TONGA
COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
2023-2024

UNITED NATIONS
FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS,
TONGA, TUVALU AND
VANUATU

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADO	Asian Development Outlook
CATDDO	Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Operation
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCCPIR	Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DBS	Direct Budget Support
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFI	Digital Finance Institution
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FP	Family Planning
FPLAC	Family Protection and Legal Aid Centre
HDI	Human Development Index
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Background

Country Context and Development Trends

Tonga is an archipelago of 175 islands - 36 of which are inhabited - and is one of 14 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) covered by the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Tonga has a population of just over 100,000 (105,780 July 2021)[1], characterised by high migration and low population growth.

Tonga has made significant progress in terms of human and sustainable development over the past decades—evidenced by its upcoming graduation to upper Middle Income Country (MIC) status and inclusion in the high development group of nations—and has also commenced a meaningful yet unfinished process of political reform. Tonga is currently ranked 91 out of 191 countries and territories with a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.745, which is considered high human development and is among the better performing Pacific countries.[2] The economy is predominantly driven by domestic consumption, supported by remittance inflows. The largest contributors to GDP in 2021 were the services sector at 51.3%, followed by the primary sector (agriculture, forestry, and fisheries) at 17.9%, and the industrial sector at 13.7%. The economy is heavily reliant on foreign aid.

The World Risk Index 2020 ranks Tonga as the 2nd most at risk country in the world, with very high exposure and high vulnerability to climate change, a lack of adaptive capacity, and relatively low coping capacity.[3] Climate change is one of the top priorities in the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II and a revised Climate Change Policy was launched in 2016, to guide climate change actions towards building 'a Resilient Tonga' by 2035.[4]

In January 2022, Tonga was hit by the Tonga Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption, tsunami and ashfall. This caused an estimated US$90.4 million in damages including to infrastructure, houses, ashfall clean up, agriculture, foresting and fishing. This is equivalent to approximately 18.5% of Tonga's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – according to a World Bank assessment.[5] Broader economic losses, such as ongoing impacts on agriculture and tourism, are expected to significantly increase the overall economic impact.

The Tongan economy also continues to suffer from the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism sector, and the impact of Tropical Cyclone Harold—a category 5 cyclone—that struck the country in April 2020, affecting approximately 27% of the population and inflicting losses of more than 12% of the country's GDP. Similar to other PICTs, Tonga has also been negatively impacted by the war in Ukraine including through higher energy and food prices, reducing food security.

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Tonga's economic growth is expected to rebound to 3.3 percent in financial year (FY) 2023 and FY 2024 driven by reconstruction activity, recovery in agriculture, and a gradual increase in tourism. However, inflation has been rising (8.7% in 2022) due to higher fuel and food prices amid supply chain constraints, COVID-19 restrictions, and the volcanic eruption/tsunami, before being expected to fall in the second half of 2023.[6] The fiscal and current account deficits are projected to remain elevated in FY 2023-24 as reconstruction activities and recovery efforts continue, before narrowing over the medium term.

With regards to human rights, Tonga has ratified the International Convention

on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and signed, but not ratified, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). Tonga has acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNCTOC), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Tonga has not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Tonga is also not a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Human Rights Council has welcomed the issuance of a standing invitation to the Human Rights Special Procedures.

In 2023, Tonga has successfully undertaken the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (URP). This included the National Report; UN Country Team (UNCT) compiled report; and Stakeholders report/Shadow report by six Tongan civil society organisations. Together, these reports form the most recent, comprehensive update of the human rights situation in Tonga. Government and stakeholders have engaged in and exchange views to take stock of the human rights situation in the country since the last UPR in January 2018. The outcomes of the fourth UPR can be used to promote and protect human rights for all in Tonga through addressing key recommendations arising from the process.

The key development challenges are similar, if attenuated, to those faced by other PICTs, and relate to size, scale, population dispersion, lack of modern infrastructure in the outer islands, difficulty and cost of service delivery, and distance to markets.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have reached a critical level in Tonga, with NCDs accounting for 74 per cent of all adult deaths. Health system strengthening and a multisectoral approach to address all aspects of NCDs holistically is needed.[7] Tonga has the opportunity to accelerate institutional modernisation and the widening of civic space including through the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution.[8]

There is an opportunity to accelerate Tonga's journey towards a resilient recovery from COVID-19 and tropical cyclones. Tonga has in sight the opportunities of a blue economy and digital transformation. Greater resilience requires a more determined degree of insurance against risks, both at institutional, corporate and individual levels, and building new infrastructure in a risk-informed manner. It also requires continuing to strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster risk management (DRM) mechanisms and to increase preparedness, readiness and inclusion in the response to hazards.

For all these objectives, Tonga can rely on the support of the United Nations system working on sustainable development. The achievement of the SDGs should be possible for a country like Tonga that has aligned its national development efforts with the global and regional agendas. The well-being of the Tongan population and the health of its ecosystems will depend on the determination with which the SDGs are pursued and supported. The UN will ensure that opportunities for the acceleration of the SDGs in Tonga are maximised through this Country Implementation Plan.

Leave No One Behind

Leave no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity. LNOB not only entails reaching the poorest of the poor, but requires combating discrimination and rising inequalities within and amongst countries, and their root causes.

Despite its comparative prosperity, Tonga is still characterised by inequality and social exclusion.[9] It is estimated that one in five adults, and one in three children, live below the national poverty line.[10] Children are more likely to be living in extreme poverty (defined as lacking five or more socially perceived necessities), with 15% of children in Tonga living in extreme poverty, compared to 10% of adults. A 2016 Census report revealed that 43% of Tonga's working aged population was either unemployed or underemployed in subsistence farming, and about 80% of business ventures in Tonga occurred in the informal sector. Women constitute nearly three quarters (73%) of the workforce in the informal sector compared to around one quarter (27%) in the formal sector. Fourteen percent of the population is vulnerable as a result of deprivation (in terms of socially perceived necessities, both items and activities), and 22% is vulnerable in terms of income measures (both monetary and

non-monetary, including own production). Poverty rates are higher in the rural part of Tongatapu and in the outer islands.

