



UNITED NATIONS  
PACIFIC



**2020 UN  
RESULTS  
REPORT**

Federated States of  
Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati,  
Marshall Islands, Nauru,  
Palau, Solomon Islands,  
Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

# CONTENTS

<a href="#">FOREWORD</a>	2
<a href="#">ACRONYMS</a>	3
<a href="#">UN COUNTRY TEAM</a>	4
<a href="#">UN PACIFIC STRATEGY (2018 – 2022)</a>	5
<a href="#">GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE</a>	6
<a href="#">UNCT MCO FIJI</a>	7
<a href="#">KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS</a>	8
<a href="#">CHAPTER 1: KEY DEVELOPMENTS</a>	
<a href="#">POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT</a>	9
<a href="#">CHAPTER 2: UN SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES</a>	10
<a href="#">2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results</a>	11
<a href="#">2.1.1 Introduction</a>	11
<a href="#">2.1.2 UN Cooperation</a>	11
<a href="#">2.2 Cooperation Framework</a>	14
<a href="#">Climate Change</a>	14
<a href="#">Gender Equality</a>	17
<a href="#">Economic Empowerment</a>	20
<a href="#">Equitable Basic Services</a>	23
<a href="#">Governance</a>	28
<a href="#">Human Rights</a>	32
<a href="#">2.3 Community Engagement</a>	35
<a href="#">2.4 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda</a>	36
<a href="#">2.5 Results of the UN Working More and Better Together</a>	37
<a href="#">2.6 Lessons Learned</a>	38
<a href="#">2.7 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization</a>	39
<a href="#">CHAPTER 3: UNCT FOCUS FOR 2021</a>	41
<a href="#">3.1 UNCT Focus for 2021</a>	42

# FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

This report showcases the many ways in which the UN supports Member States in the Pacific to convert the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into results in 10 island countries.

Long before the COVID-19 virus arrived in the Pacific, its impacts were already being felt by many of the island economies because of the significant dependence on tourism and remittances. In addition, several severe cyclones in 2020 caused widespread destruction to an already fragile region.

It was against this backdrop that UN reform was being operationalised in the Pacific. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Pacific responded swiftly to each country’s needs and priorities: mobilizing much needed resources and implementing agile, multi-sectoral solutions in a rapidly-evolving environment through joint analysis, planning and programming, drawing on expertise from across the system to tackle the complex, interconnected problems facing the Pacific region.

Working closely with Pacific governments and partners, the UN developed an immediate and comprehensive health, humanitarian, and socioeconomic response to the pandemic through three complimentary plans. The UNCT also adapted its 2020 Joint Country Action Plans (JCAPs) to respond to the immediate needs created by COVID-19 and tailor UN support to each country’s national priorities. This coordinated approach led to an unprecedented increase of resources channeled through the UN development system to the Pacific. The 2020 JCAPs for the Pacific totaled USD 160 million amounting to a 400 percent increase from 2019. Of this, 30 percent was reprogrammed for COVID-19 preparation and response. Additionally, the revised JCAPs helped to improve joint country level planning, alignment to national priorities and greater accountability to national stakeholders. Throughout the year, we strived to enhance the quality of funding to the UN in the spirit of the Funding Compact: establishing the first multi-country pooled fund in the region – the UN Pacific Strategy Fund. The enhanced coordination also saw a significant increase in the number

of joint programmes implemented by the UNCT from eight in 2019 to 28 in 2020 leading to an optimization of resources, including the engagement of the technical expertise of non-resident agencies.

While the health impact of the COVID-19 virus itself on most of these countries has been less severe than in other regions, the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic coupled with the disastrous effects of climate change and pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities across the region are threatening to reverse many of the development gains achieved in recent times. But the compound crisis also presents an opportunity. “Build forward better” must not remain a slogan. As we look to 2021, the UN will work closely with PICs to not only attract investments to support recovery in the region and help channel them to ensure a more equitable, resilient and sustainable development pathway toward 2030. We will redouble our efforts to help countries strengthen social services, reduce the digital divide, build green and blue economies while ensuring inclusion as part of a robust recovery.



**Sanaka Samarasinha**  
Resident Coordinator Sanaka Samarasinha is given a traditional welcome by women on Moce Island in Fiji’s Lau Group on a joint UN-Fiji Government mission to assist those affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa.



**ON THE COVER**  
A woman adorns herself with leaves for a festive occasion in the Solomon Islands.  
© UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji/  
Patrick Rose

