



*International Council for  
Education of People with Visual  
Impairment*



## **Fiji EFA-VI Forum**

**The Southern Cross Hotel, Suva Fiji**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

The International Council for People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI) in partnership with the World Blind Union (WBU) are currently making preparations for hosting the Fiji EFA-VI Forum in Suva Fiji, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Fiji is the first Pacific country selected by ICEVI and WBU for implementation of the “Education for all children with vision impairments” (EFA-VI) global campaign.

### **Key purposes**

The primary purpose of the Fiji EFA-VI Forum is to bring together Fiji leaders in education and disability services to develop a National EFA-VI Plan and implementation program for the education of children with vision impairments for the period 2009-2011. The Plan will include implementation strategies, resource requirements, performance indicators, and budgetary considerations. The Plan will serve as a model for strengthening capacity in education of children with other disabilities; and as a model for the development of national EFA-VI plans in other Pacific Island countries in the future.

The Fiji EFA-VI Forum will provide opportunities to strengthen collaborative partnerships between ICEVI, WBU and key stakeholders in Fiji. Partnerships include the Ministries of Education and Health, organisations of person with disabilities, the organisation of parents of children with vision impairments, civil society organizations and groups, and national, regional and international development organisations.

The National EFA-VI Plan will be presented to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, for endorsement by the Ministry of Education.

## **Beneficiaries**

The Fiji EFA-VI National Task Force, through its development of the National EFA-VI Plan, will consult with the key beneficiaries of the Plan to develop a situation analysis of current education service provision, areas of need, and numbers of children with vision impairments, including those with additional disabilities.

The beneficiaries of the implementation of the National EFA-VI Plan will include the following groups:

- Government education agencies, through linkages with MDG and EFA goals
- Regular and special school administrators and teachers, through professional training programs and resource support
- Parents, carers, and extended families, through consultation and partnerships in the development of the national EFA-VI plan and provision of education services
- Children with vision impairments, including those with additional disabilities, through enhanced access to trained teachers who are knowledgeable of inclusive special education pedagogy
- Local community, church and parent groups working to improve the grassroots programs and resources for children with disabilities.

## **Measurable Outputs**

The Fiji National EFA-VI Task Force consists of key government and civil society stakeholders in education, health and disability services for children with vision impairments. The Task Force will provide the expertise to develop an EFA-VI Plan and implementation program that reflects Fiji's commitment to the United Nations MDG and EFA goals within the Fiji context

It is anticipated that the **Fiji EFA-VI Forum** will result in the following measurable outputs:

- Establishment of national, regional and international partnerships to strengthen human resource development and capacity building in the field of education of children with vision impairments.
- Development of measurable goals, strategies and key performance indicators within the National EFA-VI Plan that will be monitored over the next three years.
- Establishment of mechanisms for monitoring student enrolment data and professional training programs within the National EFA-VI Plan that enhance current expertise in the field of education of children with vision impairments.

It is anticipated that the development and implementation of the **National EFA-VI Plan** will result in the following measurable outputs:

- Increased public awareness of the benefits of education for all children, including those with disabilities
- Measurable improvements in the quality and delivery of (a) community-based early intervention and education programs for young children and their families; (b) community-based education programs for out-of-school children; and (c) vision screening and assessment programs;
- Increased rates of school enrolment, retention and achievement levels of children with vision impairments, including those with additional disabilities.

### **Support from ICEVI and WBU**

ICEVI and WBU's Global Task Force has established mechanisms to support countries with public media coverage in order to enhance the visibility of the EFA-VI campaign within Fiji and the Pacific region. Support materials provided by ICEVI and WBU include the following:

- Brochures, concept papers and media kits that explain the guiding principles and goals of the EFA-VI campaign
- Briefing notes that outline the key facts and advocacy points.
- Briefing notes on "rights based issues", including the campaign's links with the United Nations conventions and the EFA campaign; the Millennium Development Goals, and the Biwako Millennium Development Framework.
- Media releases to raise awareness of the EFA-VI campaign and the importance of education of children with vision impairments
- Identification of key spokespersons and champions
- Publicity of the links to international funding already available for EFA-VI

### **Contact details**

Frances Gentle,  
ICEVI Pacific Chairperson

RIDBC Renwick Centre  
361-365 North Rocks Road  
North Rocks NSW 2151  
AUSTRALIA  
Phone: + 61 2 9872 0808  
Fax: + 61 2 9873 1614  
E-mail: frances.gentle@ridbc.org.au

Kevin Murfitt  
Chair, World Blind Union-Asia Pacific,  
Pacific-Oceania Sub-Region

Vision Australia  
454 Glenferrie Road  
Kooyong, Vic  
Phone: +61 3 9251 7190  
E-mail: kevin.murfitt@deakin.edu.au