Women are more vulnerable to economic challenges due to their precarious sources of cash income and concentration in the informal sector. In addition, women are disproportionately affected by climate change and face high levels of domestic violence, with 40% of ever-partnered women reporting physical and/or sexual violence by a partner at least once in their lives.[11] Access to safe reproductive and sexual health services and education, especially in rural areas and on the outer islands, is limited and the rate of teenage pregnancies is high, leading to stigmatisation. Children in Tonga experience high levels of violence and exploitation including domestic violence, sexual abuse, incest, and labor exploitation. Such cases are significantly underreported due, in part, to stigma. Physical discipline is widely accepted, particularly in the home, with 86.6% of children subjected to it.[12]

Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in Tonga face discrimination, limited access to healthcare and education, and few employment opportunities.[13] Women and young girls are disproportionately affected by exclusion from employment. Children with disabilities are also at risk of exclusion from inclusive education, healthcare, and public spaces.[14]

Members of the LGBTQI+ community in Tonga face considerable barriers to sexual and reproductive health and rights and freedom from violence.[15] Together, this contributes to a higher likelihood of acquiring HIV and sexually transmitted infections than the general population, and to overall additional marginalisation.
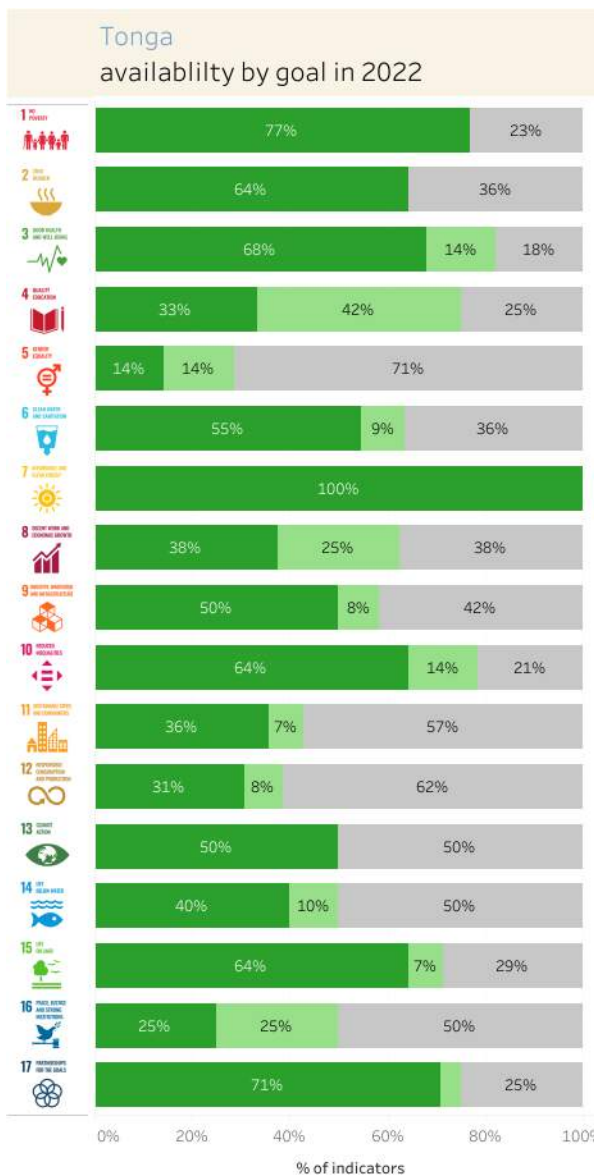
Progress Towards The 2030 Agenda

In the Pacific region, reporting against the SDGs is still limited, but improvements in data availability have been achieved over the last two years, with 38 per cent of all SDG Indicators having sufficient data to assess progress in 2021, an increase from 26 percent in 2019. With respect to the Pacific subset of SDG indicators, we saw that in the 2018 Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report, 48 per cent of the 131 SDG indicators had baseline data, increasing to 55 per cent in the 2020 Biennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report. The Pacific now has 59 per cent of its indicators with baseline data.

Tonga is progressing well in institutionalising the SDGs into the national development framework. The Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2015-2025 is Tonga's national development plan and roadmap for achieving the SDGs. A wide consultative process was undertaken with stakeholders in 2015 to build the alignment between the 17 SDGs and the national outcomes of the Strategic Framework. The Government of Tonga localised SDGs' targets and indicators. Out of 169 SDD targets and 231 SDG Indicators, Tonga has identified 79 indicators and 15 goals relevant for the country´s Strategic Framework and reported on progress against 49 of the indicators.

Tonga's progress towards the 2030 Agenda displays heterogeneity across the

SDGs as illustrated in the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) Dashboard below. Structural data poverty clouds the measurement of evolution.

■ Major challenges	■ Significant challenges	■ Challenges remain	■ SDG achieved	■ Information unavailable
↓ Decreasing	→ Stagnating	↗ Moderately improving	↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement	● Information unavailable

Tonga
availablilty by goal in 2022

% of indicators

Looking at data availability by Goal, there are significant data gaps in Goal 5 (gender equality) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), each with less than 30 per cent sufficient data available. This is depicted in the chart below. Opportunities for improvement remain visible in areas such as disaggregated data by gender, age groups and island groups. Those details will enable a better understanding of equality issues, geographical challenges, age-appropriate interventions that can push forward development, particularly the SDGs indicators that are lagging behind or need acceleration.

