



UNITED NATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

UNITED NATIONS PACIFIC STRATEGY 2018-2022

A MULTI-COUNTRY SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
IN THE PACIFIC REGION

United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022
UNPS 2018 – 2022

This document is a formal publication of the United Nations System in the Pacific covering the 14 countries of Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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United Nations in the Pacific (2017)

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PACIFIC STRATEGY
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Girls rugby team at West Kids Rugby Festival, held 15-17 August 2017 in Nadi, Fiji.

The West Kids Rugby Festival's commitment to gender equality was reflected in its record number of girl and boy primary school players, women coaches and team managers. The Festival is committed to ensuring women and girls have equal levels of access, respect and participation on the rugby field.

UN Women is working with Oceania Rugby as its new gender equality partner, signing a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2017 in recognition of their mutual commitment to promote gender equality and to challenge social norms through sport.

Photo credit: UN Women/Caitlin Clifford

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIGNATURE PAGE	7
GOVERNMENT PARTNERS	7
UNITED NATIONS	8
ACRONYMS	11
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	15
INTRODUCTION	17
THE UN IN THE PACIFIC	21
THE PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT	23
UN PACIFIC STRATEGY 2018-2022 STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS	28
Outcome 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	29
Outcome 2: Gender Equality	31
Outcome 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	32
Outcome 4: Equitable Basic Services	34
Outcome 5: Governance and Community Engagement	36
Outcome 6: Human Rights	37
HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION	41
RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS	43
INITIATIVES OUTSIDE OF THE UNPS	47
FINANCING STRATEGY AND ESTIMATED RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	49
The cost of coordination in the Pacific	49
UNPS Common Budgetary Framework 2018-2022	50
Resource Mobilization	52
Business Operations Strategy – Increased efficiency and quality	54
IMPLEMENTATION	55
Delivering as One	55
MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE UNPS	57
MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION	61
COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS	65
UNPS RESULTS FRAMEWORK	69
ANNEX 1 – UNPS 2018 – 2022 RESULTS FRAMEWORK	70
ANNEX 2 – COUNTRY PROFILES	85
ANNEX 3 – PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES	139
ANNEX 4 – LEGAL/PARTNERSHIP CLAUSES	145



NORTHERN
MARIANAS
(US)

GUAM
(US)

KOROR
PALAU

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

YAP

CHUUK

POHNPEI

KOSRAE

REPUBLIC OF
MARSHALL ISLANDS

MAJURO

NAURU
YAREN

KIRIBATI
GILBERT ISLANDS

TARAWA

HOWLAND
& BAKER (US)

KIRIBATI
PHOENIX ISLANDS

JARVIS (US)

KIRIBATI
LINE ISLANDS

TUVALU

FUNAFUTI

VANUATU
PORT VILLA

WALLIS &
FUTUNA
(FR)

FUJI

SUVA

SAMOA

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AMERICAN
SAMOA
(US)

NIUE

ALOFI

COOK
ISLANDS

RAROTONGA

TONGA

NUKU'ALOFA

NEW
CALEDONIA
(FR)

PORT
MORESBY

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SOLOMON
ISLANDS

HONIARA

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

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TASMANIA

SIGNATURE PAGE

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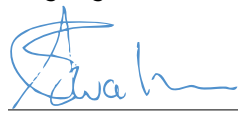



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Hon. Charlot Salwai
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Farmer Litia Timai, with her son Waisake Raelala, three, received agricultural supplies and information booklets as part of UN Women's response to Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016.

When Tropical Cyclone Winston devastated Fiji in February 2016, UN Women adapted its existing Markets for Change project to help farmers and vendors get back on their feet. With Australian Government support, UN Women provided tents, tables, and chairs to local markets to serve as temporary shelters and market spaces. Markets for Change also worked with the Fiji Government and other partners to provide agricultural supplies to over 1,580 vendors.

Photo credit: UN Women/Lauretta Ah Sam

SIGNATURE PAGE

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE FOLLOWING UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES IN THE PACIFIC:



Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



International Labour Organisation (ILO)



International Organisation for Migration (IOM)



UNAIDS

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



UN Environment (UNE)



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)



United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)



United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)



World Food Programme (WFP)



World Health Organisation (WHO)



World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

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UN Resident Coordinator
Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau



Sunila Wati, a Rakiraki farmer and market vendor, has participated in UN Women's Markets for Change initiatives.

Markets for Change (M4C) is a six-year, multi-country initiative that aims to ensure marketplaces in rural and urban areas of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. A UN Women project, M4C is principally funded by the Australian Government, and implemented in partnership with UNDP.

Photo credit: UN Women/Ellie van Baaren

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIESCM	Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Material, with Annexes A to E and Protocol
ANER	Adjusted net enrolment rate
BOS	Business Operations Strategy
CADE	Convention against Discrimination in Education. Paris, 14 December 1960
CADE Protocol	Protocol Instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be Responsible for Seeking the Settlement of any Dispute which may Arise Between States Parties to the Convention against Discrimination of Education. Paris, 10 December 1962.
CBF	Common Budgetary Framework
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCEOPGDBS	Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States. Paris, 3 December 1958
CCPWCNH	Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 16 November 1972.
CED	International Covenant for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CI	Conservation International
CPPAUDP	Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized Duplication of their Phonograms. Geneva, 29 October 1971.
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Paris, 20 October 2005
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Paris, 17 October 2003.
CSO	Civil society organization
CWII	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Ramsar 2 February 1971.
DaO	Delivering as One
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
DMEG	Data Monitoring and Evaluation Group
EPR	Emergency preparedness and response
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agencies
FLE	Family Life Education
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

GTCR	Global Tobacco Control Report
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICADS	International Convention against Doping in Sport. Paris, 19 October 2005
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ICPPPPBO	International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations. Rome, 26 October 1961.
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
JPO	Joint Presence Office
LDCs	Least developed countries
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCO	Multi-country Office
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
NDC	Nationally determined contributions
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure
PDaLo	Pacific Damage and Loss database
PDNA	Post disaster needs assessments
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIF	Pacific Island Forum
PIFS	Pacific Island Forum Secretariat
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PQF	Pacific Qualification Framework
PRC4ECCED	Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education
PSSC	Pacific Statistics Steering Committee
RMI	Republic of Marshall Islands
RMNCAH	Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health
RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Pacific Community
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UN	United Nations

UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCAC	United Nations Convention on Corruption
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UCC	Universal Copyright Convention, with Appendix Declaration relating to Article XVII and Resolution concerning Article XI. Geneva, 6 September 1952.
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations for Project Services
UNPS	United Nations Pacific Strategy
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USP	University of South Pacific
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization



Market vendors preparing to vote at the Northern Islands Market Vendor Association's (NIMVA) first executive elections held in Luganville, Santo, Vanuatu on 28 June 2016. These historic elections had a 90 per cent turn-out rate of eligible voters.

The Northern Islands Market Vendor Association, started in late 2014, and was initiated by local vendors who attended workshops during the "Getting Started" phase of UN Women's Markets for Change project.

Markets for Change (M4C) is a six-year, multi-country initiative that aims to ensure marketplaces in rural and urban areas of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. A UN Women project, M4C is principally funded by the Australian Government, and implemented in partnership with UNDP.

Photo Credit: UN Women/Murray Lloyd

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 is a five year strategic framework that outlines the collective response of the UN system to the development priorities in 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), namely Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The UNPS supports the 14 governments and peoples in the Pacific to advance a localized response to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This response is tailored to each country's national priorities, and responds to the Pacific Leaders' call to the United Nations system to *"align its work programmes and operations to support internationally agreed outcomes, including the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the Pacific region"* (2015 GA res. 69/318).

The UNPS embodies a people centred, human rights based approach to development in the Pacific that seeks to "leave no one behind" and to provide an umbrella framework for strategies that embody the UN's commitment to "reach the furthest behind first" by using improved metrics to identify the most vulnerable, innovative practices, and durable partnerships, including with civil society and the private sector, that respond to priorities and reflect the comparative advantage of the UN system.

The UNPS 2018-2022 is a multi-country, outcome level, strategic framework that presents a coordinated approach to support the 14 PICTs across the Pacific. The six outcomes address strategic priorities that promote mutual accountability for development results in the Pacific, further Pacific to Pacific cooperation, and enable the targeting of valuable UN resources to areas where they are most needed.

OUTCOME 1	Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Environmental Protection
OUTCOME 2	Gender Equality
OUTCOME 3	Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment
OUTCOME 4	Equitable Basic Services
OUTCOME 5	Governance and Community Engagement
OUTCOME 6	Human Rights

Given the high exposure of Pacific countries to climate change and natural disasters, emergency preparedness and response (EPR) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies that reflect a risk informed development planning approach will be mainstreamed.

A comprehensive Common Budgetary Framework captures the anticipated medium term costs of implementing the framework, the resources secured, and those to be mobilised, which in turn informs UN Country Team (UNCT) resource mobilisation strategies. Strong links between the UNPS 2018-2022 and common business operations underscore the joint commitment to increased efficiency and quality of UN work in the Pacific and contribute to an ongoing commitment to Delivering as One.

The management and accountability commitments of the UN in the Pacific are reflected in the UNPS governance structures and the Results Framework, which take into account the multi-country and regional approach of the UNPS. In addition, the UNPS confirms the UN's commitment to engaging with key regional bodies including the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies - the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); the Pacific Community (SPC); the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); and the University of the South Pacific (USP), amongst others. Overall, collaboration at the regional level centres on the commitment to continue to explore opportunities to strengthen coordination and partnership, and increased harmonisation between the UN and regional organizations in the context of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism 2014.

The UN in the Pacific's commitment to data is demonstrated through the UNPS 2018-2022 continued and active support for UN engagement in the Regional Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Taskforce and support for the SPC Statistics for Development Division. The UNPS 2018-2022 Results Framework is unique in that it aims to monitor regional outcomes whilst indicating country level disaggregation, presenting a comprehensive and country centred approach to programme implementation and a commitment to working regionally and strengthening Results Based Management at the regional level. Country profiles provide insight into the level of harmonization between the UNPS and individual country development plans and the diversity of development priorities across the region, which in turn indicate the extent and complexity of localizing the SDGs in the Pacific.



INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 is a five year strategic framework that outlines the collective response of the UN system to development priorities in 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), namely **Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**. The Joint UN Country Team, based in Fiji and Samoa, is guided by two UN Resident Coordinators.

The UNPS recognises the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and emphasises the importance of enhanced coherence, coordination, and responsiveness in the UN system’s support for SIDS. The UNPS supports the 14 governments and peoples in the Pacific to advance a localised response to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development tailored to each country’s national priorities. The UNPS responds to the Pacific Leaders’ call to the United Nations system to “align its work programmes and operations to support internationally agreed outcomes, including the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the Pacific region” (2015 GA res. 69/318).



Figure 1: The UN commitment to a people centred approach to the SDGs

The UNPS embodies a people centred, human rights based approach to development in the Pacific that seeks to “leave no one behind” and to provide an umbrella framework for strategies that embody the UN commitment to “reach the furthest behind first”, and to ensure interconnectedness between humanitarian and development assistance. The Strategy accomplishes this by responding to priorities and reflecting the comparative advantage of the UN system through improved metrics to identify the most vulnerable, innovative practices and durable partnerships, promoting Pacific-to-Pacific cooperation as well as South South and triangular cooperation, and including civil society and the private sector. The UNPS seeks to provide the framework around which the UN will focus on providing development opportunities to those most marginalised and isolated by both poverty and distance.

The UNPS aims to complement the work of regional organizations, in particular the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP), comprising, among others, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the University of the South Pacific (USP), in line with the regional priorities as outlined in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism:

1. Sustainable development that combines economic, social and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and wellbeing and use the environment sustainably;
2. Economic growth that is inclusive and equitable;
3. Strengthened governance, legal, financial and administrative systems; and
4. Security that ensures stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all.

Ref: Framework for Pacific Regionalism 2014

The UNPS is based on a theory of change that identifies viable development change pathways, focusing on understanding the ways in which UNPS results relate to one another and their causal relationships. Due to the complex nature of the regional scale, this theory of change was developed through a consultative process engaging the 14 PICTs, and reflects the understanding of all relevant stakeholders, drawing from regionally specific analyses¹ and data. Overwhelmingly, the evaluation process, common country analyses, and consultations called for an approach to Delivering as One (DaO) tailored to the Pacific context, keeping in mind the need to build monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity to demonstrate evidence based results, to develop communication and advocacy strategies that target internal and external audiences, and to build responsiveness to localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agendas.

Leadership around the SDGs in the Pacific has created a planning environment that ensures the UN is aligned with localised and integrated development agendas led by national governments and supported by regional organizations. As a result, the UNPS sets out to support the achievement of national priorities and the SDGs through a strategic framework of six priority outcomes supported by a multi-country programming approach comprising individual country, multi-country, and regional joint programming, projects, and initiatives. The six outcomes address strategic priorities that promote mutual accountability for development results in the Pacific² and enable the targeting of valuable UN resources to the areas where they are most needed. Given the high exposure to climate change and natural disasters in the Pacific countries, EPR and DRR strategies reflecting a risk informed development planning approach mainstreamed throughout the Strategy.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

¹ The 2013-2017 UNDAF Independent Evaluation and the Pacific Common Country Analysis were undertaken in 2016.

² Pacific SIDS are committed to Pacific-to-Pacific cooperation and exchange with other SIDS outside of the Pacific region, as well as South South and triangular cooperation where it makes sense to do so.

**Pacific United Nations Development Assistance Framework – 2013 – 2017
and UNDAF multi country action plan 2013 - 2017**

UNDAF Focus Area 1	UNDAF Focus Area 2	UNDAF Focus Area 3	UNDAF Focus Area 4	UNDAF Focus Area 5
Environmental Management, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management	Gender Equality	Inclusive Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction	Basic Services	Governance

Country UNDAF Results Matrices - outcomes and outputs



Figure 2: Outcome framework, UNPS 2018-2022

Consultations between the UN and each of the 14 PICT governments took place in 2016. The Strategy’s prioritisation involved multiple national stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, local governments, and regional bodies. These consultations were held in tandem with the process of localising the SDGs to each country’s development priorities. The UN in the Pacific will continue to incorporate identified needs and priorities in future planning and programme development to tailor UN programme responses to SDG localisation processes, as well as to national development plans and decision-making.

The UNPS 2018-2022 provides countries with an opportunity to advance their DaO priorities at a pace that suits their specific context. Countries may opt to establish country strategic “One Plans” for “Delivering as One” drawn from the joint outcomes, and delivering country specific outputs and activities covering all country-level activity, supported by an integrated budget and M&E plans aligned with the UNPS.





Boys rugby team at West Kids Rugby Festival, held 15-17 August 2017 in Nadi, Fiji.

The West Kids Rugby Festival's commitment to gender equality was reflected in its record number of girl and boy primary school players, women coaches and team managers. The Festival is committed to ensuring women and girls have equal levels of access, respect and participation on the rugby field.

UN Women is working with Oceania Rugby as its new gender equality partner, signing a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2017 in recognition of their mutual commitment to promote gender equality and to challenge social norms through sport.

Photo credit: UN Women/Caitlin Clifford

THE UN IN THE PACIFIC

UN operations covered by the UNPS functions on the basis of multi-country engagement led by two RCs and a Joint UN Country Team linked across two regional hubs, with agencies operating regionally out of Fiji and Samoa.³

There are 16 UN agencies based in Fiji and working in all or most of the 14 PICTs: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, ILO, IFAD, IOM, UNAIDS, UNOCHA, OHCHR,⁴ UNISDR, UNDSS, UNESCAP, UNV, and WFP. UNDP maintains two offices, the Pacific Office in Fiji and the Samoa Multi-Country Office (MCO), that collectively service all 14 PICTs. The former Fiji MCO merged with the Pacific Centre in 2016 to establish an Integrated UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji. UNESCO, UNEP, and WMO maintain a sub-regional office in Samoa covering 12 PICTs and Papua New Guinea (PNG). FAO has a sub-regional office in Samoa and representative offices in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. UNICEF has an MCO in Fiji with field offices in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. UNDP has a Country Manager in the Solomon Islands co-located with UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women. UNFPA maintains a sub-regional office in Suva that supports 14 PICs and PNG, with field presences in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Samoa, and Tonga. ILO operates from its country office in Suva and with a National Coordinator in Samoa, covering the Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. IOM has a sub-regional coordination office in Canberra, Australia and Country Offices in FSM, Palau, RMI, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. UN agencies such as UNHCR are based outside the region, but collaborate with in-country agencies and Joint Presence Offices (JPOs) and Country Coordination Officers to meet their country level obligations. WFP opened its regional office in Fiji in 2016. WHO maintains representative offices in Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Fiji. The Samoa WHO office supports Niue, Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tokelau. WHO maintains Liaison Offices in Kiribati, FSM, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The WHO FSM office provides support to FSM, RMI, and Palau. Non-resident agencies include IAEA (Geneva), UNCDF, UN Environment, UN-Habitat (Fukuoka), UNIDO, UNCTAD, and UNODC (Bangkok). These agencies implement projects and programmes in the region in partnership with resident agencies.

The UNPS represents the Joint Pacific UN Country Team (UNCT) commitment to working together on the basis of comparative advantage and with a commitment to increasing Pacific-to-Pacific cooperation, demands that resonate with the global UN comparative advantage.

Specifically, the UN in the Pacific will respond to the identified priorities of PICTs to:

- Strengthen national capacities at all levels leading to national ownership
- Support national monitoring and implementation of international commitments, norms, and standards
- Act as convener of a wide range of national and international partners
- Provide high quality technical expertise in specific areas
- Objectively support M&E of national development frameworks
- Provide impartial policy advice, based on international experience, technical expertise, and good practice
- Provide neutral space within which political issues can be addressed and resolved, including support to the mediation of peace negotiations
- Advocate for the inclusion of vulnerable populations

³ The UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji and a number of organizations based in either Fiji or Samoa provide PNG with technical support. However, PNG has its own UNDAF, UNCT, and dedicated Resident Coordinator. The UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji provides technical support to both the Samoa MCO and the PNG Country Office and the countries they cover.

⁴ OHCHR does not cover Tokelau.



A florist vendor at Namaka Market, Fiji, prepares her flowers for sale.
Photo credit: UN Women/Lydia Downe

THE PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The 14 PICTs, often referred to as “large ocean island states”, covered by the UNPS have a total population of 2.4 million people⁵ in an area that encompasses 15 per cent of the earth’s surface. The region is approximately 6,500 kilometres from east to west, and approximately 4,200 kilometres from north to south. There are key differences in geography, size, history, culture, economies, and political systems across the region. Fiji is the most populous country with approximately 900,000 residents and Niue is the smallest with approximately 1,700. Wide ranging economic, social, environmental, and political challenges present threats to the region’s development, including the achievement of the SDGs. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the Pacific is amongst the lowest in the world, ranging from US\$8,343 million in Fiji to US\$1,816 million in Kiribati⁶. PICTs with low per capita GDP are also experiencing lower projected growth rates, indicating a potential continued decline in overall economic prosperity across the region. Only eight of the countries are ranked in the Human Development Index.⁷ Palau (60th), Fiji (91st), and Samoa (104th) are in the high human development category. Federated States of Micronesia (127th), Vanuatu (134th), and Kiribati (137th) are in the medium category. Solomon Islands (156th) is ranked in the low human development category.⁸ Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu⁹ are classified as least developed countries.

The region’s population is generally young. Eight PICTs have populations with at least 30 per cent below 15 years of age and 50 per cent under 25 years, providing potential for a significant demographic dividend if the right mix of quality education, reproductive choice, and decent work can be assured. Regionally, youth between the ages of 15 and 24 account for 18 per cent of the population, but 44 per cent of the unemployed,¹⁰ contributing to an unemployment rate in the Pacific of 23 per cent and up to 50 per cent in some countries.

Most PICTs remain heavily reliant on official development assistance (ODA), overseas remittances, and imported goods, with one in five Pacific Islanders living in poverty. Although extreme poverty is declining, hardship and vulnerabilities are increasing and levels of poverty differ widely across the PICTs. An estimated 17 per cent of people in the PICTs have a disability.¹¹ Women are more vulnerable to hardship and poverty due to socio-economic contexts, labour force discrimination, migration, a lack of property rights, heavy responsibilities in the household and the community, and subsistence farming, particularly in Melanesia.¹² The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line has been increasing in the Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu, with Fiji and the Solomon Islands showing declining rates. It is estimated that more than 20 per cent of the region’s population is living in hardship,^{13,14} with underlying vulnerabilities intensified by limited participation in decision-making at all levels.

Located on the southwestern part of the Pacific Rim of Fire and close to the equator, the Pacific region is among the most vulnerable in the world to the effects of climate change, extreme weather events, and natural disasters. Consequently, humanitarian and development assistance are interconnected. As coastal dwellers, Pacific Islanders are highly susceptible to sea level rise, threatening the existence of atoll nations – Kiribati, RMI, Tokelau, and Tuvalu. The region experiences an average of three major disasters each year¹⁵ and eight of the fourteen PICTs are among the 20 countries in the world with the highest average annual disaster losses in terms of gross domestic product.¹⁶ Evidence shows that due to pre-existing inequalities, women and marginalised and vulnerable groups are disproportionately impacted by the impacts of climate change and disasters and are also less capable of responding and adapting to, preparing for, and recovering from disasters.

⁵ 2016 UN Population estimates are available on <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DataQuery/>

⁶ World Bank, 2014.

⁷ Lack of reliable data and small sample sizes prevent some of the countries from completing HDI calculations, and present broader challenges to effective development progress monitoring and evidence-based policymaking.

⁸ UNDP Human Development Report, 2016.

⁹ United Nations Committee for Development Policy, 2016.

¹⁰ ILO Strengthening Youth Entrepreneurship in the Pacific, 5 April 2017.

¹¹ UNESCAP (2012) Disability at a Glance, Suva, Fiji.

¹² The State of Human Development in the Pacific, 2014.

¹³ ESCAP, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNDP, The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A Report on Vulnerability and Exclusion in a Time of Rapid Change, 2014.

¹⁴ World Bank, Hardship and Vulnerability in the Pacific, 2014.

¹⁵ Data received from UNOCHA on 30 January 2017. Includes disasters from 2013-2016.

¹⁶ World Bank, 2012 Acting Today for Tomorrow: The eight countries are Vanuatu, Niue, Tonga, FSM, Solomon Islands, Fiji, RMI, and Cook Islands.

Environmental degradation, pollution, and waste continue to impact people's livelihood opportunities and health. The Pacific has the highest fossil fuel dependency of any region.¹⁷ While some countries have ambitious renewable energy production targets, they are not costed or linked to deployment capacities and known local energy resources. Policy coordination, public engagement, and legal enforcement to ensure environmental protection and natural resource management are not consistent across the region, making evident the need for greater awareness of the contribution of natural resources and environmental health to the region's prosperity.¹⁸

Although all countries elect their governments through democratic elections, reliance on chiefly systems and religious structures remains widespread. The region continues to face significant challenges, including political instability and its impact on peace and development, increasing influence of finance on politics and elections, weak or non-existent local governance structures, poor delivery of government services outside of urban areas, and poor connectivity impacting the delivery of more inclusive forms of development.¹⁹ Weak governance structures have also given rise to land disputes in which national authorities have limited powers. Support for increased women's participation has led to an increase in the number of women in parliaments and civil society has started to more effectively engage with governance institutions.²⁰

Geographic isolation, ecological fragility, limited resources, and narrow economic bases – in addition to political instability, governance and human rights issues, and civil unrest – continue to limit the ability of governments in the region to tackle their development challenges. These conditions affected progress toward achieving the MDGs²¹ and continue to shape the localisation of the SDG 2030 agenda across the region.

The monetisation of PICT societies, linked to the pursuit of economic growth industries such as mining, tourism, agricultural production, and manufacturing, has led to a more individualistic culture whereby traditional family ties are now less reliable as social safety nets, which requires alternate long-term solutions to the provision of equitable basic services. Vulnerable and marginalised groups – defined as those living in hardship²² and those marginalised socially and politically, as well as through inadequate economic opportunities – include the poorest 20 per cent of the population, vulnerable migrants, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTI) community, persons living with disabilities, women and girls, children, and the elderly. Legal provisions have not been blended or harmonised with customary law practices in all countries, and national legal and policy frameworks and institutions across the Pacific lack the capacity and other resources to be fully operational, effective, and inclusive in a way that is compatible with governments' existing human rights obligations.

The key challenges facing the labour market in the Pacific are the informal and subsistence economies, high youth unemployment rates, and gender disparity. The dominance of the informal and subsistence economy poses a challenge to sustainable development due to the vulnerability of informal subsistence workers and the lack of formal social security systems for those engaged in these activities. Gender gaps are apparent in unemployment, labour force participation, wage levels, and opportunities to work overseas. Youth unemployment is high and a growing number of youth are neither in work nor in training.

Migration is increasingly important to the development of the region with Pacific Islanders described as one of the most mobile groups anywhere in the world.²³ Most PICTs experience various forms of internal and international migration, including rapid urbanisation, displacement linked to natural disasters and investment projects, relocation, and labour mobility, in particular to Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Additionally, there is evidence of internal and international trafficking in persons in some countries, especially to specific sectors such as logging, fishing, and mining.

¹⁷ UNESCAP, *Pacific Perspectives on the Challenges to Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy*, 2012.

¹⁸ SRDP for the Pacific, 2018-2022, UNDP.

¹⁹ SRDP for the Pacific, 2018-2022, UNDP.

²⁰ UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project Annual Report, 2016.

²¹ Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report, 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

²² Exposed to climatic and disaster risks (primarily coastal communities, people living in remote and isolated areas dependent on ecosystems threatened by climate change).

²³ ACP Observatory on Migration, Brussels, 2012, http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migration_in_the_pacific.pdf

The prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) across the 14 PICTs is amongst the highest in the world, reaching critical levels in many countries with risk factors including adult and child obesity, a lack of physical activity, poor diets, tobacco use, and harmful use of alcohol. NCDs are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality, and represent a significant threat to the attainment of the SDGs in the Pacific. Where data is available, between one quarter and one third of children are stunted in 43 per cent of countries in the Pacific. The impact of stunting is far reaching. While a stunted child has an increased risk of adult onset obesity and NCDs, it also has a higher risk of dying before the age of five. Stunting affects brain development and results in documented poorer learning outcomes. As the stunted child becomes an adult, productivity is reduced. For women, stunting is a significant contributor to low birth weight and maternal mortality.

