



12TH FORUM EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

ICT Video Conference Room 1, University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Fiji

13 - 14 April 2021

**SESSION TWO: BRIEFING PAPER ON PACREF DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION SINCE THE 2018 FEdMM**

(PacREF(21) FEdMM.03)

(Theme: Building Resilience in Pacific Education Systems.)

*(Paper prepared by the PacREF Facilitating Unit is intended to update Ministers on
developments in PacREF implementation since the 2018 FEdMM)*

Title/Topic	Briefing paper on PacREF development and implementation since the 2018 FEdMM.
Presenting Agency/Unit	PacREF Facilitating Unit
Purpose of the Brief	The brief provides background information to Ministers on developments that have taken place after the FEdMM approval of the PacREF Programme in 2018. Particular focus is placed on the development of the implementation rolling plan (IRP), the monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, and the governance structure.

Summary

The PacREF is a regional policy, endorsed by FEdMM in 2018. The Programme has three regional outcome objectives:

- a) To provide Pacific Island countries with well-targeted, demand responsive Regional Goods that will assist in improving their systems’ performance and their student outcomes.
- b) To strengthen regional agencies’ ability to provide high-quality tools and professional services, including research, in order to ensure that Regional Goods developed under PacREF are well-supported and effective.
- c) To support analyses of issues and constraints that influence the quality of schooling across the region and to address those challenges.

In meeting these objectives, the PacREF Programme will assist Pacific Island countries to:

- Establish upward trends in (i) the percentage of preschool children that are school-ready when they enter primary school and (ii) age-appropriate levels of literacy and numeracy at the primary level.
- Lay the foundations necessary to ensure that upward trends are established in the numbers of well-prepared and appropriately qualified secondary and post-secondary graduates.
- Improve inclusiveness, student wellbeing and the maintenance of Pacific languages, values and traditions.

The Programme focuses on four policy areas:

1. Quality and Relevance – with an objective of assisting countries to provide high quality, relevant programmes for learners at all levels of education.
2. Learning Pathways – with an objective of assisting countries to ensure that learners’ needs are met through a broad range of programmes and delivery modalities.
3. Student Outcomes and Wellbeing – with an objective of assisting countries to ensure that learners at all levels of education achieve their full potential.

4. Teaching Profession – with an objective of assisting countries to ensure that the teaching profession is supported and empowered through opportunities for continuous development, shared understanding and accountability.

Governance Structure

- FEdMM provides oversight of the PacREF Programme
- Decision making forums: FEdMM, PHES, SC, CROP HRD WG
- Consultative forums: IA Fono, National Fono, Ministries of Education, CSO Forum

The following actions have been completed since the PacREF was approved by the 2018 FEdMM:

- a) Phase 1 Implementation Rolling Plan (IRP) approved by the PHES
- b) Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning Framework (MELF) approved by PHES
- c) Funding committed to PacREF Programme by New Zealand MFAT (USD 2.04 million)
- d) PacREF Programme funding application approved by GPE and funding committed (USD 14.45 million) – noting that this funding was committed to the PacREF Programme by six GPE eligible countries agreeing to use their GPE allocations to finance PacREF (Kiribati, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu)
- e) Funding committed to PacREF Programme by Implementing Agencies (USD 2.65 million)

PacREF Facilitating Unit

Hosted by USP, the PFU coordinates implementation with the IAs, manages the logistics of the Programme’s South-South programme, and facilitates the convening of all governance structure forums.

Ministers are invited to note:

- The developments that have taken place since the PacREF Programme was approved by the 2018 FEdMM.
- That implementation of the PacREF Programme is underway
- The strong commitment to regionalism displayed during the development of the PacREF and particularly in its implementation and resourcing.

Decision requested

Ministers are invited to:

- a) *approve the changing of FEdMM to Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (CPEM) and its reform to a more vibrant forum including the participation of civil society organisations; and*
- b) *agree that the PHES provide oversight to the development of the PacREF Phase 2 IRP and that they should present a working draft of that IRP at the first CPEM*

Minister’s Position