Tonga remains committed to strengthening its national monitoring system and there have been improvements in national statistical systems. However, such systems remain under-resourced to effectively collect and analyse the breadth of data and information required for evidence-based performance budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of national development policies, strategies and programmes.

Meeting the need for SDG data collection will take strong coordination between data providers and policymakers, inter-agency cooperation to establish standards and capacity-building to improve data collection all the way down to the grass roots level in every country. Through innovative approaches, existing administrative processes and survey exercises can be leveraged to produce data that bridges the gaps and enables SDG monitoring and evidence-based policymaking. Governments and intergovernmental partners must continue to coordinate closely to build national technical capacity for statistics and ensure that SDG data collection and use remain a top priority.

National Priorities and SDG Acceleration

The Government of Tonga has defined its national development vision in the second Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDF II 2015-2025) , aligned with Agenda 2030, the SDGs and the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). The TSDF II has as its vision: a more progressive Tonga supporting a higher quality of life for all. It based on seven national outcomes:

1. Dynamic knowledge-based economy;
2. Urban and rural development across all island groups;
3. Empowering human development with gender equality;
4. Responsive and good governance strengthening rule of law;
5. Successful provision and maintenance of infrastructure and technology;
6. Effective land administration, environment management and resilience to climate and risk; and
7. Sustainable and consistent advancement of our external interests, security and sovereignty.

The TSDF II guides the formulation of Tonga's sectoral plans and the medium-term budgetary framework through which resources are allocated. In line with TSDF II, the Tongan Government defined its Government Priority Agenda (GPA) for 2022 – 2025. This is based on three themes, with priority areas identified under each theme, to allow the Government to focus development and recovery efforts to build resilience, early warning, and safer infrastructure:

1. National resilience

- Building resilience and safer platforms to natural disasters and meeting the ongoing
- challenges of climate change (tropical cyclones, sea level rising, tsunamis), global pandemic, and address economic crisis;
- Reducing relative poverty and increasing quality of social protection;
- Mobilising national and international response to effective reduce supply and the use of illicit drugs, and address harms reduction processes.

2. Quality services and affordability

- Improving education for all, focusing on safer schools, addressing drop-outs, gender equality and increase employable trainings for both local and overseas opportunities;
- Improving access to quality and affordable healthcare system focusing COVID-19, Non-
- Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and preventative measures;
- Building quality and easy access to government services, public enterprises focusing on increased access to high-speed broadband technology and more affordable energy, communication, drinking water and clean environment for Tonga to support inclusive growth.

3. Progressive economic growth

- Creation of trade opportunities from regional and international trade agreements focusing on agriculture, fisheries, handicrafts, tourism and promoting of value addition and product diversification and simultaneously reduce technical barriers to private sector development and heavy reliance on imports;
- Improving quality and access to public infrastructures focusing on efficiency of land transport for evacuation, marine and air to support national resilience and inclusive growth;
- Strengthen bilateral engagement with accredited partner countries; optimise cooperation with regional and international intergovernmental institutions; strengthen partnerships with development partners, private sector, non-government actors, focusing on sound economic investment, to sustain progressive equitable and vibrant socioeconomic growth.

Delivering these thematic areas requires the ministries and agencies of Government to work together towards the same outputs, allocating their resources towards the development and implementation of collaborative solutions.[17]

Tonga Country Implementation Plan

Cooperation Framework

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the instrument agreed by UN member states and the UN system for planning and implementation of the UN development interventions. In the Pacific, the UN, together with the 14 PICTs, resolved to develop an overarching UNSDCF 2023-2023 in line with regional strategies - the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031 and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017-2030. The UN system aspires 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."

The UNSDCF for the Pacific is based on four priority areas: i) Prosperity; ii) People; iii) Planet; and iv) Peace; which are captured in four outcomes statements and contribute to the seven thematic priorities of the 2050 Strategy and the other key regional strategies. The areas and outcomes identified in the UNSDCF are common to all 14 PICTs but the selection of outputs and sub-outputs reflect the specific interventions that respond directly to national priorities.

Tonga Country Implementation Plan

The UN's collaboration with the Government of Tonga and other stakeholders falls into two broad categories: interventions by operational agencies working closely with national counterparts; and interventions that seek to include Tonga within both regional and international processes and bodies as part of an on-going commitment to South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This ability to merge national knowledge and operational experience with the technical expertise and access to international best practice represents one of the critical comparative advantages of the UN in Tonga.

The UN system held a series of consultations with national government counterparts on 1 March 2022, where the UNSDCF and outcome areas were presented. The Government was able to use the consultation to identify priority areas for action by the UN, and these have been reflected under each pillar of the CIP below. The UN interventions discussed below and captured in the accompanying results frameworks represent both general and specific responses to requests from Government. It is understood that the particular complexities of the Pacific poses its own set of challenges for the UN system relating to financial and human resource constraints, requiring the UN and partners to make difficult choices and to acknowledge there are areas where the UN does not possess a comparative advantage to act.

The UN system held consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) and development partners in Tonga in the first week of March 2023. CSOs in Tonga

highlighted the importance of addressing disability inclusion across the CIP and a focus on women and informal workers under the Prosperity pillar. CSOs highlighted that a focus on health should recognise and support the role played by CSOs in health service provision, in addition to the public health system. CSOs emphasised their interest in engaging more consistently with the UN in CIP implementation.

PACIFIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK			
UN 2030 Vision for the Pacific Region *"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."*			
Regional Strategies: *i) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; ii) the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031; and iii) the Framework for Resilient Developments in the Pacific 2017-2030*			
Planet	People	Prosperity	Peace
Resilience to shocks/ CC and ecosystems restoration	**Access and quality to essential services, social protection systems and nutrition**	**Equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods**	**Peace, Human Rights, gender equality and participation**
Outcome 1 *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.*	*Outcome 2* *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*	*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.*	*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*
Enablers: *Civil society engagement / Innovation and Digitalization / Harnessing the demographic dividend / Disaggregated data for development / Partnership for development & realisation of HR & GE / HVI based financing / Capacity development / Traditional knowledge and culture / South – South & triangular cooperation*			
Intersectional approach: *Resilience to existential threats / Gender Equality / People empowered to exercise their rights / Harmony with the blue continent*			
LNOB: *Women and girls/ Person with disabilities/ Persons living with HIV / Children / Youth / Indigenous people / LGBTIQ+ people / Older persons / Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers/ Detained person / Victims of trafficking and others form of violence/ Dwellers of informal urban settlements / people engaged in the informal economy and vulnerable employment / People living in remote poor, rural areas and outer islands.*			

In dedicated consultations, development partners highlighted that their work priorities largely aligned with that of the UNSDCF including climate change, women and girls, access to finance, governance and institutional strengthening,

and humanitarian response. Development partners highlighted existing examples of working in partnership with UN agencies including on governance and sexual and reproductive health rights, and the opportunity to strengthening partnership working across development partners and CROP agencies.

Based on national priorities, government and stakeholder consultations, and consideration of UN expertise, value-add and resources, the Tonga CIP has been designed to deliver on national priorities and against the four outcome areas of the UNSDCF. This includes a focus on long-term recovery efforts following the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcanic eruption, tsunami and ashfall in January 2022. In addition to the summary below, UN Development System support is set out in further detail at the sub-output level in the Pillar Summary Tables that accompany the CIP.

PILLAR 1: PLANET

Outcome: 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

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

•*Support prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species*
•*Support for inclusive, and accountable disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation*
•*Strengthening national capacity for localised, accountable and inclusive disaster response*

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions and financing to address them: addressing root causes of land degradation; and strengthening capacities for land management, risk governance and planning.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To be mobilized
ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ITU, UNDRR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, WFP, WMO	Government, CSOs, Development Partners	$8,935,445.87	$6,288,764.92	$2,646,680.95

With resilience to climate and risk and environmental management a key priority of the Government's TSDF II, interventions under the Planet Pillar have a strong focus on enhanced climate change adaptation and resilience and effective disaster management, covering four sub-outcome areas and 45 outputs.

Ecosystem and Biodiversity Management

In order to better support the protection and management of the environment and the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, the UN – UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and ESCAP - will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and sound chemical management in agriculture; support strategies, knowledge and skills for community-led biodiversity conservation; strengthen the prevention, early warning and management of pests and diseases, including to reduce the threats from invasive alien species to terrestrial, fresh water and marine biodiversity; and support key stakeholders to address environmental challenges to reap the benefits of improved environmental management. The UN will provide capacity development in the protection of the ocean; support for sustainable fisheries management; and increase Tonga's ability to combat marine pollution and Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. UNEP will support efforts to ban and phase out the use of plastic bags and polystyrene products, noting the significant threat of marine litter to the Pacific Ocean. UNDP will support reduced risk of indigenous marine species

and ecosystems pressures through environmental management, community participation and resilient blue/green livelihoods.

Climate Change Action

Guided by the National Climate Change Policy and Joint National Action Plan 2018 – 2028, UN agencies have a strong focus on increasing Tonga's capacity for climate change adaptation and resilience. This includes the work of UNDP, UNEP, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, UNICEF and IFAD to strengthen institutions and community capacities, mechanisms and policies for adaptation and resilience; to integrate intergovernmental frameworks including the Paris Agreement into national policies and frameworks; to strengthen nature-based solutions for resilience and adaptation; to support the phase out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) through policy and legislation; and ensure climate change policies and initiatives are gender responsive and inclusive. IOM is supporting Tonga on the development of rights-based policies to address climate mobility as part of a wider programme on rights-based migration. UN agencies are also working in Tonga to support local authorities to build capacities for environmental data, statistics and scientific assessments for evidence-based climate change policies, initiatives and monitoring.

Effective Disaster-Management

The bulk of the UN's work under the Planet Pillar takes place under the rubric of effective disaster risk management and encompasses 25 interventions involving the gamut of UN agencies working in Tonga. Following the January 2022 volcanic eruption, this includes a focus on national emergency cluster strengthening and coordination supported by UNDP and WFP. Particular attention will be given to meeting the sexual and reproductive health and rights and protection needs of women and children through the flagship Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Crisis (UNFPA). Anticipatory action systems and financing will be established and tested as part of an effective early warning and early action systems (FAO and WFP).

The WMO will partner with the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications to strengthen capacities to monitor, develop, prepare and disseminate warnings and alerts on hydro-meteorological hazards and risks; and to empower women working in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, water resources, climate change and variability, and related environmental fields. WFP will partner with private sector companies to conduct climate analysis that identifies vulnerabilities and alerts that are understandable and can reach at risk populations. This will support early warning systems to mitigate the impacts and provide timely support to the communities affected by disasters and shocks. Support will also be provided for logistics and emergency telecommunications and improved data collection for food security and livelihoods (WFP). ITU will continue its support in areas of emergency telecommunications planning and response.

UNESCO will continue institutional strengthening and capacity development at regional, national, sub-national and community level to better understand Tsunami Early Warning Systems and withstand and effectively respond to the shocks and stresses of a tsunami and other oceans-related hazards. Targeted capacity building will be provided to key stakeholders working with World Heritage sites, Intangible Cultural Heritage and Museum collections. Better coordination and information management will enhance national capacities to respond to disasters, while provision of common logistics services will ensure more effective disaster management.