A high unmet need for family planning (above 20 per cent in 10 countries), rising adolescent birth rates in eight PICTs and an increasing total fertility rate in six PICTs indicates altering social norms and limited access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education and services across all age groups. Household level data shows large inequalities in WASH with improved levels of sanitation directly related to household income. Based on net enrolment ratios, more than 70 per cent of 3-5 year olds in the Pacific region do not have access to pre-primary or preschool education. The majority of primary school aged children are enrolled in school, with a regional adjusted net enrolment rate (ANER) for primary education of 89 per cent in 2012.²⁴ While net enrolment rates in primary education have improved across the region, learning attainment, survival, and completion rates remain low. The majority of primary school aged children are enrolled in school, with a regional ANER for primary education of 89 per cent in 2012.²⁵ However, overall the education sector in the region faces significant capacity constraints at lower levels to deliver quality services.

While there is progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment, discrimination towards women and girls in the Pacific remains a key development challenge. All PICTs except Palau and Tonga have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), but reporting has been delayed by up to 10 years. The Pacific region has the world's lowest levels of women in parliament (8 per cent),²⁶ and is home to one country that have never elected a woman to their national parliaments, Federated States of Micronesia. The rate of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Pacific countries is among the highest in the world. Formal research and anecdotal evidence indicate that violence against women in the home and the community is endemic and affects the lives of more than 68 per cent of women in several countries. At an aggregate level, PICTs are estimated to have the second highest rates of vulnerable workers (in the subsistence economy, working for family, own account workers, and in the formal economy) of all developing country groups. The majority of PICTs reported less than 50 per cent of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. In most PICTs, rural areas and outer island economies are still semi-subsistence, with women usually performing a greater share of food growing and inshore fishing activities, as well as unpaid care and domestic work, which limits their availability for formal employment.

Most countries have national and sector level development plans, but significant support is needed for their operationalisation, monitoring, and evaluation. Compounding issues include the paucity of data, inadequate links between planning and budgets, uneven sharing of capacity and resources between sectors, and a lack of capacity to effectively implement, monitor, and report on development.

²⁴ Pacific Education for All 2015 Review, UNESCO, Apia Office, 2015.

²⁵ *ibid*

²⁶ Overall percentage based on aggregation of individual country data taken from Inter-parliamentary Union and Pacific Women in Politics websites. Excludes Australia, New Zealand and French territories. Retrieved 22 February 2017 from: <http://www.ipu.org/iss-e/women.htm> and <http://www.pacwip.org/women-mps/national-women-mps/22017>. Pacific Women in Politics [website].

All PICTs have National Strategic Development Plans to which the UNPS 2018-2022 is aligned:

- **Cook Islands:** Te Kaveinga Nui - National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020
- **Federated States of Micronesia:** FSM Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023
- **Fiji:** 20 Year and 5 Year National Development Plan
- **Kiribati:** National Development Plan 2016-2019
- **Republic of Marshall Islands:** National Strategic Plan 2015-2017
- **Nauru:** National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025
- **Niue:** National Strategic Plan 2016-2026
- **Palau:** Republic of Palau National Master Development Plan 2020
- **Samoa:** Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2016/17 - 2019/20
- **Solomon Islands:** National Development Strategy 2016-2035
- **Tokelau:** Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2016-2022
- **Tonga:** Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025
- **Tuvalu:** Te Kakeega III - National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020
- **Vanuatu:** Vanuatu 2030, The People's Plan



Photo Credit: Nadya Vaa



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

UN PACIFIC STRATEGY 2018-2022

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS



OUTCOME 1

CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER RESILIENCE,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



OUTCOME 2

GENDER EQUALITY



OUTCOME 3

SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT



OUTCOME 4

EQUITABLE BASIC SERVICES



OUTCOME 5

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



OUTCOME 6

HUMAN RIGHTS

UN PACIFIC STRATEGY 2018-2022

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS



OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection

By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened.

In addition to the overarching UN mandate to respond to humanitarian situations, specific programme priorities for 2018-2022 prioritise the integration of climate change and disaster risk management into programming to promote resilient and sustainable development in the Pacific. Vulnerability to the impacts of climate change will be addressed by scaling up transformational adaptation initiatives in flood control, coastal zone management, and water and food security, undertaken with strong community engagement. Resilience will be built by supporting livelihood diversification and adaptive capacity – including addressing the links between migration and climate change – for the most marginalized and vulnerable populations in the Pacific, particularly those living on atolls, along the coast, and in urban areas.

The UN will adopt a cross cutting risk governance approach to mainstream climate and disaster risks within the overall framework of supporting the integration of the SDGs into national development and disaster risk reduction strategies and planning processes. Attention will be given to ensuring risk-informed and gender-sensitive development plans, strengthened recovery preparedness, and regional collaboration in climate monitoring, early warning systems, and geospatial technology. Likewise, disaster responses will continue to provide cross-sector and gender-sensitive recovery support to restore livelihoods, community infrastructure, and essential public services to displaced persons and affected communities. As part of a cross cutting risk-informed development approach, the UN will support integrating risk assessment and adaptation measures into planning processes at all levels to address underlying vulnerabilities.

Collaboration with national authorities in high risk countries will ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and VAWG are adequately addressed in preparedness and contingency plans, taking into account the needs of women, adolescents, and youth.



Photo Credit: Nadya Vaa

The UN will support Pacific efforts in global fora such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to form durable partnerships to address the region's vulnerabilities and to inform global policy choices. The implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDC) includes a focus on supporting increasing access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy services, expanding the share of renewable energy and creating incentives for public and private investment in energy efficiency.

UN climate change efforts are linked to the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2016. FRDP aims to ensure that climate change and disasters are understood as development challenges with priority actions to address vulnerability to climate change and disasters and to build resilience across all sectors. From 2018 to 2022, priority will be given to mainstreaming climate change into national development planning, within country and regional projects, at the community level, and at the highest level of policy making. Throughout climate change programming, there is a commitment to climate change adaptation that enhances the capacity to plan for and respond to climate risks.

Potential areas of joint programming include:

- programming that is consistently responsive to the needs of vulnerable groups – women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities – and analysis of the impacts of climate change on groups with special needs – the elderly, people with disabilities, women, and children;
- operationalization of programme support services, development of adaptation strategies at the sector level, including agriculture and health;
- in the context of the SDGs, a focus on the links between disaster and climate risk, and water sanitation, hygiene, and health; and
- advocacy on resilience in support of resilient cities, school and hospital safety, and climate smart agriculture for food security.

Support will also be extended to strengthen ecosystem data to enable monitoring of progress made towards the achievement of the SDGs in this area.

Up-to-date labour market statistics provide critical baseline information for post disaster needs assessments (PDNA). Without credible pre-disaster statistics, the impact of a disaster on employment and livelihoods cannot be realistically determined and can distort decisions on targeting locations and communities for emergency employment and recovery programmes. Ensuring that national labour statistics are regularly collected and analysed is an important part of a preparedness strategy.

Continuing to give priority to the cross cutting issues of sex, age, and diversity disaggregated data and gender to support evidence based decision-making. This will include the establishment of integrated M&E for environment, climate change, and disaster risk management; child vulnerability mapping with a WASH entry point; and the analysis and integration of climate risk perceptions, adaptation, and resilience in decision-making processes.

The short-term effects of climate change will cost jobs in industries directly affected by climate change, while new jobs will be created in replacement industries. Support will focus on green growth and areas that will create growth and new job opportunities, with a focus on tourism, renewable energy, food production, and recycling and waste management. Preventative and remedial measures to limit and reduce the impact of climate change and natural disasters have the potential to create jobs through public projects such as investments in natural disaster resilient infrastructure.

Innovative and climate resilient “Ridge to Reef” approaches will promote blue and green economies and increase the economic and social benefits of community based conservation in protected areas, and support access to finance for biodiversity and ecosystem management. Sustainable fisheries and livelihoods, focused on the economic empowerment of women and youth, will be realized through support for strengthened coastal biodiversity management.



OUTCOME 2: GENDER EQUALITY

By 2022, gender equality is advanced in the Pacific, where more women and girls are empowered and enjoy equal opportunities and rights in social, economic, and political spheres, contribute to and benefit from national development, and live a life free from violence and discrimination.

Women offer unique skills and knowledge that contribute significantly to Pacific nations. The UN will continue to work with governments, regional bodies, and civil society across the 14 PICTs to empower women and girls and to build inclusive societies. Ensuring the elimination of discriminatory policies and practices in all aspects of life and working towards achieving gender equality benefits individual women and men, families, communities, and countries. The UN will advocate for joint legal and policy reforms and educational programming in the Pacific that promote gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and respect of women's and human rights in an effort to introduce the population and young learners to concepts of equal opportunity and treatment of women, fairness, respect of bodily integrity, and freedom from stigma and violence.

In a region where up to 68 per cent of women are affected by VAWG, the UN will address the common protection issues rooted in structural factors such as inequality, discrimination, entrenched social norms, and the remoteness of populations. Support to end VAWG will involve:

- strengthening the enabling environment to prevent and respond to VAWG in line with international standards;
- strengthening the implementation of legislation, policies, and national action plans for the delivery of multi-sector, quality, survivor-focused essential services; and
- strengthening social mobilization, community leadership, and prevention.

Linking with Outcome 5, UN agencies will work with regional partners and civil society to address country-specific barriers to women's full political participation. The UN aims to create a social and institutional environment that welcomes and supports women's political participation, increases the number of women candidates, and enhances their support networks.

UN programming will continue to address women's economic empowerment, linked with Outcome 3, including:

- promoting sustainable livelihoods;
- improving opportunities for employment and options within employment;
- promoting more opportunities for women in business;
- seeking more efficiencies in and sharing of unpaid work; and
- improving gender responsive social protection.



Photo Credit: Nadya Vaa

Programming will address the vulnerability of young people, especially young girls, in the region. This will include addressing the high proportion of unintended pregnancies (up to 63 per cent of pregnancies among 15-19 year olds), high levels of violence including sexual violence,²⁷ a growing prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, and 10 to 19 per cent of girls in almost half of the PICTs being married between 15 and 19 years of age.

Programme approaches will contribute to a measurable reduction in adolescent birth rates, ensuring essential health services for women and girls subject to violence, and improving young people's access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, and gender-inclusive family life education (FLE).

Priority will also be given to strengthening the capacity of the national health sector in selected PICTs to adequately respond to the needs of women, children, and girl survivors of VAWG. In partnership with national governments, regional, and CSO partners, the UN will support the establishment and integration of a health response to violence against women and children into national health systems by improving the ability of health care workers to address VAWG, developing and using evidence-based VAWG guidelines and protocols in line with international standards, and strengthening functional referral networks.

Potential areas of joint programming include:

- continued focus on women's economic empowerment;
- commitment to Ending Violence Against Women;
- political participation;
- ending violence against children; as well as
- a commitment to the cross cutting priority of data using gender equity and violence against women data to inform policy and programming.



OUTCOME 3: SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

By 2022, people in the Pacific, in particular youth, women, and vulnerable groups, benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic development that creates decent jobs, reduces multi-dimensional poverty and inequalities, and promotes economic empowerment.

The development and growth of small and micro enterprises through policies, skill development and incentives will be supported to strengthen informal businesses and facilitate their formalisation. Special focus will be needed to support the development of an entrepreneurial culture among traditionally disadvantaged categories of workers, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Targeted efforts will improve decent work conditions for these disadvantaged groups as well as for migrant workers through the elimination of non-standard forms of employment.

Continued and increased research and extension services will improve productivity of small land holders and subsistence farmers. Support for new and strengthened policies to introduce and expand production and enhance links between agriculture and the tourism industry will aim to positively affect agricultural employment.

Advancing the concept of blue and green economies will help countries establish enabling environments for private sector initiatives that create jobs for women, men, and youth, by recognising the economic benefits of marine and land ecosystems while ensuring their sustainable management. Expanding organic farming, ecotourism, and farm-to-table business models, as well as supporting the informal sector to increase employment opportunities, income generation, and investments in social enterprise are priorities, as is improving access to finance for low income women and men in rural areas.

²⁷ Child sexual abuse is 11 per cent or above in seven countries where data is available.



UNDP team visiting project site - cocoa nursery maintained by youth groups in Savaii, Samoa.

As part of broader poverty reduction strategies, and drawing on experience from existing social assistance programmes, the UN will advocate and provide technical support for countries to expand or develop social protection systems. Strategies targeting youth unemployment in particular will increase access to productive and decent work as well as opportunities for entrepreneurship, including access to finance facilities, training opportunities, and information and market policies that incentivise start ups and expansions. Strategies to support the design of employment and economic policies that place jobs first will also be targeted.

A focus on increased collaboration between training institutions and the private sector will improve the delivery of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as alignment with labour market requirements, including regional approaches, aimed at increasing opportunities within both domestic and global labour markets. The UN will support application of the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) to establish comparability across PICT education and training systems, as well as with other regional and international frameworks.

Programme approaches will focus on increasing preventative occupational safety and health practices, recognising the economic cost of occupational injuries to countries, and employing approaches that facilitate policy integration by making links between occupational health and safety and other policy interventions. Priority will be given to advancing the Decent Work Agenda and integrating safety and health at work into the development agenda.

The UN will focus on public finance as a means to engage in budget analysis and targeted advocacy to parliamentary committees, key ministries, and with youth parliaments, to improve transparency, efficiency, adequacy, and equity of resources, including those targeting children. Such efforts will first focus on FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu where budget information is publicly available.

A focus on poverty reduction will increase the benefits of gender-responsive, inclusive, and sustainable economic development, including the creation of decent jobs and strategies that promote the economic empowerment of women and men, such as maximising labour mobility opportunities within the region and with Australia and New Zealand. The outcome focuses on inequalities that are increased by poverty and limited or no access to economic opportunity, prevalent in the Pacific region and on small and isolated PICTs.

Potential areas of joint programming include youth and women's entrepreneurship and skills development, and programming priorities that address the informal economy and financial inclusion.



OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services

By 2022, more people in the Pacific, particularly the most vulnerable, have increased equitable access to and utilization of inclusive, resilient, and quality basic services.

Seven of the 14 PICTs have an average under-5 mortality rate above the 2030 SDG target of 5 per 1,000 live births. Infant mortality makes up the majority of under-5 deaths with more than 80 per cent of children dying in their first year in all 14 PICTs. Only five countries meet the neonatal mortality SDG target of 12 per 1,000 live births. Non-attainment of the global target of 90 per cent national immunisation coverage for measles vaccine and DPT3 – diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus – will be addressed in seven priority countries. In countries with the worst reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) and nutrition indicators – FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu – a comprehensive health system strengthening approach will be supported, focusing on the quality of service delivery. The UN will promote the “1,000 days” approach to nutrition and will focus on areas with the highest rates of stunting of children under-5.

Support will be provided to the Ministries of Health across all 14 PICTs to improve health policy formulation and to promote strengthened investment in sexual and reproductive, child and maternal health, and nutrition. A focus on midwifery workforce strengthening will ensure that international standards for skilled birth attendants are attained. Programme approaches will contribute to a measurable reduction in the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and improve access to family planning in 10 Pacific countries, reducing unplanned pregnancies, especially among adolescents, and realising reproductive rights for women and girls. The six PICTs with Maternal Mortality Rates (MMR) above the SDG target of 70 per 1000,000 live births will be prioritised. Increased attention will be given to addressing cervical cancer and other reproductive health morbidity and mortality concerns.

The UN will focus on four major changes necessary to overcome the key health system bottlenecks, which contribute to high rates of neonatal and early infant death and high levels of stunting in children. The collective efforts of the UN system will focus on strengthening policies and legislative frameworks, improving planning and coordination mechanisms for health and nutrition, and improving delivery of quality health and nutrition care services, including at the community level.

The UN will provide support in line with the SDGs related to achieving Universal Health Coverage, taking into consideration the mixed disease burden that exists in most PICTs – both communicable and non-communicable diseases – and strains on the health system. This will include efforts to support health system strengthening through policy-based approaches and efforts to increase access to high quality primary health care systems. Reducing the region’s extremely high burden from non-communicable diseases will be a key emphasis with a focus on effective solutions.

Efforts will include continued strengthening of national systems to provide equitable access to services for people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria through improved financial management, procurement systems, and M&E. HIV specific strategies to reduce new infections will address policy and legal environments, the need for strengthened health systems, and the mitigation of stigma and discrimination against certain vulnerable groups. Strategies targeting HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, and sexual health programming will take into consideration the human mobility dimensions of communicable disease, as well as the psychosocial needs of vulnerable migrants.

Priority areas will focus on ensuring that more school aged children are in school and learning, supporting strengthened education system capacities to increase the availability and quality of education, improving the quality of teaching, developing alternative education opportunities for out of school children, and building the resilience of schools and communities. Countries with the highest rates of out of school children and the lowest learning outcomes will be targeted. These include FSM, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Technical support will be provided to analyse evidence on children who are not learning and the barriers to education for out of school children in the target countries and associated child protection issues. By strengthening teacher education systems, including the use of technology-based approaches, teachers will be better equipped to address the learning needs of all students.

Linked to the cross-cutting issue of resilience, the most vulnerable PICTs will be targeted to strengthen the resilience of their education system to disasters.

A regional approach will be taken to promote greater investment in early childhood education and institutionalising universal pre-primary education.

Increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation in rural, peri-urban and remote areas is a priority, as is the need to strengthen the enabling environment for improved water and sanitation. The latter includes building institutional capacities for financial planning and budgeting, coordination, improving service delivery, sector monitoring, and improving the ability of communities, schools, and healthcare providers to develop, manage, and sustain WASH infrastructure.

Capacity development and technical assistance for WASH policy, planning, and standards development in all 14 PICTs will align support to the regional coordination and financing mechanisms established by the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility.²⁸ Targeted countries will receive comprehensive support for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) by implementing the innovative Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning approach to help communities safely manage their water resources during short-term or slow-onset disasters, making them more resilient to climate change and natural hazards.

To promote new social norms around latrine use, and ultimately to create open defecation free communities, the UN will facilitate community approaches to total sanitation. Affordable sanitation marketing approaches will be supported to ensure the adequate and sustainable supply of appropriate facilities at the community level, particularly for adolescent girls. These platforms will then be used for the broader promotion of safe WASH, nutrition, and care practices.

Potential areas of joint advocacy and programming include:

- continued priority for RMNCAH;
- health adaptations to climate change; and
- prevention of HIV, STIs, malaria and tuberculosis.

Priority will be given to quality education, including out of school children and FLE. Water, sanitation, and hygiene also remains a priority area, as does employment services for women and youth, and rapid assessment of social security coverage for PICTs.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

²⁸ Involving the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, European Union, and the governments of Australia and New Zealand.



OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement

By 2022, people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed, and transparent decision-making processes; accountable and responsive institutions; and improved access to justice.

In support of SDG 16, the UN will promote national efforts to sustain peace and stability, and work with governments and parliaments to develop innovative mechanisms to increase interaction and consultation with citizens, focusing on marginalised groups, in particular women and youth. Interactive community-to-government solutions, including digital communication, will address the issues of geographic remoteness, access, and voice, and will contribute to working with national institutions, regional organizations, and civil society to advocate for the legal and policy reforms needed to increase the number of women represented in national and local legislatures and institutions. To address cultural and social barriers to women's political participation, strategies will be developed to work with political parties, role models, and male champions to encourage behaviour change and community support, to realise the benefits of gender-inclusive decision-making.

The UN will support the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies by working with governments, justice, and security sector institutions as well as civil society to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice and by creating space for dialogue among stakeholders. Priority will be given to measures that ensure the effective delivery of justice outcomes, enhancing legal aid provisions, providing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and expanding access to justice to remote areas using models of centre-to-periphery service delivery with a focus on women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Support will also address ongoing and emerging issues such as early access to justice, redress for land and property grievances, addressing risks related to extractive industries, management of natural resources, and the use of rapidly increasing climate finance mechanisms. The UN will support the empowerment of youth and women by providing fora for policy dialogue with decision-makers and improving conflict resolution skills.

In building responsive government institutions, the UN will work at both national and sub-national levels to promote conditions for sustainable peace, strengthen capacities and to reform systems to improve service delivery with a focus on remote areas and informal settlements. The UN will assist PICTs to improve public services by promoting effective and inclusive governance for sustainable health outcomes by partnering with public and private sector actors to foster policy action and coordination beyond the health sector to address social, economic, environmental, and political factors that determine the burden of non-communicable diseases. The UN will strengthen national systems to provide equitable access to services for people affected by HIV/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis and malaria through improved financial management, procurement systems, M&E, and support for civil society engagement.

The UN will support national statistics strategies that enhance public access to information and data and provide timely and relevant evidence for national and sector humanitarian and development planning, and monitoring. Support will focus on strengthening institutional capacities in PICTs to generate data and evidence to monitor the situation of communities and the most vulnerable, including children. This will be achieved by enhancing capacities in key ministries and amongst decision makers in equity focused development planning and budgeting. Support will be provided for the implementation of housing and population censuses, including support for adherence to international definitions and methodology, the use of new technologies for data collection in the field, and data utilisation. Mechanisms to increase birth and death registrations will be supported in PICTs.

Governments, parliaments, civil society and the media will be key partners in increasing the transparency of institutions and the accountability of decision-makers. With consideration for United Nations Convention on Corruption (UNCAC) commitments, the UN will focus on support that will contribute to the development and implementation of anti-corruption policies and institutions, and will strengthen the oversight responsibilities of legislatures, the role of parliamentary committees, and the functions of independent constitutional offices. Holding elected representatives and civil servants to account will be addressed through formal oversight, institutional strengthening, and support for civil society with a focus on organizing youth and community networks.



Potential areas of joint programming include:

- supporting inclusive political participation focusing on elections, parliament, constitution making, and women’s political participation;
- supporting the development of national peacebuilding strategies and peacebuilding initiatives in different sectors;
- increasing anticorruption efforts and transparency for improved service delivery, and promoting open and accessible information;
- increasing women’s political participation;
- supporting rule of law and access to justice;
- engaging children, youth, and civil society organizations to promote dialogue and to advocate for more inclusive societies;
- strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations to engage with and hold governments accountable;
- supporting ICT for good governance; and
- eliminating the worst forms of child labour in PICTs.

With priority placed on the cross cutting issue of data, Outcome Five will focus on generating data and providing evidence for development plans.



OUTCOME 6: Human Rights

By 2022, people in the Pacific effectively enjoy a strengthened legal framework and institutions that deliver human rights protection in accordance with international commitments under relevant treaties, and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The UN, in collaboration with the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), will provide technical support to strengthen national legal frameworks and institutions that deliver human rights protection and support countries in implementing international human rights standards. The Pacific has a low rate of ratification of international human rights treaties. Of the nine core treaties, Vanuatu and Samoa have ratified five, the others less. Many PICTs experience difficulties with regard to timely human rights reporting and effective implementation. Common human rights issues raised and recommendations to PICTs include increasing ratification of treaties and Optional Protocols, establishing national human rights institutions, and addressing gender-based violence, child protection, ill treatment, and torture.²⁹ Nauru also faces a distinct human

²⁹ Common Country Assessment 2016.

rights situation as a result of the transfer of refugees by Australia to Nauru for the purpose of offshore processing. The UN will work with PICTs to support the development of platforms and the strengthening of capacities to undertake multi-sector and harmonised human rights reporting and implementation processes.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reviews all UN member states, regardless of the status of their human rights instruments, and complements the work of other treaty bodies. The UPR and all treaty bodies have made recommendations to PICTs covering a range of issues, including violence against women, children's rights, rule of law, climate change, education, and health. Continued support for the development of national implementation plans for treaty bodies and the UPR aims to increase the opportunities for all PICTs to implement international human rights standards.

Migration is recognised as a complex and dynamic process affecting a wide range of actors in the Pacific region, but one that if well governed can be of benefit to migrants and their families, and can contribute to the social, economic, and cultural development of countries and communities. UN support in relation to the Migration Governance Index will focus on “Domain 2: Migrant rights – access to basic social services and social security, family rights, the right to work, long-term residency and path to citizenship”, profoundly determining a migrants quality of life and prospects in the new country; and “Domain 3: Safe and orderly migration – border control and enforcement, admission and eligibility criteria”, regarding integration policies and measures to combat human trafficking and smuggling.

Potential areas of joint programming include:

- focusing on disability;
- supporting law enforcement;
- strengthening national human rights institutions;
- taking rights based approaches to RMNCAH;
- supporting migration with links to the needs of refugees;
- taking a rights-based multi-sector approach to providing an essential services package for women and girls subject to violence;
- supporting LGBTI rights;
- supporting human rights defenders working with marginalised and vulnerable groups;
- encouraging youth engagement and leadership in the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- incorporating the cross cutting issue of data.





Seeds distributed at Marobe Market in Efate, Vanuatu - with support from UN Women - helped market vendors replant crops damaged by Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015.

Photo credit: UN Women/Murray Lloyd



Seeds distributed at Marobe Market in Efate, Vanuatu - with support from UN Women - helped market vendors replant crops damaged by Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015.
Photo credit: UN Women/Murray Lloyd

HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

As a disaster-prone region, the Pacific experiences humanitarian emergencies and disasters regularly. As such, the UN in the Pacific is dedicated to implementing a new way of working together, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in June 2016, based on the elements of: (1) Working to collective outcomes across the UN system and the broader humanitarian and development community; (2) Working over multi-year timeframes, recognizing the reality of protracted crises and aiming to contribute to longer-term development gains, in the logic of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and (3) Working collaboratively based on comparative advantage of diverse actors.

The UNCT recognizes that the SDGs and the Agenda 2030 commitment to 'leaving no one behind' and 'reaching those furthest behind first' makes specific references to people affected by humanitarian emergencies, requiring stronger coordination between the humanitarian and development agendas.

In acute situations it is understood a traditional emergency humanitarian response focusing on saving lives and limiting human suffering may be needed. However, protracted scenarios may require development-humanitarian collaboration with the possibility of more joined-up analysis, planning and programming.

Should an emergency/humanitarian situation occur during the implementation of the UNPS 2018-2022, the UNCT is committed to providing coordinated support and services through the Global Coordination Mechanisms of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the primary mechanism for response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The geographic size and isolation of SIDS and the challenges of doing business across such a large and diverse region, together with the vulnerability of Pacific SIDS to natural disasters, present very unique risks for attaining development results in the Pacific region. In recognising these challenges the UN will deliver better together and respond with more joint programming, innovative practices, and efficient common services in the period leading to 2030. The UNPS factors in consideration for the risks associated with climate change, including extreme climate events, which have humanitarian consequences.

