



UNITED NATIONS  
PACIFIC



# UNITED NATIONS PACIFIC SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2023-2027



## United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027

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

All rights are reserved, however the document may be freely reviewed, quoted, reproduced, or translated in part or in full provided that the source is acknowledged.

United Nations in the Pacific (2022)

### UN Multi-Country Office Fiji

Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga,  
Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Level 8 Kadavu House,  
414 Victoria Parade,  
Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji  
Phone: +679 331-2500  
Email: rco.fiji@un.org

### UN Multi-Country Office Micronesia

Palau, Federated States of Micronesia,  
Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati

J&T Building, Kaselehlie Street,  
P.O. Box 2466,  
Kolonía, Pohnpei,  
Federated States of Micronesia 96941  
Phone: +691 320-2435

### UN Multi-Country Office Samoa

Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau  
One UN House, SIDS Street,  
Tuanaimato, Private Mail Bag,  
Apia, Samoa

Phone: +685 23670  
Fax: +685 23555

[www.pacific.un.org](http://www.pacific.un.org)

[www.micronesia.un.org](http://www.micronesia.un.org)

[www.samoa.un.org](http://www.samoa.un.org)

Cover Photo credit: Kiribati. Young footballers dance with a girl in traditional dress at a UNFPA-supported tournament.



A Fijian woman swipes her e-transport bus card in Suva. Credit: UNCDF Pacific



Photo credit: UNICEF Kiribati

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures	4
Signature Page - Government Partners	5
Signature Page - United Nations	6
Executive Summary	11
List of Acronyms	14
<hr/>	
<b>CHAPTER 1: Introduction: Rationale for a Pacific UNSDCF</b>	<b>17</b>
<hr/>	
<b>CHAPTER 2: Regional Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda</b>	<b>21</b>
<hr/>	
<b>CHAPTER 3: UN Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda</b>	<b>27</b>
3.1 From CCA to Cooperation Framework Priorities	29
3.2 Theory of change for the Cooperation Framework's Priorities	30
3.3 Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships	38
3.3.1 Cooperation Framework outcome 1: Planet	39
3.3.2 Cooperation Framework outcome 2: People	47
3.3.3 Cooperation Framework outcome 3: Prosperity	54
3.3.4 Cooperation Framework outcome 4: Peace	60
<hr/>	
<b>CHAPTER 4: Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan</b>	<b>69</b>
4.1 Cooperation Framework Governance	71
4.2 Cooperation Framework Management Structure	72
4.3 Resourcing the Cooperation Framework	74
4.4 Derivation of UN Entity Country Programming Instruments from the Cooperation Framework	74
4.5 Country Implementation Plans	75
4.6 Business Operations Strategy to support the Cooperation Framework	75
<hr/>	
<b>CHAPTER 5: CCA Update, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan</b>	<b>77</b>
5.1 Updates of the UN Common Country Analyses	79
5.2 Monitoring the Realization of Country Implementation Plans	79
5.3 Annual Performance Review and Reporting on Country/Regional Results	80
5.4 Evaluation Plan	80
<hr/>	
<b>CHAPTER 6: ANNEXES</b>	<b>83</b>
6.1 Results Framework	84

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Snapshot of SDG progress in Pacific, 2021	25
Figure 2	Mapping of UNSDCF Priorities' contribution to Key Regional Strategies and Frameworks	30
Figure 3	Overall UNSDCF Theory of Change	36
Figure 4	Pillars' contribution to SDGs and their interconnectedness	38
Figure 5	Planet Pillar Theory of Change	44
Figure 6	People Pillar Theory of Change	52
Figure 7	Prosperity Pillar Theory of Change	58
Figure 8	Peace Pillar Theory of Change	66
Figure 9	UNSDCF Governance and Management Structure	73



Photo credit: WHO Kiramat

# GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

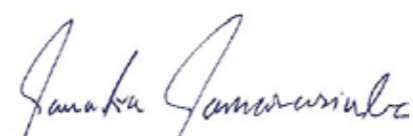
## SIGNATURE PAGE

  <b>Ms. Tapaeru Herrman</b> Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration Cook Islands	  <b>Hon. Kitlang Kabua</b> Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Marshall Islands
  <b>Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum</b> Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development Republic of Fiji	  <b>Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa</b> Prime Minister of Samoa
  <b>Hon. Kandhi A. Elieisar</b> Secretary of Foreign Affairs Federated States of Micronesia	  <b>Hon. Rexon Ramofafia</b> Minister for National Planning and Development Coordination Solomon Islands
  <b>Dr. Teuea Toatu</b> Honorable Vice President and Minister of Finance and Economic Development. Republic of Kiribati	  <b>Mr. Aukusitino Vitale</b> General Manager National Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau
  <b>Hon. Russ Joseph Kun</b> President of the Republic of Nauru	  <b>Hon. Fekitamoelea Katoa Útoikamanu</b> Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism Kingdom of Tonga
  <b>Hon. Crossley Tatui</b> Minister of Infrastructure and Finance Niue	  <b>Hon. Simon Kofe</b> Minister of Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs Tuvalu
  <b>Hon. Gustav Aitaro</b> Minister of State Republic of Palau	  <b>Hon. Jotham Napat</b> Acting Prime Minister / Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade Republic of Vanuatu

# UN AGENCIES FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES AND DEPARTMENTS OR UN ENTITIES

	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)		United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)		United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
	International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)		United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)		United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)
	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
	International Labour Organisation (ILO)		United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)		United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
	International Organisation for Migration (IOM)		UN Environment (UNE)		United Nations Volunteer Programme (UNV)
	International Telecommunication Union (ITU)		United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)		United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)
	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)		United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		World Food Programme (WFP)
	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)		United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)		World Health Organisation (WHO)
	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)		United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)		World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
	United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)				

  
**Jaap van Hierden**  
 UN Resident Coordinator  
 Palau, Federated States of Micronesia,  
 Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati

  
**Sanaka Samarasinha**  
 UN Resident Coordinator  
 Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

  
**Simona Marinescu**  
 UN Resident Coordinator  
 Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau



Photo credit: UNCDF Pacific



Photo credit: UN - Samoa





**Jaap van Hierden**  
Resident Coordinator

Palau, Federated States of Micronesia,  
Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati



**Sanaka Samarasinha**  
Resident Coordinator

Fiji, Solomon Islands,  
Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu



**Simona Marinescu**  
Resident Coordinator

Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) represents “the most important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities” in a country. It outlines the UN development system’s contributions to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an integrated manner, with a commitment to Leave No One Behind (LNOB). In the Pacific, the UN system together with the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) resolved to develop an overarching Cooperation Framework in line with regional strategies, and in particular with the most recent 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. This framework captures high-level results to which the UN will contribute in the period 2023-2027. Such results will be further contextualised at the country level through Country Implementation Plans (CIPs), which will define UN actions and deliverables on the ground in order to progress towards these outcomes.

This framework has been developed during uncertain times. The world is still striving to recover from the tremendous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been eroding multilateralism and democratic governance and hit the Pacific hard in socio-economic terms. The triple planetary crisis (pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss) is posing existential threats to the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and changes are, to a certain extent, beyond adaptation capacities. The Ukraine - Russia war is triggering a global tri-dimensional threat to food, energy and finance, which exacerbate outstanding vulnerabilities for the region. At the same time striving to economically recover from the pandemic, there is a concrete risk of undermining environmental gains and protection. Against this background the UN together with national and regional partners, has developed change pathways towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda articulated around its main pillars, i.e. People,

Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership (featuring as enablers and means of implementation of programmes to be developed under each of the other thematic areas). Such pathways start with taking into consideration the structural vulnerabilities of the Pacific countries as SIDS and passes through some key transformative actions with regards to the food systems, resilience to climate change, digitalization, innovative financing, and gender equality.

The Theory of Change underpinning this CF also recognizes that PICTs progress towards the SDGs cannot happen unless global, regional and national efforts converge towards overcoming the impact of the pandemic, enhancing resilience to shocks and adapting to climate change for which restructuring of global debt, access to vaccination and adequate healthcare, halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 are key prerequisites. More specifically, this CF aspires to contribute to a Pacific region where **“All people, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent.”**



To progress towards this vision, the UN will contribute to changes in the economies of the PICTs, access and quality of social services, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and governance systems and processes. The focus will be on building resilience to **climate change** (through economic diversification and low-carbon solutions, resilient and shock-responsive social services and social protection measures, disaster-risk reduction strategies and infrastructures, and governance systems designed to promote and protect climate security); creating effective **food system** (through sustainable production, more efficient supply chains and market, as well as improved nutrition patterns); and sustain **gender equality and human rights** (through the promotion of

gender parity in governance, action to end violence and discrimination against women and to promote equal civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights). The key levers that the UN will activate as accelerators of change and means of implementation will be **digital transformation** (considered a fundamental element for the region towards inclusions, enhanced business ecosystems, and delivery of social services) and **innovative financing**, including based on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and promotion of blended finance. Likewise, the framework acknowledges the fundamental role of the region's biodiversity and natural resources to Pacific economies and cultures.

Great care has also been taken to mainstream LNOB, human rights and gender equality considerations throughout this Cooperation Framework, from its vision and theory of change, through outcomes and indicators, to commitments to track and report upon progress under CIPs, Joint and UN entity-specific programmes.

Following the global review of UN Multi-Country Offices (MCOs) and related recommendations, this

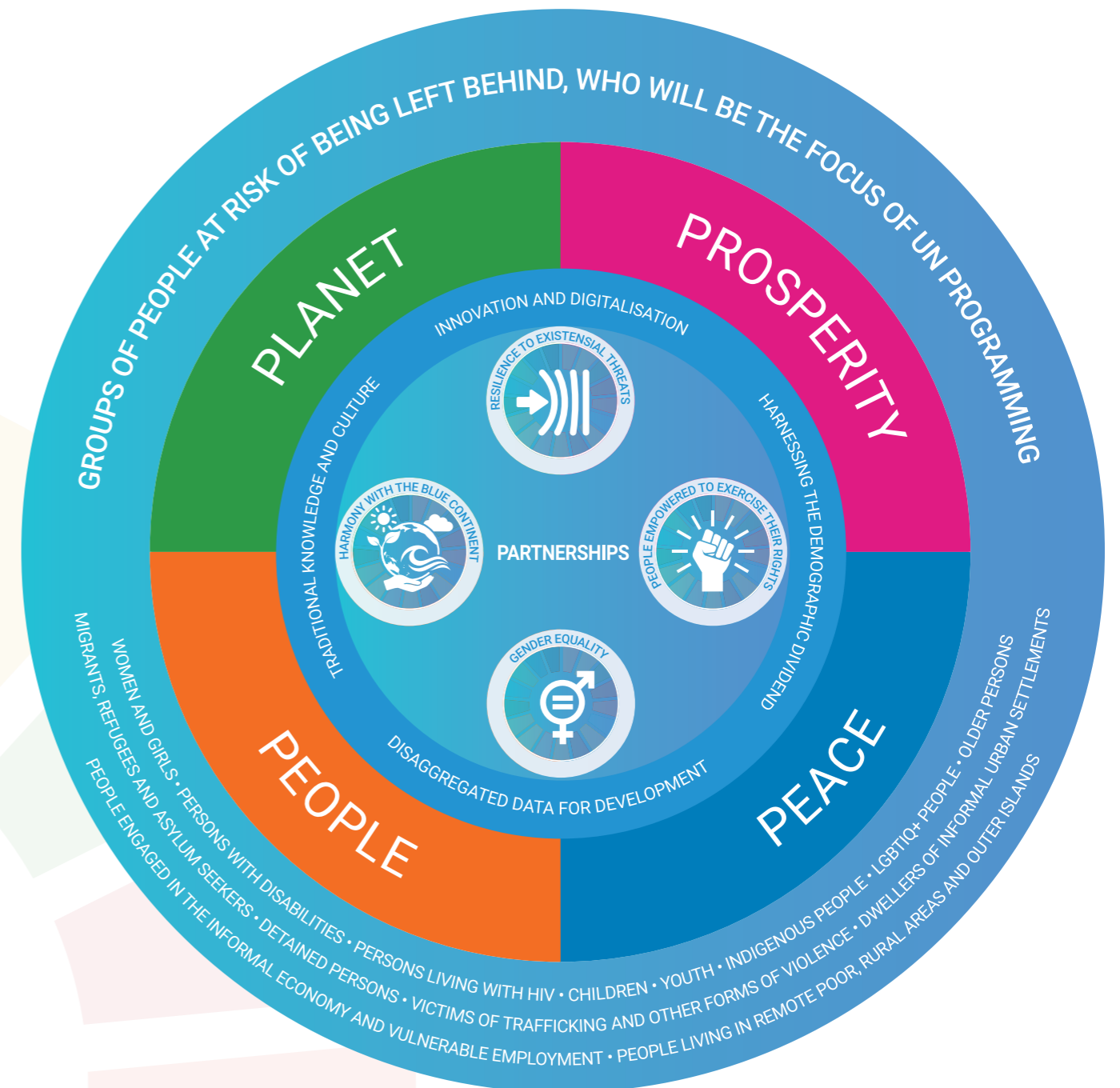
CF will be more firmly anchored to country level needs and structures. The Pacific CF will be thus translated into CIPs for each of the 14 PICTs and implemented by three UN Country Teams under the leadership of their respective UN Resident Coordinators: one in the Federated States of Micronesia (covering FSM, Palau, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati), another based in Fiji (covering Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu), and a third based in Samoa (covering Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau).

At the country level a Joint (UN-government) Steering Committee will oversee their implementation, while at regional level the UN will liaise with CROP agencies and civil society groups and ensure consistency, synergies and effectiveness through appropriate coordination mechanisms under each of the CF pillars and across them. Thematic groups on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Human Rights/LNOB will advise and support the UNCT and Results Groups on normative standards and frameworks to meet their respective gender and human rights mainstreaming responsibilities and monitor and review implementation progress and results.



Photo credit: © 2019 UNCDF

## UNSDCF VISION





# LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis
<b>CIP</b>	Country Implementation Plan
<b>CPD</b>	Country Programme Document
<b>CROP</b>	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
<b>DESA</b>	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>DHIS</b>	District Health Information Systems
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>DMEG</b>	Data Monitoring and Evaluation Group
<b>DP</b>	Development Partner
<b>EMIS</b>	Educational Management Information System
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FRDP</b>	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
<b>FSM</b>	Federated States of Micronesia
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HIES</b>	Health Information Exchange
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunication Union
<b>JME</b>	Joint child Malnutrition Estimates
<b>JSC</b>	Joint Steering Committee
<b>LM</b>	Line Ministry
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MDB</b>	Multi-lateral Development Bank
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
<b>MoV</b>	Means of Verification
<b>MVI</b>	Multidimensional Vulnerability Index
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institution
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>PICTs</b>	Pacific Island Countries and Territories

<b>PIF</b>	Pacific Islands Forum
<b>RG</b>	Results Group
<b>SAMOA</b>	SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Development State
<b>SPC</b>	Pacific Community
<b>SRMNCAH</b>	Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>UNCDF</b>	UN Capital Development Fund
<b>UNCG</b>	United Nations Communication Group
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIGME</b>	United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNSD</b>	United Nations Statistical Division
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Tourism Organization



## CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION: RATIONALE FOR A PACIFIC UNSDCF



Photo credit: UN Samoa

## CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION: RATIONALE FOR A PACIFIC UNSDCF

The United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for the Pacific 2023-27 is the fourth multi-country compact between the UN and the governments of the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)<sup>1</sup> reflecting the UN sub-regional architecture, the interaction with regional bodies and platforms, and Pacific Leaders' commitment to work together towards sustainable development, as enshrined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The Pacific Cooperation Framework also recognises the common challenges that the PICTs face as Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) captured in the SAMOA Pathway<sup>2</sup> and further analysed in the recent work on the definition of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), and the

integrated regionalism approach needed to overcome them. The UNSDCF also takes into consideration that different change pathways might be required to address such challenges across the region. To this extent the UNSDCF outlines a broad Theory of Change for UN strategic support in the region, which will be further articulated at country level, with specific Country Implementation Plans (CIPs). In line with the commitment to better respond to subregional priorities, the UN has also expanded its presence on the ground and is now operating out of Fiji, Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia, with Multi-Country Offices (MCOs) established in all three locations and represented by three UN Resident Coordinators (one for each MCO/sub-region)<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

<sup>2</sup> The SAMOA pathway identifies 16 priorities, namely Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, Disaster risk reduction, Oceans and seas, Food security and nutrition, Water and sanitation, Sustainable transportation, Sustainable consumption and production, Health and non-communicable diseases, Gender Equality and women's empowerment, Biodiversity, Invasive alien species, Management of chemicals and waste, Social Development, Means of implementation, including partnership.

<sup>3</sup> Up to 2021 there were only 2 UN Resident Coordinators based in Fiji and Samoa.



Photo credit: UNICEF Kiribati Earthday

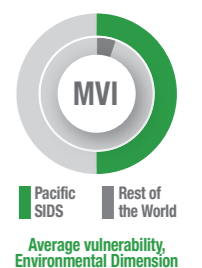
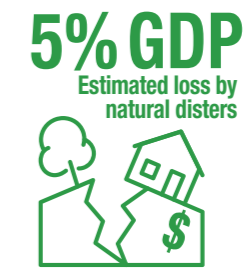
## CHAPTER 2

# REGIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA



## CHAPTER 2

# REGIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA



The countries of the Pacific share common root vulnerabilities related mainly to their SIDS status. These pertain to their geographic profile (remoteness and dispersion of population – 2.5 million over 14 countries and thousands of islands spread over the vast Ocean, limited land and small economies) as well as their exposure to existential threats (rising sea levels, vulnerability to climate change, seismic and hydro-meteorological hazards). Many PICTs also share structural challenges linked to high level of debt, limited economic resources, social norms and practices (leading to discrimination) as well as stagnating governance. Recent analysis<sup>4</sup> demonstrates the disproportionate vulnerability of SIDS compared to the rest of the world, in all its dimensions, structural, economic and environmental. The Pacific SIDS, on average scores higher than the other SIDS with relation to the economic and environmental dimensions.