PILLAR 2: PEOPLE

Outcome Statement: 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

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

•Technical and financial assistance to improve organisational and workforce capacities (health system strengthening), including at sub-national level, for effective management and provision of SRMNCAH, PHC, Nutrition, Communicable and NCDs 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 mechanism
•Promote food safety education and regulations and ensure food standards and fiscal policies address micronutrient malnutrition
•Improved education data systems and data use for policy and planning decisions

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, WFP	Ministries of Education; Labour, Commerce & Industries; Health; Justice; Finance; Foreign Affairs. Global Fund, Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust, Tonga Women & Children Crisis Centre, SPC, CSOs, insurance companies	$9,671,976	$4,724,131	$4,947,845

Given the UN's commitment to Leaving No One Behind, interventions under the People Pillar cover seven sub-outcome areas and 49 outputs as an area of UN focus and comparative advantage in the Pacific. UN agencies have committed themselves to strengthen social protection mechanisms and in particular, the ability to identify and target the most vulnerable including women and children. This includes the capacity of national authorities to assess Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) systems for Cash and Voucher (CVA) mechanisms including climate risk insurance.

Health, Nutrition and Education

UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNAIDS will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and other public health service providers on health systems strengthening. This includes a focus on delivering primary health care services amd integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence information and services as part of universal health coverage, especially for remote and vulnerable populations. It also includes a focus on enhancing capacities of heath institutions to effectively prevent and respond to HIV incidents and cases. Support will be provided to ensure high-quality, people-centered health services, based on primary healthcare strategies and comprehensive essential service packages.

WFP, IFAD, FAO, UNICEF, ESCAP and IAEA will work with the Government to address the drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms. National capacities to support data and evidenced-based programming in a strengthened food system will be prioritised. IFAD, WFP and FAO will support efforts to integrate environmental risks in multi-dimensional food system risk assessments. Healthy eating habits and lifestyles, including in the school environment, will be strengthened though updated food-based dietary guidelines and post COVID-19 recovery in local food production and preservation improvements.

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, ESCAP, IFAD will continue to support the Government in the WASH and education sectors including supporting Tonga to harness its demographic dividend. UNESCO will work with the Ministry of Education to identify and agree on definitions and concepts of 21st century skills and guidance for mainstreaming skills across curricula, teacher education and student assessments. Emphasis will be placed on multisesctoral early childhood education, inclusive learning and transformative education through higher education support, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED), e-learning and improved data utilisation for policy, planning and financing.

Gender-Based Violence and Violence against Children

The UN, in particular UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP, will continue to prioritise the strengthening of existing mechanisms to work with government, island groups and town officers to prevent, mitigate and respond to discrimination, gender-based violence and violence against children. The UN will deepen partnerships with the Ministries of Internal Affairs (Women Affairs and Gender Equality Division), Justice (Family Protection Legal Aid Centre (FPLAC), Women and Children Crisis Centre and the Family Protection Act (FPA) Committee. Service providers—health, police, justice, and social services—will have strengthened capacity and budgets to provide timely, quality, coordinated services, to hold perpetrators to account in line with due diligence standards, and collect and use data in an ethical manner. Women and girls - especially those in rural communities, women with disabilities, and women with diverse gender identities and sexual orientation - will have increased awareness, knowledge and skill to be able to access services.

PILLAR 3: PROSPERITY

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

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

•Support the development of digital infrastructure products and services
•Expansion of formal and increased support of relevant informal social protection system
•Support to social development and taxation policies- including trade, sectoral, labor market policies
•Promotion of sustainable fisheries and agroforestry
•Developing debt planning capacities and strengthening ODA for SDGs
•Policy development, increased awareness and capacities for sustainable tourism and green trade

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions and financing to address them: alternative debt management instruments; and policy development, increased awareness and capacities for a sustainable tourism that create jobs and promotes local culture and products.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
ESCAP, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO	Ministries of Agriculture, Food & Forestry; Labour, Communications; Commerce & Industries; Public Enterprise; Tourism; Finance; Fisheries; Infrastructure; Natural Resources; Trade & Economic Development, SPC, PIFS, Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network, SIDS DOCK, International Solar Alliance, Oceania Customs Organisation, MSG, Reserve Bank of Tonga, insurance providers, CSOs, private sector	$13, 315,937	$3,753,811	$9,562,126

UN inteventions under the Prosperity Pillar focus on strengthening macro-economic management in support of sustainable economic development and prosperity, with a focus on equal opportunities for jobs and livelihoods, bridging the digital divide, expansion of the blue economy and low carbon development solutions and transformation of agri-food systems. This includes six sub-outcomes and 47 outputs.

The Blue Economy

UNIDO, UNDO, UNESCO, UNDP and ESCAP will work to expand the use of low-carbon development solutions, including low carbon energy, as part of an overall national commitment to climate change. At the same time, support will be provided

to Tonga to expand the potential for drawing on its natural and cultural resources as part of a blue, green and creative economy. UNDP will support the development of blue economy policies and implemenation plans.

Agri-Food Systems

IFAD and FAO will work with farmers' organisations and farmer-led enterprises to deliver economic services and partner with the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable and gender-sensitive agri-food systems and the collection of agriculture data. Gender and youth-sensitive value chains for the economic empowerment of rural communities towards systemic resilience, including for forest products, will be strengthened. UNIDO, ILO, ESCAP and UNFPA will continue to advocate for the decent work agenda in Tonga and in particular, will focus on strenthening the policy environment for entrepreneurship and business development, including for youth and women, in line with domestic, regional, and international standards. Emphasis will be placed on strengthened institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies to enhance equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods in Tongatapu as well as communities in the outer islands.