Natural hazards

The pattern of disasters in the region and their impact on countries and related UN programmes makes it necessary to incorporate disaster preparedness and resilience into all programming and to ensure monitoring cycles consider and respond to the impact of humanitarian coordination and response on the attainment of planned development results. Programme priorities to support preparedness, risk reduction, and resilience across all UN activities – systems, infrastructure, processes, economic functionality, and community engagement, as well as coordination capacities to respond to humanitarian emergencies – are factored into the UNPS and its coordination, governance, and accountability structures. As are priorities for increased communication and planning across the priorities of humanitarian response and development programme implementation.

Political Stability

Governance challenges, as well as socio-economic constraints, which may be exacerbated when extreme natural events cause humanitarian crises, can in turn lead to increased political tensions, and changes in Government, thereby affecting UNPS implementation. UNPS will be informed by conflict analysis, including mitigating measures that the UN can take to prevent and mitigate risks, such as the impartial convenor and facilitator.

Data

While many PICTS have made significant progress in data collection and management, more remains to be done. In some countries, data is still lacking or is inconsistent or of poor quality, including a lack of data disaggregated by sex, age, and diversity factors. This can be attributed to weak statistical institutions, weak administrative data systems, and a lack of capacity in data gathering and management. This is considered a major risk in relation to the ability to demonstrate results against the UNPS and to track the attainment of SDG targets over time. However, the number of PICTs that regularly implement surveys is expanding. National population and housing censuses, in combination with survey and administrative data, have been identified as critical to providing high quality, sex, age, and diversity disaggregated data to measure progress on the SDGs and to provide data to both the Human Development Index and the Multidimensional Poverty Index. Serious concerns around the paucity and low quality of data sets in PICTs point to the need for strengthening data systems in the region, continuing to complement the efforts of SPC in this regard, and supporting PICTs to improve systems for generating data, with an increasing focus being given to data literacy and utilisation of data for more effective policy and programming decisions.

Capacity

A lack of, limited, or inconsistent technical and institutional capacity due to “brain drain”,³⁰ isolation and distance presents a risk for timely and consistent programme implementation, risking the attainment of results and the ability of individual PICTs to contribute to agreed targets. The tailoring of programmes (including delivery rates and targets) to regional and national contexts will be a priority for agencies.

³⁰ Brain drain caused by a high percentage of predominantly young people either moving out of positions within the development and services sectors or leaving the islands for education and greater personal or economic opportunities affects the capacity and availability of programme counterparts or national implementing partners.

Business practices

The strengthening of administrative processes in the Fiji and Samoa regional hubs to respond to the multi-country context, as well as the pooling of expertise and the application of innovative solutions to both capacity development and technical inputs, are factored into the UNPS and associated Business Operations Strategy (BOS). Strengthening these processes will mitigate previously identified risks to programme implementation arising from slow administrative processes, including procurement and human resource management.

Geographic size of the region and travel costs

The size of the region and the cost of travel in the Pacific have an impact on programme budgets, monitoring regimes, and staff time. This drives the need for innovative solutions to be applied and increase opportunities for joint monitoring and review, and common business practices to be made of.

Changing Aid Environment

The risks to programme implementation and resource mobilisation posed by reduced or changing availability of ODA (including the changed economic status of some countries) is having an impact on the eligibility of countries, individual agency budgets, and access to vertical funds. These changes are factored into realistic strategies for joint resource mobilisation and reinforce the importance of regular dialogue with development partners and national governments, as well as strategies forged with regional organizations to ensure complementary practices. There remains, however, an assumption that there is global priority for the needs of SIDS, even in circumstances where there are changes to the economic status of individual PICTs, and the priorities reflected in the SAMOA Pathway, particularly in relation to the impacts of climate change.

Outcome level focus

The UNPS positioning at the outcome level runs the risk of being seen as less relevant to each individual PICTs context. This is a risk that requires the continued commitment of the UNCT to effective communication strategies to highlight the continued relevance and alignment of UN programming to national development priorities, the prioritisation of national engagement and country level consultation, joint approaches to increasing country level M&E and data management capacity, participatory monitoring practices, and continued support for the localisation of the SDGs.

Coordination capacity

Reduced UN coordination capacity and government liaison due to any weakening or lack of support for UN Coordination and the region wide network of 11 Joint Presence Offices (JPOs) and country based UN Country Coordination Offices, would immediately impact the overall coherence of the UN in the Pacific. It would significantly reduce capacity to liaise with PICT governments and effectively engage multiple stakeholders in programme development and monitoring. The UNPS is finalised on the assumption that the UN coordination structures incorporating the network of Joint Presence Offices will be maintained and where possible strengthened.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

INITIATIVES OUTSIDE OF THE UNPS

The UNPS contains the UN system's joint interventions in the 14 PICTs, all of which contribute to the achievement of the UNPS outcomes in support of national sustainable development goals and the SDGs. In this context and given the breadth of need in the region, some elements of UN agency responses are not easily integrated under the key outcome areas of the UNPS. In the case of the Pacific these include:

- targeted technical inputs of specialised agencies;
- responses to and resources for unplanned humanitarian disasters including extreme weather events;
- the coordination and discretionary programming and emergency response needs associated with those events;
- innovations or specific communication strategies developed as a result of novel partnerships or demands that arise in one or more countries; and
- specific health campaigns or health responses that require targeted specialised interventions.

Given the diversity of programming both within and surrounding the UNPS, the UNCT stands by an overarching commitment that no matter the circumstances or the specificity, all such responses by the UN agencies in the Pacific will be integrated into the multi-country and multi-agency coordination mechanisms of the UN system in the region.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office



Photo credit: UN Women/Lydia Downe

FINANCING STRATEGY AND ESTIMATED RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The financing strategies of the UN system in the Pacific integrate the funding streams of resources channelled through respective agencies, resources raised through contributions from donors and development partners, those coordinated through collaboration with specific Government entities, and those raised locally across UN system agencies through cost sharing and cost recovery strategies.

The specific coordination requirements of doing business in the Pacific, along with the demands of taking into account and raising additional funds to be able to fully implement the UNPS, require targeted and strategic approaches as outlined below.

The cost of coordination in the Pacific

The cost of coordinating and implementing UN, Government and stakeholder engagement in the multi-country context of the Pacific brings with it additional challenges and costs. The network of an initial nine UN Joint Presence Offices (JPOs) in the Pacific was established in 2008,³¹ following a call from PICTs for greater UN country level presence and collaboration. The JPOs are a response to the demands of PICTs to better support the development challenges that SIDS are facing and the level of collaboration required, along with the coordination and partnership support needed if a physical UNRC presence is not possible.

The sheer size of the Pacific requires the maintenance of the network of 11 Joint Presence Offices staffed by individual UN Country Coordination Officers and hosted by the respective PICT governments. In many cases the JPO houses additional project or agency staff in common premises and is called on to conduct a range of services for UN agencies, incoming regional and headquarter missions, and host governments. This increasingly diverse multi-country UN coordination network, the two RCs, the Joint UNCT, and the working groups of the UNPS governance and accountability structure are supported by two regional UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) located in Fiji and Samoa.

The cost of coordination in the Pacific, therefore, includes the cost of two RCOs and the network of 11 JPOs and the UN Country Coordination Officers that support them.

RCOs are financed by a combination of annual allocations from the UN Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO),³² UN agency cost sharing, discretionary or one time coordination related vertical funding, and donor support for key strategic planning processes, positions, or initiatives. JPOs are currently financially supported under the *“Memorandum of Understanding concerning the provision and use of common services by the UN Offices, Programmes and Funds, and Specialised Agencies in the Pacific Region, 2015”* by UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women who receive services from all of the JPOs on the basis of reciprocity. All other UN agencies are able to access the services of the JPOs on the basis of an established cost recovery schedule. In many cases JPOs benefit from in kind support from their host PICTs government in the form of rent-free office space within government offices, construction of purpose built common premises, or by renting commercial space for UN coordination purposes.

³¹ Cook Islands and Niue JPOs were added to the network in 2016.

³² The annual UNDOCO allocation for multiple country coordination is calculated on the basis of the economic status of the regional hub and not the diverse, and often reduced, economic status of the multiple countries they serve. The Fiji hub services ten countries; the Samoa hub services four countries.

Pacific governments are increasingly taking steps to support UN enhanced effectiveness by providing in kind or financial support for UN country level coordination, including:

- **Cook Islands and Niue** have hosted UN Coordination Officers in government offices.
- **Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)** Ministry of Health provides space for the UN JPO.
- **Nauru** Government provides UN JPO space through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)** Ministry of Internal Affairs provides office space for the current UN JPO.
- **Tonga** Government provides a rent free UN House that houses UN Staff and other partners (World Bank, ADB).
- **Palau** Government has provided space for the UN.
- **Samoa** Government has provided a One UN House for the UN System in Samoa.

From 2018 to 2022, the UNCT is seeking to expand the number of agencies contributing to cost sharing for the network of 11 JPOs, for which they would receive reciprocal services across the network. Non-contributing agencies would be required to contribute on a fee for service basis against an updated 2018-2022 cost recovery schedule.

The cost of maintaining 11 JPO staff in the Pacific for the period 2018-2022 is currently approximately US\$2.6 million,³³ or US\$522,000 per year. The estimated cost of RCO operations in the region is US\$3.7 million or US\$756,000 per year.

Strategies to maintain the coordination network across the Pacific for 2018-2022 include:

- establishing cost sharing strategies as part of annual UN Coordination budgeting and reporting;
- implementing the 2015 Memorandum to ensure consistent cost recovery mechanism for agencies benefiting from JPO coordination services; and
- incorporating the cost of operationalising the regional coordination network within the resource mobilisation strategies of the medium term Common Budgetary Framework (CBF).

[UNPS Common Budgetary Framework 2018-2022](#)

The CBF for the UNPS is a medium term outcome focused budget calculated on the basis of per agency (resident and non-resident) and per country programming considerations. It provides a resource overview that seeks to match the programming “footprint” of the UNPS 2018-2022. Where funding gaps exist, the CBF will be used to inform joint resource mobilisation strategies. The CBF is operationalised through more detailed output and activity level programming and planning and is reviewed and updated in the context of agreed inter-agency work planning and reporting cycles.

UN agencies in the Pacific have contributed financial data to the CBF, providing the greatest level of detail possible. The CBF represents a budgetary planning process that engages all agencies with regard to programme, operational, and communication costs associated with the outputs and activities linked to the UNPS. The CBF, therefore, captures all budgetary costs known at the time of signing the UNPS for all programme activity by both resident and non-resident agencies in the 14 countries from 2018-2022 to inform and support UNPS implementation and additional resource mobilisation strategies. The CBF comprises total budget,³⁴ resources projected to be available,³⁵ and resources to be mobilised.³⁶

³³ This coordination cost is currently covered by just four UN agencies: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women.

³⁴ The **total** estimates the cost of implementing the UNPS, per outcome, apportioning operational costs across all six outcomes.

³⁵ **Projected to be available** presents the funds available from all sources and ‘already’ secured (including under contract) at the time of UNPS preparation. This includes all core/regular budget funds, as well as donor contributions received, allocated from headquarters or regional levels, and or received through global funds and multi-donor trust funds. Projected to be available also includes all confirmed donor resources, pipeline funds under negotiation by UN organisations and any expected potential resource contributions from other sources.

³⁶ **To be mobilised** presents the gap or the difference between resources already secured and firmly available and the resources required to implement the UNPS.

The total projected value of the UNPS 2018-2022 is US\$814,021,957. Forty-six per cent of total funds are “projected to be available” and 54 per cent of the total budget is still “to be mobilised”, giving some urgency to the development of joint resource mobilisation strategies. Outcome 1 has the highest proportion of estimated implementation cost with 45 per cent of the total, while Outcome 6 has the lowest proportion with 2 per cent. Four out of six outcomes are in a positive resource mobilisation scenario whereby the “projected to be available” figure is slightly to considerably higher than the identified gap.

	(C) TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	(A) PROJECTED TO BE AVAILABLE	% SECURED	(B) TO BE MOBILISED GAP (C-A)	% TO BE MOBILISED
Outcome 1	365,119,511	45%	132,270,884	36%	232,848,627	64%
Outcome 2	45,060,204	6%	26,462,110	59%	18,598,094	41%
Outcome 3	157,988,283	19%	91,343,125	58%	66,645,158	42%
Outcome 4	144,958,766	18%	75,264,839	52%	69,693,927	48%
Outcome 5	87,088,451	11%	40,025,624	46%	47,062,827	54%
Outcome 6	13,806,742	2%	11,834,242	86%	1,972,500	14%
TOTALS	814,021,957	100%	377,200,825	46%	436,821,132	54%

Figure 3: Summary table, Common Budgetary Framework 2018-2022

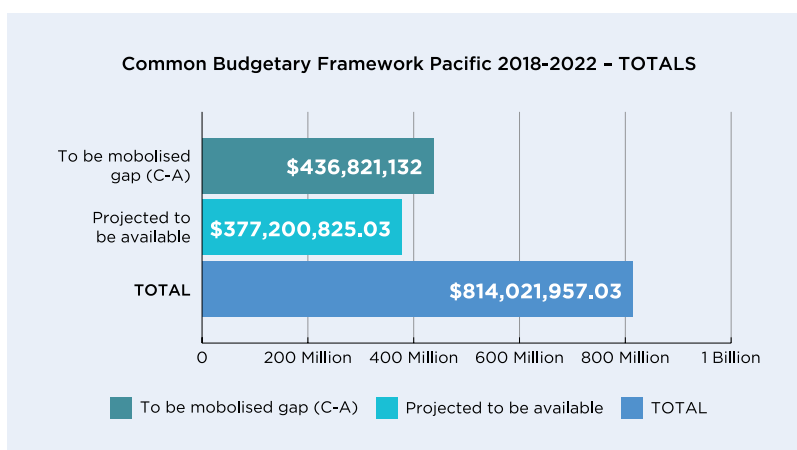


Figure 4: Common Budgetary Framework – Totals

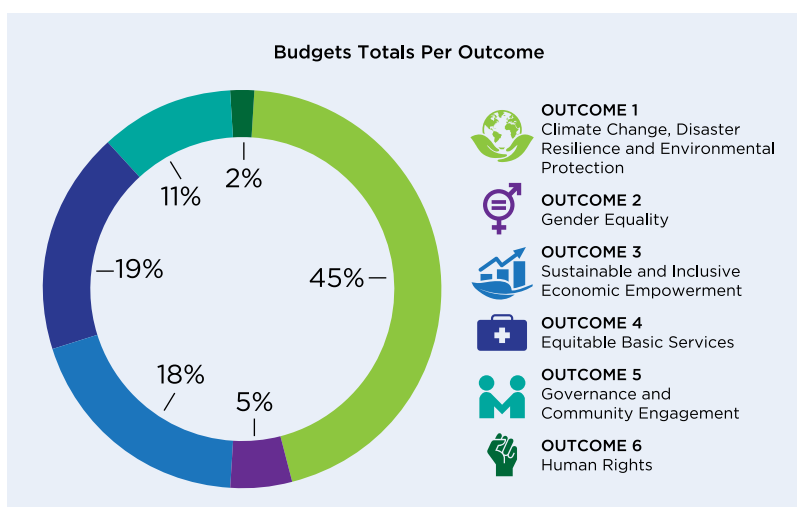


Figure 5: Common Budgetary Framework findings – per outcome percentage distribution

In the period 2018-2022 the UNCT will utilise the CBF to:

- Increase transparency and accuracy regarding programme resources in the Pacific by having the RCOs in Fiji and Samoa take administrative responsibility for the CBF, its update, and circulation.
- Ensure annual updates of the CBF based on inputs from UN agencies.
- Inform the UNCT joint resource mobilisation strategies.

Resource Mobilization

The Joint Pacific UNCT will develop a joint resource mobilisation strategy drawing on the analysis of the CBF and the priorities of the UNPS, and focused on filling the gaps identified within the CBF to meet the expectations of the strategy. The resource mobilisation strategy will embody an overall commitment to costing, leveraging resources, and incentivising collaboration to reduce duplication of efforts and increase collective action through the following steps:



Figure 6: UNPS resource mobilisation strategy development – Steps

The resource mobilisation strategy provides a common narrative, and allocates responsibilities across the UNCT and reinforces a common commitment to resource mobilisation. In the period 2018-2022 the changed and potential increase in public financing flows to the Pacific will be researched to inform strategy development, this includes the potential increase in investment in the region by traditional and new funding partners and increased vertical funds through the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The resource mobilisation strategy for the UNPS will be tailored to opportunities and the specific demands of the Pacific context and include, where relevant: donor project specific funding, single organization thematic funds, inter-agency pooled funds, revenue from private sources, and vertical funds. The strategy will also address the means of identifying the source of these revenue streams and the most effective strategies for highlighting the Pacific's needs and mobilising resources.

The Governments of the 14 PICTs will support the UNCT in resource mobilisation by encouraging donors to focus support in agreed priority areas aligned with national strategies, endorsing joint and individual strategies of the UN system to raise funds from alternative sources, including the private sector.

Resource mobilisation needs will be reviewed and discussed through the UNPS Government-UN Steering Committee, informed by the work planning linked to the UNPS and regular updates of the CBF. The UNCT will continue to convene **donor round tables** linked to their annual UNCT retreat event and recognise the value of regular, focused, and frank discussions with development partners.



Representatives from UN Women Headquarters and Asia Pacific Regional Office met Fiji representatives working to end violence against women and girls with support from UN Women's Pacific Fund, a small-grants and capacity building project principally funded by the Australian Government.

Photo credit: UN Women/Jacqui Berrell

All UN agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities that support the outcomes of the UNPS 2018-2022. These activities may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, and funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, M&E, training activities, and staff support. Part of the agencies' support may be provided to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), as agreed within the framework of individual work plans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN agencies' global information systems, the network of participating UN system agencies' country offices and specialised information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialised agencies, funds, and programmes.

UN agencies will appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, and technical assistance, as well as M&E activities. Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, UN agencies' funds will be distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UNPS. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the participating UN agencies, funds for specific activities may be reallocated to appropriate programme activities.

Business Operations Strategy – Increased efficiency and quality

The Business Operations Strategy (BOS) for the Pacific responds to the unique challenges of doing business in the Pacific and the limited and costly connectivity experienced in Pacific SIDS, as highlighted at the 2014 3rd International Conference on SIDS, and reflects the global goals of increased efficiency, reduced cost, and enhanced quality of common services. The Pacific approach to BOS focuses primarily on efficiency and the reduction of costs, enhancing the links between programme and operations, reducing internal costs, enhancing quality, and enhancing operational focus and prioritisation.

BOS in the Pacific takes forward the UN resolution that “urges United Nations system organization to identify and accelerate the implementation of those business processes that promise the highest return from simplification and harmonisation” and “encourages United Nations system organizations within their existing planning, budget and evaluation systems to report on their cost savings resulting from improvement of their business operations”.

Ref: Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the subsequent Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution of Operational Activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (2011)

Initial projections for potential gains associated with adopting an “Operating as One” approach in the Pacific were anticipated to save US\$4.3 million, or 57 per cent savings relative to current operational costs. Strategies have focused on:

Common ICT Services – upgrading Internet services in PICTs; establishing a common helpdesk; and installing Blue Jeans teleconferencing in nine JPOs across the region.

Common Procurement Services – joint Long Term Agreements (LTA) for travel services and security and the installation of solar technologies in PICTs.

Common Human Resources/Logistics and Transport Services – joint approaches to common recruitment, staff induction, and learning.

Common Finance Services – focus on efficiencies and common approaches in Harmonised Approaches to Cash Transfers (HACT).

In 2018-2022 the UNCT will build on its BOS results, extend its common service approach to incorporate the common business operations of both Fiji and Samoa regional hubs supporting programme implementation in all 14 PICTs, and respond to the business operations priorities of programmes focused on implementation of the UNPS 2018-2022. The Operations Management Team (OMT) remains responsible for the inter-agency processes of advancing common business services, and developing and implementing the BOS 2018-2022.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

IMPLEMENTATION

The programmes supporting the UNPS will be nationally executed under the overall coordination of the respective government authorities in each country. The relevant government coordinating authorities are noted in Annex 2, Legal and Partnership Annex. Government ministries, NGOs, international NGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities.

The UNPS will be made operational through the development of joint work plans (JWPs)³⁷ and/or agency specific work plans and project documents that describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN agencies and each implementing partner. To the extent possible, the UN agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed UNPS and signed joint or agency specific work plans and project documents, to implement programme initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, *inter alia*, the relevant text from the UNPS and joint or agency specific work plans and/or project documents.³⁸

Delivering as One

UN agencies in the Pacific (both resident and non-resident) commit to ensuring that their work aligns with and contributes to the implementation of the UNPS when developing plans, agreements and programmes relevant to their own mandates with individual government counterparts.

In implementing the UNPS, all UN agencies working in the Pacific, both resident and non-resident, are committed to:

- working in a coordinated manner to lessen the burden on Pacific governments;
- measuring and reporting on progress in implementing the UNPS in relation to relevant objectives within each country's national plan/strategy aligned with the SDGs; and
- Delivering as One UN system through coordinated programming focusing on development problems, where the expertise of several UN agencies can achieve greater impact.

DAO is recognised in the Pacific as an initiative of the United Nations to make the UN better coordinated, more efficient, and effective. The UN in the Pacific does so through its commitment to:

One Programme – realised through the generation of the **UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022** that increases the coherence of the UN and supports national ownership of development results. The UNPS represents a multi-year strategic framework around which all UN agencies plan and execute their contribution to national development priorities in the region. Individual PICTs, in collaboration with resident UN agencies, have the opportunity to take forward a **“One Plan” approach** in their country to further streamline UN contributions to their national development priorities.

One Budgetary Framework – to increase transparency around the targeting of programme funds for the UNPS through development of a medium term **Common Budgetary Framework (CBF)** updated within the 2018-2022 period. The CBF will be utilised by the UN system to hold each other accountable for the channelling and utilisation of funds to implement the UNPS and the development of targeted resource mobilisation strategies.

One Leader-One Voice – not one person, but **one unified and empowered team of leaders who speak with one voice**, who are committed to acting collectively to enhance the role of the UNCT and to act as an influential and strategic team.

³⁷ As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures for countries adopting the “Delivering as One” approach.

³⁸ In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted work plan. The reference to “Implementing Partner(s)” shall mean “Executing Agency(s)” as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a work plan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating, and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the work plan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results described in the work plan.

Operating as One -UN operations across the Pacific are further enhanced through the implementation of a **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)**. The first BOS 2015-2017 will be replaced by the BOS 2018-2022, which will take into account the operations needs of all 14 PICTs, enhancing both the efficiency and quality of UN work. The BOS is overseen by a joint **OMT** that also ensures that operations costs of delivering the UNPS are factored into the CBF.

One Communication - through the development of the **UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018-2022** supporting the joint **UN Communication Group (UNCG)** to coordinate implementation of agreed strategies targeting both internal and external audiences and implementing a unique Pacific narrative approach to communications and advocacy.

DELIVERING AS ONE IN THE PACIFIC	
One Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed UNPS at the outcome level Joint planning across agencies and countries Outcome groups focused on strategic policy and programme
Common Budgetary Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium term CBF incorporating programme and operations costs Regular updates of the CBF as part of joint planning processes Joint resource mobilisation strategies
One Leader - One Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowered and unified team of leaders - Joint Pacific UNCT making joint decisions and speaking with one voice Management and accountability system
Operating as One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business operations strategy. Results in 2015-2017 informing BOS 2018-2022 Empowered Joint Operations Management Team
Communicating as One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Pacific UN Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018-2022 UN Pacific Communication Group

Figure 6: Delivering as One in the Pacific



Toleafoa Mara Hunter, a 2016 national election candidate and business owner, presents on Output 3: Promotion of Inclusive Political Processes through a Focus on Development (SDGs) at Samoa's Women in Politics Validation Consultation on 28 August 2017.

Over 35 of Samoa's most influential women gathered at the Women in Politics Validation Consultation to discuss ways to break-down barriers to women's political participation, hosted by UN Women and UNDP in Apia, Samoa.

Photo courtesy of Cherele Fruean

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE UNPS

Regional engagement

Pacific Leaders, when considering the work of the UN in the Pacific, called for “*enhanced close cooperation and coordination between the programmes and activities of the UN system and the Pacific Island Forum members, the Forum Secretariat and associated institutions*” and further “*reiterate the importance of an enhanced and effective United Nations presence; particularly at the country level, in the Pacific region*” (2015 GA res. 69/318). These expectations are matched by the renewed intentions of the UN system globally to align with national needs taking into account the demands of the SDGs, to adopt flexible and cost effective models of collaboration and continue to establish flexible, differentiated and multi-country presence³⁹.

The UN engages with key Pacific regional bodies that are stakeholders in the UNPS:

- The Pacific Island Forum (PIF) and its Secretariat (PIFS) aim to “work to support their member governments, to enhance the economic and social wellbeing of the people of the South Pacific by fostering cooperation between governments and between international agencies”.⁴⁰
- The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific⁴¹ (CROP) agencies have a mandate to improve cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among the various intergovernmental regional organizations to achieve sustainable development in the Pacific, and as such UN agencies will maintain Memoranda of Understanding with relevant CROP members, including PIFS, SPC, SPREP, FFA, and USP.
- A number of UN agencies will remain members of some CROP/UN working groups (such as sustainable development, health and population, disaster preparedness, and climate change), guided by regional strategic plans (e.g. health). The UN recognizes the Secretary General of PIFS’ role as the permanent chairperson of CROP and will seek to institute annual dialogue with regional partners to support complementary work planning and continued UN support for regional dialogue and initiatives. UN collaboration with CROP to explore opportunities to strengthen coordination and partnership and to increase harmonisation and reduce competition between the UN and regional organizations in the context of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism 2014 will continue as will active UN engagement in the Regional SDG Taskforce and support for the SPC Statistics for Development Division.

Government and the UN – regional coordination of the UNPS

The **Joint Government-UN Steering Committee** comprises government representatives from the 14 PICTs and is convened and coordinated by the two UN Resident Coordinators. Convening of the Joint Government-UN Steering Committee within the 2018-2022 period will, to the extent possible, seek to coincide with existing regional level meetings and incorporate remote access participation through the use of innovative technologies to increase engagement and dialogue and reduce costs. The Steering Committee will convene during the UNPS review periods in 2020 and 2022 to coincide with finalisation of the “**One UN Pacific Results Report**” to discuss identified results, assess progress towards targets, discuss challenges and opportunities in the Pacific development context, assess performance in forming partnerships and future partnership opportunities, innovative responses to programming, and resource mobilisation.

