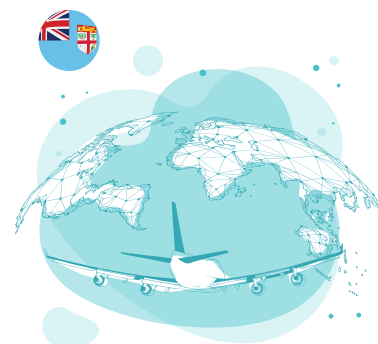


About Skyward Industries



Skyward Industries is a technology solutions company with a range of services: 3D aerial mapping and surveying, 3D printing, media production, research and development, automated systems and sensor development, UAV development, aerial aircraft services, ISR, and aviation consulting. Since its inception, the company has been heavily involved in advanced digital mapping for local and international partners.



Market Constraints

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Fiji, the country has established 37 fever clinics nationwide as well as 210 isolation and treatment wards. Health workers are at the frontline of the fever clinics and wards and are exposed to potential infection. Due to increased local demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), particularly for medically approved face masks (N95), hospitals, fever clinics, medical centers and pharmacies faced a shortage in supply. As PPE is traditionally imported to Fiji from major production hubs in Asia, the shortage was exacerbated by restrictions on, and delays of, air and sea cargo.

Shortages of important PPE like protective face masks leave healthcare workers ill-equipped to test and care for COVID-19 and other patients.

Intervention

COVID-19 response



Health preparedness:
Provision of PPE and specialist equipment



Skyward Industries stepped into the market to address the need for PPE by using its existing facilities to produce face-shields. MDF supported the business to locally produce first-of-a-kind face-shields using 3D printers, enabling Fiji's private sector to play a major role in the provision of PPE to health workers during the pandemic. The face-shields can be used in place of N95 facemasks and consist of a piece of clear, curved plastic suspended by a headband in front of the user's face; it is meant to provide primary protection for the user. These face-shields are designed to be used by medical staff together with their goggles and normal medical masks for added protection.

The partnership is strengthening Fiji's capacity and resilience to deal with the current market shortage of PPE and provides an innovative solution to support frontline workers. Facilitated by MDF, Skyward Industries provided 1,000 reusable face-shields to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and is pursuing the opportunity to establish a long-term supplier relationship with the Ministry to secure future orders.