Macro-economic Management

In the area of macro-economic management and planning, UNICEF, UNCTAD and ESCAP will provide support to Government for policy coherence; the collection and utilisation of child-sensitive data, planning, budgeting and reporting; and strengthened integrated planning and financing systems. The UN will also work with Government to improve trade facilitation and border/customs procedures. Tonga will benefit from improved regional cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and good practices to advance the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway and the 2050 Strategy.

Bridging the Digital Divide

Lastly, the UN and in particular UNCDF, will work to bridge the digital divide through a multi-part intervention that will enhance the policy environment for entrepreneurship and business development, including for youth, women and people with a disability. Focus will be given to strengthening institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services and financial inclusion strategies for SMEs. ITU will support the development of digital infrastructure and connectivity and related policies. The ITU will also support Smart Islands aimed at bringing the benefits of digital transformation to rural and remote communities. UNDP will support Government and CSOs on e-governance and digital platforms for enhanced digital democracy. UNESCO will support the development of Pacific SIDS Indicator Landscape to improve national SDG monitoring and reporting.

PILLAR 4: PEACE

Outcome Statement: 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

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

•Focus on institutional strengthening of justice stakeholders including police, legal aid services, prosecution and the judiciary
•Support justice case management systems, human rights training, pre-trial diversion of child offenders and setting up of victim and child friendly justice services
•Provision of human rights awareness and legal aid services with a focus on marginalised groups
•Investments in civil registration systems which can form the foundation for e-government services such as health and social protection
•Strengthening regional, national and subnational capacities for collection of administrative data
•Strengthen the capacities and skills of CSOs and media to act as intermediaries in political advocacy, representation, openness and engagement
•Technical assistance for advocacy and social mobilization to increase community and civic understanding of gender equality and women, young people 's rights
•Technical assistance for reforms to policy, legal framework, selection process such as temporary special measure legislation, political finance and campaign expenditure caps, voluntary reforms to party statutes, and of code of conducts for political parties.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	**Available**	**To mobilise**
ESCAP, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women	Ministries of Internal Affairs; Police; Foreign Affairs; Finance; Emergency Services; Justice. Parliament, regulatory bodies, legal aid commissions, CSOs	$2,392,456	$1,402,666	$989,790

UN inteventions under the Peace Pillar focus on strengthening multi-level goverance and institutions; improving access to justice, rule of law and human rights; supporting inclusive political structures and processes for human security and social cohesion; and expanding women and youth's role in leadership and decision making . This includes five sub-outcomes and 27 outputs.

Access to Justice, Rule Of Law and Human Rights

In the area of improved access to justice and human rights, UNICEF will work to ensure that the Government and other service providers have strengthened capacities to deliver quality, inclusive and integrated child protection services. UNHCR will provide technical support and advocacy towards reforming law and policy shortcomings that relate to populations of concern as required in collaboration with national legal experts and institutions. UNFPA and OHCHR will work with national human rights mechanisms to increase commitment and engagement to human rights standards, treaties and mechanisms throughout the implementation and reporting cycle.

Inclusive Political Structures and Processes

Promoting inclusive political structures and processes for human security and social cohesion and dialogue remains an area of potential growth for the UN with OHCHR, UNDP and UNODC working to strengthen institutional capacities in Tonga. Technical support will be provided to Ministries and civil society on broadening the support base for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UNDP will prioritise support to institutions and systems to accelerate inclusive development through responsive, participatory, and transparent governance processes. UNODC will work with law enforcement and border agencies to fight transnational organised crime including maritime crime.

Strengthened Institutions

UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA and ILO will work to strengthen national and sub-national capacities for service delivery, e-governance systems, civil registration, information management and data analysis including child protection systems and birth registration services. UNDP will support strengthened legislative policies of parliaments, electoral systems and constitutional bodies and capacities to provide more inclusive and participatory processes. UNFPA will help to ensure evidence generation, analysis and measurement of social and gender norms changes and increased availability of high quality and disaggregated data on population dynamics, sexual reproductive health and rights, and gender based violence through strengthening traditional data sources and increasing the availability of digital products. IOM will work with the Government to enhance rights-based migration policy and its implementation, capacities, tools, and initiatives on trans-boundary and migration governance and human mobility.

Protection and Oversight

UNDP, IFAD, ESCAP and UNODC will work to strengthen human rights protection, oversight, transparency and accountability systems and ensure that gender-sensitive mechanisms are in place to accelerate achievement of the SDGs and monitor progress. Technical support to national agencies and authorities to fight corruption will be provided. Expanded women's and youth's leadership and role in decision making will also be prioritised.

Implementation

UN Collaboration

Tonga is served by the UN Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu based out of Fiji and under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. Together with the UN MCO, the UN Country Team (UNCT) Fiji provides leadership in meeting national development priorities and achieving the SDGs for the five target countries including Tonga.

There are currently eight resident UN agencies and 21 UN staff based in Tonga to support the UN's work. This includes FAO, WHO, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, UNCDF, UN Women and UNDP. In total, there are 23 UN agencies working in Tonga, including non-resident agencies. The UN RCO MCO through the UNRC Country Coordination Officer provides in-country coordination for delivery on the UNSDCF and the CIP.

Tonga is a partner country in UN joint programmes/initiatives. Joint initiatives of the UN system bring together two or more UN agencies, under a single programmatic framework, with a shared results framework and mutual responsibility for the achievement of planned results. This approach enhances national access to the multidimensional expertise of the UN system to tackle complex development challenges and allows more coherent policy advice and support tailored to the national context.