UN Leadership

The **Joint Pacific UNCT** (bringing together the two RCs and heads of agencies based in the regional hubs of Fiji and Samoa) ensures inter-agency coordination and decision-making at the regional level. UNCT members are accountable to their individual agency, to each other and to the Resident Coordinators, taking responsibility for elements of the UN Coordination work plan, particularly oversight of established groups and teams within the governance and accountability structure of the UNPS. The UNCT is jointly accountable to themselves and the governments and peoples of the region for implementation of the UNPS. The **UN Resident Coordinators** are the

³⁹ QCPR 2016, 71/243

⁴⁰ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat website www.forumsec.org/pages/cfm/about-us.

⁴¹ <http://www.forumsec.org/pages/cfm/about-us/our-partners/crop/>.

UN Secretary General's designated representatives⁴² in the Pacific Region and are responsible for convening the UNCT and leading overall coordination of the UNPS, continuing priority for the SDGs and advancing the Delivering as One agenda in the region. The UNCT convenes to discuss partnership and joint resource mobilisation priorities, to advance programme implementation, and to discuss issues of strategic priority to identify mutually agreed priorities, to build consensus, improve coordination, and "speak with one voice".

The UNCT liaises with the 14 governments in the Pacific and with regional bodies regarding UNPS implementation and monitoring, and participates in Joint Government-UN UNPS Steering Committee Meetings to represent an assigned UNPS joint outcome area where required. In addition, the UNCT undertakes dialogue with Development Partners to discuss UNPS outcomes, partnership opportunities, funding and financing as well as advances in Delivering as One and regional engagement. The UNCT addresses policy and strategy issues arising from the implementation of the UNPS and retains oversight of the CBF, as well as planning and overseeing implementation of associated resource mobilisation strategies.

Coordination and Strategy

The two **RCOs** in Fiji and Samoa provide active and direct facilitative support to the UN Resident Coordinators and the UNCT, and provide resources to the work of the UN system at the country level through support to the network of **JPOs** and **UN Country Coordination Officers**. JPOs, in turn, facilitate knowledge sharing, inputs into the planning and monitoring cycle of the UNPS, liaise with national governments and local partners, and link to all elements of the UNPS Governance and Accountability structure. The RCOs coordinate annually with the UNPS Coordination Group, the UN Communications Group, and the OMT to collate all inputs into the annual UN Pacific Results Report, which includes an annual update of the CBF.

The **UNPS Coordination Group (UCG)** oversees technical implementation of the UNPS on behalf of the UNCT with membership comprising Deputies, Senior Programme Officers, or equivalent from all UN agencies. The UCG will convene at least twice per year to oversee planning, implementation, and monitoring of the UNPS and will convene the six Outcome groups as needed to ensure specialised technical inputs into the programming and monitoring cycle. The UCG is supported by the **Data Monitoring and Evaluation Group (DMEG)** chaired by a head of agency and responsible for advising the UNPS Coordination Group on the monitoring requirements of the UNPS, and the connection of that monitoring to the larger context of SDG monitoring in the Pacific through participation in the **Regional SDG Taskforce** convened by PIFS. The DMEG is responsible for the adoption, functioning, and reporting capacities of UNInfo.⁴³

The **UN Communications Group (UNCG)** is an inter-agency body comprising agency communication and advocacy focal points. The UNCG is responsible for development of the UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy, and for its implementation through the priorities identified in annual work plans. The UNCG is chaired by a head of agency and reports periodically to the UNCT with a budget for annual work plans supported through agency cost share contributions to the UN Coordination budget. The UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy is informed by the priorities of the UNPS.

The **Operations Management Team (OMT)** is an inter-agency team comprising operations specialists from all UN agencies. The OMT is responsible for development, implementation, and monitoring of the **Business Operations Strategy (BOS)** and for liaison with the UNCT on issues requiring high level decision-making and policy guidance. The OMT is chaired by a head of agency who delegates responsibility for the regular coordination of the OMT to a senior operations professional. The BOS and its annual work plans are supported through cost share contributions from UN agencies made to the common services budget of the OMT.

The **Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)** is a network of humanitarian organizations that work together to assist PICTs in preparing for and responding to disasters. During disasters the PHT provides support to Pacific governments, NGOs and communities in delivering a fast, effective and appropriate disaster response. The PHT plans and coordinates its work through three main structures: Head of Organizations Group, co-chaired by the UNRC and UNOCHA; Regional Inter-

⁴² UNDG Standard Operating Procedures, One Leader.

⁴³ UNInfo is the monitoring tool developed by the UN Development Group that will be utilised by the Joint UNCT in the Pacific to monitor and report against the established targets of the UNPS.

Cluster Group, chaired by UNOCHA; and Cluster Support Teams, led by a designated agency. Outside of disasters, the PHT works with Pacific governments and partners to ensure necessary arrangements are in place to enable effective international support to a national disaster response. The PHT recognises and respects national government leadership in disaster preparedness and response, and is recognised by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which is the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination in humanitarian assistance. The PHT can submit joint proposals for emergency funds and access to surge capacity through submission to the relevant UN entities. UNOCHA serves as the Secretariat for the PHT and the primary focal point for communication with the PHT and all general coordination and information management matters.

The **Security Management Team (SMT)** undertakes the responsibilities of the RCs as Designated Officials (DO), focusing on the safety and security of all UN personnel in the Pacific. The SMT is convened by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the Senior Security Adviser on behalf of the RC/DO on a regular basis to review safety and security reports and address priority issues.

Planning and Implementation

Outcome groups are responsible for inter-agency coordination and technical support associated with implementation of the agreed UNPS Outcomes. Outcome groups report to the UNPS Coordination Group and are convened at least once per year to review UNPS progress against established targets, to update joint programming registers⁴⁴ and the CBF, and to contribute to annual monitoring and reporting. All Outcome groups consider the priority cross-cutting issues of human rights and gender on an ongoing basis. The Outcome group leads, at Deputy or Senior Programme Officer level, are also members of the UNPS Coordination Group and, in some cases, the DMEG.

Theme groups coordinate inter-agency support for cross-cutting priorities. For instance, the Youth Theme Group supports the entire UN and the whole region in mainstreaming priorities for youth across all Outcome areas, recognising youth as an important population group that has been identified as enablers for the development of the Pacific when their rights and needs are met. Theme groups support Outcome group work including developing programmes, identifying geographic priorities and programming, and providing data to support evidence based planning and monitoring.

Country level coordination – Joint Presence Offices

The Joint Pacific UNCT has taken steps to strengthen country level UN coordination and to simplify and harmonize its operations. Since 2008, a network of **UN Joint Presence Offices (JPOs)** has operated in 11 PICTs (Cook Islands,⁴⁵ FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue,⁴⁶ Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) connected to the two RCOs in Fiji and Samoa. JPOs are staffed by a UN Country Coordination Officer and serve as a “one stop shop” on all UN related matters, primarily to support government liaison. **UN Country Coordination Officers** are positioned to support coordinated and participatory approaches to implementation and monitoring of the UNPS, UN alignment with national planning processes, and the coordinated approaches of UN agencies at the country level. JPOs and UN Country Coordination Offices, like the RCOs, provide timely advice to the RC and the UNCT on matters specific to government liaison and coordination priorities in support of UNPS implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

⁴⁴ Both the joint programming register and the CBF are maintained centrally by the RCOs.

⁴⁵ JPO in Cook Islands established in 2016.

⁴⁶ JPO in Niue established in 2016.

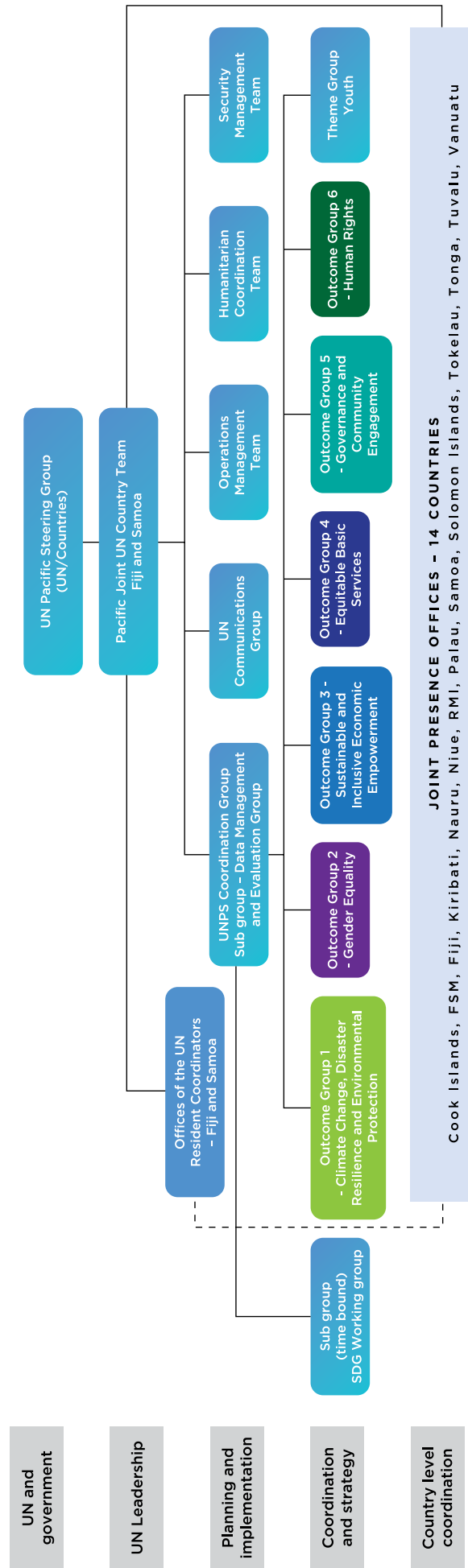


Figure 7: UNPS Governance and Accountability structure

MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

The UNPS is an Outcome level document whereby the results of outputs and activities attributable to individual agency or joint work plans contribute to the attainment of the Outcomes reflected in the UNPS Results Framework. Annual planning and monitoring cycles include mechanisms to ensure individual agency input into updates of the CBF and the UNPS Results Framework as established in UNInfo.⁴⁷

The **UNPS Results Framework** (see Annex 1) reflects a multi-country approach to the strategic planning and monitoring of the UNPS 2018-2022. The Results Framework sets targets that have been established based on the capacity of the UN system to make progress towards the achievement of the Outcomes measured through Outcome indicators. The Results Framework will be monitored annually through the network of Outcome Groups convened by the UNPS Coordination Group with the direct support of the DMEG.

The Joint UNCT will utilise agreed **joint tools for monitoring and data collection**, including adoption of UNInfo to monitor and report against UNPS targets, feeding into the monitoring of SDGs and Pacific Headline Indicators in the wider regional context in partnership with regional bodies. Data management and UNPS monitoring will be supported by the DMEG reporting to the UCG, which in turn reports to the UNCT and provides inputs into the **“One UN Pacific Results Report”** reviewed by the UNPS Government-UN Steering Committee prior to finalisation.

The **annual work planning** of UNPS Outcome groups follows a standard template and will consider and share information regarding all joint and agency specific initiatives taking place in single or multiple countries under each Outcome. Outcome group planning will prioritise the planning of identified joint programmes, joint initiatives or joined up⁴⁸ activities of agencies, and will include annual updates of the CBF, and annual monitoring of the UNPS Results Framework. Information sharing, strengthened inter-agency coordination, increased opportunities for joint approaches, and strengthened knowledge management are all outcomes of these annual cycles.

The **CBF** will be maintained by the RCOs and will be updated annually based on updated information submitted by individual UN agencies. Updates will be provided to the UNCT to support annual dialogue regarding partnership development and resource mobilisation.

UNInfo is the monitoring tool that will be used to house and track progress against the UNPS Results Framework. UNInfo is managed by DMEG and will support monitoring of individual UNPS Outcome indicators and as such will be reviewed annually with the DMEG providing the updated report to the UNCT.

Country level reviews of UN country level programming contributions to national development results and attainment of localised SDG targets will be convened by individual PICTs governments with the support of UN Country Coordination Officers, JPOs and the relevant UN agencies. Country level reviews coincide with national monitoring cycles and the convening of national development fora. UNPS monitoring and reporting obligations are not dependant on country level review events taking place, however, where possible conclusions from country level reviews will feed into the reporting of Outcome groups that contribute to the One UN Pacific Results Report.

The system of **Harmonised Cash Transfers (HACT)** utilised by UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF standardises the processes of cash transfer to both the country level and regional implementing partners. Monitoring and reporting on HACT obligations is determined by a set of standardised practices outlined in Annex 3.

⁴⁷ UNInfo is the monitoring tool developed by UNDG that will be utilized by the Joint UNCT in the Pacific to monitor and report against the established targets of the UNPS.

⁴⁸ “Joined up” refers to activities that may have commenced or continue to be implemented as individual initiatives of agencies, but where there is collaboration or “joint efforts” of agencies to coordinate programme implementation, share information, and participate in joint planning to create the greatest levels of harmonization, use of common evidence bases, and to contribute to joint targets to the extent possible. The benefits are reduced transaction costs, reduced coordination burden on countries, and increased opportunities for joint monitoring.

Data and its availability and quality, including disaggregation by sex, age, and diversity, has been identified as central to the ability to report against UNPS targets at both the country and regional levels. Capacity building in data management at the country level, the development of strong partnerships with national statistics offices, remaining an active partner on the Regional SDG Taskforce, and support to the SPC Statistics for Development Division and the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) remain central to sustaining the monitoring of results to 2022 and within the larger 2030 Agenda.

The UNCT will produce **One UN Pacific Results Report** in 2020 and 2022 incorporating the results of tracking UNPS progress against targets, and all multi-country and inter-agency annual monitoring activities. The format of the report follows the UN Development Group standard operating procedures and covers programming, financial, operations, and communications. The reporting process is coordinated by the RCOs with inputs from the UNPS Coordinating Group (coordinating inputs from all Outcome groups) and the DMEG, as well as the OMT and the UNCG.

An **External Independent Evaluation** undertaken in the penultimate year of the UNPS will assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of the UNPS and seek contributions from all stakeholders.

Risk management – The UNDAF 2013-2017 Evaluation highlighted the lack of data – including a lack of disaggregation by sex, age, and diversity – and an inadequate monitoring framework (lack of baselines and targets) as the biggest risk to the UN’s ability to monitor results against the joint results framework, in addition to the risks to timely programme implementation due to a lack of project management or technical capacity, and inadequate or slow administrative procedures and procurement processes. These M&E risks, as well as the realisation of results, will be assessed by UN agencies in the inter-agency forum of the UCG and, where necessary, in specific Outcome Groups and within the DMEG. Where solutions require leadership, decision-making or UN-Government dialogue, they will be referred to the UNCT, which in turn may raise them in the annual UN-Government UNPS Steering Committee Forum.

[Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2018 – 2022](#)

The UNPS M&E plan represents the UNCT commitment to monitoring the UNPS and coordinating its end of cycle evaluation. The Outcome level inter-agency and multi-country framework M&E of the UNPS is complemented by the M&E exercises of individual agency programmes. It is also supported by the monitoring of joint programmes and M&E exercises conducted by Outcome Groups, as well as UN support to regional and national surveys. The UNPS M&E Plan is implemented by the UNPS Coordination Group with the support of the DMEG, with the results feeding into the agenda of the UNPS Government-UN Steering Committee Forum.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

SURVEYS	18	19	20	21	22
UN support to Demographic Health Surveys – Cook Islands (2018), Fiji (2018), Kiribati (2018), Nauru (2018), Palau (2018), Tuvalu (2018), Vanuatu (2018), Samoa (2019), FSM (2019), RMI (2020), Solomon Islands (2020), Tonga (2020)					
UN support to Household Income and Expenditure Surveys – Samoa (2018), FSM (2019), Palau (2019), Solomon Islands (2019)					
Census – Solomon Islands (2019), Vanuatu (2019), Marshall Islands (2019), FSM (2020), Kiribati (2020), Palau (2020), Cook Islands (2021), Nauru (2021), Samoa (2021), Tokelau (2021), Tonga (2021), Niue (2022), Tuvalu (2022)					
MONITORING					
Annual monitoring of UNPS indicators against established baselines and targets. Update of UNInfo					
UN support to national information systems to feed into SDG monitoring mechanisms and national reporting to human rights mechanisms					
Annual monitoring of the Business Operations Strategy 2018-22					
Annual monitoring of the UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018-22					
REPORTING					
Preparation of the One UN Pacific Results Report in 2020 and 2022 incorporating the findings from annual monitoring					
EVALUATIONS					
Mid-term or end of cycle evaluations of individual agency programmes, joint programmes or regional multi-country programmes or projects contributing to the UNPS evaluation					
End of cycle Independent Evaluation of the UNPS					
M&E CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT					
Training to strengthen partner M&E, data management, analysis and utilisation capacities					
Training for UN staff, DMEG members, RCO and JPO coordination professionals on UNInfo					
Support to the Pacific Community’s statistics division and PICTs to conduct regular surveys					

Figure 8: UNPS 2018-2022 Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation Plan





Girls rugby team at West Kids Rugby Festival, held 15-17 August 2017 in Nadi, Fiji.

The West Kids Rugby Festival's commitment to gender equality was reflected in its record number of girl and boy primary school players, women coaches and team managers. The Festival is committed to ensuring women and girls have equal levels of access, respect and participation on the rugby field.

UN Women is working with Oceania Rugby as its new gender equality partner, signing a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2017 in recognition of their mutual commitment to promote gender equality and to challenge social norms through sport.

Photo credit: UN Women/Caitlin Clifford

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018- 2022

In 2016 the Joint Pacific UNCT endorsed the UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018-2022, which outlines six strategic priorities for the period and represents the UNCT joint commitment to Communicating as One. The purpose of the strategy is to analyse and identify how Communicating as One can assist the UN in the Pacific to achieve the objectives of the UN Pacific Strategy, and advance the 2030 Development Agenda in the Pacific. The strategy is complementary to communication strategies, plans, and activities of individual agencies and facilitates coherence in messaging across UN agencies.



Figures 9: Priorities of the UN Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018-2022

The high-level objective of the strategy is to support the development, roll out, and implementation of the UNPS 2018-2022 through strategic communication activities focused on six strategic objectives:

1. Advocacy and awareness raising
2. Managing and strengthening the reputation of One UN
3. Positioning the Resident Coordinator as a Partner for the Pacific
4. Knowing and collaborating with stakeholders
5. Creating a culture for Communicating as One (internal communications)
6. Building communications expertise and excellence

The strategy has been crafted recognising that the Pacific is a challenging operating context, but in turn provides many opportunities to use communications to harness the potential, vibrancy, and creativity of the region to demonstrate results and to showcase the localisation of the SDGs.

Target audiences were identified as priority groups to inform, engage, dialogue, or partner with.

- Inform: media, general public, emerging voices, academics, UN Headquarters, persons of influence
- Engage: leaders, CROP agencies, persons of influence
- Dialogue: key development partners, NGOs and civil society, private sector, CROP agencies, PIFS, regional and sub-regional groups
- Partner: partner governments, CROP agencies, PIFS, regional and sub-regional groups, UN Pacific staff



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office

Despite containing just 0.1 per cent of the world's population, the Pacific is the most linguistically diverse region in the world. It is estimated that up to 1,400 languages are spoken across the region, and while increasing numbers of urban and young people in the Pacific speak English, it cannot be considered a common tongue. Storytelling and oratory culture are strong traditions in the Pacific and increasingly authentic Pacific stories communicated in local language and media are a feature of Pacific visual art, film making, poetry, dance, and drama. The strategy will adopt a strong “narrative approach” that will drive the creation of communication events and content that is well targeted, planned, and executed, prioritising the core themes of independence, shared values, and partnership.

The UN Pacific Communication and Advocacy Strategy 2018-2022 will be implemented and monitored through the development of joint annual work plans and through annual reviews of UNPS priorities and results. The strategy is funded through the joint UN Coordination budget of the Joint Pacific UNCT, which seeks to incorporate cost share contributions from all UN agencies operating in the Pacific.



SAMOA demonstration farm Matautu Village GEF PAS.



UNPS RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The UNPS Results Framework (Annex 1) captures the strategic focus of the UNPS 2018-2022, whereby the agreed six Outcomes are substantive and measurable, and contribute both to the achievement of results within national development frameworks and towards the SDGs.

The six Outcomes of the UNPS address priority issues and development challenges across the Pacific sub-region including special measures to address gender inequality, the empowerment of women, human rights, climate change, and the importance of building resilience and capacity for disaster risk management.

UNPS indicators have been developed to support the regional Outcome level monitoring of UNPS results. Of the 38 indicators incorporated within the UNPS Results Framework, more than 30 are SDG indicators reflecting the strong UN commitment to integration with SDG monitoring across the Pacific and supporting, to the extent possible, country level efforts to localise and report against SDG targets. Ongoing monitoring of the UNPS against the Results Framework, therefore, represents the ongoing commitment of the UN to supporting strengthened monitoring of the SDGs in the Pacific.

The results framework reflects the contributions of all resident and non-resident UN agencies on the basis of their defined mandate and comparative advantage. The Results Framework reflects the joint commitment to the use of verifiable data linked to the Pacific agenda for monitoring the SDGs⁴⁹ and the work of the Regional SDG Taskforce.



Photo Credit: FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands.

⁴⁹ The UN in the Pacific co-convenes the Regional SDG Taskforce.

ANNEX 1 – UNPS 2018 – 2022 RESULTS FRAMEWORK

UN PACIFIC STRATEGY RESULTS FRAMEWORK 2018 – 2022

OUTCOME 1: CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER RESILIENCE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Outcome Statement: By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened.



Collaborating agencies:⁵⁰ FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Relevant SDGs:

Number of PICTs whose Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people – by age sex, and location has reduced⁵¹ (SDG 11.5.1)

ILO, IOM, SPC, SPREP, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, USP, WB, WFP, WHO, WMO, and CSOs

Baseline: 0

Target: 8 (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)

Governments: Australia Canada, Germany, Russia, China, and other development partners

Means of verification: SFDRR biennial national reporting; PDaLo; PDNA, National and regional DTM reports, Situation Reports

Number of PICTs whose direct disaster economic loss in relation to regional GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services has reduced⁵² (SDG 11.5.2)

ILO, IOM, SPC, SPREP, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, USP, WB, WFP, WHO, WMO, and CSOs

Baseline: 0

Target: 8 (Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)

Governments: Australia, Canada, Germany, ILO, Russia, China, and other development partners

Means of verification: SFDRR biennial national reporting; PDaLo; PDNA

⁵⁰ Collaborating agencies = 1. Those agencies that will be directly engaged in joint programming activities under this joint outcome; 2. Those agencies that will be contributing resources to the joint outcome.

⁵¹ Tier II

⁵² (Tier II) (SDG Indicator 11.5.2 verbatim)

<p>Number of PICTs that have established a national and at least one sectoral development plan incorporating climate change and disaster risk management⁵³ (SDG 13.1.1-m)</p> <p>Baseline: 6 (FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Target: 13 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: SFDRR biennial national reporting; UN Agency Annual Report; OCHA and PHT reports, PHT Cluster Coordinators annual regional plans/strategies</p>	<p>ILO, IOM, SPC, SPREP, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, USP, WB, WFP, WHO, WMO, and CSOs</p> <p>Governments: Australia, Canada, Germany, ILO, Russia, China, and other development partners</p>
<p>Number of PICTs with NDC and National Adaptation Plans under the UNFCCC at least partially implemented⁵⁴ (SDG 13.2.1-p)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 8 (Tonga, Kiribati, Samoa, PNG, Niue, Tuvalu, plus 2 not yet determined)</p> <p>Means of verification: National Communications, National reports, Biennial Update Reports</p>	<p>IOM, Adaptation Fund, ADB, CI, CROP agencies, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), FFA, J GEF, GCF, Live and Learn, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for PICTs, National Development Institutions, PIFS, select provincial and local authorities, SPC, SPREP, World Conservation Society, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNEP, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), USP, WB, WHO, WWF and CSOs</p> <p>Governments: Australia, Canada, Germany, Russia, China and other development partners</p> <p>Research and Academic Institutions: James Cook University, Australia</p>
<p>Number of PICTs coverage of terrestrial, and marine areas that are protected⁵⁵</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 10 (Tonga, Fiji, FSM, RMI, Tuvalu, Nauru, Kiribati, Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue)</p> <p>Means of verification: World Data Base of Protected Areas; National Report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal, Micronesian Challenges (North Pacific)</p>	<p>Adaptation Fund, ADB, CI, CROP agencies, GIZ, FAO, FFA, J GEF, Global Climate Fund (GCF), Live and Learn, IOM, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change for PICTs, National Development Institutions, PIFS, select provincial and local authorities, SPC, SPREP, World Conservation Society, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, USAID, USP, WB, WHO, WWF, and CSOs</p> <p>Governments: Australia, Canada, Germany, ILO, Russia, China, and other development partners</p> <p>Research and Academic Institutions: James Cook University (Australia)</p>

⁵³ (Tier II) (Proxy to SDG Indicator 13.1.1 modified)

⁵⁴ Proxy to SDG Indicator 13.2.1

⁵⁵ Tier I



OUTCOME 2: GENDER EQUALITY

Outcome Statement: By 2022, gender equality is advanced in the Pacific, where more women and girls are empowered and enjoy equal opportunities and treatment in social, economic, and political spheres, contribute to and benefit from national development, and live a life free from violence and discrimination.