The impact of the global COVID pandemic on the sustainable development trajectory of the PICTs has been significant and recovery efforts will continue during the timeframe of this CF. In particular the pandemic for the Pacific islands countries has meant loss of income and jobs, deteriorated fiscal balance, increased food insecurity, and the risk of undermining environmental gains and protection as well as democratic, accountable governance. The need for economic recovery and jobs creation will inevitably put pressure on sustainability as a focus on growth

risks reversing trends towards environmentally sustainable economies. Likewise, COVID response posed governance challenges, including diminished civic space, participation, and weaker accountability systems.

In spite of these commonalities the 'Blue Continent' is also very diverse, especially across its three main sub-regions: Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. Cultural traits, geopolitical sphere of influences, size of land masses, population growth and labour mobility vary across the subregions, as well as poverty levels (from a low rate of people living under the international poverty line of 0.8 in the Marshall Islands in 2019 to a high 25.1 in the Solomon Islands in 2013<sup>5</sup>), inequalities and overall human development.

Overall, the Pacific subregion is not on track to reach any of the SDGs<sup>6</sup>, as evidenced in Figure 1 below. First of all, it should be noted that data availability is an issue, with several of the SDGs being monitored only through few indicators, thus limiting their 'evidence strength' as visualised in the diagram. Secondly, the Pacific is not alone in the wider Asia-Pacific region in showing limited progress, if not a deterioration, in some critical areas, including Climate Action (SDG 13), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11). The picture arising from this multi-country snapshot is of growing inequalities (SDG 10), stagnating gender equality (SDG 5) and decent work and economic



Photo credit: IOM - Covid Support

growth (SDG 8). Although some advancement has been registered under SDG 5, progress in the region continues to be hampered by social, cultural and economic barriers<sup>7</sup>. Public investment in basic services remain insufficient affecting socioeconomic development goals such as poverty alleviation and social protection (SDG 1), education (SDG 4) and health (SDG 3)<sup>8</sup>. Many of the challenges facing the Pacific in the strive to make progress towards the SDGs are transboundary in nature, including climate change, disaster risk management and integrated oceans management, tackling non-communicable diseases, improving connectivity, food security, sustainable transportation, sustainable energy and tourism, waste management, and peaceful, safe communities and migration<sup>9</sup>.

Engagement with the international human rights mechanisms has steadily advanced. The Pacific has demonstrated leadership at the global level

advocating for a new Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur mandate, dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. However, there are outstanding human rights challenges in the region including: patchy ratification of the core HRs instruments and their operationalisation, and limited progression on the establishment and functioning of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and protection systems. Further action to reduce inequalities, advance non-discrimination and fundamental freedoms is needed.

Within the Pacific Island Countries and Territories there are groups of people that are more at risk of being left behind (these have been identified and reflected in the CF's overall Theory of Change, see Figure 3), whose vulnerabilities are underpinned by the structural challenges described above and further exacerbated by the impact of COVID.

<sup>4</sup> Sachs, Massa, Marinescu, Lafortune 2021, The Decade of Action and Small Island Developing States: Measuring and addressing SIDS' vulnerabilities to accelerate SDG progress, Working Paper, SDSN

<sup>5</sup> Source <https://pacificdata.org/dashboard/sdg-1-no-poverty>, accessed on 25 May 2022

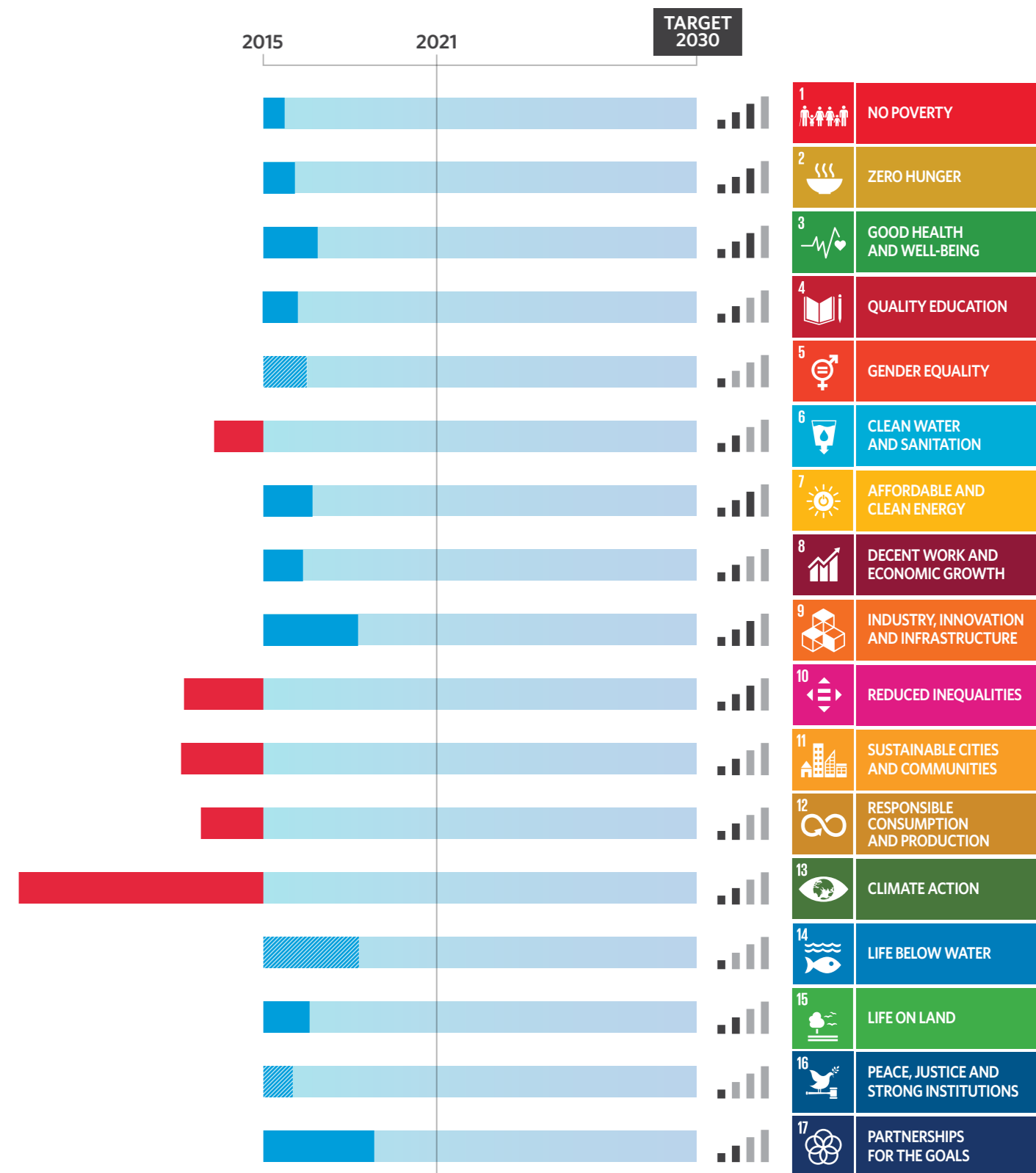
<sup>6</sup> Main source of reference is UNESCAP "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022"

<sup>7</sup> The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat 2020, "The 2020 Biennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report"

<sup>8</sup> UNESCAP 2022, op. cit.

<sup>9</sup> UN Multi-Country CCA 2022.

FIGURE 1  
SNAPSHOT OF SDG PROGRESS IN THE PACIFIC, 2021



■ Progress since 2015 ■ Regression ■ Insufficient indicators ■ Evidence Strength

Source: UNESCAP 2022. Asia and the Pacific SDG progress report 2022.



Photo credit: © 2019 UNCDF

## CHAPTER 3

# UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

## CHAPTER 3

# UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

## 3.1 FROM CCA TO COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES

In preparation for the design of this CF, the UN has prepared Common Country Analyses (CCAs) for each of the 14 PICTs, as well as multi-country Common Analysis building on the country-level findings and reflecting on the regional dimension of the challenges in progressing towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. These analytical documents provided the evidence for the identification of potential priorities for UN Pacific framework, which were analysed against the main Pacific regional institutions' strategies and frameworks. A number of key accelerators or drivers for change were identified and prioritised through a survey conducted among UNCT members assessing each accelerator against its "SDG acceleration potential"; the impact on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB); the overall likelihood that this priority would make a tangible difference within the timeframe of the UNSDCF cycle; and a clear mandate, role, capacities and added value of UN Agencies to deliver on the issue. These were grouped under four main outcome areas along with the 4 key "P's" of 2030 Agenda (People, Prosperity, Planet and Peace) as well as considered as critical cross-cutting development solutions in articulating the overall CF Theory of Change. In particular, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Human Rights were confirmed as fundamental development accelerators to be mainstreamed throughout the CF and related programmes.

In *Figure 2* is reported the alignment of the CF priorities with the main current regional strategies on sustainable development, namely 2050 Strategy for the Blue Continent, SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2030, and the Framework for Resilient Development in the

Pacific (FRDP) 2017-2030. As we can see there is a strong alignment in terms of identified priorities and drivers of change across all the four pillars of the CF. Further alignment with sector specific strategies and declarations was ensured under each outcome area.

Particular focus has been given to the alignment with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent developed by the Pacific Leaders, which lays out the long-term approach to regionalism in order to achieve their vision for "a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives". The four outcomes of the UN Pacific Cooperation Framework directly contribute to all of the seven thematic areas identified by the 2050 Strategy. There is also a strong and clear resonance between the "strategic pathways" outlined in the Pacific Leaders' strategy and the enablers and mainstreamed principles identified in this Framework (see next section), in particular with regards to "inclusion and equity" and "resilience and wellbeing".

These overall set of priorities, organised along the 4 Ps, were also the basis for consultations with national governments via JSCs, regional institutions (CROP agencies), civil society organisations, employers' and workers' organisations, and development partners, which led to further refinement of key change determinants for UN contribution.

The UNSDCF for the Pacific region has been designed building on the lessons-learned from the implementation of the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022. An independent evaluation, carried out in late 2021, noted the need for further engagement at the country level under the strategic programmatic chapeaux provided by the UNSDCF, and stronger coherence and coordination across UN agencies at regional and sub-regional level.



FIGURE 2 MAPPING OF UNSDCF PRIORITIES' CONTRIBUTION TO KEY REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND FRAMEWORKS

UNSDCF Outcomes	PEOPLE access and quality to essential services, social protection systems and nutrition	PROSPERITY equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods	PLANET resilience to shocks/CC and ecosystems restoration	PEACE peace, human rights, gender equality and participation
Regional Strategies and Frameworks				
2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent	Thematic Area on People-centred development	Thematic Areas on Resources and Economic Development; Technology and Connectivity	Thematic Areas on Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment	Thematic Areas on Political Leadership and Regionalism; Peace and Security
SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031	Focus Area 3 (Food Systems), 4 (Equity, education and social development), 6 (Planetary Health)	Focus Area 3 (Food Systems), 5 (Sustainable economies and livelihoods)	Focus Area 1 (Resilience and Climate Action), 2 (Natural resources and biodiversity), 3 (Food systems)	Focus Area 7 (Transforming Institutional Effectiveness)
Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-30		Goal 2 (Low Carbon Development)	Goal 1 (Strengthened Integrated Adaptation and Risk Reduction to Climate Change and Disasters). Goal 3 (Strengthened Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery)	



### 3.2 THEORY OF CHANGE FOR THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES

The Vision for the region that drives the design of the results for UN contribution in this CF is that by 2030:

**“All people in the Pacific, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent.”**

This aspirational statement was developed by the UNCT operating in the Pacific and captures the impact level results towards which the UN is committed to contribute to through the programmes that will be implemented in the period 2023-27 under this Cooperation Framework. It also clearly echo the above-mentioned vision of the Pacific Leaders for the future of their “Blue Continent”.

The theory of change leading to the fulfillment of this vision, is developed in the midst of uncertain times and growing threats: climate change trends are beyond adaptation capacities, the Russian war on Ukraine is projecting a tri-dimensional global crisis affecting food, energy and finance (which are already a source of PICTs’ insecurity), as well as threatening

multilateralism and democratic governance, while the impact of COVID is still affecting the region’s economic prospects and people’s health calling for actions to jump-start economies by any means (with the risk of missing opportunities for more sustainable options leading to lower carbon emissions which would have medium and long term implications for the region). The pandemic also exacerbated and revealed existing social, political and economic vulnerabilities and reversed some of the development gains made by the region.

As described above there are also some root challenges and vulnerabilities common to all PICTs, which will need to be kept into consideration during programming. In particular those connected to their status as SIDS are ‘given’ (dispersion of population and remoteness, limited land and rising sea levels, exposure to natural hazards); while others are embedded in the Pacific Islands’ socio-economic structure (high level of debts, limited resources and economic opportunities, some discriminatory social norms that subjugate women), and limited democratic tradition and accountability.

In order to fend off these challenges, the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) recognize the need for risk informed development strategies and to better manage their multidimensional vulnerabilities stemming from the smallness of their economies, their remote location far from bigger markets and their heightened exposure to climate change as islands, which significantly affect their capacity to absorb shocks, limit losses and achieve sustainable development. To reduce losses and strengthen resilience, PICTs need, inter-alia, access to adequate resources including concessional financing, insurance and compensation mechanisms, debt restructuring and relief, while better managing domestic resources and existing aid allocations. Through more effective management of financial, natural, human and productive resources, enhanced adoption of the digital services leveraging on technological innovations, strengthened and more inclusive governance structures, targeted focus on those at risk of being left furthest behind, and broader partnerships, PICTs will be able to address the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, provide more people with equitable opportunities for decent work and sustainable livelihoods, access to quality essential services and social protection benefits, that fully reflect human rights and the principles of non-

discrimination and gender equality. Towards that end, support to PICTs will be directed to effective disaster risk reduction and management, diversified, inclusive and low-carbon economies and sustainable food systems, by investing in preserving biodiversity and environmental conservation including protection of marine ecosystems. To enable economic and societal transformation and strengthen resilience, PICTs governance systems will need to be more inclusive, accountable, as well as be able to foster peace, social cohesion, social dialogue, and full exercise of human rights.

The ToC underpinning this CF also recognizes that PICTs progress towards the SDGs cannot happen unless global, regional and national efforts converge towards overcoming the impact of the pandemic, enhancing resilience to shocks and adapting to climate change for which restructuring of global debt, access to vaccination and proper healthcare, halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 are key prerequisites. The CF is thus designed based on the key assumption that if borders open and trade resumes, within and beyond the region, and if development financing is restructured to facilitate SIDS’ access to State-contingent debt instruments and concessional financing, PICTs will have a more conducive environment to recover and gradually



Photo credit: TUVALU 2015



Photo credit: UN Samoa

reverse the socio-economic impact of the pandemic; likewise If vaccination completes, treatment is made available and healthcare systems improve capacity to respond to COVID-19, then PICTs' Governments will gradually relax border restrictions and quarantine measures, enable tourism and trade to revamp, and thus improve fiscal stance.

The ToC for the CF articulates specific changes required under four key pillars of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (i.e., Planet, People, Prosperity and Peace) to move towards the set vision, while considering the external threats and endogenous vulnerabilities described above. The expected results under each of the pillars are people-centred, placing the well-being of current and future generation as the ultimate focus of any development change, thus working towards poverty eradication and equality:

1. Effective climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable management of biodiversity and the ecosystem will directly contribute to enhancing the resilience of the PICTs to existential threats as well as ensuring that Pacific future generations will be able to also enjoy its land and ocean resources. For **climate change adaptation and mitigation** to be effective, policies and initiatives should continue to be developed in consultation with people in the communities concerned and implemented with a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach, same applies to the overall **disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction** systems. If **ecosystem and biodiversity** are better managed,

protected and restored, people in the Pacific will be equally benefitting from their countries' natural resources, "without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"<sup>10</sup>.

2. Equality (including gender equality) and people's empowerment to exercise their rights can be achieved only if people have the capacities and conditions to express their full potential. In the Pacific this means for **essential services** (education, health, water and sanitation, as well as housing) and systems to be available and equitably accessible to all regardless of people's location, gender, age, and any other status. These include more inclusive and shock-responsive **social protection systems** that will guarantee that all people can meet their basic needs and can rely on effective social safety nets if affected by external shocks. As services are increasingly getting digital, leaving no one behind and increased focus on digital inclusion is necessary to pursue this goal. **Gender-based violence and violence against children** is acknowledged as a phenomenon that is hindering progress towards equality and negatively affecting not only the potential of victims to exercise their fundamental rights but also undermining productivity and resilience to disaster, while placing undue burdens on governance processes and service provision. To this extent drivers of violence and services for its prevention and response should be addressed and expanded, for GBV and VAC to be reduced over time. Last, but not least, people's

well-being and ability to express their full potential will be fulfilled if they embrace healthy diets. In order to ensure this, drivers of **food insecurity** and malnutrition shall be addressed.

3. A diversified, sustainable, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic system will contribute to reducing inequalities, ensure shared prosperity and ultimately eradicate poverty across the region, as it will provide job opportunities, while considering environmental sustainability, decent work, and food security. To be environmentally sustainable, the opportunities offered by the **green, blue and creative economy** should be effectively leveraged, sustainable **agri-food systems** pursued, and **low carbon development solutions** adopted. To have a human-centred socio-economic system that will ultimately contribute to ensure that people are empowered to exercise their rights, conditions need to be in place for more **equitable livelihoods and decent job opportunities** (including supporting international labour standards, fundamental principles and rights at work, equal pay across genders and adequate capacity and skills). Other two key preconditions to reach shared prosperity in the Pacific region, are bridging the **digital divide** (while accelerating digital transformation) and adequate **macroeconomic and fiscal management** which will provide the enabling environment and technological conditions for the socio-economic systems in the Pacific to sustain themselves and gradually transform.