UN PROGRAMING IN TONGA

	BN	FAO	IAEA	IFAD	ILO	IOM	ITU	OHCHR	UNAIDS	UNDESA	UNCDF	UNDP	UNDRR	UNEP	UNESCAP	UNESCO	UNFPA	UNHABITAT	UNHCR	UNICEF	UNCTAD	UNIDO	UNODC	UNOPS	UNV	UN WOMEN	WFP	WHO	WMO
Resident Agencies		X				X					X	X								X						X	X	X	
Interventions per Outcome																													
Planet		X	X	X		X					X	X			X	X	X			X						X	X	X	X
People		X	X	X				X				X			X	X	X			X						X	X	X	
Prosperity		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X							
Peace		X			X	X		X				X			X		X		X	X				X		X			

*UN MCO Fiji is supported by the Resident Coordinator Office in enabling UN coordination and has physical presence in Tonga

Governance

The Tonga CIP will be governed and implemented under the principle of national ownership through a Joint Steering Committee (JSC). The JSC will be co-chaired by the Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Tourism and the UN Resident Coordinator. In addition to the co-chairs, the membership of the JSC will include representatives of key Government ministries; UN heads of agencies; and, representatives of other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector to ensure multi-stakeholder coordination on implementation.

The UN agencies implementing in Tonga will be supported by the UN Country Team (UNCT), with technical and operational guidance from the Regional Programme Management Team (PMT), under which four Results Groups (one per pillar) have

been established. The PMT (through its Results Groups) is responsible for the overall coordinated delivery of UN contributions under each pillar and for guaranteeing the application of key programmatic principles in their respective domains. In addition, thematic groups on Gender Equality Women's Empowerment; Youth; and Human Rights will provide advice and support regarding normative standards and frameworks. The UN Communication Group (UNCG) will support communications and the Data, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (DMEG) will monitor progress towards CIP outputs and the UNSDCF outcomes.

The Tonga CIP programme management cycle underpins critical processes that both the UN and the Government of Tonga will jointly undertake to effectively deliver on country-level results and comprises the following phases 1) planning, 2) implementation and 3) results reporting. Each phase of the cycle is guided by its own set of tasks and relevant roles and responsibilities for the UN agencies and in-country stakeholders. The CIP cycle will align as closely as possible to national timelines and planning processes in support of effective implementation.

Monitoring of the CIP will involve an ongoing action-learning cycle that takes place throughout the implementation. Since the CIP operationalises the Pacific's UNSDCF, it is fully aligned in terms of outcomes, indicators, baselines, and targets, at the country level. The JSC will be responsible for monitoring the interventions and their contribution to the CIP, supported by the DMEG. UNINFO - the UNDS planning, monitoring, and reporting system will be fully operational to support joint monitoring of the Tonga CIP. It will be utilised by UN agencies, the Government, and other local stakeholders.

An annual performance review will take place during the implementation of the CIP to take stock of achievements and challenges with the participation of Government stakeholders, UN agencies and partners. This will enable partners to make necessary adjustments in UN programming. Once the full cycle is completed, key lessons learnt, and other evaluative findings will inform the transition and changes to the subsequent cycle.

Prime Minister Honorable Sovaleni and the Education Ministry mark the successful conclusion of national consultations preceding the Transforming Education Summit. Photo: UN

Partnerships

Partnership is a foundational pillar of the UNSDCF, underpinning the four pillars of People, Planet, Peace, and Prosperity, and will be crucial to the success of the Tonga CIP.

With the introduction of the CIP, and the rollout of UNINFO, the UN's development assistance activities are more accessible and transparent to the Tongan Government and all partners. This is also a demonstration of the UN's commitment to working meaningfully with implementing and funding partners to ensure that the assistance offered to Tonga is sustainable, efficient, and minimises the administrative burden for Government.

The UN will work with a variety of implementing partners in Tonga, including Government ministries, CROP agencies (including FFA, PIFS, and SPC), Insitut Louis Malardé, Pacific Islands Farmers' Organisation Network, Pacific Women Lead, Pacific Council of Churches, and Tonga Women's

Crisis Centre. Academia and the private sector, including mobile data collection agencies, insurance companies, mobile phone providers, FinTechs, will implement and UN projects and programmes. The Global Fund, the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation of Tonga Trust, and the National Reserve Bank of Tonga are other implementing partners with which the UN will work to address Tonga's national priorities.

Contributing partners include funds such as the Global Partnership for Education, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, and the UN's Joint SDG Fund, supported by states which appreciate the added value and additional impact to be gained from contributions to pooled funds. Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland were donors to the Joint SDG Fund in 2022.
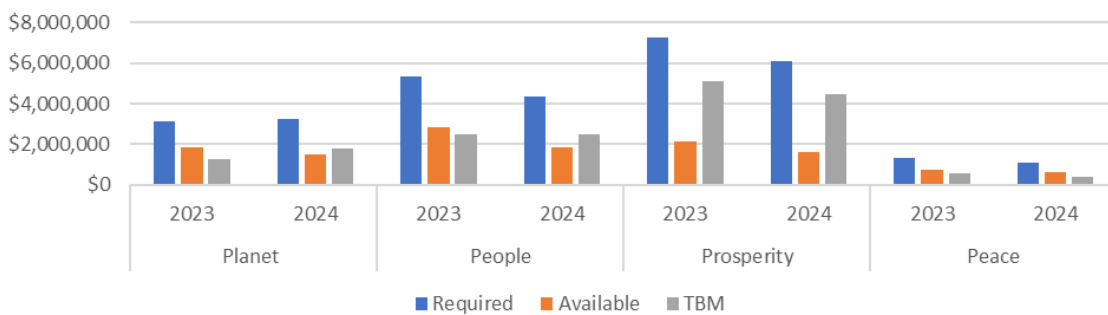
Funding from numerous UN agencies, including FAO (through its Technical Cooperation Programme), IOM (through its Development Fund), OHCHR, WHO, UNESCO, UN Women and IOM will also support the planned work in Tonga's priority areas.