Collaborating agencies: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women

Relevant SDGs:

2.1	<p>Number of PICTs whose adolescent birth rate per 1000 women in that age group has decreased based on the latest available data.⁵⁶ (SDG 3.7.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Demographic Health Survey (DHS) Report; Population and Housing Census (PHC) Report</p>	<p>PICTs Departments of Police, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, PICTs Ministries of Youth, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO</p>
2.2	<p>Number of PICTs whose proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age has decreased based on the latest available data⁵⁷ (SDG 5.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 6 (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Family Health Safety Study (FHSS) Report; Demographic Health Survey (DHS) Report</p>	<p>PICTs Departments of Police, Family Health Association, IOM, IPPF, PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, PICTs Ministries of Youth, UNFPA, UN Women</p>
2.3	<p>Number of PICTs whose proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence has decreased based on the latest available data⁵⁸ (SDG 5.2.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 6 (Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu)</p> <p>Means of verification: FHSS Report; DHS Report</p>	<p>PICTs Departments of Police, ILO, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, PICTs Ministries of Youth, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women</p>

⁵⁶ Tier I

⁵⁷ Tier II

⁵⁸ Tier II

<p>2.4</p> <p>Number of PICTs whose proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 has decreased based on the latest available data⁵⁹ (SDG 5.3.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 6 (Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga)</p> <p>Means of verification: State of the World's Children Report</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, PICTs Ministries of Youth, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, IOM</p>
<p>2.5 (see 5.1)</p> <p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has increased⁶⁰ (SDG 5.5.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Survey PACWIP website, the IPU Parline database and follow up with stakeholders in country to verify</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women</p>
<p>2.6 (see 3.1)</p> <p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age [disability status and geography] has decreased based on the latest available data⁶¹ (SDG 1.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: HIES Report</p>	<p>Bristol University, PICTs Bureaus of Statistics, PICTs Central Banks, FAO, ILO, PICTs Ministries of National Planning and Finance, PICTs Ministries of Youth, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, NSO, private sector, SPC, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women</p>

⁵⁹ Tier I

⁶⁰ Tier I/III

⁶¹ UNESCAP (pov) Tier I



OUTCOME 3: SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Outcome Statement: By 2022, people in the Pacific in particular youth, women, and vulnerable groups, benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic development that creates decent jobs, reduces multi-dimensional poverty and inequalities, and promotes economic empowerment.

Collaborating agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO

Relevant SDGs:

3.1	<p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age [disability status and geography] has decreased based on the latest available data⁶² (SDG 1.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: HIES Report</p>	Bristol University, PICTs Bureaus of Statistics, PICTs Central Banks, FAO, ILO, PICTs Ministries of National Planning and Finance, PICTs Ministries of Youth, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, NSO, private sector, SPC, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women
3.2	<p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of men, women, youth and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions has decreased based on the latest available data⁶³ (SDG 1.2.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 8 (Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, Nauru, RMI, Kiribati)</p> <p>Means of verification: HIES Report, DHS, UNICEF data</p>	ILO, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Labour and Industrial Relations, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, PICTs Ministries of Youth, National Provident Funds, UNCDF, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women
3.3	<p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of vulnerable populations (children, unemployed persons, older persons, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims, and the poor) covered by social protection floors/systems, disaggregated by sex and age, has increased⁶⁴ (SDG 1.3.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 9 (Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga Fiji, Tokelau, Niue, Cook Islands)</p> <p>Means of verification: National social protection registers/information system</p>	

⁶² UNESCAP (pov) Tier I

⁶³ (pov) Tier II

⁶⁴ Tier I

3.4	<p>Number of PICTs in which the unemployment rate by sex, age and persons with disabilities (decent jobs) has decreased based on the latest available data⁶⁵ (SDG 8.5.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 8 (Cook Islands, Fiji, RMI, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Tokelau, and Tuvalu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Labour Force Survey Report; National Census; Unemployment rate: http://www.spc.int/nmdi/labour_force; Youth unemployment rate: http://www.spc.int/nmdi/youth</p>	BOS, IOM, ILO, PICTs Ministries of Labour and Industrial Relations, UNFPA, UNDP
3.5	<p>Number of PICTs where the frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupation injuries by sex and migrant status has decreased based on the latest available data (decent jobs)⁶⁶ (SDG 8.8.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 4 (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Administrative records (Accident Compensation Complex, Workmen's Compensation)</p>	BOS, ILO, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Labour, WHO
3.6	<p>Number of countries in which the percentage of the population with access to formal financial services has increased based on the latest available data⁶⁷ (SDG 8.10.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 5 (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga)</p> <p>Means of verification: National demand side surveys, Central side supply side data</p>	PICTs Central Banks, PICTs Ministries of Finance and National Planning, NSOs, private sector, UNCDF, UNDP, UN Women

⁶⁵ Tier I

⁶⁶ Tier I

⁶⁷ Tier I



OUTCOME 4: EQUITABLE BASIC SERVICES

Outcome Statement: By 2022, more people in the Pacific, particularly the most vulnerable, have increased equitable access to and utilization of inclusive, resilient, and quality basic services.

Collaborating agencies: ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO
Relevant SDGs:

4.1	<p>Number of PICTs in which at least 95 per cent of births are attended by skilled health personnel⁶⁸ (SDG 3.1.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 9 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, RMI, Niue, Palau, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu)</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Country Population and Housing Census and DHS Reports</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank</p>
4.2	<p>Number of PICTs in which the Under-5 Mortality Rate has decreased⁶⁹ (SDG 3.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 5 (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, FSM, Kiribati, RMI)</p> <p>Means of verification: Population and Housing Census</p>	<p>ADB, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, PIFS, Red Cross, SPC, UNICEF, WHO, World Vision</p>
4.3	<p>Number of PICTs in which the number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations has decreased⁷⁰ (SDG 3.3.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 13 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, FSM, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: UNAIDS Reference Group, UNAIDS RST Bangkok for Spectrum Modelling; household or key population surveys with HIV incidence – testing, Regular Surveillance System among key populations. Global AIDS Monitoring Reports http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/knowyourresponse/countryprogressreports/2016countries</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO</p>

⁶⁸ Tier I

⁶⁹ Tier I

⁷⁰ Tier II

<p>4.4</p>	<p>Number of PICTs in which the Maternal Mortality Rate⁷¹ has decreased (SDG 3.1.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Country Population and Housing Census and DHS Reports</p>	<p>IPPF, PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO</p>																								
<p>4.5</p>	<p>Number of PICTs whose proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods has increased.⁷² (SDG 3.7.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 10 (Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Country DHS Reports and Population and Housing Census (PHC) Reports</p>	<p>IOM, PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, UNFPA, WHO</p>																								
<p>4.6</p>	<p>Proportion of children in the Pacific: in grades 4/6 at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) literacy (ii) numeracy, by sex. (This indicator was revised since the Pacific regional benchmarking for literacy and numeracy is done in grades 4 and 6).⁷³ (SDG 4.1.1)</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="957 1120 1197 1792"> <tr> <td>Baseline: Year 4 Literacy: 46.4%</td> <td>Target: Year 4 Literacy: 55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys: 40.5%</td> <td>Boys: 50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls: 52.2%</td> <td>Girls: 60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 4 Numeracy: 86.2%</td> <td>Year 4 Numeracy: 94%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys: 84.2%</td> <td>Boys: 90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls: 88.2%</td> <td>Girls: 98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 6 Literacy: 45.7%</td> <td>Year 6 Literacy: 65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys: 39.9%</td> <td>Boys: 60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls: 51.6%</td> <td>Girls: 70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 6 Numeracy: 67.9%</td> <td>Year 6 Numeracy: 80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Boys: 65.5%</td> <td>Boys: 75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girls: 70.4%</td> <td>Girls: 85%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Means of verification: Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) Regional Report 2015 by Pacific Community</p>	Baseline: Year 4 Literacy: 46.4%	Target: Year 4 Literacy: 55%	Boys: 40.5%	Boys: 50%	Girls: 52.2%	Girls: 60%	Year 4 Numeracy: 86.2%	Year 4 Numeracy: 94%	Boys: 84.2%	Boys: 90%	Girls: 88.2%	Girls: 98%	Year 6 Literacy: 45.7%	Year 6 Literacy: 65%	Boys: 39.9%	Boys: 60%	Girls: 51.6%	Girls: 70%	Year 6 Numeracy: 67.9%	Year 6 Numeracy: 80%	Boys: 65.5%	Boys: 75%	Girls: 70.4%	Girls: 85%	<p>ADB, DFAT, MFAT, PICTs Ministries of Education, PIFS, SPC, PRC4ECCE, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank</p>
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Girls: 70.4%	Girls: 85%																									

⁷¹ Tier II
⁷² Tier I
⁷³ Tier III

4.7	<p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of population using basic drinking water services has increased based on the latest available data⁷⁴ (SDG 6.1.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: DHS</p>	<p>IOM, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WHO, PICTs Ministries of Health, Education, Infrastructure, and Public Utilities, Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility members, local island and town councils, NGO members of the Pacific WASH Coalition, SPC, USP, the International Water Centre, the Water Institute</p>
4.8	<p>Number of PICTs with baselines in which the proportion of population using basic sanitation services has increased based on the latest available data⁷⁵ (SDG 6.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: DHS</p>	<p>IOM, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, WHO, PICTs Ministries of Health, Education, Infrastructure, and Public Utilities, Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility members, local island and town councils, NGO members of the Pacific WASH Coalition, SPC, USP, the International Water Centre, the Water Institute</p>
4.9	<p>Number of PICTs where (i) prevalence of stunting among children under five has decreased, and Number of PICTs where (ii) prevalence of overweight and obesity among children under five has not increased; and number of PICTs where (iii) prevalence of overweight among adolescents, has not increased⁷⁶ (SDG 2.2.1)</p> <p>Baseline: i) 0; ii) 0; iii) 0</p> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 6 (Kiribati, SOI, Vanuatu, Nauru, FSM, RMI) ii) 7 (Kiribati, SOI, Vanuatu, Nauru, FSM, RMI, Tonga) iii) 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) <p>Means of verification: DHS, National Nutrition Survey</p>	<p>ADB, PICTs Ministries of Health, PIFS, Red Cross Scaling Up Nutrition, SPC, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, World Vision</p>

74 Tier I

75 Tier I

76 Tier I

4.10	<p>Number of PICTs in which the current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and over has decreased.⁷⁷ (SDG 3.a.1 – m)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: WHO’s global reports on tobacco (GTCR) Global estimation on tobacco use</p>	FCA (Framework Convention Alliance), PICTs Ministries of Health, WHO
4.11	<p>Out of school rate for primary and secondary education⁷⁸ in the Pacific</p> <p>Baseline: Primary: 10.8% Target: Primary: 8.3% Boys:12.5 Girls:10.9 Boys:9.0 Girls:7.5</p> <p>Lower Secondary: 12.1% Lower Secondary: 9.5% Boys:12.0 Girls:13.1 Boys:9.0 Girls:10.0</p> <p>Means of verification: Out of School Children 2014 UIS Data Centre, data.uis.unesco.org</p>	ADB, DFAT, IFAD, ILO, IOM, MFAT, PICTs Ministries of Education, PICTs Ministries of Labour, World Bank, PIFS, SPC, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO

⁷⁷ SDG Indicator 3.a.1 (modified).

⁷⁸ Proxy – Not SDG indicators.



OUTCOME 5: GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Outcome Statement: By 2022, people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed and transparent decision-making processes; accountable and responsive institutions; and improved access to justice.

Collaborating agencies: ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOHCHR, UN Women
Relevant SDGs:

5.1	<p>Number of PICTs in which the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has increased⁷⁹ (SDG 5.5.1)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: Survey PACWIP website, the IPU Parline database and follow up with stakeholders in country to verify</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Women</p>
5.2	<p>Number of PICTs in which the unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population has decreased⁸⁰ (SDG 16.3.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 5 countries (countries not yet determined)</p> <p>Means of verification: Approved Government policies; UNDP Surveys</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Defence, PICTs Departments of Prisons, OHCHR, UNDP</p>
5.3	<p>Number of PICTs (a) whose proportion of children under-5 whose births have been registered with the civil authority have increased; and number of PICTs that have (b) achieved 80 per cent death registration⁸¹ (SDG 16.9.1)</p> <p>Baseline: (a) 0; (b) 5 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, FSM, Tonga)</p> <p>Target: (a) 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) (b) 7 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, FSM, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands)</p> <p>Means of verification: UNSD Coverage of civil registration system</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Justice, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO</p>

⁷⁹ Tier I/III

⁸⁰ Tier I

⁸¹ Tier I

5.4	<p>Number of PICTs that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information⁸² (SDG 16.10.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 11 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu)</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: UNESCO World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development Reports, UNESCO Media Assessment Indicators Reports, World Bank Reports</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Justice, NSOs, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNODC</p>
5.5	<p>Number of PICTs that have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years⁸³ (SDG 17.9.2)</p> <p>Baseline: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Target: 14 (Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: PICTS Population and Housing Census Reports, PRISM Collections website - http://prism-spc.int/reports/census</p>	<p>PICTs Bureaus of Statistics, CRVS office, ILO, PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Ministries of Finance and Planning, SPC General, Line ministries, PICTs National Statistical Offices, Office of Attorney, Police, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO</p>
5.6	<p>Number of PICTs with established and implemented anti-corruption policies⁸⁴ (SDG 16.5.1 -p)</p> <p>Baseline: 1 (Solomon Islands)</p> <p>Target: 7 (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tuvalu plus 3 other countries not yet determined)</p> <p>Means of verification: Strategy document-public information. Obtained through UNCAC reviews and UN-PRAC field presence</p>	<p>PICTs Ministries of Justice, UNDP, UNESCO, UNODC</p>

⁸² Tier II
⁸³ Tier I
⁸⁴ Proxy to SDG 16.5.1.

OUTCOME 6: HUMAN RIGHTS



Outcome Statement: By 2022, people in the Pacific effectively enjoy strengthened legal framework and institutions that deliver human rights protection in accordance with international commitments under relevant treaties and Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

Collaborating agencies: UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, OHCHR, IOM, UNAIDS, ILO, UNESCO, UN Women, UNESCAP

Relevant SDGs: all, and specifically SDG 16

6.1	Number of PICTs with NHRIs compliant with the Paris Principles ⁸⁵ (SDG 16.a.1)	Asia Pacific Forum of NHRI, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Foreign Affairs, PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Ministries of Women's Affairs, PICTs National Human Rights Committees, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, RRRT, SPC, UNDP, UNOHCHR
Baseline: 1 (Samoa)	Target: 5 (Fiji, Cook Islands, RMI, Vanuatu, Samoa)	Means of verification: Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI)
6.2	Number of PICTs with up to date reporting to treaty bodies. ⁸⁶	PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, SPC RRRT UNICEF, OHCHR, UN Women
Baseline: 1 (Niue)	Target: 11 (Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, RMI, FSM, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)	Means of verification: OHCHR website where reports are posted
6.3	Number of PICTs with national implementation plans for treaty bodies and Universal Periodic Review ⁸⁷	PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, SPC RRRT, UNESCAP, UNICEF, OHCHR, UNESCO, UN Women
Baseline: 3 (Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu)	Target: 8 (Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu, RMI, Kiribati, Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands)	Means of verification: OHCHR and Governments

⁸⁵ SDG Indicator.

⁸⁶ Not SDG Indicator.

⁸⁷ Not SDG Indicator.

6.4	<p>Number of PICTs that have national legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of a ground listed under international human rights law⁸⁸</p> <p>Baseline: 1 (Fiji)</p> <p>Target: 4 (Fiji, RMI, Samoa, Tuvalu)</p> <p>Means of verification: National legislation</p>	<p>CSOs, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, SPC, RRRT, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCHR, UN Women</p>
6.5	<p>Number of PICTs who have ratified at least 5 of the 9 core UN human rights treaties and at least 4 out of 8 ILO Fundamental Conventions and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions⁸⁹</p> <p>Baseline: 1 (Samoa)</p> <p>Target: 10 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, RMI, Samoa, SOI, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)</p> <p>Means of verification: UN Office of Legal Affairs, ILO HQ Registration, UNESCO List of State Parties to the Convention</p>	<p>CSOs, ILO, IOM, PICTs Ministries of Education, PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Parliaments and Legislatures, PICTs Ministries of Labour and Industrial Relations, National Commissions for UNESCO, RRRT, SPC, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, OHCHR, UN Women</p>
6.6	<p>Number of PICTs which have improved in position according to Domains 2 and 3 of the Migration Governance Index⁹⁰</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: 7 (Vanuatu, RMI, FSM, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga)</p> <p>Means of verification: Migration Governance Index Report</p>	<p>CSOs, churches, IOM, UNESCAP, UNOHCHR, PICTs National Taskforces on Human Trafficking, PICTs Ministries of Internal Affairs, PICTs Departments of Immigration, PICTs Ministries of Labour and Industrial Relations, PICTs Ministries of Justice, PICTs Ministries of Finance-Customs and Revenue Divisions, PICTs Ministries of Health, PICTs Ministries of Foreign Affairs, PICTs Ministries of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation</p>

⁸⁸ Not SDG Indicator.

⁸⁹ Not SDG Indicator.

⁹⁰ Not SDG Indicator.



ANNEX 2: COUNTRY PROFILES



COOK ISLANDS

The Cook Islands is a self-governing country in free association with New Zealand. Since 1965 the relationship has remained an evolving one of partnership, freely entered into and freely maintained, with both countries respecting the right and freedom of the other to pursue their own national policies and interests. Comprising 15 islands with a total land area of approximately 240 sq. km., the country is spread across 2 million sq. km. of ocean. Distinct regional differences in social, cultural, and economic activities exist between the two groups⁹¹ of southern and northern islands that make up the Cook Islands.

The Cook Islands is an upper middle-income country with high living standards and the best socioeconomic indicators of the countries in the UN Pacific programme. **All of the MDGs were achieved.** Extreme hardship and food poverty is not known, but there is growing inequality between the main island, Rarotonga, and the remote outer islands.⁹²

70 per cent of the Cook Islands' 15,000 people live on Rarotonga. The remainder live in the eight populated outer islands of the Pa Enua. The population growth rate is zero with natural increase balancing net migration. **Depopulation is a critical development challenge for the Cook Islands and affects all sectors, and particularly the Pa Enua. The population has declined since the 1970s and the construction of the Rarotonga International Airport. The steady outmigration of the Cook Islands population increased in 1996, which** led to a large reduction (approximately 50 per cent) in the public service, resulting in former Government employees moving to New Zealand and Australia. Today, the number of Cook Islanders living overseas is about nine times the resident population.

The economy of the Cook Islands is driven by tourism (accounting for 60 per cent of GDP⁹³), fishing licenses, black pearl sales, and offshore banking. Growth is constrained by a shortage of workers, dispersion of a small population, isolation, and the high costs of doing business. The Cook Islands is highly vulnerable to external economic and environmental shocks. Global downturns and natural disasters, including cyclones, have an impact on visitor numbers.

Free and compulsory education is provided in the Cook Islands with corresponding high rates of enrolment and literacy. **Infant mortality is the lowest in the Pacific.** Teen fertility remains the highest in Polynesia. One hundred per cent of births are attended by a skilled attendant, and no maternal deaths have been recorded since 2001.⁹⁴

Women have consistently been represented in political life and the Cook Islands has the highest proportion of female parliamentarians in the Pacific. Women's economic participation is also high, although there is a recognised gender pay gap.

The Cook Islands has a low HIV burden with four confirmed cases. The high rates of STIs, low condom use, and young age of sexual debut are all risk factors for AIDS prevalence in the country⁹⁵. **Non-communicable diseases are the main causes of morbidity and mortality and there is inequitable access to healthcare for people in the Pa Enua.**⁹⁶

⁹¹ Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Island Countries, UNFPA, 2014.

⁹² MDG Tracking Report, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2015.

⁹³ ADB, 2016.

⁹⁴ WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Cook Islands, 2013-2017.

⁹⁵ Global AIDS Progress Report, Ministry of Health, 2015.

⁹⁶ WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Cook Islands, 2013-2017.

Since the 1950s the daily maximum and minimum temperatures of Penrhyn in the north and Rarotonga in the south have increased at a rate consistent with climate change models. Sea levels in the Cook Islands have risen slightly higher than the global average. Future climate change projections anticipate a continued daily temperature increase, more extreme rainfall (particularly in the southern islands), ocean acidification at levels threatening to coral systems, and more intense tropical cyclones.⁹⁷

Treaty Ratifications: CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, OP-CEDAW, OP-CRPD, ICADS, CCPWCNH, CSICH

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Environment, UNFPA, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Cook Islands UN Joint Presence Office

Te Kaveinga Nui – National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2020, “To enjoy the highest quality of life consistent with the aspirations of our people and in harmony with our culture and environment”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Promote sustainable practices and effectively manage solid and hazardous waste. 4. Sustainable management of water and sanitation. 11. Promote sustainable land use, management of terrestrial ecosystems, and protect biodiversity. 12. Sustainable management of oceans, lagoons, and marine resources. 13. Strengthen resilience to combat the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the sanitation system and improve and maintain the quality of lagoon water (main drinking water supply). • Explore desalination of water to prepare for future natural hazards. • Develop agricultural infrastructure as most food is imported and heavily processed. • Promote organic, container, and home farming to bolster food security and improve nutrition. • Enhance production of traditional food products such as taro and banana (which are more resilient to climate change). • Develop sustainable fisheries, especially in the northern islands. • Support water management and removal of algae in the lagoon to increase potential for tourism and water-based recreational activities. • Make fundraising processes easier and capitalise on national accreditation systems, such as the Ministry of Finance’s accreditation as an implementing agency for the Adaptation Fund. • Explore further accreditation possibilities.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Accelerate gender equality, empower all women and girls, and advance the rights of youth, the elderly, and disabled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the National Council of Women to expand women’s participation in the public and private sectors. • Promote greater involvement of women and girls in economic growth.

⁹⁷ Current and future climate of the Cook Islands, Pacific Climate Change Science Program, 2011.

<p>OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment</p>	<p>2. Expand economic opportunities, improve economic resilience and productive employment to ensure decent work for all.</p> <p>5. Build resilient infrastructure and information and communication technologies to improve standard of living.</p> <p>6. Improve access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable modern energy and transport.</p> <p>10. Achieve food security and improved nutrition, and increase sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>15. Ensure a sustainable population engaged in development by Cook Islanders for Cook Islanders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help develop attractive economic initiatives to maintain healthy population growth. • Assist policy development for the economic development of outer islands, particularly the southern islands. • Provide technical training to the Cook Islands' labour force. • Find innovative solutions to boost labour supply in shortfall areas such as agriculture.
<p>OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services</p>	<p>1. Improve welfare, reduce inequity and economic hardship.</p> <p>7. Improve health and promote healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>8. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in early childhood education and build knowledge of healthy lifestyles from an early age. • Invest in integrated mental health, domestic violence, and suicide prevention services. • Focus on non-formal education and TVET to target capacity development. • Support professional development of teachers in the area of ICT. • Increase the supply of basic services (health and education) to the Paenua and among vulnerable groups.
<p>OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement</p>	<p>16. Promote a peaceful and just society and practice good governance with transparency and accountability.</p> <p>14. Preserve our heritage and history, protect our traditional knowledge, and develop our language, creative, and cultural endeavours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore E-governance as a model for active civic participation. • Strengthen the use of information, technology, and communication as well as statistics for inclusive development. • Help to strengthen culture, language, and traditional knowledge as priority focus areas, especially with the NSDP 2018-2022 specifying culture as a key pillar for development. • Support links between Government and the umbrella CSO Group (Cook Islands Civil Societies Organization, or CICOSO) given that there are 94 registered NGOs within the organization. • Provide further statistical training pertinent to labour movement and population. • Strengthen institutional governance as well as evidence-based capacity building. • Provide legal and technical advice on drafting of legal bills such as the in-progress Family Bill.
<p>OUTCOME 6: Human Rights</p>		





FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

The UN has been operating in FSM since 1947. The Federated States of Micronesia is a culturally and linguistically diverse nation of more than 600 volcanic islands and coral atolls in the western Pacific Ocean. The islands are grouped into four distinct, but unified states; Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, and Pohnpei, each with their own constitution and elected government. **A third of Micronesians live below the basic needs poverty line⁹⁸ and poverty has increased in three out of four states in the past decade.** Inequality varies greatly between the states. Outer island and atoll communities have the lowest access to quality education, health care, energy, and telecommunications.

From 1947-1986 FSM was administered by the United States as part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). Since 1986, the relationship between the two countries has been defined by the Compact of Free Association, under which the United States provides financial assistance and defence, and Micronesians have free movement to the United States. Under the terms of the Amended Compact, economic assistance will decrease over a period of 20 years and mandatory funding will cease in 2023.

FSM's economy is aid dependent with a rising trade deficit, due to increasing demand for imported food, clothing, and consumer goods. Around half of the workforce is involved in subsistence farming or fishing for their livelihoods and this figure is growing.⁹⁹ **The country is among the least urbanised in the Pacific and most Micronesians live on or near the coast.** The lack of transport and infrastructure within and between islands (including limited air travel) are barriers to development in the three priority sectors of agriculture, tourism, and fisheries.¹⁰⁰

Since US Compact grants were first reduced in 2004, the FSM economy has performed weakly. The private sector has not grown at a rate sufficient to replace jobs lost in the public service, the largest employer in FSM. This has led to a wave of outmigration of skilled Micronesians to the United States, with an associated loss of human capital and longer-term productive potential.

Migration and a low fertility rate have resulted in negative population growth of -0.4 per cent per annum. **Young people aged 10-14 are the single largest demographic group and face limited employment opportunities.** The trend of young rural adults seeking work in urban centres is leaving behind the very young and the elderly and changing traditional structures of social welfare in ways that are not yet fully understood.¹⁰¹

One in three women experience physical or sexual violence.¹⁰² Efforts to reduce maternal mortality have not met national targets. Women have the highest rate of unemployment in the country (38 per cent in Chuuk Lagoon)¹⁰³ and **there are currently no women members of Parliament.**

FSM is experiencing a high prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The over-reliance on imported processed food, low levels of physical activity, and high consumption of alcohol are contributing to a growing epidemic of chronic disease, which the fragile health system cannot support. Leprosy and tuberculosis are common and STIs are hyper-endemic.¹⁰⁴ **Rates of young male adult suicide are among the highest in the world.**

⁹⁸ An Atlas of Social Indicators, Children in the FSM, UNICEF, 2013.

⁹⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰⁰ FSM Development Framework, ADB, 2012.

¹⁰¹ UNFPA Country Office, 2014.

¹⁰² FSM Family Health and Safety Study, FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs, 2014.

¹⁰³ UNICEF Children in the FSM, An Atlas of Social Indicators, 2013.

¹⁰⁴ WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, FSM.