4. Peace and inclusive institutions, gender equality, and human rights can be achieved if there are governance systems, safeguards and protection in place that are more accountable, inclusive, resilient, just and thus nurturing a political and social environment where people can safely and meaningfully participate in decision-making and feel empowered to exercise their rights. To make progress in this regard, the CF Theory of Change acknowledges the need in the Pacific to focus on more inclusive structures and process as a means to ensuring fundamental rights of association, expression and information and also addressing **climate and human security**, and promoting social dialogue and **social cohesion**. Having more **women and young people** in decision-making and **leadership** positions is considered a key prerequisite to more inclusive governance systems; the presence of more women and young people in such institutions is also expected to increase their accountability and effectiveness. Specific governance structures need to be strengthened in order for the overall governance system to function as an engine for change, including **multilevel governance institutions and processes** (to better deliver services and address transboundary issues) including civic space; national **human rights institutions and oversight systems** (to enhance transparency and accountability); and systems that promote **rule of law and access to justice**, including compliance with international human rights norms and labour standards.

The 'fifth P' of the 2030 Agenda, regarding partnerships (and thus the means for implementation of the overall sustainable development agenda) is captured in the CF ToC through the mainstreamed UN principles and levers. A set of **'enablers'**<sup>11</sup> to be properly leveraged in the design of specific programmes, have been identified in line with the cross-cutting challenges and opportunities outlined in the multi-country CCA. These include programmatic considerations regarding the demographic dividend (where relevant, as not all countries in the region feature the same population dynamics, but they all have a large young population), traditional knowledge and culture (considering the rich cultural diversity across the Pacific and how this can contribute to identify effective and sustainable development solutions), **innovation and digitalisation** (as possibly the single lever with highest transformational potential in the Pacific), and data disaggregation (for effective policy-making). Specific **means of implementation** have also been identified including development financing based on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, strengthening South-South and Triangular cooperation initiatives, engaging civil society and social partners, and ensuring capacity building across the board. The ToC also considers fundamental **cross-cutting principles** and how to reach those **groups of people at risk of being left behind**, who have been identified in the process and captured in the figure below. While the list of these groups is extensive, the intersectionality of their risk factors determines the identification of those at risk of being left furthest behind, e.g. women in rural areas or outer islands or children with disabilities, etc. In particular, **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**, a human **rights-based** approach to development solutions and building **resilience** are



Photo credit: Tuvalu

those transformational, cross-cutting accelerators which interconnect the four main results to be realised under this multi-country UNSDCF. These are reinforced by the core programmatic principle for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda calling for Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). The ToC underpinning this CF is firmly embedded in the understanding that only if women and girls are empowered to enjoy equal rights, opportunities and standing in Pacific societies, then the region will be better positioned to leverage the full potential of its population; only if women's and indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge are valued and considered, then can resilience to natural hazards and climate change be sustained; only if participation and fundamental freedoms are promoted and protected, then the region can further advance in its social and economic outcomes towards the achievement of the SDGs. The UN, with its normative role and programmatic principles is well positioned to support the PICTs in considering the gendered impact of their development programmes and plans and strengthen their national and regional governance systems to adopt a human rights-based approach across the board, in line with the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms.

The results that the UN and the 14 PICTs had planned to contribute to under the previous regional strategy (UNPS 2018-22) remain relevant and will continue to be the focus of this CF. However, results are now more firmly anchored towards the realization of a UN Vision for the Pacific, there is a new emphasis on economic transformation and resilient food systems, peace and social cohesion, while gender equality and human rights are embedded in the theory of change of each outcome area.



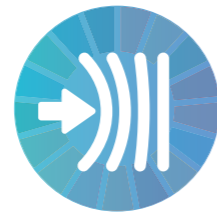
Photo credit: UN RMI Covid

<sup>10</sup> Brundtland Report, Our Common Future, 1987.

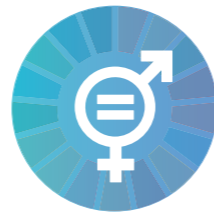
<sup>11</sup> An enabler, in this context, is an action or a strategy that will allow for change towards the set results to be realised.

FIGURE 3  
OVERALL UNSDCF THEORY OF CHANGE

# UNSDCF VISION



resilience to existential threats



gender equality



people empowered to exercise their rights



harmony with the blue continent



**ROOT CHALLENGES/ VULNERABILITIES**

- dispersion of population and remoteness
- limited size, arable land and water
- discriminatory social norms and practices affecting women empowerment, children neglect, discrimination LGBTIQ+
- limited resources and high public debt
- frequency and severity of hydrometeorological and seismic events

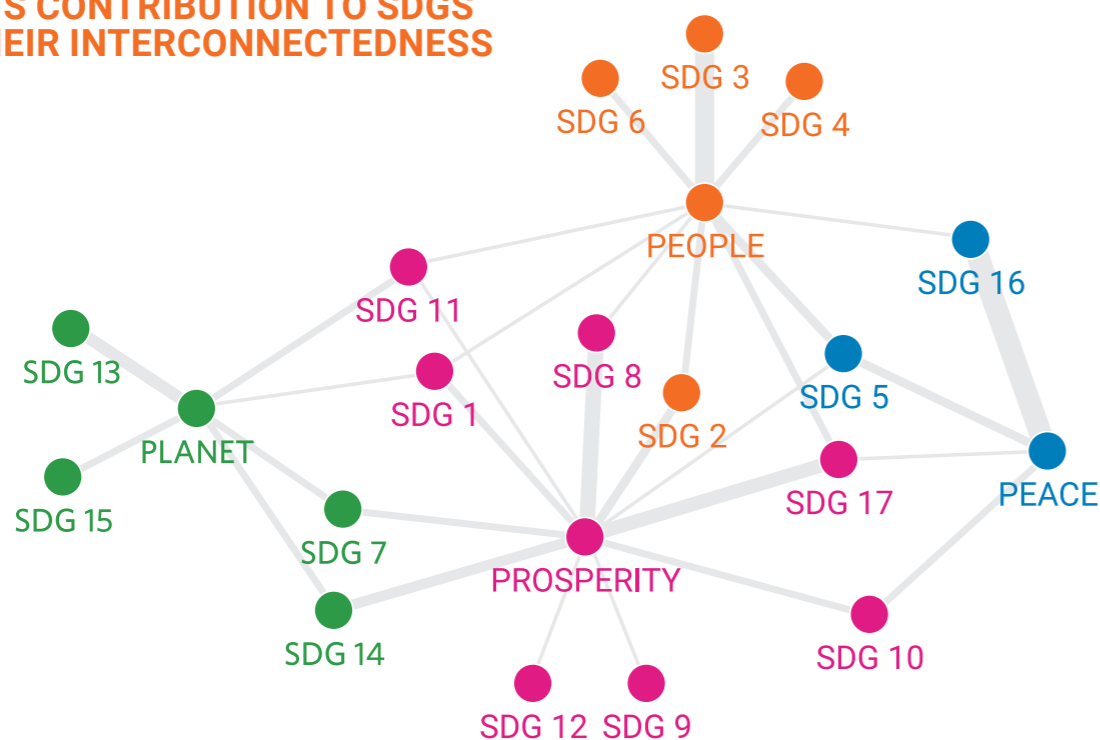
### 3.3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

For each of the four pillars a specific outcome statement has been defined, in line with the above-mentioned overall ToC. The UN operating in the Pacific has further articulated change pathways for UN contributions towards the outcome. The design of the theory of change at outcome level implied considering the main changes needed for the realisation of the outcome (see overall ToC) as sub-outcomes, explore the key preconditions to achieve each of them and how the UN can make a difference towards such changes in the next 5 years. The main assumptions (i.e., those required conditions for the development changes defined in the ToC to happen) and related risks (i.e., those events or factor that are mostly beyond our control and that can negatively affect the assumptions) were also made explicit in the process, together with the identification of other key partners and actors who have a role to play in the realisation of the change pathways.

It is important to note that the pre-conditions identified for each outcome are not unique to the success of

that pillar alone, but are in fact closely related to making progress also in all other dimensions. In some cases, the linkages are directly connected (e.g. low-carbon development solutions being a precondition for both the Prosperity and the Planet pillars), in many others there is an indirect link. For example, peace is easier to achieve when people have sufficient wages, economic shocks and inflationary pressures are managed, and people have equal opportunities for decent jobs. Likewise, resilience to climate change will be higher when people are well educated (and aware of the environmental consequences of their choices) and can exercise voice and leadership, governance systems address the drivers of climate insecurity, and business respects environmental standards. This is well captured in the overall ToC visual (see Figure 3) as well as by the diagram in Figure 4, showing the SDGs (with the thickness of the lines representing the number of SDG targets) to which each outcome is contributing and their interconnectedness.

FIGURE 4  
PILLAR'S CONTRIBUTION TO SDGS AND THEIR INTERCONNECTEDNESS



### 3.3.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 1: PLANET

**By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.**

The Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) hold a richness of natural, cultural and social diversity that defies a common description or categorization. What these unique nations and territories do share, however, is the triple environmental threat of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. There are major challenges being faced to greater and lesser extents by each of the PICTs. These include the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems, upon which entire populations depend for their health, well-being, livelihoods and future security. The Pacific SIDS are predominantly subsistence economies, particularly depending on their terrestrial and marine biodiversity, and natural resources and systems support key parts of many economies through agri-business, off-shore fisheries, tourism and the aquarium trade. Robust, diverse ecosystems are therefore the basis of healthy economies and healthy human populations.

PICTs account for six of the top twenty, and three (Vanuatu, Tonga and Solomon Islands) of the top five disaster-prone countries in the world according to the World Risk Report 2020<sup>12</sup>. Each year, countries, communities and families face the risk of serious droughts, flooding, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones/hurricanes, high seas and waves, coastal flooding and inundation. Climate change projections, even those within 1.5 degrees of global warming, suggest that Pacific Island Countries are facing several critical human security threats that are likely to intensify the drivers of migration, displacement and planned relocation of Pacific islanders and communities. Climate hazards associated with extreme events and variability act as direct drivers of displacement and as indirect drivers of migration through deteriorating climate-sensitive livelihoods.

The Pacific SIDS are some of the lowest carbon emitters on the planet yet are already experiencing

some of the worst impacts of climate change and climate fragility risks. Atoll nations, and low-lying sub-national jurisdictions, are experiencing a clear existential threat from rising sea levels and increasingly extreme tides. Ninety percent of Pacific Islanders live within 5 km of the coast., where they are at risk of land and property loss and displacement, and its associated social, cultural and economic ramifications. Water security is threatened by storm-surge and drought, while changing weather patterns and sea-level rise are impacting food systems. Of particular significance is the impact of climate change on the terrestrial and marine ecosystems upon which the economic and social structure of entire societies and nations are founded, further challenged by economic drivers leading, for example, unsustainable logging and limited enforcement of environmental protection measures. The compounding impact of these events, risks and factors affect Pacific peoples' enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the realization of their rights.

Addressing these, and other, challenges will help drive the progress of Pacific SIDS towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), "so [they] can support the needs of the present and future generations."

In order to address these challenges and to progress towards the set outcome, four key preconditions have been identified, which will also contribute to the Vision of the UNSDCF and support the achievement of the SDGs. These focus on **biodiversity and ecosystems, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, and disaster risk management**. This theory of change also acknowledges that, in order to tackle the above-described challenges, responses need to be context specific, gender responsive and human rights informed, recognising access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters as fundamental enablers in this regard.

There is a need for better protection, management and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystems and the environment as a whole. Context-appropriate approaches to this should be at the ecosystem and

<sup>12</sup> Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and Ruhr University Bochum – Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV). 2020. WorldRiskReport 2020.

By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.

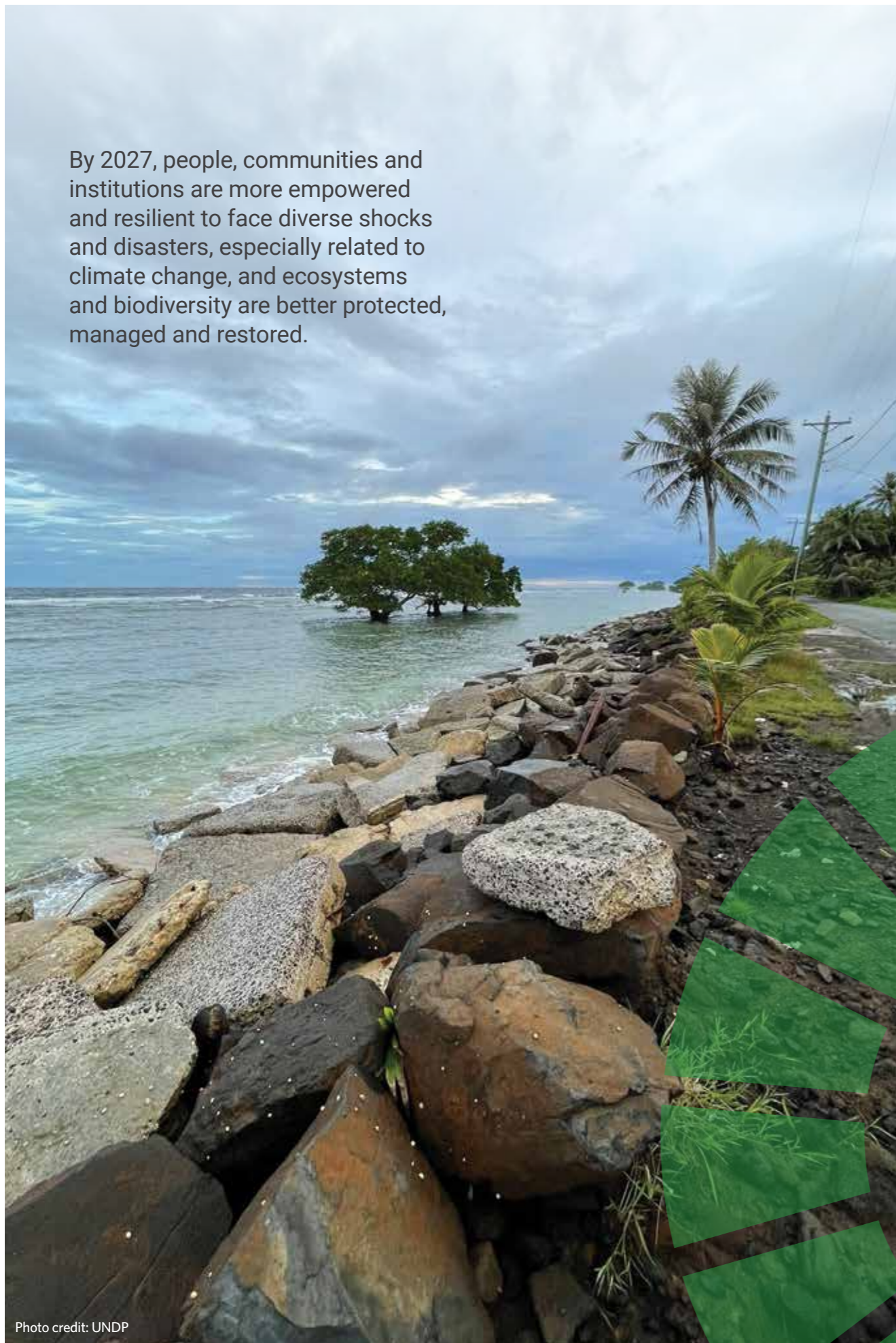


Photo credit: UNDP

landscape scale, and work to enhance environmental knowledge across society.

The resilience of socio-ecological systems must be enhanced through inclusive and culturally relevant ways to reduce vulnerabilities to, and increase adaptive capacities in the face of climate change. This resilience spans sectors, such as food systems (and particularly blue foods - often the responsibility of women and girls), social services infrastructures and urban planning, which are inextricably linked not only to environmental health but also human prosperity. Additionally, there is a need to strengthen capacity and coordination through a regional response to climate mobility, while simultaneously enabling Pacific governments to develop inclusive and context-specific national policies and programmes to implement actions to avert, address and prepare for climate mobility.

In the context of Pacific SIDS, the critical nature of healthy, resilient marine and terrestrial ecosystems extends to the need to realize and maximize climate mitigation potentials, increasing energy usage efficiency and effecting a smooth transition to predominately or wholly renewable energy sources.

The value of improved disaster risk management and reduction cannot be overstated, with a need to break the cycle of “disaster>respond>recover>repeat” and to focus on “reducing the existing sources of risk in the world and avoiding creating new risk” (UNDRR, 2022). Such thinking must be inherent to all development activities to ensure it is ‘risk informed’ and addresses the vulnerabilities of different groups.

It is recognized that none of these areas of focus is more important than the others; all are inexorably linked and must be addressed together, as well as across the other three pillars of this CF.

The **role of the UN** across the UNSDCF Planet outcome must be varied and responsive to the unique context of each PICT. The UN has a significant role to play as a ‘knowledge broker’, accessing international knowledge and expertise and channeling it to where it is needed most, when it is needed. In addition to

this, the UN is well-placed to facilitate the exchange of information between Pacific SIDS themselves, enabling countries and territories to share their successes and lessons learnt to the benefit of all. This role extends to knowledge and data gaps, where they exist, identifying how these gaps can best be filled, and securing the capacity to do so, including on climate security. Of great importance is the development of infrastructure to support climate change research beyond the measurement of meteorological and atmospheric parameters, to include loss and damage, and impacts on the ecosystems. The UN will also leverage its international status to support Pacific SIDS’ position in the global stage, as global solutions are needed to address climate change.

Central to the role of the UN is the facilitation of much-needed finance, not least of which is innovative climate finance.

This may entail the identification of financing models utilized elsewhere and their adaptation to individual PICT, or the development of wholly new models of finance that support Pacific SIDS in ways that are relevant and appropriate to specific situations.

More specifically, the UN entities operating across the Pacific, will contribute to each of the changes identified in this theory of change (as reported in the diagram on pages 36-37), with several interlinkages and synergies with planned interventions under other outcomes of the Pacific UNSDCF.

