



## Fiji

### Disability - Inclusive COVID-19 Response

#### What was happening



In May 2020 the **Pacific Disability Forum** helped the **Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FDPF)** ask persons with disabilities what they knew and understood about **COVID-19**.



Persons with disabilities were asked if **COVID-19** had affected their:

Work

Health

Education

Experience of gender-based violence



**FDPF** used the results to ask for interpreters and transcriptions for the deaf and hard of hearing during **COVID-19** national announcements.

#### Who made this happen?



Organizations of persons with disabilities like the **FDPF** work to make sure the rights and responsibilities of disabled people are recognized.



**FDPF** have been working since 1984 so persons with disabilities are treated fairly and asked about what matters to them.

## What was done 2018 to 2022



They saw that persons with disabilities were not finding out about **COVID-19** services they could use.



They found out how much the Fiji Government was spending on **COVID-19**.



They found that the Government was not spending money so that persons with disabilities could get information about **COVID-19**.



So, they held public information meetings so more people could find out about staying safe.

## Why is this important



It shows that everyone must be included if there are future emergencies. It is a good example of how organizations working together can change what governments do.

## How did DRF and DRAF help?



In 2020 the **Disability Rights Fund** and **Disability Rights Advocacy Fund** gave money to help the **FDPF** ask persons with disabilities how the **COVID -19** pandemic affected them.