Complicated land tenure systems, a reliance on imported food and water during times of stress, lack of national planning, limited resourcing, and the remote nature of the islands make climate change a serious threat to all forms of development in FSM. **The severe drought of the El Niño weather system 2015-2016 pushed the country into a State of Emergency.**

Treaty Ratifications: CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, OP-CRC-ARC, OP-CRC-SC, CCPWCNH, ICADS, CSICH

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Coordination: FSM Joint Presence Office

FSM Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023, “Improving quality of life for all FSM people”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Infrastructure development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Risk and Disaster Preparedness- UN development activities should be made in the context of reducing disaster risk and increasing disaster preparedness.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN to continue support for gender equality and help to mainstream gender across sectors. UN should continue to help address domestic violence as a human rights, gender, and health issue.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Economic Growth Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Empowerment: UN to focus on youth empowerment and creating job opportunities for youth. Food Security: UN to continue support for increased food security with a focus on local production that can also help combat the high incidence of non-communicable disease.
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services	Basic Health and Quality Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN should continue support for strengthening health systems and the health workforce. UN should support communicable and non-communicable disease management as well as reproductive health.
OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement		
OUTCOME 6: Human Rights		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN to continue support for human rights and help to mainstream human rights across all sectors.
Cross-cutting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN should support actions for food security, basic health, and infrastructure that simultaneously address the problems of climate change, water and sanitation, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture as well as reducing disaster risks and increasing disaster preparedness.





62 year old Rajjeli Yalewanivesi benefits from UNDP's Tropical Cyclone Winston Response and Recovery Project's pandanus replanting initiative in partnership with the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture. Photo: UNDP/Setaita Tavanabola



The Republic of Fiji is a multi-ethnic nation of more than 800 volcanic islands and islets located in the South Pacific Ocean. Fiji is the largest country, both in size and population in the UN Pacific Strategy and is one of the most developed PICTs. A former colony of Britain, Fiji achieved independence in 1970, but has faced decades of political, economic, and social instability. Democratic elections were held in 2014 and the new government is committed to inclusive and equitable growth.

Fiji has a relatively high level of human development and achieved half of its MDGs. Still, a third of Fijians are living below the basic needs poverty line and whilst this marks an overall reduction in poverty, rural hardship is rising and inequality is growing between rural and urban populations.¹⁰⁵ Roughly half of Fiji's 869,458 people live in urban areas and rapid urbanisation has led to the emergence of more than 200 squatter settlements in and around the urban centres of Suva and Nasinu. With limited economic opportunities and low wages in rural areas, the trend towards urban drift will most likely see an increase in the number of urban poor.

Like its neighbours, Fiji has an informal social protection system (*veiwekani*), which helps provide basic needs to individuals and groups. But very high levels of internal and overseas migration and the transition from subsistence to market-based economy are undermining these traditional support systems.¹⁰⁶

The Fijian economy has suffered periods of high volatility – including a sharp reduction in private sector investment and visitor numbers following the political crises – sugar price fluctuations, and the impacts of the global food and fuel crisis 2008-2009. Despite this, the Fijian economy has sustained five years of positive growth driven by an expansion in tourism, remittances from Fijians working abroad, renewed investor confidence, transport, and sugar exports.¹⁰⁷ In 2016, Fiji experienced two severe natural disasters with damage totalling more than a third of the country's gross domestic product. However, the main commercial and tourism corridors of the country were less severely affected and reconstruction is ongoing. Sixty per cent of Fijians are employed in the informal sector, predominantly in agriculture. Young people find it more difficult to obtain paid work in the formal sector and constitute a large proportion of the unemployed workforce.¹⁰⁸

Violence against women is widespread with 72 per cent of women reporting experiencing physical, emotional, and/or sexual violence.¹⁰⁹ There is disparity in women's economic participation with women most likely to be working in low quality jobs in the informal sector and earning around a third less than men. Fiji has one of the highest proportions of elected female representatives (16 per cent in 2014) in the region.¹¹⁰

Fiji faces the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. The country has a low level AIDS epidemic with a strong national response. Maternal, child, and adolescent health indicators are improving, but life expectancy has not increased significantly. The quality of health services is weakened by the emigration of skilled health professionals.¹¹¹

In February 2016, the most severe tropical cyclone ever recorded in the Southern Hemisphere, made landfall in Fiji, causing fatalities and widespread devastation, disruption, and displacement. The disaster exposed Fiji's extreme fragility to natural disasters. Like other Pacific Islands, Fiji is disproportionately affected by climate change and was the first country to ratify the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Treaty Ratifications: ICERD, CEDAW, CAT, CRC, UCC, ICPPPPBO, CPPAUDP, AIESCM, CCPWCNH, CWII, CSICH, ICADS

¹⁰⁵ Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Poverty Indicators, Percentage of Population in Poverty.

¹⁰⁶ The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on vulnerability and exclusion in a time of rapid change, UNDP, 2014.

¹⁰⁷ ADB Fiji Forecast, 2016.

¹⁰⁸ Fiji Labour Market Update, ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries, April 2016.

¹⁰⁹ National Research on Women's Health and Life Experiences in Fiji 2010-2011, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, 2012.

¹¹⁰ MDG Tracker 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

¹¹¹ Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Island Countries, UNFPA, 2014.

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WHO, WMO, OHCHR

Coordination: Office of the UN Resident Coordinator Fiji

National Strategic Development Plan Fiji National Development Plan 1990-2020

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation – technical support for river/sea walls and relocation. Mitigation – energy and forestry, carbon trading, capacity building, mainstreaming – basic service sectors. Access to Climate Financing – capacity building. Disaster Risk Reduction – awareness, food security advocacy and traditional knowledge; hazard mapping for municipalities and sustainable urban centres; institutional strengthening for implementing agencies, mainstreaming DRR – basic service sectors, building standards – resilient housing and informal settlements. Sustainable water resource management – rural and outer islands, rainwater harvesting. Access to Energy – renewable energy policy and solutions at community level. Waste management – national policy and rural waste management. Sustainable inshore fisheries management Sustainable forest management – indigenous species development and forestry reserves. Institutional strengthening – mineral resources and agriculture.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Empowerment – support implementation of National Gender Policy/Action Plan.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Development – informal and formal learning, civic education, employment opportunities. Ageing Policy and People with Disabilities – advocacy and awareness, inclusive education, and employment opportunities. Child Protection – policy support, child labour. Social Protection – effective implementation. Preservation of culture and heritage. MSME Development.
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support implementation of the Education Sector Strategic Development Plans and Health and Medical Services National Strategic Plans. Quality health care – non-communicable and communicable diseases, family health, HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, nutrition, water and sanitation and hygiene. Quality Education – e-learning, early childhood education, curriculum development, and psycho-social support. Access to Technology and Communications – Outer Island and Inland Connectivity.
OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Democratic Institutional Strengthening – Parliament, Independent Commissions (FICAC, Fiji Elections Office). Law and Justice – Gender Equality and Child Protection, Access to Justice for All, National Security Strategy. Capacity building for official statistics – demographic, economic, social, and environmental data.
OUTCOME 6: Human Rights		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights – compliance and reporting on Conventions.







KIRIBATI

The Republic of Kiribati is a Central Pacific nation of 32 coral atolls and one island divided into three main groups: the Gilbert Islands, the Line Islands, and the Phoenix Islands. Kiribati **is one of the least developed countries in the region** with widespread hardship and an incidence of extreme poverty higher than 10 per cent.¹¹² Deprivation is greatest among vulnerable groups in South Tarawa and the Southern Gilbert Islands. None of the eight MDGs were achieved outright and some areas show signs of regression.¹¹³ Kiribati's small population, low level of human development, and disperse geography make the provision of quality services costly and difficult. Outer island communities have limited access to secondary education and very few opportunities for paid employment. There is a strong rural-urban drift of young I-Kiribati to the national capital, South Tarawa.

Population growth (at around 2.2 per cent per year) is among the highest in the region.¹¹⁴ More than half of Kiribati's 112,423 people live in the capital, many in informal urban settlements. The rapid pace of urbanisation has placed intense pressure on ground water supplies, sanitation, and housing and created challenges for public health, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability.

Kiribati's small economy is highly exposed to external shocks and debt stress. A reliance on overseas aid, and overseas remittances, its distance from markets, a low skill base, and an economy limited to natural resources all constrain opportunities for growth. **In spite of its extreme economic vulnerability**, Kiribati has experienced relative fiscal stability thanks to strong public sector expenditure, development partner financed infrastructure projects, and the granting of fishery licenses in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone. Its sovereign wealth fund, the Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund, provides supplementary revenue, but was severely impacted by the global financial crisis.

Kiribati has the lowest access to clean water and sanitation in the Pacific and water-borne disease accounts for a high proportion of infant and under-5 child deaths.¹¹⁵ Frequent outbreaks of water-borne disease pose long-term social and economic consequences. Climate change is predicted to exacerbate the current demand for clean water even further.

Under-5 and infant mortality in Kiribati has increased in recent years, offsetting earlier gains. Thirty-four per cent of children are stunted and 80 per cent receive violent physical or psychological discipline at home. There is a high proportion of orphaned and fostered children. Equal ratios of boys and girls enrol in primary school, although net enrolment rates have fluctuated in recent years.

In traditional Kiribati culture, women are subordinate to men and stark gender inequalities persist in almost all aspects of life. **Seventy-three per cent of women report sexual and/or physical violence.** Women are under-represented at all levels of decision-making and female-headed households are among the poorest and most vulnerable in the country. Although maternal health is improving, it has not yet met national targets.

¹¹² CCA Meta Data Analysis, 2016.

¹¹³ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat 2015 MDGs Tracking Report.

¹¹⁴ UNFPA Population and Development Profile: Pacific Island Countries, 2014.

¹¹⁵ UNICEF Child Poverty and Hardship in Kiribati, 2014.

HIV/AIDS prevalence is classified as a low level epidemic, but rates of STIs are very high suggesting vulnerability, particularly for young people. Non-communicable diseases are an emerging threat, particularly obesity and diabetes, as low quality, low-nutrient, imported foods replace native food products.

Kiribati is one of the world’s most susceptible nations to the myriad impacts of climate change. Seawater surges already threaten land, property, and infrastructure and contaminate fresh groundwater reserves. The acidification of oceans and catastrophic bleaching of corals jeopardize fish stocks and food security. In 2014, the Republic of Kiribati purchased land in Fiji ostensibly for food production, but with the longer-term view of resettling climate change refugees.

Treaty Ratifications: CEDAW, CRC, CRD, OP-CRCAC, OP-CRC-SC, CCPWCNH, CWII, ICADS

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Environment, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNESCAP, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Kiribati Joint Presence Office

National Strategic Development Plan: Kiribati National Development Plan 2016-2019, “Towards a better educated, healthier, more prosperous nation with a higher quality of life”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	KPA4 - Environment KPA5- Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost SDG Ownership – contextualizing and vocalizing SDGs for ownership by and involvement of the communities. • Implement processes to improve sanitation and health. • Water security – focus on South Tarawa; involve communities in the site selection process. • Improve access to UN Funds by the communities, CSOs and NGOs. • Upgrade villages and help with sustainable town planning and appropriate capacity building. • Empower communities to be self-reliant. • Support safe waste management, especially in urban areas. • Build on established partnerships with NGOs, e.g. the beneficial UNICEF partnership with the Kiribati Local Governance Association (KiLGA). • Water and Sanitation - Support drought preparation through provision of water tanks, training on resilience and adaptation to drought.

OUTCOME 2:
Gender Equality

KPA5- Governance

Gender equality

- Continue support to UN Joint Programme on Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence (ESGBV).
- Resource implementation of the ESGBV policy and other stakeholder programmes.
- Increase support to finalize and implement Gender Equality and Women's Development Policy.
- Strengthen support to access to justice.
- Continue gender sensitisation in water and sanitation programmes.
- Support behaviour change programmes.

Strategies against gender based violence, marital conflicts, child abuse, child support programmes

- Finance Young Couples Initiative Programme, including Pre-Marriage and Post-Marriage Programme.
- Strengthen Registration Database.
- Provide capacity building for Council on gender programmes.
- Support government on the enforcement and M&E on VAWG (Women's) Policy, community engagements and legal literacy, SAFENET project.
- Empower women and girls in both urban and rural areas through revenue generation schemes and access to finance.

OUTCOME 3:
Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment

KPA2 - Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction

- Provide technical support for the development of national statistics at the National Statistics Office, and strengthen capacity to measure the progress of the Kiribati National Development Plan (KDP).
- Implement the Labour Migration Policy in areas including Recognised Seasonal Employment (RSE) in New Zealand, Australia, and others.
- Empower Women and Youth through employment generation and use of simple technology for production of local produce.
- Promote inclusive market development - financing, processing, partnership, and entrepreneurship.
- Support value chain development and compliance on marine and agro-based development, including on coconut development.
- Identify key potential and effective partners for economic development.
- Assist with access to finance - financial resources for development, including the Green Fund.
- Fund equipment and technology that is relevant for projects and entrepreneurship.
- Provide technical assistance to support tourism development.
- Support air space management through financial and technical resources.
- Help develop the Policy Regulatory Framework and required capacity building for the Deep Sea Mineral industry.
- Support infrastructure to facilitate domestic trade as well as capacity building for local produce and product diversification.

OUTCOME 4:
Equitable Basic
Services

KPA1 - Human Resource
Development
KPA3 - Health

- Improve road safety and provide reliable and proper transport for children, such as school buses.
- Provide quality achievable and sustained education.
- Provide safe and adequate water supplies with effective and sustainable systems.
- Provide adequate and secure toilet facilities for girls in schools.
- Provide safer and bigger classrooms to cater for increasing student populations.
- Review the curriculum to include Family Health Education.
- Provide financial and technical support for curriculum review and development.
- Upgrade Curriculum Development Unit with safer equipment and chemicals and improve safety in the workplace.
- Provide TVET pathways, programmes, and appropriate resources.
- Develop the Early Childhood Care and Education curriculum and educational materials, including provision of technical assistance.
- Provide assistance to Education Quality Assurance and the establishment of the National Accreditation and Qualification Agency.
- Undertake a study on student achievements to provide reasons for the domination by girls in all levels of education.
- Align the UN Pacific Strategy to the KDP and MHMS and other ministries' strategic plans.
- Continue assistance to sustain current priorities related to health issues including NCDs and maternal and child health.
- Deliver technical support to provide evidence and best practices for population challenges.
- Consider other health determinants such as water and environment.
- Include health in sector policies.
- Build capacity and technical assistance (e.g. training for staff at local and national levels).
- Forge local and internal partnerships or assist to mobilize resources, including during natural disasters.

OUTCOME 5:
Governance
and Community
Engagement

KPA5 - Governance

Access to Justice at all levels

- Deliver capacity development, such as training for magistrates.
- Engage communities, including men and boys, in ending VAWG, and promoting juvenile access to justice.
- Supporting consumer rights protection.

Partnerships

- Continue joint support and partnership with UN to the gender based violence Shared Implementation Plan (SHIP).
- Support Parliament's established "Select Committees" on Climate Change and Anti-corruption, Public Accounts through capacity building and funding.
- Help to strengthen sustainable partnerships and capacities for partners to engage (through mentoring, etc.) and strengthen partnerships with outer island Councils and women/youth, church, communities, and NGOs.
- Promote partnerships that allow cyclical, downstream, and upstream cooperation through greater awareness of KDP and SDGs.
- Support national planning consultations with Outer Islands.
- Assist with capacity building to island Councils, women's groups, youth, community/NGOs, church on GE, SDGs.
- Support statistical analysis of census and data to monitor progress, sex disaggregated data.
- South-South Programme¹¹⁶ – Social Welfare Division, MWYSA
- Provide ongoing child protection and civil registration vital statistics support.
- Support for access to essential services for victims of domestic violence and other social services.
- Support for implementation and reporting of human rights conventions (CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, and UPR).
- Assist locally elected leaders training to improve Council leaders' governance capacity.
- Coordinate efforts by all stakeholders – NGOs, church based organizations, communities, civil society, Government, and UN bodies to make positive changes.

OUTCOME 6:
Human Rights

¹¹⁶ With particular emphasis on Pacific-to-Pacific cooperation.





NAURU

Nauru is one of the world's smallest and most geographically isolated sovereign states, comprising a single island in the western Pacific Ocean. Formerly known as Pleasant Island, Nauru was administered by Australia for the first half of the twentieth century before achieving independence in 1968. **Nauru has the worst human development indicators in the sub-region and the highest incidence of food poverty.** One in four people live below the basic needs poverty line.¹¹⁷

The majority of Nauru's 10,000 people live along the narrow coastal belt, the only land available for housing. Nauru's natural growth rate of 2.7 per cent is partially offset by emigration. Adolescent births are second only to the Marshall Islands. **Infant, child, and adult mortality rates remain high and Nauru has the shortest life expectancy of any country in the Pacific.**¹¹⁸

In the 1970s and 1980s **Nauru had one of the highest per capita incomes in the world** because of a booming phosphate extraction industry. However, reduction in global demand for phosphate and the mismanagement of phosphate royalty funds caused the near collapse of the financial system, leading to a sharp decline in domestic affluence. The dramatic and sudden shift in socioeconomic conditions reduced the country's ability to provide adequate social infrastructure and services, especially for the most vulnerable.¹¹⁹ **In the past decade Nauru has faced severe financial crises and political instability, which has deterred private sector development and foreign investment.**¹²⁰

Like many small island developing states, Nauru has a large public sector, narrow resource base, low human and financial capital, and high susceptibility to climate change. The economy relies on the re-established phosphate mining sector, processing of asylum seekers in the Australian Government's Regional Processing Centre, and fishing licenses. Nauru also participates in the Australian Seasonal Workers Programme. **GDP growth is extremely volatile and vulnerable to shocks.** In the medium term it is likely that Nauru will be largely dependent on development assistance to maintain and improve delivery of basic services.¹²¹

More than 1,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including women and children, have been transferred by Australia to Nauru. The majority now live within the community and use local services. Many experience serious mental health issues. It remains unclear how long these people will remain in Nauru.

Nauru imports staple foods and water. Land degradation from strip mining has destroyed around 80 per cent of the island, severely limiting the potential for agriculture. The island is also located in the dry belt of the equatorial zone where rainfall is extremely variable. Water security is a pressing issue for Nauru due to an ageing desalination plant and limited water storage capacity. Future projections for climate change predict hotter daily temperatures, higher sea levels, and further rainfall irregularity.

The Nauruan population is relatively young with 39 per cent under 15 years of age. One quarter of children under 5 are stunted.¹²² **Free primary school education, including the provision of textbooks, has resulted in a net increase in primary enrolments and gender parity in education.** At the secondary level there are concerns about the lagging enrolment rate of boys.¹²³

¹¹⁷ The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on vulnerability and exclusion in a time of rapid change, UNDP, 2014.

¹¹⁸ Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Islands, UNFPA, 2014.

¹¹⁹ Review of the Child Protection System in Nauru, UNICEF and Ministry of Home Affairs, Nauru, 2015.

¹²⁰ National Sustainable Development Strategy 2009 Revision, Government of Nauru.

¹²¹ Review of the Child Protection System in Nauru, UNICEF and Ministry of Home Affairs, Nauru, 2015.

¹²² UNICEF Pacific Based Data Demographic and Health Surveys.

¹²³ Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2015.

Thirty per cent of women surveyed have been sexually abused in childhood and **nearly half of all Nauruan women have experienced intimate partner violence.**¹²⁴ Information about women's economic participation is lacking. The maternal mortality ratio is unknown. Life expectancy rates are stagnant due to high rates of premature mortality from NCDs. Tobacco and alcohol use is high and Nauru has one of the highest rates of adult diabetes in the region. The significant burden of NCDs places major strains on the health system, the community, and national productivity.

Treaty Ratifications: CEDAW, CAT, CRC, CRPD, OP-CAT, ICADS, CSICH

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO

Coordination: Nauru Joint Presence Office

Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025 "Partnership for Quality of Life"



Nauru signs the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022.

Pictured (left to right): Aleta Miller, UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office Representative; Hon. Baron Waqa, MP President of The Republic of Nauru; Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; and Bakhodir Burkhanov, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Country Director and Head of Regional Policy and Programme.

Photo credit: UN Women

¹²⁴ The Nauru Family Health and Support Study on Family Violence (FHS).

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Cross-cutting Sector Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt an integrated approach to addressing environmental issues such as the development of policies and environmental acts.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	Cross-cutting Sector Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop legislative processes to address cross-cutting issues such as gender.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Economic Sector Goals Infrastructure Sector Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversify the economy beyond the phosphate Industry to other areas such as fisheries. Expand the UN presence in Nauru to focus on prioritised operations. Refurbish damaged water pump and tank for the brackish water system.
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services	Social and Community Sector Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the implementation of a National Health Strategy. Implement the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, improve infrastructure to support people with disabilities. Increase capacity and awareness surrounding women's health. Mainstream gender across all sectors. Increase support to respond to underage pregnancies. Prioritise protection of children by helping to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, boost human capacity, support the development of a referral system and child protection laws. Support healthy lifestyles to combat NCDs. Invest in youth sport and wellbeing. Encourage the participation of all people in Nauru in consultative processes. Increase the capacity of local vocational training and education. Prioritise training opportunities for women. Include the UN Women Entrepreneurship Programme in vocational training programmes to boost economic growth. Establish a basic policy requirement or a contractual agreement for expatriate experts to train and build the capacity of local people and minimise reliance on foreign workers.
OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen M&E frameworks with realistic timeframes. Partnerships: Strengthen links with international organizations, such as the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, to assist Nauru to adopt international conventions, including the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and C188-Convention on Fishing Work.
OUTCOME 6: Human Rights		





Niue is a self-governing state comprised of a single island in the Pacific Ocean. Formerly a British Protectorate, Niue was annexed to New Zealand in 1901, but has been self-governing in free association with New Zealand since 1974. Under Niue's Constitution, New Zealand provides economic assistance and defence (including surveillance of the island's Exclusive Economic Zone). As New Zealand citizens, Niueans can live and work in New Zealand. **Niue's population of 1,792 people has stabilised and is showing small signs of growth.** The number of Niueans living in New Zealand is much greater than in the country itself. Niue has 14 villages with the capital town Alofi located on the western coast of the island.

Compared to other Pacific Island countries, Niue has a high per capita income with a good standard of living. **Niue was one of two countries in the region to meet each of its MDGs.** Health and education services are well funded and there is universal access to clean water and sanitation. There are no cases of extreme poverty.

Niue has a vulnerable economy that is dependent on overseas aid and imported fuel. Key growth constraints include relative isolation, limited arable land, and insufficient private investment. Many Niuean professionals have tended (or choose) to live and work overseas instead of returning to Niue. This continues to be a major challenge to the economic development of Niue. Tourism is a potential driver of growth and visitor numbers have doubled since 2009.

Niue's population is aging with high rates of emigration among working age people. **Following current trends there will be more older persons than children living in Niue by 2050.**¹²⁵ The returnees who do come back to the island to reside are often near or beyond retirement age. This has broader implications for population health.

Parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education. **Women's economic participation is high.** Most senior management positions in the public service are held by women, with a continuing trend for women to take up management roles in the private sector and NGO groups compared to their male counterparts. Women have been represented in parliament since 1974, but never representing more than 15 per cent.¹²⁶ The 2017 general elections have placed Niue women representation in parliament at 25 percent, a significant change and election result based on merit rather than legislated.

Communicable diseases are a growing concern in Niue but mitigating actions have already been instigated, predominantly by the Niue Health Department in partnership with community groups to ensure public awareness of sustainable healthy lifestyles. A large-scale annual elimination programme against the vector borne parasite *lymphatic filariasis* is ongoing, with 88 per cent coverage of at risk populations.¹²⁷ There are no reported cases of HIV infection, but STIs are becoming a recognised problem, especially among young people.

Climate change is already evident in Niue. Maximum daily temperatures have increased at a rate of 0.15 per cent whilst ocean acidification and sea levels are already rising. Crucially, cyclones are predicted to become less frequent but more intense.¹²⁸ In 2004, Category Five Tropical Cyclone Heta caused catastrophic destruction in Niue, killing two people, injuring many others, and destroying homes, the hospital, infrastructure, and cultural artefacts including the National Museum and Cultural Centre. The damage bill was three times the country's annual GDP. Tropical Cyclone Heta demonstrated Niue's extreme ecological fragility.

¹²⁵ Population and Ageing in the Pacific Islands: A situation Analysis, UNFPA, 2014.

¹²⁶ Gender Profile Niue, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2012.

¹²⁷ WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, Niue, 2013-2017.

¹²⁸ Current and future climate of Niue, Pacific Climate Change Science Program, 2011.

Treaty Ratifications: CRC, Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, UNCLOS, CCPWCNH

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IAEA, OECD, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Niue UN Joint Presence Office

National Strategic Development Plan: National Strategic Plan 2016-2026, “Niue ke Monuina – A Prosperous Niue”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement work on the environmental SDGs holistically. • Encourage local communities to take ownership of programmes. • Support food and water security projects that mainstream climate change adaptation.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	Taoga Niue (Niuean culture and heritage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economically empower women through the expansion of cultural and industrial development and initiatives to protect Niuean culture.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Economic Development Infrastructure Private Sector Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support and training on water auditing to eventually enhance Niue’s venture of exporting bottled drinking water. • Ensure a healthy and friendly business environment that appeals to foreign investors and Niuean nationals living abroad. • Develop frameworks for Niue that allow for outreach and access to various donors. • Support a sustainable tourism plan. • Niue needs modern facilities to allow for economic growth and to ensure clear communication between “market demand and market supply”. • Respond to demand for small grants projects. • Recognise the need for capacity building and professional support for employees who would normally be required to wear more than one hat of responsibilities. • Support steps toward greater flexibility on land tenure – allowing for equitable and easy access to ownership or leasing of land to encourage development of businesses that can contribute to the tourism industry. • Establish trade agreements to broadly market local products overseas for international exposure and local financial gain. • Link closely with external partners and build strong partnerships to ensure national, professional, and social priorities are met. • Help to introduce a framework that can allow local communities/businesses to access small grants funding. • Map and audit cultural and arts information already available and list who is doing what.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link cultural industries to financial literacy and markets leading to economic empowerment. • Promote the creative economy involving creative industries (arts, dance, and crafts) and integrate it into formal education.
<p>OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services</p>	<p>Social Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach food security from a socioeconomic perspective as a path to income generation. • Help to enforce internationally recognized nutrition standards. • Support national health priorities including good health, mental wellbeing, and control of NCDs. • Help to standardise provisions of vaccinations as an essential component of primary health. • With the Ridge to Reef Project launched and GEF 6 and GCF proposals underway, UN agencies should commit to explore potential partnerships which recognize comparative advantages and seek to facilitate implementation, such as UNICEF with its WASH expertise in the GEF 6 water management component. • Share best practices on vector control. • Encourage political will to support culture in education, equality and institutions. • Change perceptions - from culture being low priority to include arts and culture throughout the school curriculum.
<p>OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine Labour Laws to explore the potential of seasonal workers who may be contracted to Niue. • Assist with provision of temporary lodgments and costs associated with bringing in seasonal workers. • Provide translation of SDGs documents. • Include the word culture in national and UN project plans (Niue Priorities in Language) • Include the word culture in national and UN project plans (Niue Priorities in Language)
<p>OUTCOME 6: Human Rights</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of Vagahau Niue in all forms of Niuean life without prejudice.