The UN will contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem restoration, conservation and management, promoting holistic and integrated approaches, including reef to ridges approaches, control of invasive species and facilitating the integration of scientific knowledge with the unique traditional and local knowledge sets of local communities to enable the development of low-cost, low- or high-tech, gender- and human-rights-responsive, sustainable solutions.

Contributions from the UN will include supporting climate resilient and sustainable technologies, infrastructure, and assessing the impact of (and responses to) climate-related migration, through

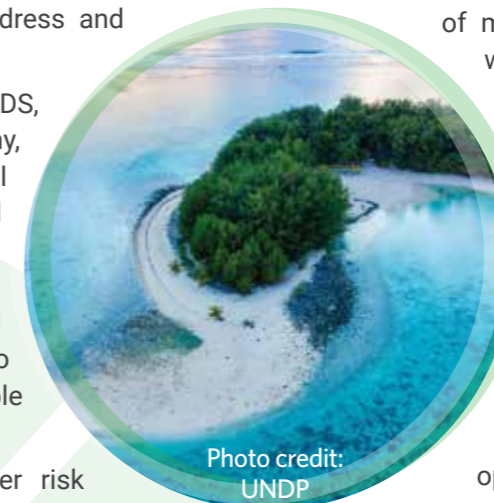


Photo credit: UNDP



Photo credit: UNDP - Palau

enhancing the knowledge base, improving human settlements' planning and overall capacities. Under the Prosperity and the People pillars, the UN has also defined its contribution to climate resilient food systems and businesses and social services, respectively.

When considering disaster risk management, the UN will support the application of international standards, including incorporation of diversity and inclusivity in risk management and planning. Bearing in mind that domestic and gender-based violence typically increase during periods of disaster and climate crisis, undermining recovery, surge capacity in related services will be provided.

In terms of interventions to support PICTs' scaling up of climate mitigation measures, the UN will promote the development of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), as well advocating for nature-based solutions (NbS), with particular importance in this regard lying with healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems such as mangrove, wetland and seagrass. The central role of the ocean re-emphasizes the need to focus on the ocean-climate nexus and the role of coastal and marine ecosystems in climate adaptation and mitigation.

Each Pacific SIDS is a party to numerous multilateral

environmental agreements, strategies and regional and global environmental commitments, all of which require localized policy and community engagement to ensure implementation. The UN can assist nations in the development of an effective policy landscape, ensuring that policies such as NDCs, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans are in place and, most importantly, kept current and responsive to evolving situations and needs, including those of affected communities.

Key linking factors include the commitment to protect human rights, gender equality and to leave no one behind, including attention to sustainability, resilience and sound governance in all Planet-related interventions. This will be promoted by the collection of sex-disaggregated and gender data on ecosystem use and management by communities, and consultations with diverse stakeholders at community level to capture differences in their respective needs, knowledge and contributions to climate and environment-related resilience and disaster risk reduction.

There are essential **partnerships** and networks that are common to many countries around the world in ensuring that environmental management, sustainable use of natural resources and development



Photo credit: UNDP Palau

are undertaken using a fully participatory approach. These include (but are not limited to) Government at all levels, civil society and community-based organizations including environmental human rights defenders, and the private sector. In the Pacific SIDS it is essential that partnership building goes beyond this to include donor organizations, Climate Financing Institutions and CROP agencies, which play a major role in supporting sustainability activities. Perhaps most critical is the establishment of partnerships with both traditional leaders and traditional governance bodies and councils, as well as with individual natural resource owners and community-based organizations. Support from these groups and individuals is critical to the success of any activities and initiatives that involve access to and/or the use of natural resources.

Numerous potential **risks** to the identified change pathway have been recognized, such as changing leaderships, conflict, evolving cooperation networks and limited capacity for implementation within the PICTs. These may not be unique to the nations and territories supported by this Cooperation Framework but undoubtedly have the potential to have a greater impact than elsewhere in the world. Certain highly specific risks also exist. Limits to the extent of place-specific data for many aspects of the diverse environmental conditions seen across the PICTs,

including climate-related data and those related to biodiversity (such as comprehensive species lists), together with limitations in sex/gender and age-disaggregated and data on the communities involved, place the effectiveness of policy implementation and sustainable development at risk. Furthermore, and linking to the partnerships necessary for success, stable, ongoing relationships with the owners, managers and traditional stewards of natural resources are essential to ensure that not only can UN-supported activities take place, but that their continuity and sustainability be assured. Finally, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as the Pacific SIDS begin to evaluate and address its impacts, striving for short-term economic gains might pose potential risk on natural resources.

FIGURE 5  
PLANET PILLAR  
THEORY OF CHANGE



By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.

KEY PRECONDITIONS TO PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOME/SUBOUTCOMES	PRECONDITIONS FOR THE REALISATION OF THE SUB-OUTCOMES	MAIN UN COLLECTIVE STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS
SCALED-UP CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	GHG reduction.	Energy efficient/renewable energy (See Prosperity Pillar) Mangrove, wetlands and forest management.
	Improved data and analysis for CCM.	GHG Inventories. Climate-smart agriculture.
	Strengthened risk transfer mechanisms.	Technical assistance and policy advice for insurance and other risk financing mechanisms.
EFFECTIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT	Inclusive and integrated disaster management.	Support for inclusive, and accountable disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation. Promote integration of humanitarian development and peace actions and policies. Strengthening national capacity for localized, accountable and inclusive disaster response.
	Holistic disaster risk reduction.	Radioactivity monitoring. Effective early warning and early action systems. Build capacity to integrate DRR into plans and strategies. Promoting nature-based solutions.
	Long-term coastal adaption.	Pilot coastal adaptation initiatives. Planning capacity for long-term coastal adaptation.
ENHANCED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE	Climate resilient and sustainable food systems.	Addressed under the Prosperity's Pillar.
	Climate resilient infrastructure for basic services.	Addressed under the People's Pillar.
	Enhanced adaptive capacity.	Improve climate data and analysis. Community-based empowerment approaches. Build capacity to integrate CCA into plans and strategies. Increased leadership and decision-making by affected communities.
	Increased resilience to CC related human mobility.	Improve knowledge base on human mobility. Enhancing capacities to address migration, displacement and relocation. Support regional and sub-regional cooperation.
	Enhanced urban and periurban, rural planning for climate resilient human settlements.	Strengthening capacities for land management, risk governance and planning.
	Ecosystem based management.	Adopting ridge to reef approaches. Technical assistance for ecosystem restoration. Support to sustainable forestry and fisheries.
	Strengthened biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.	Support prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species. Address root causes of land degradation. Promotion of sustainable fisheries and agroforestry.
BETTER PROTECTED, MANAGED & RESTORED BIODIVERSITY/ ENVIRONMENT/ ECOSYSTEMS	Improved ecosystem/ environmental health.	Promoting policies and solutions for integrated waste management.
	Expanded environmental knowledge & literacy.	Enhance skills to implement environmental safeguards, remedies and redress. Improve integration of scientific and traditional knowledge set. Capacity building to utilise knowledge sets effectively.



Photo credit: UNICEF



## ROLE OF PARTNERS

### PACIFIC GOVERNMENTS:

Gender-responsive policy adoption, and development, enhanced South-South Cooperation, sharing of local knowledge/traditions, strengthening of coordination and participation of marginalized groups, working with low lying atoll nations.

### REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

SPREP, SPC, FFA, USP and PIFS: role in regionalisation, project board members, implementation partners, research partners.

### DONORS:

Provide funding, advocacy for climate change adaptation and sustainability.

### CIVIL SOCIETY:

lead and co-lead on Environmental issues, CSOs support implementation of initiatives, youth advocacy.

### LOCAL COMMUNITY AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Platform for engaging grassroots communities; community engagement, dialogue and cash for activities; women's rights organisations involvement in decision-making processes.

### ACADEMIA:

Integrated Research amongst existing academic institutions in the region, South-South Cooperation with institutions from neighboring more developed economies, research engagements along various aspects of sustainable development.

### HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS:

Awareness raising and advocacy for an engaged, inclusive and accountable climate response.

### PRIVATE SECTOR:

Sustainable business practices, environment-focused CSR, promotion of sustainable local production, implement activities. e.g. construction design and works.

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Urban and environmental planners and their organizations, Institute of Engineers - support climate-smart infrastructure.

### ASSUMPTIONS: REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CHANGES DEFINED IN THE TOC TO HAPPEN:

Functioning governance system for disaster response; National capacities to absorb new projects; Donor and national focus/commitment/political will on sustainability, environment and climate change adaption; The PICs and governments remain willing to further engage with UN on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Natural Resource Management; Technological infrastructure will continue to be rolled out across the region and will bring ICTs to the majority of Pacific Islanders, including those living in outlying areas; Stable Political Government across the PICs; The Pacific region remains committed to integrating the achievement of the SDGs into their own regional and national priorities; Sufficient financial resources will be available from donors (and recipient countries) to properly implement programming needs; CC, Disaster preparedness and response efforts are empowering, accountable and inclusive of affected people so that no-one is left behind; Governments prioritize green growth; Cooperation on transboundary resource management; Businesses will supply goods and services (e.g. construction companies) and that supply-chains will remain.

### RISKS - EVENTS AND FACTORS THAT MAY CHANGE THE ASSUMPTIONS:

PICs place less importance on regionalism/short term economic gains taking precedent over sustainability and long-term economic stability; Continued lack of economic opportunities resulting in increased brain drain; Changing power dynamics at global, regional, sub-regional and country levels (geopolitical challenges) - change in will to follow through on ambitions; Global economic shocks including oil price hikes and impact on national/regional budgets; Intensified, unregulated and unsustainable resource extraction; Disputed and inequitable land governance, access and resource management (also has a link to political stability, peace and security); External factors that can disrupt to the supply chain.





By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems

Photo credit: UNICEF FSM

### 3.3.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 2: PEOPLE

By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems.

While extreme poverty is relatively uncommon in the Pacific, challenges persist with complex social dynamics, including geographic disparities between urban and rural areas, high migration and low population growth versus low migration and high population growth. Children in the Pacific, who account for 40 percent of the population, experience multiple forms of vulnerabilities and deprivations that may prevent them from reaching their full potential. Across the Pacific, hardship impacts a range of individuals and groups at risk, who are being left behind in the development process. They include persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+, older persons, persons in detention, migrants, people living in informal settlements, those in rural and remote settings, and workers in the informal economy. They often face exclusion from accessing essential social services such as health, education and social protection and, when they do, the services are often not of a quality that meets national, regional and international standards. In addition to these groups of people at risk, across the Pacific Island nations, many children, adolescents, and women are also being denied their rights to develop to their full potential and live fulfilling lives with dignity. Pacific Islands face institutional challenges to support adequate provision of public services. The absolute size of the public sector in the small PICTs and the difficulty of delivering basic services in small, remote communities are faced with the equation of cost versus population. Such structural challenges and limitations are reflected in key social outcomes.

Despite improvement in **education** outcomes over the past decade, significant proportions of children at primary school are failing to meet the minimum standards expected for their level, particularly on literacy and numeracy. School enrolment and

attendance rates drop significantly at secondary level, and the unavailability of schools in remote areas continues to be a barrier to education for children, particularly at secondary level in PICTs without schools on every inhabited island. Pacific Island Countries and Territories continue to also face **water, sanitation and hygiene** challenges due to their unique set of constraints such as small size, large geographic spread, vulnerability to natural and climate conditions, limited human and financial resource base. Furthermore, the region is faced with the triple burden of **malnutrition**: underweight, hidden hunger (micronutrient deficiencies), and obesity. These three burdens co-exist in most PICTs, and can even occur in the same family. Although progress has been made in some of the main **health** indicators including child, neonatal and maternal mortality, the region scores the lowest of all world regions on the Universal Health Coverage index with a clear lacuna in primary healthcare, principally used by women and children. Many PICTs are characterized by over-strained and under-resourced health systems, health workforce shortages, high aid dependency, infrastructure limitations and challenging geographic conditions<sup>13</sup>. A high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and adolescent pregnancy are also registered. An increased access to equitable and gender-transformative, shock-resistant **social protection** mechanisms, including in humanitarian settings, is also an outstanding challenge for the region, further exposed by the impact of COVID-19, and fundamental to reduce people's vulnerability to poverty.

The prevalence of **violence** against women in the Pacific region is up to twice the global average. Prevalence studies have been carried out in eleven PICTs<sup>14</sup>, drawing a compelling and disturbing picture of the nature of VAW across the region, including its causes, consequences, and service-seeking patterns and behaviours. Across the region, incidence of domestic violence is such that as many as two in three women experience it during their lifetime. Gender-based violence is also inextricably linked

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> SPC/UNFPA/WHO studies on VAW in Samoa (2006), Solomon Islands (2009), Kiribati (2010), Vanuatu (2009-10), Tonga (2012) and Fiji (2013). The Australian Aid programme and UNFPA supported similar studies based on the methodology of the World Health Organisation's Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women (WHO 2005) in Cook Islands (2014), FSM (2014), Nauru (2014), RMI (2014) and Palau (2014).



Photo credit: © 2019 UNCDF

to Violence Against Children (VAC), who are known to face violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation at home, school and community<sup>15</sup>. In several PICTs, corporal punishment against children remains a norm that is widely practiced, having long-term detrimental impacts on children. Furthermore, early marriage is still prevalent in some PICTs. This is not only a violation of women's and children's rights: it also undermines progress in each of the other pillars of the sustainable development agenda.

In order to make progress in these different, interconnected sectors, the theory of change for transformation under this outcome recognizes a few cross-cutting bottlenecks that need to be addressed in most of these areas.

**Delivery of essential services** (in social protection, education, health, nutrition, WASH and housing), that are relevant and reach those who need them the most, depends on the existence of a legislation, policy and regulatory frameworks that are evidence-based and take into account all groups at risk of being left behind including women, children, adolescents, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and informal sector workers. Concurrently, high rates of GBV and VAC are hindering progress towards equality across all PICTs and prevent rights holders from

benefiting from services and more inclusive human development, accessibility and availability of quality, inclusive and child and survivor-centred services is central to progress under this pillar.

At the same time, as the lessons learned from the COVID-19 and multiple climate/weather related emergencies across the Pacific suggest, it is equally important to focus on **systems strengthening** (in particular social protection, health, education, WASH and food systems) to ensure universal access and quality of services, as well as their resilience in the face of social, economic and environmental shocks. There is now increasing reliance on digital means to deliver essential services thereby necessitating focus on digital inclusion with emphasis on populations at risk and in line with the principles of leaving no one behind. One of the approaches that has seen increasing demand in the Pacific in this regard is Smart Islands.<sup>16</sup>

While multiple, intersecting vulnerabilities continue to underpin the rights and development challenges facing PICTs, it is critical to remove barriers – including those rooted in the systems and in people's social attitudes, norms and behaviour – that prevent the most vulnerable from benefiting from services and more inclusive human development. Addressing



Photo credit: © 2019 UNCDF

social norms that constrain the right to meaningful participation and engagement of civil society members - particularly young people, women, persons with disabilities, and other minority groups - remains critical to ensuring social inclusion.

The **United Nations** entities operating in the Pacific are well positioned to support the PICTs and regional organisations in making progress towards the identified changes. The UN will focus on supporting governments and communities to ensure that social services are climate- and shock-resilient, are able to reach all groups across the vast Ocean and are gender-responsive. It will promote a transformative, intersectional approach to inequality and discrimination, addressing underlying drivers of vulnerabilities. In line with 2030 Agenda, the UN will also thrive to integrate social perspectives into broader and more complex processes, and incorporating economic and environmental perspectives into social policy-making.

In particular the UN will continue to invest in systems' strengthening, building capacities for generating and using disaggregated data and evidence to improve decision-making and inclusion, as well as improving the expertise and skills of service providers. Data gaps will be addressed particularly to establish linkages

between nutrition, mental health, physical activity, and access WASH in health care facilities. The UN will provide technical support to governments to develop or update inclusive rights-based policies and plans, such as those related to health strategies and policies for SRMNCAH; country and regional level inclusive education policies and frameworks; food standards and fiscal policies; and overarching legislations based on the national child protection policies. The UN will employ a life-cycle approach across all the key interventions and will advocate for accelerated results through the scaling up of existing or new interventions with a greater emphasis on integration.

The UN will support governments to develop social and behavioural change approaches to identify and address barriers and to drive positive social norms and behaviours. These will focus on addressing barriers and drivers to the uptake of diverse and nutritious foods and motivate parents and children to develop healthy lifestyle habits relevant to diet and physical activities; implementing a comprehensive social and behaviour change strategy to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices; and empowering resilient communities.

Human rights and gender equality remain at the core of the work of the UN in the Pacific, as a cross-cutting

programming principle and transformative change strategy across all pillars. Under this outcome UN will continue to address sexual and reproductive health and rights, promote inclusive and equitable service access (across social protection, education, health, WASH and housing), while strengthening the focus on addressing the drivers of gender-based violence and the deep-rooted social and economic inequalities that affect women and girls across the Pacific.

The Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus approach - strengthening collaboration, coherence and complementarity across its humanitarian, development and peace programming - is embedded in all UN interventions under this outcome with systematic efforts to build the capacities of individuals, communities and institutions to prepare for and respond to various crises and changes, and foster social justice and cohesion through inclusivity and equity in social services accessibility.

In order to effectively deliver the above-mentioned results, the UN will strengthen and expand existing **partnerships** at country, regional and global level. In particular, the partnership with CROP agencies will be further strengthened in the implementation of this outcome and in alignment with the strategic priorities of the Pacific leaders outlined under 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The UN and CROP share the mandate to support countries across the Pacific in progressing towards the SDGs and they will continue working closely together, in particular with SPC, as the principal scientific and technical organisation supporting development in the Pacific region.

UN will continue to collaborate with the MDBs and

DPs and other donors to advance country led efforts to promote availability and accessibility of services across Pacific. A particular focus will be given to the Civil Society engagement (supporting also its role in the society) and building the capacities of local organisations (including CSOs, NGOs, community-based/volunteer groups as well as employers' and workers' organisations) to support the availability of gender-responsive services for all, with a focus on those who are left behind. UN will increase its private sector engagement and seek innovative financing to reach the most vulnerable communities across Pacific. It will also intensify family and community engagement to address social and gender norms and barriers to education access and learning outcomes, including and support for the meaningful participation of communities in decisions that affect their lives.