A wide range of state actors and their development agencies, including Australia, Austria, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United States, support Tonga's development by financing the UN's projects and programmes. The UN will be actively looking to bring in additional partners to support Tonga during the CIP's implementation period.
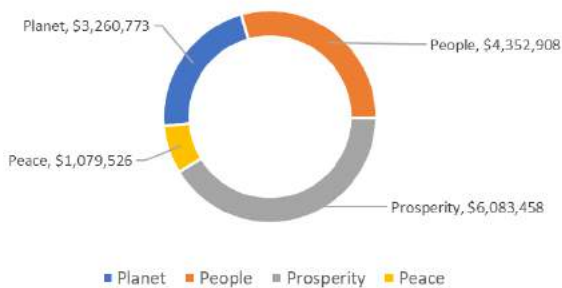
Financing

The Tonga CIP budget against the four Pillars and against sub-outcomes is set out in Annex 1 and 2 respectively and summarised in the graphs below for the year 2023 and projected budget for the year 2024. This includes UN interventions already underway in Tonga that continue into the 2023 – 2024 cycle as well as new interventions commencing in 2023 or planned for 2024. It should be noted that the CIP budget is more accurate for 2023 than 2024, due to annual budget cycles of some UN agencies. In addition, Tonga will benefit from UN regional programming from agencies for which budget figures are not captured in the CIP budget.
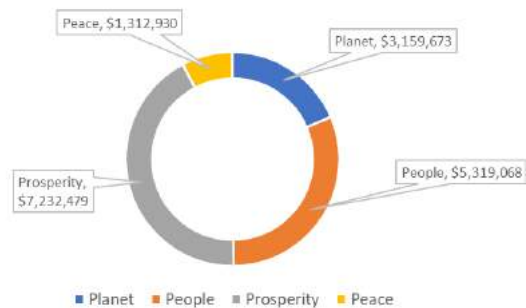
Tonga Financing 2023-2024

Tonga Required Financing 2023

Tonga Required Financing 2024

Annexes

Tonga CIP Budget by Pillar

	2023				2024			
	Required	Available	TBM	% Funded	Required	Available	TBM	% Funded
Planet	$3,159,673	$1,859,492	$1,300,181	59%	$3,260,773	$1,492,387	$1,768,386	46%
People	$5,319,068	$2,845,675	$2,473,394	53%	$4,352,908	$1,878,456	$2,474,452	43%
Prosperity	$7,232,479	$2,130,811	$5,101,668	29%	$6,083,458	$1,623,000	$4,460,458	27%
Peace	$1,312,930	$746,579	$566,351	57%	$1,079,526	$656,087	$423,439	61%
Total	$17,024,150	$7,582,557	$9,441,594	45%	$14,776,665	$5,649,930	$9,126,735	38%

* The above budget figures do not include UN regional programming for which Tonga also benefits

Tonga CIP Budget by Sub-Outcome

		FY2023			FY2024		
		Required	Available	TBM	Required	Available	TBM
	Outcome 1.1	$962,360	$762,360	$200,000	$780,530	$580,530	$200,000
	Outcome 1.2	$904,690	$407,857	$496,833	$1,257,840	$440,857	$816,983
	Outcome 1.3	$1,272,623	$669,275	$603,348	$1,202,403	$451,000	$751,403
	Outcome 1.4	$20,000	$20,000	$0.00	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	$0.00
PLANET	Sub-Total	$3,159,673	$1,859,492	$1,300,181	$3,260,773	$1,492,387	$1,768,386
	Outcome 2.1	$247,276	$210,155	$37,121	$276,655	$239,155	$37,500
	Outcome 2.2	$3,009,962	$1,436,126	$1,573,836	$2,196,445	$581,714	$1,614,731
	Outcome 2.3	$243,290	$79,160	$164,130	$99,300	$79,290	$20,010
	Outcome 2.4	$690,075	$682,500	$7,575	$718,000	$688,000	$30,000
	Outcome 2.5	$584,610	$273,502	$311,108	$531,758	$58,297	$473,461
	Outcome 2.7	$543,855	$164,232	$379,624	$530,750	$232,000	$298,750
PEOPLE	Sub-Total	$5,319,068	$2,845,675	$2,473,394	$4,352,908	$1,878,456	$2,474,452

	Outcome 3.1	$100,000	$30,000	$70,000	$200,000	$30,000	$170,000
	Outcome 3.2	$330,000	$330,000	$0	$231,000	$231,000	$0
	Outcome 3.3	$183,214	$170,000	$13,214	$158,214	$115,000	$43,214
	Outcome 3.4	$5,183,214	$170,000	$5,013,214	$5,158,214	$915,000	$4,243,214
	Outcome 3.5	$215,433	$210,193	$5,240	$156,030	$152,000	$4,030
	Outcome 3.6	$1,220,618	$1,220,618	$0	$180,000	$180,000	$0
PROSPERITY	Sub-Total	$7,232,479	$2,130,811	$5,101,668	$6,083,458	$1,623,000	$4,460,458
	Outcome 4.1	$139,263	$38,036	$101,227	$205,359	$37,000	$168,359
	Outcome 4.2	$35,000.00	$35,000.00	$0.00	$35,000.00	$35,000.00	$0.00
	Outcome 4.3	$1,059,167	$594,043	$465,124	$839,167	$584,087	$255,080
	Outcome 4.4	$79,500	$79,500	$0	$0	$0	$0
	Outcome 4.6	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
PEACE	Sub-Total	$1,312,930	$746,579	$566,351	$1,079,526	$656,087	$423,439

* The above budget figures do not include UN regional programming for which Tonga also benefits

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UNITED NATIONS
FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS,
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