one report, in consultation with submissions from Palau and Samoa consultants.
- Final report should have analysis and recommendations with annexes to support the report
- A two page summary factsheet for quick circulation for media and other partners.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTPUTS

- A final report compilation as the lead researcher to compile one report with results from Palau and Samoa included with Fiji findings, with analysis and recommendations and annexes to support.
- A two-page summary factsheet for quick circulation for media and other partners.

TIMELINE

25 Days – 15 March to 15 April 2022



TERMS OF PAYMENT

The Research Consultant will receive:

40%	The signing of Contract and Submission of Work Schedule/Research Outline
30%	Submission of Draft a with findings from Palau and Samoa included
30%	Final Submission of Report

COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION & REPORTING

The Lead Research Consultant will communicate a report directly to the Hub Coordinator, Sushil Patel.

Education

Post Graduate Qualification in Development Studies or similar fields, or over 7 years experience in conducting research using qualitative and quantitative methods.

Functional Competencies:

- Experience in developing policy advocacy training materials.
- Ability to write the learnings and recommendations in a simplified manner that community based organisations could understand. Strong research and excellent writing skills in English;
- Excellent organisational skills;
- Experience in producing corporate products;
- Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.

Behavioural Competencies:

- Ability to be flexible and respond to changes to text/layout as part of the review and feedback process;
- Strong interpersonal skills, able to communicate and work with diverse people;
- Participate effectively in team-based, information-sharing environment, collaborating and cooperating with others;
- Focus on impact and results for the client.

The Short-term Consultancy will be a close recruiting process on recommendation from Pacific Centre for Peacebuilding and I4C-Pacific. However, the following information will be required to be submitted to PCP and I4C to meet due diligent process and selection; should nominated Candidates be more than one.



Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to the **appropriate emails** provided below, to demonstrate their qualifications:

1. Proposal explaining why they are the most suitable for the work, drawing on their knowledge and previous experience and examples
2. Personal CV and at least 3 references.
3. **Financial proposal** specifying the fees per deliverable. All costs envisaged to complete the consultancy must be included in the financial proposal as a separate line. **Please send all documents to pacific@innovationforchange.net**