The main **risks** to the achievement of this UNSDCF outcome are those that also might affect progress in the other outcome areas i.e. the tri-dimensional impact of current conflicts such as the Russia-Ukraine war (energy, finance and food) which could further exacerbate food and resources availability; COVID-related effects, both diverting attention and resources away from the changes in the health and social protection services described above, trigger responses that will affect population pressure on rural/outer islands areas thus having a bearing on service delivery capacities, as well as reducing access to essential services due to pandemic-containment restrictions; limited economic growth resulting in reduced public financing; and potential lack of willingness to adopt new approaches and best practices.

<sup>15</sup> Source, UN Multi-Country Common Analysis 2022.

<sup>16</sup> One of the approaches that has seen increasing demand in the Pacific in this regard is Smart Islands. Smart Islands, which adopts an innovative approach to deliver connectivity and digital services to disadvantaged island communities in a scalable and sustainable manner, aims to transform rural and coastal communities, improving their livelihood and well-being by connecting them to a range of digitally enabled services. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/ICT-Applications/Pages/smart-islands.aspx>



Photo credit: UN RCO Fiji

**FIGURE 6**  
**PEOPLE PILLAR**  
**THEORY OF CHANGE**



By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems.

KEY PRECONDITIONS TO PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOME/SUBOUTCOMES	PRECONDITIONS FOR THE REALISATION OF THE SUB-OUTCOMES	MAIN UN COLLECTIVE STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS
<b>EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS TO PREVENT, MITIGATE AND RESPOND TO DISCRIMINATION, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN</b>	Changes in legislative/policy framework.	Evidenced-based advocacy and technical support to develop and implement enabling legislative and normative frameworks.
	More accessible quality, inclusive child and survivor-centred services.	Bring together governments, CSOs and social partners to translate global standards to local level. Build capacity and ensure availability of quality services in all areas of prevention, mitigation and response to violence. Provide technical support for the development and implementation of standards and oversight mechanisms.
	Changes in social attitudes and behaviour.	Support for the generation of evidence on drivers of violence against children and women, and factors that affect protection. Technical support to develop and implement social behaviour change strategies and campaigns to address harmful norms.
<b>ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE HOUSING CONDITIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>	Policies to ensure equitable access to housing and security of tenure.	Support policy development to ensure equitable access to housing and security of tenure.
	Transformed and resilient education systems with evidence-based and risk-informed education plans, policies and coordination mechanisms.	Country and regional level policy, plan and framework development informed by national, regional and global dialogues; data, knowledge and evidence; and improved coordination within and beyond the education section.
<b>INCREASED QUALITY AND EQUITABLE ACCESSIBILITY OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT</b>	Improved, relevant, inclusive, quality learning and skill development.	Strengthened capacities, resources and tools for school and teachers. Support quality apprenticeships based on robust social dialogue and public-private partnerships.
	Expanded access to equitable and innovative learning pathways, starting from early childhood and throughout the lifecycle.	Review and enhancement of vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, in education and training, including through development of alternative pathways.
	Safe, protective, healthy and hygienic learning environments, free from violence and discrimination.	Integrate holistic support to student well-being in education service delivery.
<b>INCREASED ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE SERVICES IN COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS</b>	More institutions have safe, affordable and equitable access to WASH services.	Strengthen health and education IMS. Technical support and advocacy for increased financing, gender, disability and DRR.
	More communities have safe, affordable and equitable access to WASH services.	Strengthen capacities to ensure access to WASH via improved data and monitoring, policy and strategy development and improved coordination capacity. Behavioural change.
<b>ADDRESSED DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY AND ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION</b>	Change lifestyle and food consumption patterns towards healthy, balanced, nutrient-dense patterns.	Facilitate an enabling policy environment. Behavioural and social change interventions.
	Improved access to and consumption of adequate, affordable, safe, diverse and nutritious food and quality nutrition services.	Promote food safety education and regulations, food standards and fiscal policies. Address micronutrient malnutrition.
<b>Stronger, more inclusive, gender- and shock-responsive social protection systems</b>	Better integration of social protection with wider efforts.	Technical assistance and advocacy for holistic approaches to address vulnerabilities (e.g. referral mechanisms).
	Inclusive legislation, policy and regulatory frameworks.	Technical assistance and advocacy focusing on inclusive and evidence-based approaches. Support the ratification and implementation of International labour standards on social security and social protection floors.
	More functional systems and programmes strengthen household resilience to shocks.	Organisational and individual capacity development for design and implementation of social protection programmes.
<b>Stronger, inclusive, resilient and high-quality public health systems</b>	Strengthened capacities to deliver high quality services across all healthcare levels.	Technical and financial assistance to improve organizational and workforce capacities, including at sub-national level, for effective management and provision of SRMNCAH, PHC, Nutrition, Communicable and NCDs services.
	Improved Health Policy, Planning, Financing, Information systems and coordination mechanisms.	Technical assistance for development of National Health Plans; Health Strategies and Policies for SRMNCAH, Nutrition, Communicable diseases and NCDs. Build partnerships for high quality data, IMS, and other forms of knowledge management. Facilitate strategic dialogue and advocacy on regional and national health priorities.
	Increased health security to prevent and mitigate the impact of acute public health events and ensure the continuity of essential health services.	Technical assistance for coordinated response to public health emergencies (development and implementation of clinical and public health strategies including Infection Prevention); clinical management; provision of Biomedical and WASH services; continued provision of essential SRMNCAH and NCD services.



Photo credit: UNFPA Kiribati



**ROLE OF PARTNERS**

**ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS:**  
Data, capacity building, tools and resources.

**CSOS/REGIONAL NETWORKS:**  
Advocacy, policy advice, leveraging partnerships, service delivery (VAWG), monitoring of social protection programme delivery; implementers of food security programmes.

**IFIS:**  
Financing, data and evidence, whole-of-govt mobilisation.

**WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS:**  
Monitoring the implementation and design and delivery of relevant programmes.

**PRIVATE SECTOR:**  
Online/multimedia learning; WASH-related supplies; awareness raising for violence prevention; services and technologies to improve social protection systems; partners for change.

**CROP/SPC:**  
Accountability and monitoring on set goals. (e.g. gender equality)

**GOV'TS:**  
Convenors and primary owners of UN support.

**NHRIS:**  
Investigation, inquiry and monitoring.

**ASSUMPTIONS: REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CHANGES DEFINED IN THE TOC TO HAPPEN**

Continued prioritisation by the PICTs governments of the changes described in the ToC, adequate leadership and focus on equity and LNOB groups; Pandemic will ease out and no new virus/variants emerge; Development partners remain committed to finance and support changes in social services; An holistic approach to food systems by all concerned actors; Adequate national capacities for engagement and willingness to adopt new approaches and best practices.

**RISKS: EVENTS AND FACTORS THAT MAY CHANGE THE ASSUMPTIONS:**

Tri-dimensional impact of conflict (energy, finance and food) could further exacerbate food availability and availability of resources to implement interventions under this ToC; COVID-19 pandemic resurgence or new viruses will divert attention and resources away from the changes in health and social protection services described above and might trigger responses that will affect population pressure on rural/outer islands areas thus having a bearing on service delivery capacities.

### 3.3.3 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 3: PROSPERITY

**By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods' opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity.**

The SDGs aim to “ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.” While economic growth is often seen as essential for economic prosperity (with per capita GDP often used as a measure of prosperity), this is not enough to ensure all people's well-being and prosperity in the broader sense of the term. Small island developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific have faced a range of economic challenges that have affected their socio-economic prosperity and long-term development prospects. Although they are a heterogeneous group of economies with diverse characteristics, they have some similar structural and population challenges, including long distances to regional and global markets, poor supply chains, limited industrial opportunities, weak economic growth projections, limited financial instruments and tight fiscal space. These contextual parameters of the Pacific therefore translate to a vision of Prosperity for the Pacific that is grounded on a value-based economy that is accessible, equitable, and sustainable.

The exposure to climate-related and other natural hazards (the region suffered on average one major disaster per year for the past six years), compounded with the COVID pandemic, limited economic diversification and the structural vulnerabilities mentioned above, had detrimental effects on the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), causing debt increase, real wage declining and high rate of informal and precarious employment. These challenges, coupled with escalating prices of food and fuel from the pandemic as well as the recent Russia-Ukraine crisis, have disproportionately affected different groups in the PICTs, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, migrants and other marginalized people at a much higher rate, exacerbating existing inequalities. The challenges that Pacific SIDS face require economic and social

policies that promote and support sustainable, resilient and inclusive socio-economic development.

Unusually high trade-GDP ratios make SIDS economies among the most open and externally vulnerable, in the world. Trade integration and competitiveness are critical, including addressing current costly hurdles represented by manual customs processing, inefficient ports, and poor physical infrastructure.

The pathway of transformation for the Pacific starts with a full account of ecosystem services and identification of potential opportunities for blue economy, redesign of food systems, greening of the tourism sector, supporting digital transformation, accelerated energy transition, decarbonization and reduction of pollution (green economy/trade adopting a triple planetary crisis approach) - all of them focused on MSME expansion, access to trade opportunities and supported by new financing instruments and blended financing.

The Prosperity pillar recognizes that integrated strategies are required to strengthen the economies of the Pacific while providing equal opportunities for people and sustainable economic transition. Ensuring that economies prosper and are resilient requires both economic and environmental sustainability through enhanced **macroeconomic stability and sound fiscal management**, adoption of **low-carbon development solutions** and diversification offered by the **blue, green and creative economies**. An enabling environment needs to be created to provide **equal opportunities for decent work and livelihoods** and ultimately reduce inequalities so that all needed talents are available to contribute to improved productivity. Ensuring responsible business conducts and compliance with international labour, human rights and environment standards; investing in the economic empowerment of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, enhancing human capabilities to meet current and future market demand, and ensuring non-discriminatory policies will enhance equal participation of people in an economy. Market based social insurance or social protection schemes for those in MSMEs and informal sector to enable those who are most vulnerable to be protected and recover from shocks are essential. A fundamental



Photo credit: UN - Vanuatu Aelan Mama Kitchen

enabler for transformation in the Pacific is innovation and digital transformation, together they present a vital opportunity for economic and social transformation in the Pacific, with the information and communications technologies boom and the surge of an e-labour market, off-shoring of trade and remote service industry location. More specifically, to progress towards a more inclusive economic system it will be key in the next few years to work towards **accelerating digital transformation and bridging the digital divide** to ensure inclusive access to information and services and strengthen business ecosystem. The **transformation of agri-food systems** will improve the Pacific's food security resilience to external shocks while recognizing that the agri-food systems can contribute to people's prosperity. This means not only adopting environmentally sustainable production practices, but also reducing inefficiencies in the value- and supply-chains, focusing on import substitution and promoting holistic policies and multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms.

The **United Nations entities** operating in the Pacific will support the PICTs and regional organisations in making progress towards all of the identified changes needed under the Prosperity pillar for a more sustainable socio-economic development. Recognising that, in line with the above-described

ToC, the recovery from COVID-19 requires a review of national wealth (natural capital, human capital, productive capital) to identify potential entry points for diversification and shock proof economies in the PICTs, the UN focus for the next five years will be to strengthen ecosystem services, redesign agri-food systems, advance the energy transition, support blue economy-based diversification, accelerate digital transformation and expand access to affordable financing, including establishing impact investment lines for MSMEs and social entrepreneurship. The UN will also support trade facilitation to help the region realize its trading potential, enhance export competitiveness, reduce the costs of essential imports (e.g. inputs required for local production).

Where the UN can make a difference is to leverage its international status and networks to mobilise technical expertise for changes in policies and regulatory environments, introduce innovative solutions, support digitalisation, facilitate investments and mobilization of resources, foster an enabling environment for the cultural and creative industries, and support compliance with international labour and human rights standards.

The UN recognizes that its support should evolve under this new multi-country framework, to focus on



Photo credit: UN - Solomon Islands

facilitating economic transformation towards systems that are able to cater to the socio-economic rights of the population of the PICTs and abate the reversal trends in the SDGs. For example, the UN will be advocating for redistributive taxation policies, prioritizing human rights and equality-focused budget, ensuring that the ODA management and development finance is directed to SDGs achievement, promoting financial inclusion, and advancing ratification and application of international labour standards. Furthermore, the Pacific's economic transformation and advancement of the SDGs is significantly contingent upon sustainable financing- which in turn requires exploring and assessing all available financial instruments as part of an Integrated National Financial Framework (INFF) and strategy for sustainable development. The INFF can function as the key vehicle to strengthen and coordinate resource mobilization, particularly in light of an increasingly complex financing landscape, the need to attract a full range of innovative financing globally and domestically, and to strengthen the voice of PICTs in global policy processes. This underscores the imperative of using Development Finance Assessments and supporting countries to develop and implement INFFs.

Having at the heart of its programming the strive to Leave No One Behind (LNOB), the UN entities

will collectively work towards providing equal opportunities and pay to all workers, leveraging the potential of youth by harnessing the demographic dividend, changing discriminatory norms and practices that hinder equal economic participation for all, raising productivity and livelihoods of small scale food producers and processors (farmers, fishers, and market vendors, in many countries predominantly women), improving the quality of work including in the informal sector and reaching out to remote communities with renewable energy options.

As the UN endeavours, in line with the 2030 Agenda, for an economic system that does not prioritise immediate gains over long-term environmental impact, it will leverage its convening power and policy expertise to promote sustainable tourism, support the Regional 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and promote energy efficiency. Furthermore, digital transformation requires an ecosystem approach including policies, legislations, strategies, and frameworks; digital infrastructure, and services that the UN will continue to support.

In promoting a value-based economy, the UN will also consider traditional knowledge systems and indigenous cultural practices as a strength to be respected and leveraged in order to expand livelihood

opportunities, linked to blue, green and creative economy, bolstering sustainable tourism, fisheries and shipping and contributing to food security. Policies and interventions cannot be effective if not based on evidence and reliable dis-aggregated data or linked to the acceleration of the SDGs. As with the other pillars, the UN will continue to provide support in this regard to ensure that policies and strategies will be evidence-based, focus on addressing inequalities and groups at risk of being left behind and programmes can be properly monitored.

Working with a broad set of **partners** will be paramount to the advancement of the prosperity agenda. While the governments of the PICTs are the main counterparts to this framework (and thus to its implementation) the UN will continue to work also with regional organisations, other international partners, civil society, employers' and workers' organizations. In particular, the UN looks forward to expanding its partnerships with the private sector, international financial institutions, CROP, other regional organisations and academia and research institutions. The UN also has the opportunity to build strategic partnerships to achieve country specific actions including policies that encourage a demographic transition and produce business development, investment, domestic savings and trade as dividends while the UN guiding principles on business and human rights.

We are living in the era of already large and escalating risks related to climate change, pandemics and geopolitical events. In this context, achieving positive change under the Prosperity outcome will be far from easy, despite the collective effort by the UN and development partners.

Those risks to prosperity, which are already clearly evident, are stagnant PICTs' economic growth (under 2% of GDP), global economic recession, persistently high (above 5%) inflation, narrowing fiscal space (due to COVID-19 and the ongoing war in Ukraine, resulting in high energy and food prices, requiring reallocation of resources), corruption, illicit financial flows, geopolitical conflicts, new COVID variants and/or pandemics, and major climatic events and natural disasters. These factors have a negative effect on food prices and food availability, high interest rate environment discouraging borrowing and investing (including into technologies), intensification of unsustainable and unregulated extractive industry activities (prioritizing economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability and protection of the rights of affected populations, leading to human rights abuses against indigenous peoples, lands and environmental human rights defenders). In addition, to these known risks, there are many unknown risks related to global, regional and country level that may threaten the achievement on the Prosperity agenda. The inability to adequately deal with all these risks and their manifestations is likely to further widen socio-economic and gender inequalities, increase the size of specific groups at risk, social conflict and hence undermine the very roots of prosperity.

Strong political will for positive change and sound national policies and institutions coupled with efforts from UN and development partners could help mitigate and resolve some of these challenges. This also means focus on more targeted cost-effective policies that can have an impact across the SDGs, including by harnessing new opportunities where to direct limited, dwindling resources.

FIGURE 7  
PROSPERITY PILLAR  
THEORY OF CHANGE



By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods' opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity.

KEY PRECONDITIONS TO PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOME/SUBOUTCOMES	PRECONDITIONS FOR THE REALISATION OF THE SUB-OUTCOMES	MAIN UN COLLECTIVE STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS
EXPANSION OF LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS	Adoption of low-carbon technologies & skills.	Policy advice, institutions' building and financing to improve energy efficiency, adopt green technologies and reduce costs of solar power systems.
	Renewable/green energy production and improved access.	Financing and pilots for renewable energy; policy advice to reach out to remote communities.
EXPANSION OF BLUE, GREEN AND CREATIVE ECONOMY	Holistic policies for fostering blue, green & creative economy.	Strengthen institutions and policies to provide support incentives for the blue/green and creative industry; regional Blue Economy Framework.
	Increase in sustainable tourism and green trade.	Policy development, increased awareness and capacities for a sustainable tourism and green trade that create jobs and promote local culture and products.
TRANSFORMATION OF AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS	Holistic policies and multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms.	Enhance multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for enhanced food environments for healthier food choices. Strengthening policy and legal frameworks. Facilitation of national and regional food systems coordination.
	Improved agri-processing and market and trade efficiencies.	Policy advice, standard setting and capacity building. Policy development, increased awareness and capacities for food producers and processors. Promote postharvest and food processing initiatives.
	Boosted sustainable production systems.	Build capacities and policies for sustainable, diversified and resilient agri-food systems. Facilitating access to natural resources and production techniques and services. Facilitate increased investment in infrastructures and technologies.
	Thriving business environment, with entrepreneurship stimulated.	Build supporting entrepreneurial ecosystem and trade (import/export) opportunities. Strengthen the capacity of workers and MSMEs.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECENT JOBS AND LIVELIHOODS	Economic empowerment of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in formal and informal sectors & equal pay.	Access to financial services and promotion of financial inclusion, savings and investments at individual level. Support change in discriminatory norms and values and capacity. Development for women and other vulnerable groups in the informal sector.
	Reduced skills mismatch to improve productivity and competitiveness.	Support labour information and skills development strategies, including those for labour mobility. (link to People's outcome)
	Compliance with international human rights, labour and environmental standards.	Promote ratification and application of international labour standards and the guiding pas on business and human rights.
	Monetary policies geared towards price stability.	
MACROECONOMIC STABILITY AND SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT	Equity-based redistributive policies including gender-responsive and child-sensitive budgeting.	Expansion of formal and increased support of relevant informal social protection system. Support to social development & taxation policies - including trade, sectoral, labour market policies.
	Financial flow & debt management.	Alternative debt management instruments; developing debt planning capacities and strengthening ODA for SDGs. Support to INFFs and blended finance.
BRIDGING OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE	Improved digital infrastructure and connectivity.	Support the development of digital infrastructure products and services.
	Better access to digital services and information.	Digital skills development. Supporting policy and regulatory environment and promoting digital economy and trade.