Photo Credit: Sokhin UNICEF Palau



The Republic of Palau is a western Pacific nation of more than 340 small volcanic and coral islands, of which only 10 are inhabited. The islands are divided into 16 states, each with its own governor and legislature. Palau is a former Pacific Trust Territory of the United States and bilateral relations continue under a Compact of Free Association. The United States provides financial assistance and defence to Palau in exchange for rights to maintain a military presence.

The standard of living in Palau is among the highest in the Pacific, with well-established health and education services.¹²⁹ Almost all of Palau's MDGs were reached with the exception of MDG 1 (Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger), which showed mixed results because of relatively high levels of unemployment and the increasing number of households living below the Basic Needs Poverty Line.¹³⁰

More than 70 per cent of Palau's 20,000 people live on Koror Island, the commercial hub, where problems of urbanization such as overcrowding and water insecurity occur. The remaining 15 states, excluding the recently established capital city Ngerulmud, are considered rural areas. Significant outmigration of Palauan nationals to the United States and Guam is matched by in-migration of workers from Asian countries, leading to a net growth rate of 0.5 per cent. **Social relationships and traditions in Palau are governed by kinship obligations, customary exchanges, and respect for all things living and non-living.** These values often stand in contrast to Western values, presenting a tension for Palauans to live "between two worlds".¹³¹

The main economic challenge Palau faces is to reduce its general vulnerability by diversifying its base and strengthening its fiscal self-sufficiency. As with other Pacific Island nations, Palau is reliant on ODA (from the US Compact and Trust Fund), external grants, and imported food. **The economy has performed well in recent years with GDP growth of 9.4 per cent driven by a dramatic increase in low-budget tourists and construction activity.** The rapid expansion of tourism has placed considerable demand on aging infrastructure and the country's fragile environment in addition to producing adverse social and cultural impacts. This has prompted concerns about the carrying capacity of Palau in the short to medium term. In response, the government has limited the number of in-bound flights and is seeking to cultivate higher-end ecotourism¹³² and a sustainable pathway for tourism development.

Palauan society is matrilineal and women have always held positions of power and respect. However, women remain under-represented in the national congress, cabinet and senior leaderships positions. **A quarter of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner.**¹³³ Although women are afforded equality of opportunity under the constitution, there is no sexual harassment, human trafficking, or sex tourism legislation.¹³⁴ **Palau has the lowest adolescent pregnancy rate in the region.**¹³⁵

¹²⁹ Bealu Family Health and Safety Study, Palau Ministry of Health, 2014.

¹³⁰ MDG Tracker, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2015.

¹³¹ A Situation Analysis of Children, Youth and Women, Government of Palau and UNICEF, 2008.

¹³² Palau Economy, ADB, 2010.

¹³³ Bealu Family Health and Safety Study, Palau Ministry of Health, 2014.

¹³⁴ Palau, Asia Pacific, UN Women, 2016.

¹³⁵ Palau Country Profile, UNFPA, 2014.

The epidemiological profile of Palau is demonstrating a mounting burden of NCDs, including diabetes, obesity, and kidney failure, with more than half of the annual health budget allocated to NCD management. In 2010 the President of Palau declared a national chronic disease emergency to address the NCD crisis.

Palau has a global reputation for marine conservation and is recognised as a leader in sustainable development. **Balancing economic development with the preservation of natural assets is an ongoing challenge for Palau.** Pollution, solid waste disposal, unsustainable development, crop disease, declining marine resources, and invasive species all threaten the country’s unique biodiversity. During the El Niño weather pattern of 2015-2016, Palau recorded its lowest annual rainfall in 65 years and a State of Emergency was declared. The drought had a devastating impact on Jellyfish Lake, one of Palau’s most significant national treasures.

Treaty Ratifications: CRC, CRPD, CBD, CWC, CCM, CCD, ICDS, ICCHASS, ICRW, ICCLPD, ICLL, ICS, CIMO, CIMSO, CLS, MLC, ICMSR, ICOPPRC, CPPNM, CMPE, CPS, CSICH, SCPOP, UNFCCC, WHO FCTC, Cononou Agreements, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, CCPWCNH, CWII, ICADS, CSICH

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WHO, OHCHR

Coordination: Palau Joint Presence Office

Republic of Palau National Master Development Plan (NMDP) 2020: “Sustainable and widespread improvement in general standards of living while preserving cultural and environmental values for the people of Palau”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Climate Change Oceans Disaster Risk Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessments and risk management plans • Regulatory framework • Financing options • Research and baseline studies • Feasibility studies • Monitoring and evaluation framework • Pilot projects • Human Resources capacity building
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality		
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Infrastructure Tourism	
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services	Health and Education	
OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement		
OUTCOME 6: Human Rights		







The Republic of the Marshall Islands is an equatorial nation of 29 scattered coral atolls and five islands in the Central Pacific Ocean. **There is incomplete analysis of hardship, but MDG monitoring indicates that basic needs poverty and hunger is rising.** The young urban poor are among the most marginalised with dependence on the cash economy, but fewer social welfare protections.¹³⁶ The challenges facing outer island communities include water shortages, lack of transport, and reduced access to electricity, telecommunications, and basic services.

RMI is a former Trust Territory of the Pacific under United States Administration. Since 1986, the relationship between the two countries has been defined by the Compact of Free Association whereby the U.S. provides annual payments and defence in exchange for continued U.S. military use of the Kwajalein Atoll. **The legacy of U.S nuclear testing in RMI has adversely affected human security, public health, and environmental safety and caused the loss of customary land and cultural heritage.**

RMI is highly urbanised with 75 per cent of the country's 53,000 people¹³⁷ resident in the two urban centres the capital Majuro and Ebeje, the most densely populated island in the Pacific. RMI's rapid population growth and the contamination of its natural environment have made subsistence farming and fishing unviable for the vast majority of Marshallese.¹³⁸ Urbanisation is placing stress on land and water and increasing the demand for housing, classrooms, energy, and waste management. A high natural population increase of 2.4 per cent per annum is offset by net emigration of Marshallese to the US.

Despite having one of the highest per capita spending rates of donor aid, development assistance has not equated to socioeconomic benefits for the most vulnerable. Since the reduction in grants after the Amended US Compact, the economy has performed weakly. Physical isolation, weak institutions, and the lack of economic diversity forecast low growth in the medium term. **A fiscal deficit is anticipated once the Compact ends in 2023 with further reductions in public service anticipated.**

RMI's economy is not generating the growth required to absorb its young people into the labour market.

Children make up almost half of the population and significant gains have been made in reducing child and infant mortality. Ninety per cent of children attend primary school with gender parity achieved. Special education programming has been introduced for children with disabilities. Education quality is a concern with only 9 per cent of students graduating from primary school with age appropriate mathematics proficiency. School completion rates are low.¹³⁹ Immunisation coverage is less than 50 per cent on some islands and rural children are three times less likely to be fully immunised than urban children.¹⁴⁰

Marshallese culture is matrilineal with an established social protection system based on access to land, cooperative labour, social obligations, and reciprocity. **Studies indicate a decline in family values and erosion of traditional safety nets leading to an increase in violence, particularly towards women.**¹⁴¹ More than half of the women surveyed indicated they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.¹⁴² There are few if any services specifically for women in outer islands. Rural adolescents in RMI continue to have the highest pregnancy rate in the Pacific with low knowledge of contraceptive use.

¹³⁶ MDG Tracking Report, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2012.

¹³⁷ RMI 2011 National Census.

¹³⁸ Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Island Countries, UNFPA, 2014.

¹³⁹ Atlas of Indicators RMI, UNICEF, 2013.

¹⁴⁰ *ibid*

¹⁴¹ UNICEF Child Protection Baseline Research, RMI.

¹⁴² National Study on Family Health and Safety, Republic of Marshall Islands Ministry of Internal Affairs and UNFPA, 2014.

Treaty Ratifications: CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, CCPWCNH, CWII, ICADS, CSICH

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: IOM, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNV, UN Women, WHO

Coordination: RMI Joint Presence Office

National Strategic Plan 2015-2017 (NSP) – Republic of Marshall Islands – “In our hands, our future”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Environment, Climate Change and Resiliency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the potential impact of climate change, environmental protection and climate change mitigation/adaptation remain key areas for support. Technical assistance supporting RMI to access climate change funding, including through the GCC, and to successfully implement related projects. Increasing DRR support as weather-related disasters are increasing and becoming more prolonged.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	Good Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender Equality and Eliminating Violence Against Women - following the completion of a major study by UNFPA and RMI, there is solid baseline data to demonstrate how significant the gender issues are in RMI. The findings of the study have not yet been shared widely in RMI, but this should be prioritised. There are many local NGOs with potential for joint/expanded programmes.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Infrastructure Development Sustainable Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN could support national policies and plans to implement at local level especially in outer islands. Many local communities do not have strategic plans and are not linked in with national priorities or SDGs. UN could support this work. Urban planning, particularly in Ebeye, requires UN technical assistance. Job creation and SME development with a focus on youth, especially in the outer islands Tourism development Training, expertise, and funding to grow the copra industry as a key income source for the outer islands Technical assistance and training focussed on human resource development (skills, trade training, etc.), knowledge transfer, and building local capacity Assistance to diversify income sources ahead of the conclusion of the compact and help to ensure the benefits of economic growth trickle down to all Marshallese.
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services	Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family health – with a specific focus on women and girls in the outer islands. Increased support to clinical health activities. UN to be an advocate for RMI around the enduring health and environmental effects of RMI’s nuclear legacy.
OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement	Good Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase focus on good governance, strengthened institutions, and human resources as the benefits from this work will flow into other areas.
OUTCOME 6: Human Rights		





Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office.



SAMOA

The Independent State of Samoa consists of two large islands and eight islets situated in the Central Pacific Ocean. The most populous and developed island, Upolu, is home to the administrative capital, Apia. **Samoa is politically stable with strong sub-national leadership and social cohesion.** The close proximity between islands assists with transport, communications, and service delivery.

Seventy eight per cent of Samoans live in rural villages and maintain a subsistence or semi-subsistence communal lifestyle heavily influenced by the *Fa'a Samoa* (the Samoan Way), which includes matai (chiefs), *aiga potopoto* (extended family) and church.¹⁴³ Since gaining independence from New Zealand in 1962, **Samoa has made consistent gains in gross national income and human assets, sufficient to meet the criteria for graduation from Least Developed Country status in 2014.** Whilst Samoa is performing better than other Pacific Island nations on a number of indicators, intrinsic issues of vulnerability persist. Despite GDP growth and a significant reduction in food poverty, 18.8 per cent of Samoans live below the basic needs poverty line and inequality is rising.¹⁴⁴

Samoa's population of 193,000¹⁴⁵ is increasing at 2.3 per cent per annum, effectively doubling with each generation. **A high fertility is offset by very high levels of emigration,** mostly by working age Samoans migrating to New Zealand, keeping the overall growth rate at 0.6 per cent.

Despite early progress, Samoa met only half of its MDGs (MDG 2 - Primary Education, MDG 4 - Child Mortality, MDG 7 - Environmental Sustainability and MDG 8 - Global Partnerships) while the remaining results were mixed. **The Global Financial Crisis (2007-2009) and higher food and fuel prices (2008) impacted Samoa severely.** These exogenous shocks were immediately followed by a destructive tsunami in 2009 and a severe tropical cyclone in 2012, causing a contraction in economic activity and significantly increasing public debt.

Samoa's small island economy is reliant on ODA and remittances, has a large trade deficit and faces a moderate risk of debt stress.¹⁴⁶ Approximately 60 per cent of the population work in the informal sector with little capacity for the formal economy to create jobs. **Unemployment and underemployment remain critical development challenges for Samoa.** Reconstruction expenditure has helped the economy to recover from the effects of Cyclone Evan (2012) and has led to job growth in rural areas. But the forthcoming closure of the auto wire harness manufacturing plant will have a negative impact on overall employment.¹⁴⁷ Youth unemployment at 16.4 per cent reflects a mismatch of skills to labour market needs and lack of support to transition young people into the workforce.¹⁴⁸

A third of Samoans are below 15 years of age. Gender parity has been achieved in primary school enrolments and literacy levels are high. Of concern are the lower enrolment and higher dropout rates of boys at the secondary level.¹⁴⁹

In 2013, Samoa became the first Pacific nation to introduce a quota for women's political representation. Legislation has also been introduced to protect against sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the workplace. However, women continue to face social and economic disadvantages.¹⁵⁰ **The unmet need for contraception (46 per cent) is the highest in the region.** Forty-six per cent of women report some form of partner abuse.¹⁵¹

¹⁴³ Situation Analysis Samoa UNICEF, 2006.

¹⁴⁴ SAMOA, Hardship and Poverty Report 2013-2014.

¹⁴⁵ Population Estimates, 2006-2020, Samoa Bureau of Statistics.

¹⁴⁶ Article IV Samoa, IMF, 2015.

¹⁴⁷ SAMOA Economic Outlook ADB, 2016.

¹⁴⁸ ILO SAMOA National Action Plan on Youth.

¹⁴⁹ Asia Pacific End of Decade Notes on Education for All, UNESCO and UNICEF, 2012.

¹⁵⁰ Child Protection Baseline Report for SAMOA 2013, Ministry of Women Community and Social Development.

¹⁵¹ SAMOA Family Health and Safety Study 2000.

NCDs are at epidemic levels. Occasional outbreaks of infectious disease are attributed to lack of hygiene, poor sanitation, and poor social conditions.¹⁵² The continuous increase in STI cases, particularly Chlamydia, has implications for the future spread of HIV.¹⁵³

Treaty Ratifications: ICCPR, CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, CED, OP-CRC-CP, IP-CRC-AC, OP-CRC-SC, IPWD, CCPWCNH, CWII, ICADS, CSICH, CPPDCE

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Samoa, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

Strategy for Development of Samoa 2016-2020 “Boosting Productivity for Sustainable Development”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	ENVIRONMENT SECTOR (CROSS-CUTTING)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate disaster risk management and climate change in UN programming, ensuring balanced attention to both slow and sudden onset events as well as the adverse impacts of climate change, as these issues can be of particular importance for vulnerable groups. Provide technical support, facilitate access to financing, strengthen implementation capacity, and ensure participatory approaches. Facilitate funding for the implementation of available plans (such as disaster risk reduction plans). Strengthen links between private sector and Government in implementing disaster response. Include community voice and participation in disaster response, including the mobilization of funding, (working closely with civil society). Improve coordination among development partners, starting with an integrated consultation and ensuring that the most vulnerable are targeted first. Ensure that part of the financing specifically addresses gender issues.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality		
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	ECONOMIC SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN to focus on vulnerable groups, employment creation and good governance at community level. Better coordination and wider partnership between public sector, private sector, and NGOs/civil society. Bridge the gap between national and community governance. Develop frameworks to enhance public-private partnerships. Integrate civil society and the private sector into design/planning process of UN/Government programmes.

OUTCOME 4:
Equitable Basic
Services

SOCIAL SECTOR

- Advocate and strengthen both formal and non-formal education on human rights, financial literacy, and livelihood education in both rural and urban areas, especially in vulnerable families including children, youth, women, and men.
- Provide and strengthen social protection coverage for vulnerable families including children, youth, women, and men.

OUTCOME 5:
Governance
and Community
Engagement

OUTCOME 6:
Human Rights



Photo Credit: UNICEF



Photo Credit: UNICEF



SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Solomon Islands is a Melanesian archipelago in the southwest Pacific Ocean comprising two volcanic chains of six major islands, and many hundreds of outer islands and atolls. A former British Protectorate, the Solomon Islands achieved independence in 1978. The country is the third largest in the Pacific in both size and population. The national capital Honiara is on the biggest island, Guadalcanal.

The Solomon Islands is one of the poorest countries in the region with a low level of human development.¹⁵⁴ None of the eight MDGs were achieved and poverty is increasing. In addition to the vulnerabilities faced by its neighbours, hardship in the Solomon Islands is compounded by the legacy of civil conflict, known as “The Tensions” (1998-2003), which pushed the country to the brink of collapse. From 2003-2013, the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) operated in the country with a mandate to restore law and order, rebuild the government, stabilise national finances, and restart the economy.

The population of 611,000 is young, dispersed, and multi-lingual. The majority (80.3 per cent) live in rural areas and maintain subsistence livelihoods in villages of only a few hundred people. The lack of opportunities to earn cash income is resulting in rural-urban drift at a rate of 4.7 per cent per annum. Rapid urbanisation is creating informal settlements and burdening local resources and infrastructure. **Given the country’s history of civil unrest, migration patterns have serious implications for social cohesion.**¹⁵⁵

The economic performance of the Solomon Islands has lagged behind other Pacific countries and is based on a few primary commodities with very little diversification or enhanced productive capacity.¹⁵⁶ The private sector is small with potential for development in mining, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. ODA made up 30 per cent of gross national income in 2013. Youth unemployment is a major problem as young people lack the education and experience to find paid work. **Twenty per cent of young people in Honiara are unemployed and in rural areas this rises to 50 per cent.**¹⁵⁷

Children make up half of the total population and adversity for children and youth is common. Eighty-four per cent report witnessing violence in their community, which is known to have lifelong impacts.¹⁵⁸ Nineteen per cent of infants are not receiving adequate daily nutrition and a third of children are stunted. More children are entering the sex trade and sexual abuse of children is common.¹⁵⁹

Significant gender inequalities exist in all spheres. There is low participation of women in electoral processes and there is cultural resistance to women’s leadership.¹⁶⁰ Female enrolment in secondary and tertiary education is low and rural women have poor access to health and family planning. **Customary law has constitutional status in the Solomon Islands and may be applied even in instances where customs have a discriminatory effect.**¹⁶¹ Sixty-four per cent of women report experiencing intimate partner violence. Some progress was made toward MDG 5 (Improve Maternal Health), but maternal deaths are still high with around 23 deaths per year.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁴ UNDP Human Development Index 2015.

¹⁵⁵ Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Island Countries, UNFPA 2014.

¹⁵⁶ Productive Capacity and Trade in the Solomon Islands, Daniel Gay, UN DESA, June 2016.

¹⁵⁷ World Bank 2012.

¹⁵⁸ Adverse Childhood Experience Study, Honiara 2015.

¹⁵⁹ Report on the Pacific Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, UNICEF May 2015.

¹⁶⁰ UN Women 2016.

¹⁶¹ *ibid*

¹⁶² Solomon Islands Maternal and Perinatal Country Profile, WHO, 2015.

Environmental sustainability is weak, particularly in the logging industry, which has been surrounded by allegations of illegality, abuse, and lack of environmental controls.¹⁶³ **Mitigating the impacts of climate change and natural disasters is an ongoing challenge for the Solomon Islands.** In recent years the islands have been affected by prolonged droughts, flooding, king tides, earthquakes, and a tsunami causing damage, lost productivity, and loss of life, with wide reaching costs for communities.

Treaty Ratifications: ICESCR, ICERD, CEDAW, CRC, OP-CEDAW, AIESCM, CCEOPGDBS, CADE, CADE Protocol, CCPWCNH, ICADS

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Solomon Islands Joint Presence Office

National Development Strategy 2016-2035 “Improving the Social and Economic Livelihoods of all Solomon Islands”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	NDS OBJECTIVE 4: Resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response, and recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the government to mainstream DRR/ disaster risk management and climate change under a DRR/DRM/CC Framework, which will be aligned to the Sendai Framework as well as the three UN conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD). Identify and address drivers of disasters. Consider waste management in urban areas, including urban settlements. Change approach and collaborate more with line ministries instead of “silo” interventions by individual technical agencies. Ensure alignment with the National Development Strategy and the Medium Term Development Plan. Be more relevant and flexible by partnering with civil society and the private sector.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality		
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	<p>NDS OBJECTIVE 1: Sustained and Inclusive Growth.</p> <p>NDS OBJECTIVE 2: Poverty alleviated across the whole of the Solomon Islands, basic needs addressed, and food security improved; benefits of development more equitably distributed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve services – augment the quality of education, help build markets for local producers, and enhance employment opportunities for youth. Strengthen institutions responsible for delivering services. Help improve data collection and analysis to help inform policy. Increase opportunities for women and youth to reduce inequalities. Assist with implementation of Family Protection Act. Enhance services available to rural families. Increase rural women’s access to banking.

¹⁶³ Productive Capacity and Trade in the Solomon Islands, Daniel Gay, UN DESA, June 2016.

<p>OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services</p>	<p>NDS OBJECTIVE 3: All Solomon Islanders have access to quality health and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the National Health Strategic Plan priorities for ongoing UN work in RMNCAH and nutrition. • Support the improvement of community engagement and evidence based decisions in the health sector. • Invest in an expanded immunisation programme. • Increase the availability of the measles vaccine. • Support deworming and human papillomavirus programmes and integrate into schools. • Provide Vitamin A routinely throughout the country. • Address neonatal mortality and family planning. • Assist the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to address nutrition challenges. • Help combat communicable and non-communicable diseases. • Support the health department to take the lead on gender based violence. • Encourage health seeking behaviours in the community. • Narrow the gap between health services and the community through outreach programmes to markets, schools, and churches.
<p>OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement</p>	<p>NDS OBJECTIVE 5: Unified, reconciled nation with stable and effective governance and public order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies and help ensure a smooth transition in light of the departure of RAMSI • Support a comprehensive approach to the issue of land tenure in relation to traditional land. • Help to build community governance by strengthening existing structures in rural areas. • Address persistent corruption at all levels and support structural and institutional reforms. • Promote civic education and awareness of political institutions, systems and processes. • Encourage youth participation. • Advocate the role of women in economic, social, and political empowerment (with acknowledgement of the relationship between the status of women and family violence). • As a neutral convenor, bring together key stakeholders and offer a space for dialogue.
<p>OUTCOME 6: Human Rights</p>		



Photo Credit: UNICEF



TOKELAU

Tokelau is a unique small island country in the Pacific comprised of three coral atolls: Atafu, Nukunonu, and Fakaofu. A non-self-governing Polynesian Territory of New Zealand, Tokelau's administrative and legislative powers have been delegated to the Taupulega (Village Council) to manage, and issues of national interest to the General Fono (National Assembly) since 2004. Tokelau has no capital and a decentralized governance system. Currently the only means of accessing the country is via a 24-30 hour boat trip from Samoa, 480 km to the north. The atolls are 3-5 meters above sea level. Developing infrastructure and access to Tokelau, particularly through air services, is one of the key priorities of the Government. Tokelau is gradually moving towards an act of self-determination and is seeking a greater role in global and regional fora.

Tokelauans experience a medium standard of living with high life expectancy, a traditional communal welfare system, and well-funded health and education services. Most of Tokelau's MDGs were successfully met with the exception of MDG 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) and MDG 8 (Develop a Global Partnership for Development). Extreme poverty and hunger are not known in Tokelau.¹⁶⁴

The 2016 Population Census estimates that there are 1,499 people in Tokelau, which is a 6.2 per cent increase from the 2011 census. High numbers of young job seekers emigrate to New Zealand, Samoa, and Australia, leaving behind the very young and the elderly. As a result, Tokelau has a greater number of people aged over 60 years than the regional average. Heavy migration has also led to an outward flow of skilled human capital, but this is offset by the receipt of remittances from expatriate Tokelauans.

Tokelau's major source of national income is derived from the sale of fishing licenses in Tokelau's Exclusive Economic Zone of 300,000 sq. km. that yielded US\$13.6 million in 2016. For the same fiscal year Tokelau's first estimated GDP stands at US\$6,275 per capita. Land based agriculture is small-scale due to extreme topographical conditions, particularly soil quality, limited land area, and a fragile ecology. Almost all land is held under customary title. The Tokelau International Trust Fund, largely funded by annual contributions by Tokelau with initial contributions by New Zealand and Australia, has been paying dividends since 2014.

Tokelauan women are gradually engaging in major income generating activities such as public service, handicrafts, and self-employment reflecting the increased parity in school enrolment and attainment. The National Women's Council aims to enhance women's participation in the economic, social, and political arenas, mainly at the national and regional level. The 2014 national elections were the first to see a woman elected as a member of the Council (Cabinet) and appointed as a Minister. At the village level, women are members of the Taupulega, the highest decision-making body in the villages, indicating further potential for women's leadership in Tokelau. Data quality, disaggregation, and statistics, particularly in relation to women's health and security, are currently lacking and represent an area for continued development.¹⁶⁵

Maternal and child health outcomes are good in Tokelau. Healthcare and medicines are free, but the scope of health services is constrained by Tokelau's small size and geographical remoteness. Sixty-eight per cent of the population between 18 and 64 are at risk of NCDs and this, coupled with an ageing population, signals a future increase in demand for health services.

Climate change poses the biggest threat to the survival of Tokelau and underpins all aspects of its development. Tokelau's intrinsic vulnerability is due to its inaccessibility, its proneness to natural disasters, and its meagre capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme events. All three atolls are situated in the tropical cyclone belt of the Pacific and are highly exposed to severe weather events and submersion due to rising sea levels.

¹⁶⁴ Government of Tokelau and UNDP, Tokelau MDG Report 2012.

¹⁶⁵ UN Women Asia and the Pacific - Tokelau.

The country's greatest natural asset, its marine resources, are already being depleted by overfishing and stocks are likely to decline further due to ocean acidification, rising water temperatures, coastal erosion, and environmental degradation. Without careful planning, the adverse impacts of climate change will damage local livelihoods, food and water security, and national revenue.

Tokelau has been at the forefront of calls to reduce global CO₂ emissions and is close to achieving an electricity supply based on 100 per cent renewable energy. The national government has demonstrated its commitment to protecting and preserving the delicate atoll and coastal ecosystems. A national waste management strategy was developed in partnership with Samoa to transport solid wastes, and in 2015 a national Climate Change Programme Manager was appointed to realign climate change with future national sustainable development priorities.

