



DAWASAMU, FIJI

MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

APRIL 2016

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE





OBJECTIVES

Generating local income and supporting local partnerships

SUMMARY

At the start of April GVI staff and volunteers moved back into Dawasamu District, allowing GVI to again start fulltime work with partners in the district, and providing local members and businesses with the income needed to get back on their feet. Due to the damage caused to Babale Base in Silana Village, GVI volunteers have set up a temporary base at the nearby Natalei Eco Lodge, in neighboring Nataleira. The rental income from this allows the local business to again provide some income to Nataleira Village, as well as enabling the local community members to repair parts of the eco lodge and Takalana bay that were severely damaged by Cyclone Winston. In Silana Village GVI staff and Volunteers have been working to empower local women to restart income generation projects. Through providing local ladies with ingredients and paying them to cook occasional meals, GVI has enabled the women to earn income for their family. This also allows them to gain back some normality, as they are always keen to show hospitality towards volunteers working in the community.



REPORT

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With the donation of misprinted wrappers from a local factory, zips, thread and storage boxes the ladies of Silana have been given the opportunity to regain some of their independent income. Handicraft making, usually done through weaving traditional mats from the voi voi plant, is a big part of Fijian culture, with the loss of these natural resources needed, making purses provides an alternative until natural resources are again able to be planted and harvested for this purpose. After taking part in skill and branding workshops over the past year to create Loloma Purses it is fantastic to see the ladies take pride in working to create and sell their products.

GVI staff and volunteers have been working hard with the local communities to re-establish the partnerships between GVI and Dawasamu District. Education teams have been working on new timetables to again start supporting teachers and students at Navunisea District School full time, as well as collaborating student data for local teachers to help in the replacement of lost documents. The GVI library and reading centre were both extremely damaged during Cyclone Winston, leaving nowhere for education volunteers to work with students. Volunteers and staff from both the community and education programs have worked tirelessly to use whatever resources available from damaged base structures to rebuild the reading centre, creating a functional space for the Education team to resume supporting Navunisea District School. Community teams have been working alongside members of the youth in Silana Village to carry out the first recycling collection since Cyclone Winston. Despite extensive debris for villagers to sort through, fourteen bags of sorted recyclables were collected from various villages in Dawasamu, showing what a large commitment local communities hold to the GVI recycling program delivered over the last year.

All GVI staff and volunteers have been thrilled to be living back in district and privileged to again work alongside such an amazing community. The drive for continuous improvement is an example of the strength and determination the local communities of Dawasamu continue to show despite the trauma they have undergone. There is a lot of work to do but with such hard working partners there is no doubt Babale Base will be rebuilt and GVI staff and volunteers will again live fully as part of Silana Village in the future. A lot of work and exciting milestones lie ahead.



ABOUT GVI

We're a family-run organisation with an amazing culture and an awesome team of people across the world who are passionate experts in their chosen field and will make your experience a truly unforgettable one (in a good way).

Our award-winning projects receive over 2000 participants every year, and we're proud to say that the vast majority of them describe their experience with us as 'life changing'. Our approval rate from over 20 000 participants since 1997 is over 95%.

A key component of the success of our community development and conservation projects is the participants who join our programs. Opportunities include high impact volunteering from one week and up, internships for those looking for career development opportunities, Challenges that allow a one week adventure all for a good cause and a range of programs for school groups and younger volunteers.

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