Photo credit: IOM



ROLE OF PARTNERS

CSOS:

Implementation and monitoring of agri-food systems programmes; data collection for surveys and census.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

TA, services and technologies.

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIA:

Studies on agri-food systems.

GOV'TS/LMS:

Facilitation of green/blue creative economic sectors, policy setting, regional cooperation.

IFIS AND BILATERAL DONORS:

Financing and Technical assistance.

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

Collection of data and statistics; SPC (food security, data collection); FFA - Forum Fisheries Agency; PIFS (Pacific Island Forum Secretariat).

EMPLOYERS' AND WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS:

Design, monitoring and evaluation of programs and interventions.

ASSUMPTIONS - REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR THE CHANGES DESCRIBED IN THE TOC TO HAPPEN:

Business policies and practices do not lead to human rights abuses; private sector cooperation and engagement; access to sufficient data; political will and commitment towards redistributive policies, financing and resource mobilization; The region can effectively mobilize available finances, advance women's and youth's economic empowerment, and adopt a human rights approach to economic growth.

RISKS - EVENTS AND FACTORS THAT MAY CHANGE THE ASSUMPTIONS:

Stagnant economies (growth under 2% of GDP); global economic recession; persistently high inflation (above 5%); new COVID variants/other pandemics; major natural disasters; rising food prices and food shortages; high interest rate environment discouraging borrowing and investing (including into technologies); social unrest and conflict - increase size of vulnerable groups; widened socio-economic and gender inequalities; intensification of unsustainable and unregulated extractive activities; negative impact of development (external) interventions/policies; change in national priorities and plans (and not being able to realign/respond).

### 3.3.4 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOME 4: PEACE

By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice, and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights.

Preventing the emergence of conflict or relapse is critical for sustaining peace in the Pacific. The SDGs note that 'there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development'. The Pacific region is generally known for relatively high levels of social resilience and low levels of armed or violent conflicts, however simmering communal tensions, interpersonal violence, particularly against women and children, is widespread. Peace and social cohesion are threatened by socio-economic impact of COVID-19, corruption, climate change, trafficking in persons, child labour, discriminatory policy and legal frameworks leading to growing inequalities exacerbated by unequal distribution of resources and exclusion from key political processes. Further, complex geo-political tensions in the region affect cooperation efforts, as well as peace and security. While transboundary and migration governance systems require strengthening and greater coordination.

Pacific Leaders have acknowledged these challenges and committed, in several regional declarations, to strengthening governance and improving rule of law, human rights, gender equality, peace and security, most notably in: the 1997 Eight Principles of Good Governance, the 2000 Biketawa Declaration, the 2012 Gender Equality Declaration and the 2018 Boe Declaration, and the 2021 Teienewa Vision on anti-corruption and the PIF 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. These regional commitments are aligned with national PICTs' constitutions, legislative and policy frameworks, most of which promote strong protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Despite this, the record of governance achievements over the last 15 years remains mixed. Amidst signs of progress, examples of weak performance persist with

regards to capacity of institutions such as parliaments, executive governments and key institutions such as Auditor Generals, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Ombudsman offices (where they exist) to execute their constitutional mandates.<sup>17</sup> Institutional capacities, statutory independence and funding for institutions is very variable across the region. Natural resources are abundant but public financial systems are often poorly managed for positive development outcomes, a critical challenge in the context of disaster response and climate funding. Some of the governance shortcomings in PICTs can be linked to corruption, lack of civic space, and/or political instability. In most PICTs, there are law enforcement institutions that require more commitment and engagement for human rights compliance, notably to prevent torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrest and detention, and constraints on exercising public freedoms such as freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly as well as the right to information and participation and a focus on non-discrimination of women and marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities. Larger PICTs have relatively strong civil society actors, but smaller ones tend to have weaker civil society bodies and, in both contexts, CSOs and media are operating in increasingly restrictive and uncondusive environments.

Inclusion of marginalized groups in government policy and decision-making process, as well as accessing government services remain a challenge, due to the complex geography of many PICTs, but also failure to harness new technologies to expand outreach. Women, children and young people are particularly at risk of marginalization: they feature low rates of civic engagement and political participation, and are also particularly vulnerable to violence, largely due to discriminatory social norms and inadequate access to and weak justice systems. Trafficking in persons and exploitative migrant worker conditions are a growing concern in the Pacific. The region is a source, transit and destination point for trafficking in persons, though limited data, awareness and prosecution capabilities makes it difficult to determine the scale of this



A woman in the process of weaving a mat in her home. Mats, almost always made by women, are a labour of love, and take much effort and skill. Credit: UNCDF Pacific

phenomenon, especially in relation to the extractive industries (mining, logging, fishing) where migrant vulnerabilities are highest, as well as in agriculture. Transnational organized crime impacts public safety and permeates formal and informal economies, affecting the rule of law, security and the region's long-term prosperity. Data collection, analysis and utilization is at sub-optimal levels leaving a significant gap in evidence to inform policy reforms and decision making.

The pathway to a prosperous Pacific region is highly dependent upon the capacities of relevant governments' institutions to effectively fulfill their duties and people across the region to claim their rights. This implies remaining committed to strengthening governance, respecting human rights, striving for gender equality and peace as key drivers for sustainable development. Inclusive political structures and processes, underpinned by expanded civic space and strengthened democratic systems, will lead to broader social cohesion and expanded national and community resilience for peace and security (including cybersecurity).

**Effective public resources management** will enable PICTs to ensure more equitable economic development, more effective and sustainable use of natural resources, and more impactful and inclusive approaches to disaster and climate insecurity

resilience. Closely related to this is the building of robust **oversight and transparency systems**. These integrity institutions not only address corruption and promote accountability, but national human rights institutions that currently function in only two PICTs would also play a key role in bringing peoples' voice to bear in matters of human rights protection and realisation.

To achieve the UNSDCF vision, **governance institutions at all levels** will need stronger capacities to drive more people-centred and rights-based law reforms, inclusive decision-making, rule of law and service delivery aimed at leaving no one behind. This will pass through an improved collection and analysis of disaggregated data. Given the connectedness of the Pacific and the importance of regional identity, the development of appropriate pathways to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration in line with the rule of law and the strengthening migration and border governance will significantly contribute to the overall outcome under the Peace pillar.

Investments in and the prioritisation of inclusive **political participation of women, youths and people with disabilities** will not only ensure that all people in the Pacific can be part of public governance and democratic discourse, but it will also empower these groups to effectively contribute to deepen democracy and peace at community, national and regional levels.

<sup>17</sup> Babacan (2014). Good Governance and Development in the Pacific (The Journal of Pacific Studies, Volume 34, 2014)





Photo credit: IOM  
Pohnpei - Human Rights Day March

This ToC also recognises the need to improve the capacities of both duty-bearers and rights-holders in order to improve **access to justice**, overall **rule of law and human rights**, as a fundamental precondition for people living in the Pacific to be able to enjoy justice and peace, enhancing resilience to climate insecurity and ensuring that no one is left behind.

**The UN** brings to this ToC its locally contextualised knowledge and technical capacities to support PICTs' Governments, Non-State actors and people to progress towards their aspirations for a more inclusive development and democracy. Over the next 5 years the UN Will continue to play its role as a unbiased inter-governmental body supporting SDG progress in the complex development, peace and humanitarian context of the Pacific

To this end, the UN will strengthen the capacities of PICTs to engage with international human rights mechanisms and to implement the recommendations arising from these mechanisms, including regarding international labour standards. In striving to leave no-one behind, the UN will also focus on institutional strengthening of justice stakeholders, law enforcement and security sectors, including police, corrections, prosecution and the judiciary. Leveraging on digital technologies, the UN will support justice

case management systems, application of human rights standards and norms, pre-trial diversion of child offenders and setting up of victim and child friendly justice services. Simultaneously, significant investments will be made to empower citizens to enforce their rights through provision of human rights awareness and legal aid services with a focus on marginalised groups, women and children.

The UN will support Pacific's parliaments to build their capacities to effectively carryout their lawmaking, representation and oversight functions. It will expand partnerships with civil society and communities (including strengthening their capacity) and support movement building, for them to act in political advocacy, representation and engagement in political processes, for institutional development, effectiveness and sustainability of constitution-making bodies, electoral and political institutions. With climate change representing the single biggest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people, the UN will support PICTs to integrate climate related security risks into climate variability action and to protect environmental and other human rights defenders' engagement.

The UN recognizes its comparative advantage to strengthen Pacific countries' integrated border



Photo credit: UNICEF

management, championing robust and gender-sensitive data collection and sharing. It will foster regional cooperation and harmonization of practices across countries to collect, analyse and interpret data related to human trafficking and exploitation. In order to maximise Pacific's limited resources, the UN will also promote contextualised and respectful engagement with communities and inclusive digitalisation approaches, recognising that the Pacific can reap developmental dividends by harnessing ICTs. Acknowledging the importance of human rights-based data collection, analysis and utilisation, as a key driver for evidence-based decisions and policy making, over the next 5 years, the UN will prioritise investments in strengthening regional, national and subnational capacities in these areas. This will entail, among others, investments in civil registration systems which can form the foundation for e-government services such as health and social protection. The UN will also support Pacific government and non-government partners to integrate gender equality, women's empowerment and youth inclusion across all aspects of their activities, recognising that Pacific prosperity and stability depends on harnessing the potential of all of its people.

As a trusted partner in development, the UN will

support civil society actors and social partners to more effectively engage with government officials at all levels, opening up of space for engagement with governments for better protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, indigenous people, LGBTI and other minorities, while strengthening their capacities for advocacy, monitoring and service delivery. In line with the UNSG's Call to Action on Human Rights and Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace Agenda and to support the expansion of civic space, the UN will facilitate platforms for state-citizens' dialogue on complex issues, such as addressing global warming and climate variability threats, addressing GBV and VAC, issues related to political freedom, openness and accountability, harnessing the region's "Blue and Green Economy" resources and maximising the Pacific's youth dividend, in order to reach consensus for policy-making.

To deliver such results the UN will establish **partnerships** across all levels of government, engaging with a mix of government actors, independent bodies, academia and civil society actors, social partners, as well as directly with communities, to strengthen capacities for rights-based, accountable and inclusive democracy, social dialogue, peacebuilding and development for all. Partnerships across the



Photo credit: UN Samoa

executive, legislative and judicial branches of the PICTs' governments will be established including key ministries, independent statutory bodies, legislatures and the secretariats, courts, legal services, police services, as well as both elected and administrative sub-national government bodies, as appropriate.

The UN will also engage closely with civil society, in recognition of their critical advocacy, representation and service delivery roles in all PICTs. Non state actors' partners include CSOs, employers and workers organisations, volunteer-led groups, faith-based organisations, the media, academics and thinktanks, the private sector and community groups, including human rights defenders.

The UN will also partner with PIFS, SPC, Pacific Immigration Development Community, University of the South Pacific, other academic institutions, and Pacific regional bodies and networks, building on its trust relationship established over the years, to support sustainable policy and programming approaches aligned with the region's 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

The inherently political nature of this pillar, which aims to support Pacific people to transform existing power relations, brings with it **risks** which will need to be carefully managed. These include political instability and internal state fragmentation, increasing

fragility and (re)emergence of conflict and violence, insufficient political will for transformative political change, potential top-down governance approaches (which imposes laws/policies rather than including the public) and tensions/conflict related to resistance to change. In addition, limited public governance and human rights reforms, geo-political tensions and related competing governance and security concepts can affect regional cooperation, peace, security and human rights. To address these risks, not only politics at the highest levels, but also inter-personal political relationships amongst institutions and local stakeholders, will be carefully analysed, understood and managed throughout the programme cycle. The UN has built through the years a relationship of trust with local and regional partners, who recognise the UN's role as an impartial inter-governmental organisation, providing sound advice to Member States. In this context, the UN is will positioned to offer high quality, politically sensitive, human-rights based and gender transformative technical and programming support, which aligns with international norms and standards. These engagements will also aim to build political will for inclusive, people-centred governance reforms and programming, which will be meaningfully owned by partners over the long-term.



Photo credit: © UNCDF 2019 Vanuatu

# THEORY OF CHANGE

## PEACE PILLAR

### FIGURE 8



By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice, and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights.

KEY PRECONDITIONS TO PROGRESS TOWARDS THE OUTCOME/ SUBOUTCOMES

MORE WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING ROLES

EFFECTIVE PUBLIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

STRONGER HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION, OVERSIGHT, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS

STRENGTHENED MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

INCLUSIVE POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES FOR HUMAN SECURITY AND SOCIAL COHESION

IMPROVED ACCESS TO JUSTICE, RULE OF LAW, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PRECONDITIONS FOR THE REALISATION OF THE SUB-OUTCOMES	MAIN UN COLLECTIVE STRATEGIC CONTRIBUTIONS
Promote positive change in social & cultural norms & gender relations	Technical assistance for advocacy and social mobilization to increase community and civic understanding of gender equality and women, young people's rights to political participation and leadership.
Legislative, policy, institutional reforms enhance opportunities for youth & women's participation, including in women, peace & security.	Technical assistance for reforms to policy, legal framework, selection process such as temporary special measure legislation, political finance & campaign expenditure caps, voluntary reforms to party statutes, development of code of conducts for political parties.
Inclusive and gender responsive PFM systems.	Support PFM reforms that are gender responsive to ensure maximum impact on gender equality outcome.
Strengthened financial budgeting, and accountability systems/institutions.	Support to PFM reforms that strengthens oversight and transparency of how pacific government plans, spends and reports on the nation's finances including climate financing.
Enhanced natural resources governance systems with more inclusive decision-making processes.	Technical assistance and strengthening capacities to address transnational crimes such as money laundering, transnational fisheries crime, establishing platform & process design that brings government, CSOs and citizens for consensus decision making related to rule making, licensing, monitoring of blue/green economy sector and actors.
Established and strengthened NHRIs, institutions and systems for oversight.	Establish & strengthen the capacities, institutional development, processes of independent bodies such as NHRI, ombudsman, anti-corruption commissions and bodies responsible for transparency & oversight.
Enhanced civil society and media capacities to ensure transparency and accountability.	Strengthen the capacities and skills of CSOs and media to act as intermediaries in political advocacy, representation, openness and engagement.
Strengthened trans-boundary and migration governance.	Strengthen integrated border management that champions robust and gender-sensitive data collection and sharing, regional cooperation and harmonization of practices related to human trafficking & exploitations.
Improved data collection, analysis and utilisation systems.	Strengthening regional, national and subnational capacities for collection of administrative data, conduct of surveys and partnership for data analysis.
Adequate national and sub-national government capacities for service delivery and e-governance systems and services.	Investments in civil registration systems which can form the foundation for e-government services such as health and social protection.
Expanded civic space and dialogue, empowered communities to address conflict.	Promoting an environment that encourages civic engagement and dialogue, supports the important role of citizens, communities and civil society including digital spaces that promote monitoring and advocacy.
Enhanced capacities to prevent & respond to climate security threats.	Technical assistance on how to integrate security risks into climate action.
Legal and institutional reforms for inclusive participation.	Facilitate dialogues amongst governments, citizens and other stakeholders and build consensus on complex issues related to legislative & institutional reforms to promote inclusion, participation.
Strengthened democratic legislatures, electoral systems, constitutional bodies.	Build capacities of parliaments to effectively carryout their lawmaking, representation and oversight functions, support the institutional development, effectiveness and sustainability of constitution-making bodies, electoral institutions, stakeholders and processes.
Increased institutional capacities.	Focus on institutional strengthening of justice stakeholders including police, legal aid services, prosecution and the judiciary.
Established and strengthened justice systems and institutions.	Support justice case management systems, human rights training, pre-trial diversion of child offenders and setting up of victim and child friendly justice services.
Rights holders have improved awareness of and ability to exercise their rights.	Provision of human rights awareness and legal aid services with a focus on marginalised groups, women and children.
Increased compliance of domestic laws with international human rights standards.	Strengthen the capacities of PICs in reporting to international human rights mechanism and implementation of recommendations.



Photo credit: UNICEF - FSM



## ROLE OF PARTNERS

### PRIVATE SECTOR:

Advocacy, outreach and collective action across all the thematic areas of pillar and mobilisation of resources.

### REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

Joint partnerships with the UN on regional security; ratification, reporting and implementation of HRs instruments; data production and utilisation; civic space expansion and gender equality and women's and youth empowerment.

### INDEPENDENT BODIES:

Fulfil their protection and promotion mandates on human rights standards; data collection and utilisation.

### GOVERNMENTS:

Use of a human rights-based, gender responsive and conflict sensitive approaches and oversight for development, peace and security.