Coordination: UNV Manager of UN Programmes in Tokelau (Apia based), and support from RCO Samoa

Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2016-2020: "Healthy and active communities with opportunities for all"

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	PRIORITY AREA 5: Resilience against Climate Change and inter-related hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Tokelau to find new funding streams and partnerships for climate change adaptation. • Mainstream climate change and DRR into UN general development operations to ensure the most vulnerable groups are protected. • Increase integration of climate change, environment, and disaster risk management related goals with economic and social development goals to ensure initiatives reach the most vulnerable groups. • Integrate disaster risk management and climate change into programming to ensure balanced attention to both slow and sudden onset events.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	PRIORITY AREA 2: Infrastructure Development PRIORITY AREA 4: Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue keyhole gardening approaches.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment		
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services	PRIORITY AREA 3: Human Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how best to support the Tokelauan health strategy. • Provide ongoing technical support for polio vaccine supplies. • Mobilize resources to help support the long-term vision of Healthy and Active Communities with opportunities for all.
OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement	PRIORITY AREA 1: Good Governance and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to strengthen baselines and statistical analysis. • Adopt a ONE UN approach to help Tokelau refine its Good Governance programme and to strengthen its institutions.
OUTCOME 6: Human Rights		





Photo credit: UNDP



The Kingdom of Tonga is a Polynesian archipelago comprising 36 inhabited and 140 non-inhabited islands in the South Pacific. **Tonga is a constitutional monarchy and is unique among Pacific nations for having maintained its independence from colonial powers.** As a consequence, Tonga retains strong national customs, including traditional social hierarchies. Over the last decade the country has undergone historic reforms to become a modern democracy. Elections were first held in 2010.

Tonga is a lower middle-income country with reasonable health and education status. Progress has been made toward attaining the MDGs, particularly in achieving universal primary education (MDG 2) and ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7). There is still work to be done to reduce poverty, realise gender equality, and combat NCDs. Whilst absolute poverty is not known in Tonga, increasing numbers of people are living below the basic needs poverty line; most severely on the outer islands. **This indicates growing inequality and worsening outcomes for the most vulnerable.**¹⁶⁶

Tonga is predominantly rural with five administrative divisions: Tongatapu (home to the capital Nuku'alofa), Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua, and Ongo Niua. Seventy per cent of the country's 106,000¹⁶⁷ live on the main island of Tongatapu and the remaining third are spread across 700,000 square kilometres. **A very high fertility rate of 3.9 per cent is offset by extreme outmigration, leading to modest population growth of 0.3 per cent.**¹⁶⁸ The movement of people from outer islands to urban areas, as well as high levels of emigration, and new waves of immigration, are changing the social dynamics of Tonga and in some instances undermining traditional support systems.¹⁶⁹

Tonga is reliant on external income through development assistance, loans, and overseas remittances from the large Tongan diaspora. The economy is dominated by the public sector with small amounts of private sector activity in construction, services, manufacturing, fisheries, forestry, and tourism. A large share of agricultural production is for subsistence and own production, engaging 60 per cent of the labour force¹⁷⁰ and providing almost 50 per cent of food consumption for the lowest decile¹⁷¹. **Most government services are funded by aid. Falling domestic revenue as a share of GDP indicates greater dependence on budget support in the short term.**¹⁷² A large number of Tongans participate in seasonal employment schemes in New Zealand and, to a lesser extent, in Australia.

Tonga has a mixed record on promoting gender equality and has not ratified CEDAW. No women were elected in the 2010 elections, but a woman member was appointed under the executive powers of the king. Women's work force participation is highest in the informal sector. Two of every three women report experiencing physical violence from someone other than their partner.¹⁷³ Ninety-eight per cent of births are attended by a skilled birth attendant.¹⁷⁴

Tonga lies on the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area of dynamic geological activity. It is ranked the second most vulnerable country to natural hazards (after Vanuatu). In 2009 a tsunami inundated the Niua islands, killing nine people and causing an estimated US\$10 million worth of damage to housing and infrastructure. In 2014 a category five cyclone hit the Ha'apai islands killing one person and destroying 1,000 buildings. Both hazards affected Tonga's economic, human, and natural environment, diverting energy and resources from the country's long-term development agenda. The effects of climate change are set to increase Tonga's susceptibility to disasters, which threatens all aspects of sustainable development in the Kingdom.

¹⁶⁶ The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on vulnerability and exclusion in a time of rapid change, UNDP, 2014.

¹⁶⁷ UNESCAP Tonga, 2016.

¹⁶⁸ Population and Development Profiles: Pacific Countries, UNFPA, 2014.

¹⁶⁹ Executive Summary, Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025.

¹⁷⁰ Tonga MDG Final Report, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, 2015.

¹⁷¹ The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on vulnerability and exclusion in a time of rapid change, UNDP, 2014.

¹⁷² Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025.

¹⁷³ National Study on Domestic Violence against Women, Ma'a Fa ne mo e Famili.

¹⁷⁴ Tonga Country Statistics, UNICEF, 2016.

Treaty Ratifications: ICERD, CRC

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNCDF, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNODC, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Tonga Joint Presence Office

Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015-2025 (TSDF II) “A More Progressive Tonga: Enhancing Our Inheritance”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Natural Resource and Environment Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase support for chemical and waste management. • Continue climate change adaptation and mitigation projects. • Integrate health and environment programming.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality		
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Economic Institutions Infrastructure and Technology Inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve coordination and dialogue to enhance engagement with stakeholders (government, private sector, NGOs, CSOs, faith based organizations). • Increase access to resources, programmes, new ideas, and grants. • Support youth participation in agriculture and other sectors to address youth unemployment. • Help to develop a National Labour Framework to support decent work strategies and improve collaboration and coordination in the sector. • Strengthen institutional capacity and communication technologies for emergency and disaster preparedness including geo-spatial information systems and early warning systems to disseminate essential warnings and advice to communities.
OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services	Social Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to quality health, education, decent work, water and sanitation, and other basic services. • Assist with research, policy development, and planning for population challenges. • Support quality education for all. • Promote gender equality. • Assist youth resource development. • Protect children. • Encourage sport and healthy lifestyles. • Strengthen capacity and provide technical assistance to Government and relevant social agencies in health, education, gender, internal affairs, and statistics.

OUTCOME 5:
Governance
and Community
Engagement

Political Institutions

- Support development of sector plan, “Law, Justice, and Good Governance Roadmap”.
- Improve the enabling environment for better access to justice.
- Strengthen institutional capacity and public confidence in law and order.
- Support community safety through technical assistance to ministries responsible for policing, fire services, and prisons.
- Help deliver a civic education programme to educate local communities about the functions of political institutions and ways to access public resources.

OUTCOME 6:
Human Rights



Photo credit: UNDP





TUVALU

Tuvalu is a Polynesian micro-state comprising nine dispersed, low lying islets and atolls in the South Pacific Ocean. **It is one of the smallest and most isolated countries in the world.** Formerly a British colony that included the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati), Tuvalu achieved independence in 1978. More than half of Tuvalu's 11,000 people live on Funafuti, the main island. The remaining islands are sparsely populated and some reefs are inaccessible to large boats.

Tuvalu is classified as a Least Developed Country (LDC), but has met the threshold for graduation to developing country status based on its human development indicators and high per capita income. **Life expectancy and adult literacy are comparatively high for the region.**¹⁷⁵ The country has requested a postponement to its LDC graduation because of extreme economic exposure and the immediate threat of climate change and natural disasters. The Global Financial Crisis reversed earlier gains to reduce poverty when household incomes fell because of decreased overseas worker remittances.¹⁷⁶ **Poverty has increased in the last decade,**¹⁷⁷ particularly in urban areas.

Around three quarters of the labour force works in the informal economy, primarily subsistence farming and fishing. Most of the islands are built on coral and are not suitable for crop production beyond household needs. Historically, Tuvaluan men have found employment as seamen on foreign cargo vessels, but there are few current employment opportunities for a range of economic and social reasons.¹⁷⁸ Underemployment, particularly of young people in the outer islands, has fuelled the increasing urbanisation of Funafuti. High population density is placing extreme pressure on the fragile environment while depopulation is hindering development of the outer islands.¹⁷⁹

Tuvalu has few exports and depends on revenues from fishing license fees, overseas remittances, dividends from the Tuvalu Trust Fund, and income from rent of the "dot tv" Internet extension.¹⁸⁰ **Overseas aid provides around fifty per cent of GDP.** The public sector is large and most enterprises are state owned. Tuvalu's remoteness from major markets, its lack of scale, weak institutional capacity, banking sector vulnerabilities, income growth volatility, and high debt stress constitute tremendous challenges for sustainable growth.¹⁸¹

Tuvalu has achieved gender parity in primary education although there is some concern that fewer boys are accessing secondary and tertiary education levels. **Women's participation in the paid labour market is increasing, including a high number of women in the public service.** Since independence, only three women have held seats in the Tuvalu Parliament. **More than 46 per cent of women report experiencing some form of gender based violence.**¹⁸²

There are no rivers or streams on the islands and the groundwater supply is brackish and generally not safe for consumption. **During periods of drought, water security is a critical health issue in Tuvalu.**

Due to its low-lying geography, Tuvalu is at acute risk from natural disasters, including rising storm surges, cyclones, and tsunamis. **Seawater infiltration has already increased soil salinity, limiting the range of plants that can be grown on the islands.** Increased water temperatures and ocean acidification have affected coral ecosystems that serve as fish nurseries, making it harder for Tuvaluans to catch and eat fish. Worsening environmental conditions are increasing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity.

¹⁷⁵ ILO Decent Work Country Programme, Tuvalu, 2010-2012.

¹⁷⁶ MDG Tracker 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

¹⁷⁷ The State of Human Development in the Pacific: Vulnerability in a time of rapid change, UNDP, 2014.

¹⁷⁸ Population and Development Profile: Asia Pacific Countries, UNFPA, 2014.

¹⁷⁹ ibid

¹⁸⁰ Fact Sheet- Tuvalu ADB, 2016.

¹⁸¹ IMF Country Report- Tuvalu 12/243 August 2014.

¹⁸² Demographic and Household Study, Tuvalu.

The Government and the people of Tuvalu are highly cognisant of the potential long-term negative impact of climate change on their country. The Tuvalu Survival Fund (TSF) was created in 2015 to finance recovery and rehabilitation from climate change impacts and natural disasters.

Treaty Ratifications: CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, ICADS

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Tuvalu Joint Presence Office

Te Kakeega III National Strategy for Sustainable Development “The TKIII vision foresees a more protected, secure and prosperous Tuvalu; healthier people who are more engaged in national, regional and international forums; and a government fully committed to honouring Tuvalu’s commitments and respecting its partnerships.”

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	<p>Strategic Area 1: Climate Change</p> <p>Strategic Area 8: Natural Resources</p> <p>Strategic Area 12: Oceans and Seas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase national disaster preparedness. • Build understanding of and access to resources for disaster response. • Provide technical assistance to translate and localise Paris Agreement into national climate change legislation. • Support Tuvalu to meet obligations under the resolution to protect rights of people displaced by the effects of climate change. • Provide technical support to develop an insurance facility as a measure for risk transfer due to damage and loss. • Provide technical assistance to continue work in ecosystem resilience, marine protection. • Provide expertise on options for the establishment of a Tuvalu Centre of Excellence on Research on Oceans and Climate Change to inform policies to protect and save the ocean and seas. • Provide technical support to youth to participate in decision-making processes at all levels to ensure that the world we have today cannot leave youth behind. • Provide technical support to develop Tuvalu’s Building Code and climate proofing of infrastructure in all areas.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	Strategic Area 3: Economic Growth and Stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to promote gender equality.

<p>OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment</p>	<p>Strategic Area 3: Economic Growth and Stability</p> <p>Strategic Area 5: Falekaupule and Island Development</p> <p>Strategic Area 6: Private Sector, Employment and Trade</p> <p>Strategic Area 11: Migration and Urbanization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the gap in the inequality of access to opportunities, especially in the outer islands. • Youth development and protection: Provide support to formulate and implement legislation and policies to strengthen youth development. • Finance a Youth Recreational Centre to promote income generation and youth development, including developing life skills. • Strengthen Public Health through greater integration of NCDs and communicable diseases, in particular to address high NCDs, high prevalence of STIs (Chlamydia), cervical cancer, youth sexual and reproductive health, TB, and leprosy. It is proposed that UN agencies integrate interventions through joint programmes. • Climate Change and Health: UN can support preparedness and response to disasters. Capacity is limited during these times and UN can help with additional human capacity, psychological counselling, provision of medicines, and supporting health facilities to be more resilient. • Support vulnerable populations (women, children, people living with disabilities, the elderly) to access basic services. • Support the education rights of persons with disabilities (school registration). • Provide protection and access to services to persons with disabilities and the elderly. • Provide capacity building to make social services more inclusive and more responsive to the most vulnerable. • Help to implement the Family Protection Act. • Provide capacity development and South-South Cooperation, particularly Pacific-to-Pacific cooperation and between SIDS, in the area of violence against women and children.
<p>OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services</p>	<p>Strategic Area 7: Education and Human Resource</p>	
<p>OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Strategic Area 2: Good Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review national constitution, looking at ways to improve human rights, and articulate customs and values. • Law and Order: Improve the capacity of law enforcement officers through training in public law and public relations. • Support judiciary services for case management, independence and impartiality/ethics. • Improve access to services by increasing the technical capacity of the People’s Lawyer’s Office. • Support public sector reform to improve the quality of service provided by the Government.
<p>OUTCOME 6: Human Rights</p>		



Photo Credit: FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands.



VANUATU

The Republic of Vanuatu is a culturally and linguistically diverse nation of 83 volcanic and coral islands in the South Pacific. **A 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey estimated the average of basic needs poverty at 13 per cent of the population.**¹⁸³ Overall, basic needs poverty is decreasing, however there are indications that hardship is growing for vulnerable groups, particularly in Luganville, the country's second largest city. Vanuatu is currently defined as a Least Developed Country, but is scheduled for graduation to Developing Country status in 2020.¹⁸⁴

Vanuatu has one of the highest population growth rates in the region, with growing demand for public services. Around 80 per cent of Vanuatu's 288,000 people live in rural areas where subsistence livelihoods and traditional community welfare obligations provide an informal social safety net. The rural majority experiences "poverty of opportunity" with reduced access to education, healthcare, improved water supply, transport, communications, and energy. The internal movement of rural Ni-Vanuatu seeking better opportunities is seeing the emergence of squatter settlements in urban areas and is leading to overcrowding and over-exploitation of local resources. Urban poverty is contributing to a range of social problems including substance abuse, property crime, and transactional sex as well as poorer health outcomes, including unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, domestic violence, and child malnutrition.

Vanuatu shares many of the economic vulnerabilities of other Pacific Islands countries, including distance from markets, a narrow resource base, low productivity, and difficulty integrating into the global economy. However, **Vanuatu has generally outperformed its neighbours** with tourism, construction, and development partner funded infrastructure projects emerging as key economic drivers. Low inflation, macroeconomic stability, and prudent fiscal policies have helped Vanuatu to consistently achieve GDP growth. Despite the immediate downturn following Cyclone Pam, the economy is performing better than expected.¹⁸⁵ **The informal economy showed great resilience during the Global Financial Crisis** and helped to protect Vanuatu from the full impact of higher commodity prices.

Over half of Ni-Vanuatu are under 25 years old and this young and dispersed population presents both opportunities and challenges. The job growth rate has not kept pace with the growing working age population and absorbing school leavers into the labour market is a key concern. **Vanuatu continues to have a high rate of adolescent births** with fertility highest among poorly educated rural women aged 15-19. Child survival has improved significantly thanks to strong public health interventions, but **child malnutrition is still unacceptably high.** One in five Ni-Vanuatu children are stunted due to poor child feeding practices, low levels of breastfeeding, low rates of immunisation, and poor sanitation.¹⁸⁶ **Immunisation rates are amongst the lowest in the region,** making Ni-Vanuatu children especially vulnerable to vector-borne and communicable diseases. Net enrolment rates have increased since the Government introduced fee free primary level schooling.

While there have been some significant achievements, the challenges to improve all development indicators for women remain. There are very low levels of women's representation in national, provincial, and municipal government. Enrolment for girls in primary and secondary education is high, but women have reduced access to post-secondary training. Land tenure is patrilineal and levels of labour force participation are lower for women in both rural and urban areas.

¹⁸³ Vanuatu Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2010.

¹⁸⁴ UN General Assembly Resolution, 2015.

¹⁸⁵ ADB Economic Outlook, Vanuatu, 2016.

¹⁸⁶ Children in Vanuatu: 2011 An Atlas of Social Indicators, UNICEF.

Sixty per cent of women report experiencing some form of gender based violence. Maternal mortality has not yet met national targets and there is an unmet need for family planning of between 20 and 30 per cent.¹⁸⁷

Vanuatu is considered the world's most at-risk nation to natural disasters. In 2015, Cyclone Pam, one of the worst natural disasters ever to hit Vanuatu, caused widespread damage to 22 islands and 166,000 people (two thirds of the population) required urgent humanitarian assistance. Severe weather events are expected to increase in frequency and intensity as a result of climate change and threaten the social and economic progress of Vanuatu.

Treaty Ratifications: ICCPR, CEDAW, CAT, CRC, CRPD, OP-CEDAW OP-CRC-AC, OP-CRC-SC, CCPWCNH, CSICH, ICADS

Resident and Non-resident Agencies: FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO

Coordination: Vanuatu Joint Presence Office

Vanuatu 2030: "The People's Plan"

ALIGNMENT OF COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

UNPS Outcomes	Country Development Strategy Priority/Pillar	Identified Priorities 2018-2022
OUTCOME 1: Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on equitable distribution of resources. • In the context of natural disasters and climate variability, improve water and food security. • Support the strengthening of ICT and innovative ways to collect and manage data to inform planning and policy development in primary sectors, including agriculture and forestry. • Ensure direct access to external resourcing in disasters and use local implementing agencies to reduce costs. • Help develop stronger and clearer guidelines for managing development and humanitarian funds.
OUTCOME 2: Gender Equality	Society	<p>Gender Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create enabling environments to encourage women's participation in decision-making at all levels.
OUTCOME 3: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment	Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Vanuatu to find a balance between economic growth and maintaining eco-livelihoods. • Economically empower people and find, strengthen, and harness economic opportunities for rural people, women, and youth. • Increase access to credit. • Create opportunities for entrepreneurship and provide business mentoring. • Strengthen partnerships and collaboration between the private sector, Government agencies, and Government vocational institutions. • Focus on the productive sector, especially goods processing and value chain development. • Improve the accessibility to and sustainability of funding to finance economic diversification. • Review regional trade agreements.

¹⁸⁷ Vanuatu: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Needs Assessment, PSRHP and UNFPA Pacific, 2016.

<p>OUTCOME 4: Equitable Basic Services</p>	<p>Society</p>	<p>Basic Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to basic needs (water, food, shelter) and essential services (health, education, protection) for all Ni-Vanuatu. • Improve water security and sanitation for households, schools, and health clinics. • Ensure essential services can be accessed during crises. • Provide financial and technical support for population challenges including NCDs, maternal, child, and adolescent health.
<p>OUTCOME 5: Governance and Community Engagement</p>	<p>Society</p>	<p>Stronger Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the decentralisation of government to empower rural people. • Assist the civil service with human resource management and performance monitoring. • Assist in the development of a National Human Resource Development Plan. • Provide support to gather population data for budgeting and planning. • Assist with the completion of population mapping through registration of births and deaths. • Increase harmonisation across health and education service sectors and support more cooperation and integration among all donors. • Help Vanuatu with implementing and reporting of its obligations under international human rights treaties. • Ensure equitable access to justice.
<p>OUTCOME 6: Human Rights</p>		



Varanise Maisamoa - the Rakiraki Market Vendor Association President ceremonially pouring concrete for the construction of the new market.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for the new cyclone resistant market in Rakiraki.

Photo credit: UN Women/Ariana Yett

ANNEX 3: PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES

The Governments participating in the UNPS 2018-2022 will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this UNPS and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector, both internationally and in the Pacific Region, or individual programming countries; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations in the Pacific Region or in individual programming countries to support this programme, which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

The Governments will honour their commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Governments shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Governments shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Governments will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Governments shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by individual Governments.

- (a) "Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".
- (b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

HARMONISED APPROACHES TO CASH TRANSFERS

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organizations within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies, and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organizations within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from a UN organization will provide the UN system agency or agencies or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial record, which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by relevant UN system agencies together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and the relevant UN organizations. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the relevant UN organizations that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the relevant UN organizations.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.
- Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The Supreme Audit Institution may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific Implementing Partners to the frequency and scope requires by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services.

Audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the work plans (WPs) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

For those countries where it has been agreed that cash will be transferred to institutions other than the Implementing Partner (e.g., the Treasury).

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. *Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:*
 - a. *Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or*
 - b. *After activities have been completed (reimbursement).*
2. *Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.*
3. *Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.*

Where cash transfers are made to the Regional Organizations, that Regional Organization shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner in accordance with the Project Cooperation Agreement.¹⁸⁸

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹⁸⁹ Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In the case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the implementing Partner.

In the case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within an agreed number of days.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third party vendor.

¹⁸⁸ Project Cooperation Agreement is an intergovernmental organization agreement between UN agencies and regional bodies.

¹⁸⁹ For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

Where UN system agencies provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring, and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

Implementing partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/contracts with the UN system agencies'
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies, standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring.
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

In the Pacific context UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF apply Harmonised Approaches to Cash Transfers (HACT) and the following is therefore relevant. Where an assessment of the Public Financial Management system has confirmed that the capacity of the Supreme Audit institution is high and willing and able to conduct scheduled and special audits the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses to undertake the audits of specific implementing partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services. Where no assessment of the Public Financial Management Capacity has been conducted, or such as assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution the audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.



Photo Credit: UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office.



International
Day of Rural Women
November 2016
gleaners & market vendors
CONTINUING MARKET BUSINESS EDUCATION
(CMBE)

UN WOMEN
Australian Aid
Westpac
UNDP
Markets for Change Project
Economic Security and Rights of Market Vendors
Continuing Market Business Education

Photo credit: UNDP

ANNEX 4:

LEGAL/PARTNERSHIP CLAUSES

The legal annex establishes the relationship between each UN system agency and the 14 individual PICTs. The legal annex references the cooperation or assistance agreements in place to manage the relationship between PICT Governments and each UN organization, which in turn establishes the legal basis for the implementation of the UNPS by the UNCT.



COOK ISLANDS

Whereas the Government of Cook Islands (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government of New Zealand and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)) which was signed by both parties on 28 June 1963. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 8 September 1997.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 28 June 1963 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Cook Islands and UNFPA
- d) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures FAO, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO, WMO.

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



FIJI

Whereas the Government of Fiji (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)) which was signed by both parties on 30 October 1970 and the Letter of Agreement dated 1 November 1975. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 2 October 1972.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 30 October 1970 and the exchange of letters between the Government and **UNFPA**, 10 July 2008 constitute the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Fiji and UNFPA
- d) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Fiji on 6 June 2015.
- e) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures **IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNESCO, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UN-Habitat, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WFP, WMO**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Whereas the Government of Federate States of Micronesia (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)) which was signed by both parties on 2 December 2008. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.

- b) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 2 December 2008 and the exchange of letters between the Government and **UNFPA**, 28 August 2008 constitute the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Federated States of Micronesia and UNFPA
- c) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures **FAO, IOM, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO, WMO**

The UNPS will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



KIRIBATI

Whereas the Government of **Kiribati** (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 29 July 1987. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 25 June 2008
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 29 July 1987 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Kiribati and UNFPA
- d) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures **FAO, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNISDR, UNESCAP, UN Women, WHO, WMO**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



NAURU

Whereas the Government of **Nauru** (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)) [or other agreement depending on country], which was signed by both parties on 3 February 2012. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 21 May 2004.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 3 February 2012 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Nauru and UNFPA
- d) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures **FAO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO.**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



NIUE

Whereas the Government of Niue (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government of New Zealand and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 28 June 1963 Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.

- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF 30 July 2004.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 28 June 1963 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Niue and UNFPA
- d) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures **FAO, IAEA, OECD, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNISDR, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, WMO.**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



PALAU

Whereas the Government of Palau (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 18 July 2008. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 6 October 1997.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 18 July 2008 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Palau and UNFPA
- d) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures **FAO, IAEA, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNISDR, UNODC, UNOCHA, UN Women, WHO.**

The UNPS will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

Whereas the Government of Republic of Marshall Islands (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 14 January 1994. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 14 January 1994 and the exchange of letters between the Government and **UNFPA**, dated 12 October 2011, constitute the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Republic of Marshall Islands and UNFPA.
- c) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures **FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UN Environment, UNICEF, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WHO.**

The UNPS will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



SAMOA

Whereas the Government of Samoa (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 5 September 2008. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 15 August 1997.
- c) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation and FAO Sub Regional Office for the Pacific Islands in Samoa on 10 January 1996.

- d) With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO), the Agreement for establishing and operating the UNESCO Office for the Pacific States on 16 November 1983.
- e) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures **IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNISDR, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Whereas the Government of **Solomon Islands** (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 4 April 1986. Based on Article 1, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 22 May 2008.
- d) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 4 April 1986 and the exchange of letters between the Government and **UNFPA** dated 14 November 2006, constitute the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Solomon Islands and UNFPA
- e) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Solomon Islands on 11 May 2015.
- f) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures **IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO.**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



TOKELAU

Whereas the Government of Tokelau (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government of New Zealand and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 28 June 1963. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 6 September 2004.
- c) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures **FAO, UNESCO, UNISDR, UN Women, UNV, WHO**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



TONGA

Whereas the Government of Tonga (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 28 January 2013. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 10 October 1997.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 28 January 2013 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Tonga and UNFPA

- d) With **UNIDO** the Agreement between the Government of Tonga and [MOFCOM] for the establishment of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency established in April 2017.
- e) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Tonga on 18 June 2013.
- f) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures **IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNCDF, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UNODC, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO.**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



TUVALU

Whereas the Government of Tuvalu (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 16 January 1979. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children's Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 12 September 1995.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 16 January 1979 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Tuvalu and UNFPA
- d) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures **FAO, ILO, UN Environment, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNISDR, UN Women, WHO, WMO**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



VANUATU

Whereas the Government of Vanuatu (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the **United Nations Development Programme** (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)), which was signed by both parties on 27 March 1984. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this UNDAF together with a work plan (which shall form part of this UNDAF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the **United Nations Children’s Fund** (UNICEF) a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 24 January 1994.
- c) The Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme, dated 24 February 2009 constitutes the legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Vanuatu and UNFPA.
- d) With the **Food and Agriculture Organization** of the United Nations the Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Vanuatu on 10 October 2013.
- e) For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures, **IAEA, IFAD, ILO, IOM, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UN Environment, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNISDR, UNOCHA, UN Women, WFP, WHO, WMO,**

The UNDAF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.



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