### CSOS:

Incl. FBOs: advocacy, data collection and utilisation, reporting, collective action and partnerships on gender equality and empowerment, natural resources governance, state transparency and accountability, human rights mechanisms, promotion of people's ownership of development outcomes.

### RESEARCH AND ACADEMIA:

Knowledge products and policy advice, providing access to expertise.

### ASSUMPTIONS - REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR THE CHANGES DESCRIBED IN THE TOC TO HAPPEN:

Political will to prioritize gender equality and human rights through public financing and institutional strengthening, oversight and responses; Government capacity and resilience to respond to increasing shocks and risk (traditional and non-traditional security); Government capacity, political will and commitments for political reforms, expanding civic space; CSOs capacity to effectively engage on human rights issues, champion transparency and oversight issues and are committed to change; Whole of society approach and rights-based responses to conflict and crisis prevention and violations of human rights; CSOs are active on the question of women's and youth leadership; continued progress made on digital infrastructure in the Pacific.

### RISKS - EVENTS AND FACTORS THAT MAY CHANGE THE ASSUMPTIONS:

Political instability and internal state fragmentation; Increasing fragility and (re)emergence of conflict and violence; Reprisals and backlash against human rights defenders and minorities; Weak governance, political interference and corruption; Delayed implementation of public governance reforms; Regional geo-political tensions affect cooperation on peace, security and human rights.



## CHAPTER 4

# COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



## CHAPTER 4

# COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

## 4.1 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK GOVERNANCE

A review of the UN Multi-Country Offices (MCOs) was also carried out in 2019, thus covering also the Fiji - and Samoa-based MCOs. The review clearly indicated the demand for a dedicated UN MCO covering the North Pacific, given the distance from the Fiji MCO and their unique development needs and priorities. As a response the UN has opened in 2021 a new MCO based in Pohnpei covering the 5 countries of North Pacific, led by a newly appointed and accredited UN Resident Coordinator. The 2019 Report of the Secretary-General also requested UNCTs to start operating with a dedicated country focus by convening regularly around country-specific issues, derived from national development plans, bringing together all relevant entities and staff, including through videoconference and teleconference.

The review, as well as the independent evaluation of the Pacific Strategy 2018-22, also recommended to more strongly anchor the design and implementation of the

regional frameworks at the country level, including the establishment of Joint Steering Committees (JSCs) between the government and the UN in each of the country signatory to the CF. JSCs have already been established in all the PICTs, co-chaired the accredited RC and the most senior government counterpart. They comprise all the UN entities operating in that country (under the UNCT) and relevant government agencies/line ministries. In most countries JSCs, civil society, development partners and ILO's tripartite partners are also represented, making them very inclusive and consultative bodies.

The JSCs represent the principal custodian of this CF and the fora that will hold the UN accountable for delivering against the outcomes set in this framework. The JSCs will oversee the implementation of the Country Implementation Plans which will derive from this regional overarching strategy.



## 4.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The regional UNCT, under the leadership of the three RCs based in Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa, will be responsible for the implementation of the CF throughout the 14 PICTs. In particular the UNCT, with the technical support of the Regional Programme Management Team (PMT), will:

1. Oversee the implementation of the Pacific UNSDCF, ensuring consistency, coherence and synergistic approaches across the 14 PICTs.
2. Coordinate and review progress towards the CF outcomes at regional level, including overseeing regional level initiatives, advocacy campaigns, programmatic interventions.
3. Provide strategic guidance for region-wide resource mobilisation strategy for the implementation of the CF.

The PMT will be the operational arm of the Pacific UNCT and, through its outcome level results groups, will advise the UNCT on the implementation of the CF across the region. Given the significant overlap in terms of UN entities' representation across the MCOs, the main programmatic coordination will take place at the PMT and TWGs levels with reporting lines to each of the 3 UNCTs in terms of country-level implementation.

While the PMT (through its Results Groups) is responsible for the overall coordinated delivery of UN contributions under each outcome and for ensuring

that key programmatic principles are applied in their respective domains, the TWGs on Gender equality and Human Rights will ensure coherent application of the GEWE and HR principles by each Results Plan (see below). Furthermore, these groups will provide the space for the development of UN-wide initiatives to promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the region and explore opportunities to expand human rights protection (through and beyond the programmatic interventions designed under each outcome). The TWGs will also contribute to the revitalised Data and Monitoring Group (DMEG) through their direct membership.

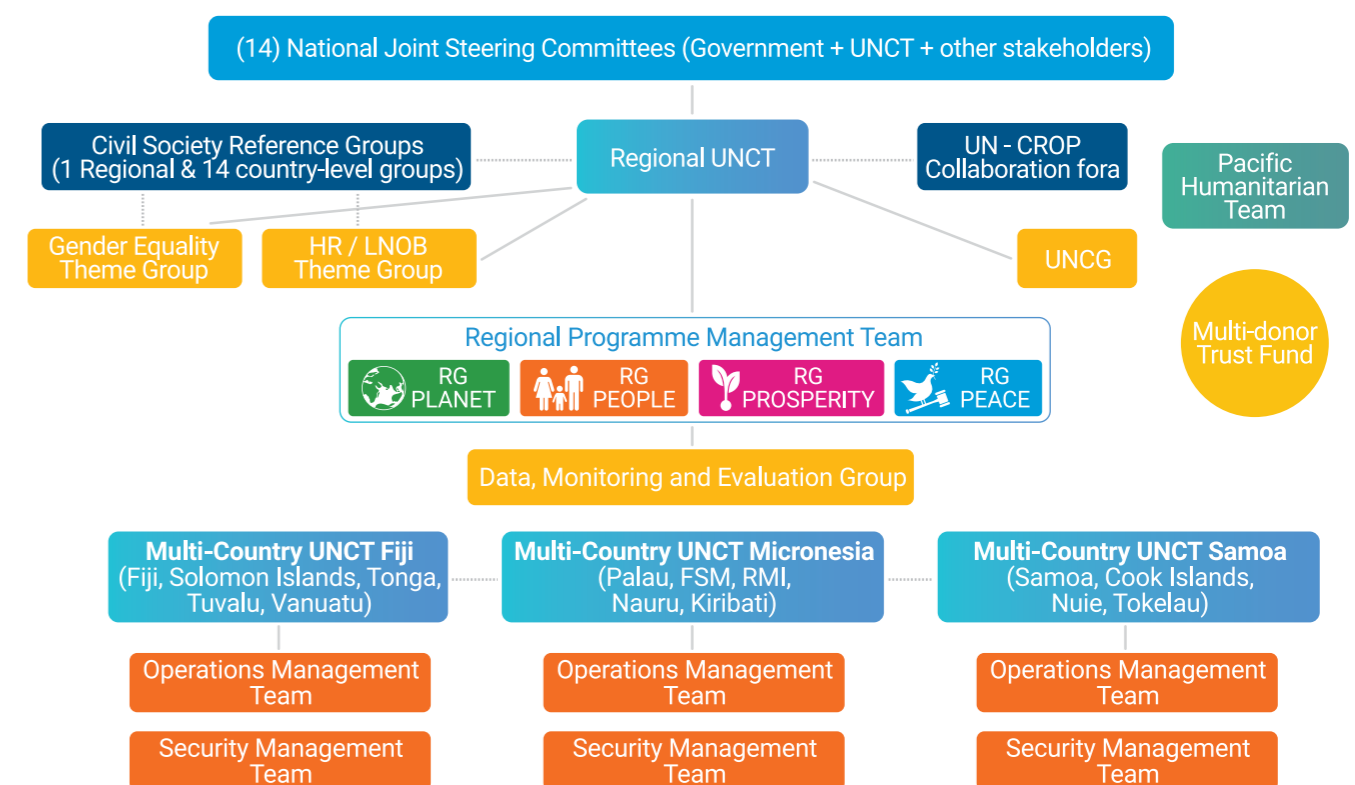
The regional DMEG, comprising the M&E specialists and focal points of all UN agencies operating in the Pacific, will play a crucial role in supporting the PMT in monitoring progress towards CIPs outputs and CF outcomes. It will ensure data consistency and validity for monitoring purposes.

The diagram opposite summarises the overall governance and management structure for the CF implementation, noting also the interaction and coordination with CROP agencies, the establishment of a Civil society reference group at the regional level as a consultative body for UN actions, and the presence of a Pacific Humanitarian Country Team coordinating response in case of disasters.



Photo credit: IOM Menstrual hygiene

FIGURE 9  
UNSDCF GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



UNCG = UN Communications Group  
 HR/LNOB = Human Rights / Leave No One Behind  
 RG = Results Group  
 UNCT = United Nations Country Team

— supervision/guidance  
 ..... coordination/collaboration

## 4.3 RESOURCING THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

In line with the CF guidance and the commitments in the global Funding Compact, the UNCT will develop a Multi-Year Funding Framework that is based on an assessment of the resources required to deliver the Cooperation Framework (each Results Group will cost the realisation of UN contributions for their respective outcome). The Funding Framework will form the basis for periodic funding dialogues between the national governments and donors in the overall context of SDGs financing. The Funding Framework will be translated and operationalized annually through a localized Annual Funding Frameworks developed as part of UN joint workplans.

Resource Mobilisation Strategy will be prepared in the second quarter of 2022, with the support from the RCO partnership specialists. The strategy will draw from and add to existing financial analyses from within and outside the UN system.

The UN commits under each component of this CF and overall, to use its resources and brokering power to support SDGs financing for the region, including through technical support to facilitate the adoption of debt swaps, issuance of green bonds and development financing based on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (which is fundamental for SIDS considering their structural vulnerabilities to climate change and exogenous shocks) and responding to the commitments made under the SAMOA pathway. The UN will also advocate for and facilitate integrated national financing frameworks to help PICTs manage the increasingly complex financing landscape, ensure coherence of different financing policies, as well as help mobilise additional financing to realise the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

## 4.4 DERIVATION OF UN ENTITY COUNTRY PROGRAMMING INSTRUMENTS FROM THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

The Pacific UNSDCF will inform agencies' strategic planning documents. All agencies will, upon the signing of the UNSDCF, ensure that their agency-specific documents are aligned with UNSDCF results. To the extent possible, efforts have been made to align the timeframe of CF design process

and the UN agencies' programming documents. The design of outcome-specific ToCs and related consultations, happened in parallel with the UN funds and programmes' development of their respective Country Programme Documents (CPDs) informing their articulation and focus.

## 4.5 COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

The Cooperation Framework will be operationalized at country level through Country Implementation Plans (CIPs). These plans will be fully aligned with CF outcomes and jointly designed with respective Governments in the 14 PICTs covered under this UNSDCF and in consultation with UN agencies specific constituents and other stakeholders. Each CIP will be aligned with national planning and monitoring mechanisms and systems. CIPs will be developed on a biennial basis and can be amended as required in response to evolving country contexts and based on review and discussions with JSCs. The endorsed

CIPs will be the primary planning and implementation instrument at the country level and will constitute the basis, and feed directly into, the preparation of agency specific workplans.

UN regional programmes will be translated into actions and results at the country level, and thus incorporated in the CIPs and reported against the same. This multi-country CF also captures regional initiatives designed to have a specific transboundary impact in support of, for example, CROP agencies and related policies and strategies.

## 4.6 BUSINESS OPERATIONS STRATEGY IN SUPPORT OF THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

In order to achieve greater efficiency, reduced operational transaction costs, and decreased duplication of operational support to programme delivery in their respective countries, each UNCT has established an Operations Management Team (OMT) with three key responsibilities: establishment and implementation of a collective UNCT Business Operations Strategy (BOS); establishment of a Common Premise for housing of all resident UN agencies; and establishment of a Common Back Office.

As a central piece of the UN Operational reform, the BOS is a results-based framework that focuses on joint

business operations with the purpose of eliminating duplication, leveraging the common bargaining power of the UN, and maximizing economies of scale.

At the regional level, OMT chairs will establish a line of communication and coordination to share best practices and seek areas for economies of scales in procurement and efficiencies across countries of the region. This will include the utilization of shared tools and processes to harmonize operational standards and processes across agencies<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>18</sup>Eg. UNSDG Common Approach to Prospect Research and Due Diligence for Business Sector Partnerships: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/unsdg-common-approach-prospect-research-and-due-diligence-business-sector-partnerships>



## CHAPTER 5

# COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS UPDATE, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING





Photo credit: UN MCO Micronesia

## CHAPTER 5

# COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS UPDATE, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

## 5.1 UPDATES OF THE UN COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSES

As per the CF guidance, the Common Country Analyses and Multi-Country Analysis will undergo a light update each year. This could be 'thematic', i.e. focusing on updating specific aspects of the CCAs in line with emerging challenges and opportunities or more broadly reviewing macroeconomic trends, impact of global and local events on the development profile of the countries and the region, or zoom in on specific themes that the UNCT assess there is a need for further analysis to inform the CF and CIPs implementation.

The CCAs updates are aimed at providing up-to-date evidence and analyses on the country and regional context to inform the annual review of the CF implementation and its underpinning ToC. The updates will be led by the three RCO's Economists with technical inputs and support by the relevant UNCT's members and will include forward-looking analysis and scenario building.

## 5.2 MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

As part of the strategic planning process, the temporary Results Groups identified a limited number of monitoring indicators to keep track of progress made under each outcome area. In order to align, as much as possible, to national and regional prioritised SDGs indicators, these were derived from a mapping of the SDG targets to which the UN would be directly contributing to under each outcome and sub-outcome, related SDG global indicators filtered by the 132 prioritised by the Pacific Community.<sup>19</sup> Where no relevant and reliable SDG indicator could be identified, other nationally-owned and robust indicators were selected in line with the SAMOA Pathway and other regional/global relevant commitments. The results framework (see Annex 1) reports the monitoring indicators as well as the main means of verification

(in particular for indicators that are being monitored through regional structures), as well as the custodian UN agency, which takes the responsibility for providing consistent data for the baseline values as well as for periodic reviews. For regional level indicators (i.e. those indicators which can and should be measured at the regional level) baselines and targets have also been set, while for the others these will be defined and set at national level as part of the design of the Country Implementation Plans.

UNCTs, through the Data Monitoring and Evaluation Group (DMEG), supported by the TWGs, will also explore opportunities for innovative monitoring mechanisms including use of big data, crowd-sources information, etc as appropriate.

## 5.3 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL RESULTS REPORTING

The annual CCA update will be timed as to provide the evidence and analytical support for the CF performance review and results reporting. Annual reports will be compiled by the RCOs with substantive inputs provided by the Results Groups. Country level reports will be summarised and distilled in a regional overview of progress made under the CF, including the performance of regional level activities engaging directly supranational structures and institutions.

The Results groups, **with support from the TWGs**, will hold consultations with key concerned government and non-governmental stakeholders to discuss progress made, review the ToC and emerging

implementation challenges. The overall Annual Report for each country will be presented and discussed in the respective JSCs which will advise on any adjustment to the CIP design and implementation, as needed, for the following year.

Once finalised and approved by the JSCs, the annual reports (and the regional compendium one) will be made public and disseminated to all stakeholders in and outside the region, as well as to the broader public through digital platforms.

## 5.4 EVALUATION PLAN

In 2026 an independent evaluation of the UNSDCF will be carried out in order to feed into the next programming cycle. The evaluation will be managed by an Evaluation Management Team comprising representation of the regional UNCT, RCOs and key regional partners, as appropriate. Following all UNEG's evaluation norms and standards, the evaluation process will be carefully outlined, ensuring full participation of all key stakeholders across the Pacific, including regional organisations, and analysing the performance across the main evaluation criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and coherence)<sup>20</sup>. The independence of the process will be guaranteed by the selection of an evaluator (or

team of evaluators) that have not be involved in any phase of the regional CF process nor at the country or agency specific level, as well as by the presence of a multi-stakeholder Evaluation Reference Group. The evaluation will also assess the overall coordination and joined up efforts of the UN system to establish if indeed the 'whole has been greater than the sum of the parts'.

The recommendations and lessons learned arising from the evaluation process will be a key element for the design of the next cooperation framework, including its governance and management structure.

<sup>19</sup>See the SDGs in the Pacific Booklet available at <https://pacificdata.org>.

<sup>20</sup>While "Impact" would be the other standard evaluation criteria, it will not be included in the UNSDCF evaluation as this will take place prior to the completion of its implementation. Impact can only be assessed after the full implementation of the programmes and allowing for an adequate period of time in order for impact level results to be shown.

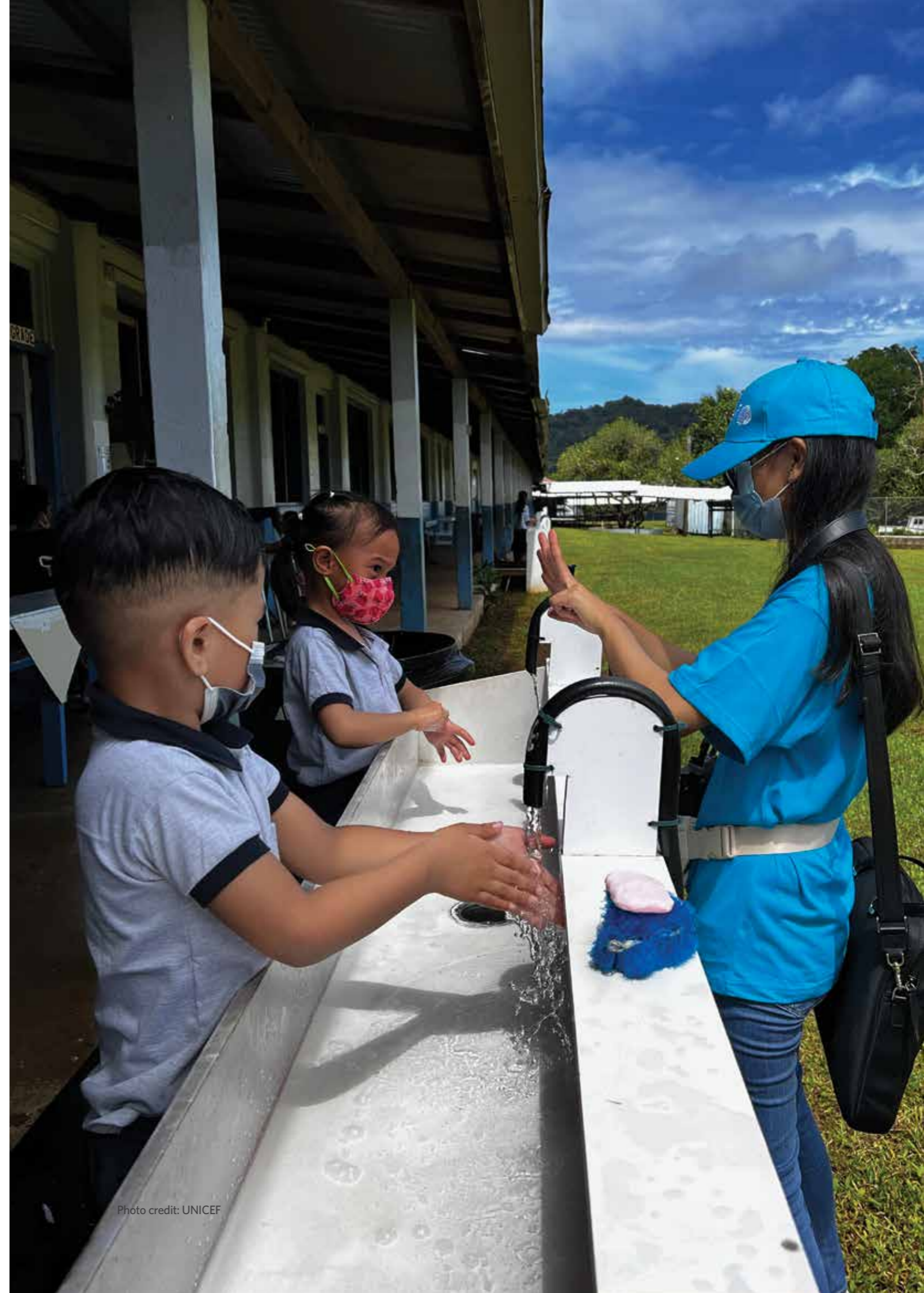


Photo credit: UNICEF



Photo credit: MCO Micronesia

## CHAPTER 6

# ANNEXES

## 6.1 RESULTS FRAMEWORK

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: PLANET



#### REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

2050 Strategy – Climate Change and Disasters, Ocean and Environment; SPC Strategic Plan: Focus area 1 – Resilience and Climate Action, Focus area 2 – Natural Resources and biodiversity, Focus area 3 – Food systems; FRDP: Goal 1 (Strengthened Integrated Adaptation and Risk Reduction to Enhance Resilience to Climate Change and Disasters) Goal 3 (Strengthened Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery)

**SDGs Targets: 1.5, 7.1, 7.2, 11.5, 11.b, 13.1, 13.2, 13.a, 13.b, 14.2, 14.6, 15.1, 15.2**

#### OUTCOME 1:

By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and stresses, especially related to climate variability impacts, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 1:</b> Better protected, managed and restored biodiversity/ environment/ ecosystems	SDG 14.2.1 Number of ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas	State of Environment Report Projects	UNDP	0 (2021)	14
	SDG 14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	FAO Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries - Country self-reporting fishing	FAO		
	SDG 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and FAOSTAT State of the Environment Report Projects	FAO	5 (2021)	10
	Regional Indicator: Number of countries with increased forest area as a proportion of total land area				
<b>SUBOUTCOME 2:</b> Enhanced climate change adaptation and resilience	Number of countries that develop rights-based national policies to address climate mobility	Official government documents, World Bank - Climate Change Knowledge Portal, SPC Data hub	IOM	3 (2022)	9
	13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Collecting directly from UNFCCC Partners and Governments.	UNEP/UNDP	1 (2022)	5

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 3:</b> Effective disaster risk management	Sendai Framework Target E: Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies	UNDRR	UNDRR	National average: 0.611 (2020)	National target: 0.8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National average score for the adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030</li> <li>Percentage of local governments that have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies</li> </ul>			Local: 54.01 (2020)	Local: 80
	Sendai Target G - Number of countries that have multi-hazard early warning systems. <sup>3</sup>	Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (PTWS) Framework for Future Goals and Performance Monitoring of Risk Reduction Tsunami Hazard Warning and Mitigation.	UNESCO	2	5
	Target B: Number of directly affected people attributed to disasters, per 100,000 population.		UNDRR	36698.8 (2018/20/21)	20000
	Target C: Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product.		UNDRR	6.7% (2019/20/21)	0.5%
<b>SUBOUTCOME 4:</b> Scaled-up climate change mitigation	SDG7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.	United Nations Energy Statistics Database	ESCAP	11%	TBC
	15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	FAO		
	Greenhouse gas emissions per capita	Global Set of Climate Change Indicators	UNDP	3 (2019)	7
	Regional Indicator: Number of countries with reduced greenhouse gas emissions per capita	<a href="https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/2022-17-ClimateChangeStats-E.pdf">https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/53rd-session/documents/2022-17-ClimateChangeStats-E.pdf</a>			

<sup>1</sup>For regional level indicators only, for the others baselines will be set at the national level in their respective CIPs.

<sup>2</sup>For regional level indicators only, for the others targets will be set at the national level in their respective CIPs.

<sup>3</sup>Average of the scores of the four indicators, where each member will report scores taking from 0 to 1 for each of the four indicators G-2 through G-5.

G-2: Number of countries that have multi-hazard monitoring and forecasting systems.

G-3: Number of people per 100,000 that are covered by early warning information through local governments or through national dissemination mechanisms.

G-4: Percentage of local governments having a plan to act on early warnings.

G-5: Number of countries that have accessible, understandable, usable and relevant disaster risk information and assessment available to the people at the national and local levels.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: PEOPLE



## REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

2050 Strategy – People-centred development; SPC Strategic Plan: Focus area 3 – Food Systems, Focus area 4 – Equity, education and social development, Focus area 6 – Planetary Health

SDGs Targets: 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 3.2; 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.b, 4.1, 4.2, 5.2, 5.6, 5.5, 6.1, 6.2, 8.b, 11.1, 16.2, 17.9

## OUTCOME 2:

By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive infrastructure, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems.

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 1:</b> Stronger, more inclusive, gender - and shock - responsive social protection systems	SDG 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable (%)	HIES; MICS; Poverty report	ILO		
<b>SUBOUTCOME 2:</b> Stronger, inclusive, resilient and high-quality public health systems	SDG 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) Regional Indicator: No of Countries with <12 deaths per 1,000 live births	UNIGME	WHO	8 (2022)	14
	SDG 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. Regional Indicator: Number of PICTs whose proportion of women of reproductive age that have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods has increased based on the latest available data.	MICS/DHS	UNFPA	2 (2022)	6
	SDG 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (index): Child immunization coverage, DTP3 (%) Cervical cancer screening coverage (%) Health workers per 10,000 population	DHIS, DHS, MICS, Country reports	WHO		
	SDG 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme Regional indicator: Countries with DPT vaccine coverage over 90%	WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage	UNICEF	7 (2022)	14

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 3:</b> addressed drivers of food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition	SDG 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Yearly reports on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World FAO and National Statistics	FAO		
	SDG 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 (%) Regional Indicator: No. of countries reporting reduction in stunting	Joint Malnutrition Estimate (JME - WHO-World Bank-UNICEF), MICS Reports	UNICEF	0	6
	SDG 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Joint Malnutrition Estimate (JME - WHO-World Bank-UNICEF), MICS Reports	UNICEF		
<b>SUBOUTCOME 4:</b> increased access to safe and affordable water, sanitation, hygiene services in communities and institutions	SDG 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services Regional Indicator: No. of countries with >80% of population using safely managed drinking water services	Joint Monitoring Programme JMP (UNICEF-WHO) <a href="https://washdata.org/data/household#!/">https://washdata.org/data/household#!/</a>	UNICEF	11 (2022)	13
	SDG 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water Regional Indicator: No of countries with >80% of population using basic sanitation and hygiene	Joint Monitoring Programme JMP (UNICEF-WHO) <a href="https://washdata.org/data/household#!/">https://washdata.org/data/household#!/</a>	UNICEF	3 (2022)	8
<b>SUBOUTCOME 5:</b> Increased quality and equitable accessibility of education and skills development	SDG 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary) Regional Indicators: No. of countries >95% primary and >80% lower secondary	EMIS/statistical digest of Education Ministries/ Departments	UNESCO	4 (2022)	8
	SDG 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) (%) Regional Indicator: No. of countries with >85% (baseline), target >90%	EMIS/statistical digest of Education Ministries/ Departments	UNESCO	8 (2022)	12
<b>SUBOUTCOME 6:</b> Adequate and equitable housing conditions and accessibility					

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 7:</b> Effective systems to prevent, mitigate and respond to discrimination, gender-based violence and violence against children	SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1 to 17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	MICS/DHS	UNICEF		
	5.2.1 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  Regional indicator: No. of countries that have registered a decrease in intimate partner violence against women prevalence rate (in last 12 months) based on available data	DHS/MICS	UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC	0 (2022)	At least 3
	Number of PICTs with enacted standalone legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the purpose, definitions, principles and general obligations of the CRPD	Agency reports including the SDG-CRPD monitoring and compliance reports, VNR, Treaty Body State party and UPR reports	OHCHR	1 (2022)	2



Photo credit: UNICEF - Basic Services



Photo credit: RMI - Covid

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: PROSPERITY



## REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

2050 Strategy – Resources and Economic Development, Technology and Connectivity; SPC Strategic Plan Focus Areas 3 – Food Systems and 5 - Sustainable economies and livelihoods. FRDP Goal 2 – Low carbon development.

**SDGs Targets: 1.a, 1.2, 2.a, 2.3, 2.4, 5.b,7.2, 7.b, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.9, 8.10, 9.c, 10.2, 10.4, 11.4, 12.5, 14.7, 14.a, 14.b, 17.4, 17.8, 17.11, 17.13**

## OUTCOME 3:

By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods' opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity.

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 1:</b> Expansion of low-carbon development solutions	7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity Regional indicators: No. of countries with increased population accessing electricity	World Bank (with IEA, IRENA, UNSD and WHO)	UNDP	11 (2022)	14
	SDG 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	United Nations Energy Statistics Database	ESCAP	11	TBC
<b>SUBOUTCOME 2:</b> Expansion of blue, green and creative economy	SDG 8.10.2: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider Regional Indicator: No. of countries with adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Money Pacific Goals 2025 - FEMM Annual Report	UNCDF/UNDP	5 (2021)	10
<b>SUBOUTCOME 3:</b> Transformation of agri-food systems	SDG 2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	IMF data. UNSD national account estimates IMF data. World Bank national accounts data Official country publications. UNSD national account estimates FAO Questionnaire. UNSD national account estimates FAO Questionnaire. World Bank national accounts data. IMF data and FAO Imputation. UNSD national account estimates IMF data. UNSD national account estimates FAO Questionnaire. UNSD national account estimates. FAO Questionnaire. World Bank national accounts data	FAO		

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
	SDG 14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/ policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	FAO Questionnaire on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries - Country self-reporting	FAO		
<b>SUBOUTCOME 4:</b> Equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods	SDG 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	ILOSTAT	ILO		
	No. of countries with newly adopted National Action Plans and similar frameworks on Business and Human Rights	UN Agency Reports, State Report and civil society organizations' reports, UPR, Treaty Body and VNR Reports	OHCHR	0 (2022)	1
	SDG 10.4.1 Labour share of GDP	ILOSTAT	ILO		
<b>SUBOUTCOME 5:</b> Macroeconomic stability and sound fiscal management	SDG 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age. Regional indicator: No. of countries with reduced proportion of population living below the national poverty line.	HIES	UNICEF	3 (2019)	6
	SDG 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and service Regional Indicator: mean across the 14 PICTs	ESCAP's macroeconomic monitoring work, with original sources from the WDI+CEIC	ESCAP	9.3	7.8
	Annual inflation, consumer prices (%)	ESCAP's macroeconomic monitoring work, with original sources from the WDI+CEIC	ESCAP		
	State of implementation of a wide range of trade facilitation measures	untfsurvey.org	ESCAP		
<b>SUBOUTCOME 6:</b> Bridging digital divide	SDG 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	ITU	ITU	2021 2G: 90.1% 3G: 78.8% 4G: 61.3%	100% by 2030
	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet. Regional Indicator: No. of countries with increased individuals using the internet	ITU	ITU	21.6% (2020)	Gender parity by 2030

<sup>1</sup>For regional level indicators only, for the others baselines will be set at the national level in their respective CIPs.

<sup>2</sup>For regional level indicators only, for the others targets will be set at the national level in their respective CIPs.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PEACE



## REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

2050 Strategy – Political Leadership and Regionalism, Peace and Security; SPC Strategic Plan: Focus Area 7 (Transforming Institutional Effectiveness)

SDGs Targets: 5.1, 5.5, 5.c, 10.3, 10.7, 16.1, 16.3, 16.6, 16.7, 16.9, 16.10, 16.a, 16.b, 17.19

## OUTCOME 4:

By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights.

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 1:</b> Improved access to justice, rule of law and human rights	No. of PICT who have ratified at least 5 of the 9 core UN human rights treaties and at least 4 out of the 8 ILO fundamental Conventions (and have up-to-date reporting) and the UNESCO Convention of the Promotion and Protection of Diversity of Cultural Expressions  Baseline and targets are the sum of PICs that have ratified any of the core human rights treaties, the ILO fundamental Conventions and the Protocol and the UNESCO Convention.	UN Office of Legal Affairs, ILO HQ  Registration, UN Treaty Body Database	OHCHR	103	110
<b>SUBOUTCOME 2:</b> Inclusive political, structures and processes for human security and social cohesion and dialogue	SDG 16.7.1: No. of countries with increased positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups	Data on age and sex of Members, Speakers, Data on age and sex of Chairs of permanent committee, Reports by IPU, Public service commissions' administrative data.	UNDP	7 (2020)	12
	SDG 16.b.1/10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.	MICS, DHS, agency perception surveys	OHCHR		
	SDG 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	UNESCO world trends in freedom of expression and media development reports, UNESCO Media Assessment indicators reports, World Bank reports	UNODC	5	2023: 10 2024: 14 2025: 17
	SDG 5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.	Data drawn from assessment of legal frameworks: laws, policies, action plans by Ministry/ Department of Women, stakeholders engaged in gender equality	UNWOMEN		

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 3:</b> Strengthened multi-level governance, institutions and processes	SDG 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Censuses, household surveys - MICS & DHS, national civil registration systems.	UNICEF, UNDP		
	SDG 10.7.2: No. of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.	Based on UNDESA MGI self-reported data, regularly updated; number of PICTs which have completed assessment and scored 'meets' or 'fully meets' on at least one MGI domain.	DESA Population Division, IOM	5 (2021)	14
	17.19.2 No. of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration	Agency reports on census implementation, Census, national civil registration.	UNSD	(a)12 (2022) (b) 5 (2022)	(a)14 (b)
	No. of countries with strengthened <sup>4</sup> regulatory frameworks for dialogue, conflict prevention and dispute resolution	ILO Supervisory Bodies Reports, Reports of employers' and workers' organizations, Agency Annual Reports, VNRs, Treaty body State party reports, UPR Reports.	ILO	0 (2022)	9
<b>SUBOUTCOME 4:</b> Stronger human rights protection, oversight, transparency and accountability systems	16.6 Proxy Number of countries that have developed and are implementing National Anti-Corruption Strategies	UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism report, Administrative and budget data. AGO/MoJ	UNODC	1 (2022)	2
	SDG 16.10.2: No. of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.	UNESCO world trends in freedom of expression and media development reports, UNESCO Media Assessment indicators reports, World Bank reports	UNODC	3 (2022)	5
	SDG 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.	Global Alliance of NHRIs	OHCHR	2 (2022)	3
	SDG 16.10.1: Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	Official reports, civil society, workers' organizations, and National Human Rights Commission reports, OHCHR, ILO.	OHCHR		
<b>SUBOUTCOME 5:</b> Effective Public Resources management	SDG 16.6.1: No. of countries with increased approved budget for SDGs.	Government expenditure report, budget analysis report	UNDP	2 (2021)	13
	SDG 5.c.1: No. of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	Government reports	UN Women	1	TBD 2



RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
<b>SUBOUTCOME 6:</b> Expanded women's and youth's leadership and role in decision-making roles	SDG 5.5.1: No. of countries with increased proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	National administrative data from parliaments, local authorities and public service commissions	UNDP	National Parliaments: 8 Local Governments: 8	National parliament: 9 Local Government: 14
	No. of countries responding to humanitarian, climate, health or other crises that include women, young people, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in decision-making mechanisms	UN Agencies desk review	UNFPA	0 (2022)	5

## DATA AND STATISTICS

### REGIONAL PRIORITIES:

Other indicators form Global/Regional Frameworks (eg, Global Gender Inds, Sendai Framework, Healthy Island Monitoring Framework, etc)

SDGs Targets: 17.8.1, 17.9.2

RESULTS	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (DISAGGREGATED)	SOURCE/MOV	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	BASELINE (YEAR) <sup>1</sup>	TARGET <sup>2</sup>
	17.8.1 Proportion of relevant sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with pre-set disaggregation requirements met	ESCAP DB SPC DB UNSDCF DB	ESCAP		
	No. of countries with an official country-operated, dedicated online portal which can be used for reporting either i) national SDG progress or ii) progress against their national plan with suitably incorporated SDGs, detailed either in the government webpage or NSO website	Govt and NSO websites	ESCAP	0(2022)	NA

<sup>1</sup>For regional level indicators only, for the others baselines will be set at the national level in their respective CIPs.

<sup>2</sup>For regional level indicators only, for the others targets will be set at the national level in their respective CIPs.



Photo credit: UN - Samoa