# ACRONYMS

<b>ACB</b>	Anti-Corruption Bodies	<b>FRDP</b>	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific	<b>MICS</b>	Multi-Cluster Indicator Survey	<b>PSO</b>	Public Solicitor's Office
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank	<b>FSC</b>	Food Security Cluster	<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding	<b>RCCE</b>	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
<b>ADRA</b>	Adventist Development and Relief Agency	<b>FSM</b>	Federated States of Micronesia	<b>MSRP</b>	Multi-Sectoral Response Plan	<b>RMI</b>	Republic of Marshall Islands
<b>AWOS</b>	Aviation Weather Observing System	<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence	<b>mVAM</b>	mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping	<b>rPFSC</b>	Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster
<b>AWS</b>	Automatic Weather Stations	<b>GBViE</b>	Gender Based Violence in Emergencies	<b>NDCs</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions	<b>RSMC</b>	Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre
<b>BOS</b>	Business Operations Strategy	<b>GCB</b>	Global Corruption Barometer	<b>NDMO</b>	National Disaster Management Office	<b>SAMOA</b>	SAMOA Pathway Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
<b>BPC</b>	Blue Pacific Continent	<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund	<b>NHRIs</b>	National Human Rights Institutions	<b>SDG</b>	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals
<b>CBDRM</b>	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management	<b>GFCR</b>	Global Fund for Coral Reefs	<b>NMRF</b>	National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Islands Developing States
<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Assessment	<b>GGGI</b>	Global Green Growth Institute	<b>ODA</b>	Overseas Development Assistance	<b>SIICAC</b>	Solomon Islands Independent Commission Against Corruption
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties	<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	<b>SPC</b>	Pacific Community
<b>COVID-19</b>	Corona Virus Disease 2019	<b>GN-SEC</b>	Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres	<b>OP</b>	Optional Protocols	<b>SPHRC</b>	Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council
<b>CRC</b>	UN Committee on the Rights of the Child	<b>HCSDESC</b>	Hibiscus Commitment Statement on Disability Sector Collaboration	<b>OPAC</b>	Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict	<b>SPREP</b>	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
<b>CROP</b>	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan	<b>OPSC</b>	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	<b>SPTO</b>	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
<b>CSICH</b>	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	<b>IAEA</b>	International Atomic Energy Agency	<b>ORSNET</b>	Oceania Regional Seismic Network	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>PacREF</b>	Pacific Regional Education Framework	<b>TC</b>	Tropical Cyclone
<b>CYP</b>	Couple-Year Protection	<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation	<b>PBF</b>	UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund	<b>TGB</b>	Traditional Governance Bill
<b>DFA</b>	Development Finance Assessment	<b>IFIs</b>	International Financial Institutions	<b>PCC</b>	Pacific Conference of Churches	<b>TRG</b>	Telemetered Rain Gauge
<b>DFAT</b>	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>PCREEE</b>	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	<b>TVET</b>	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic Health Survey	<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>PDaLo</b>	Pacific Damage and Loss Database	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management	<b>INFF</b>	Integrated National Financing Framework	<b>PDF</b>	Pacific Disability Forum	<b>UN Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>IOC</b>	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	<b>PHPC</b>	Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster	<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>PHT</b>	Pacific Humanitarian Team	<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education	<b>IRFC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	<b>PICOFs</b>	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum	<b>UNCAC</b>	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
<b>EMS</b>	Electronic Monitoring Systems	<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre	<b>PICTs</b>	Pacific Island Countries and Territories	<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>ESD</b>	Education for Sustainable Development	<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature	<b>PIDC</b>	Pacific Immigration Development Community	<b>UNCF</b>	United Nations Cooperation Framework
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>JCAPs</b>	Joint Country Action Plans	<b>PIDF</b>	Pacific Islands Development Forum	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>FAD</b>	Fish Aggregating Devices	<b>JIMT</b>	Joint Incident Management Team	<b>PIFS</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>LGBTQI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex	<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment	<b>UNDIS</b>	United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy
<b>FESRIP</b>	Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific	<b>MCO</b>	Multi-Country Office	<b>PPP</b>	Pacific Principles of Practice	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>FFA</b>	Forum Fisheries Agency	<b>MFAT</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (New Zealand)	<b>PRC4ECD</b>	Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development	<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>FHRADC</b>	Fiji Human Rights Anti-Discrimination Commission	<b>MHPSS</b>	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	<b>PRIEF</b>	Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Framework		
<b>FMS</b>	Fiji Meteorological Service			<b>PRP</b>	Pacific Resilience Partnership		
<b>FPCFAD</b>	Fiji's Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence			<b>PSC</b>	Parliamentary Standing Committees		



# ACRONYMS

<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<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>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNOCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOPS</b>	United Nations Office for Project Services
<b>UNOSSC</b>	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
<b>UNPS</b>	United Nations Pacific Strategy
<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>UNRCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
<b>UNSDG</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Group
<b>UNTFHS</b>	United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>USP</b>	University of the South Pacific
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WBG</b>	World Bank Governance
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHC</b>	World Heritage Convention
<b>WHO</b>	WHO World Health Organization
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>WWF</b>	WWF World Wildlife Fund

# UN COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) comprises 29 United Nations agencies that work together on the basis of their global comparative advantage to support the Pacific Islands region to meet its sustainable development priorities while fostering greater cooperation between Pacific Island Countries.

Under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNCT supports Country Governments and Peoples in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to advance to the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development tailored to each country’s national priorities.

## 29 UN entities with physical and non-physical presence on the ground



# UN PACIFIC STRATEGY 2018 – 2022

The UNCT programmes and operations are directed by the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022 which supports internationally agreed Priority Areas, including the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in the Pacific region” (2015 GA res. 69/318).

The United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 outlines the collective response of the UN system to development priorities in 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), namely Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The UNPS supports these 14 Governments and Peoples in the Pacific to advance a localized response to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It recognises the unique and particular vulnerabilities and development needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and emphasises the importance of enhanced coherence, coordination, and responsiveness in the UN’s support for SIDS.

Leadership around the SDGs in the Pacific has created a strategic environment that ensures the UN is aligned with localised and integrated development agendas led by national governments and supported by regional organizations. As a result, the UNPS sets out to support the achievement of national priorities and the SDGs through a strategic framework of six priorities supported by a multi-country programming approach comprising individual country, multi-country, and regional joint programming, projects, and initiatives. The six priorities address strategic priorities that promote mutual accountability for development results in the Pacific and enable the targeting of valuable UN resources to the areas where they are most needed.



**CLIMATE CHANGE**



**GENDER EQUALITY**



**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**



**EQUITABLE SERVICES**



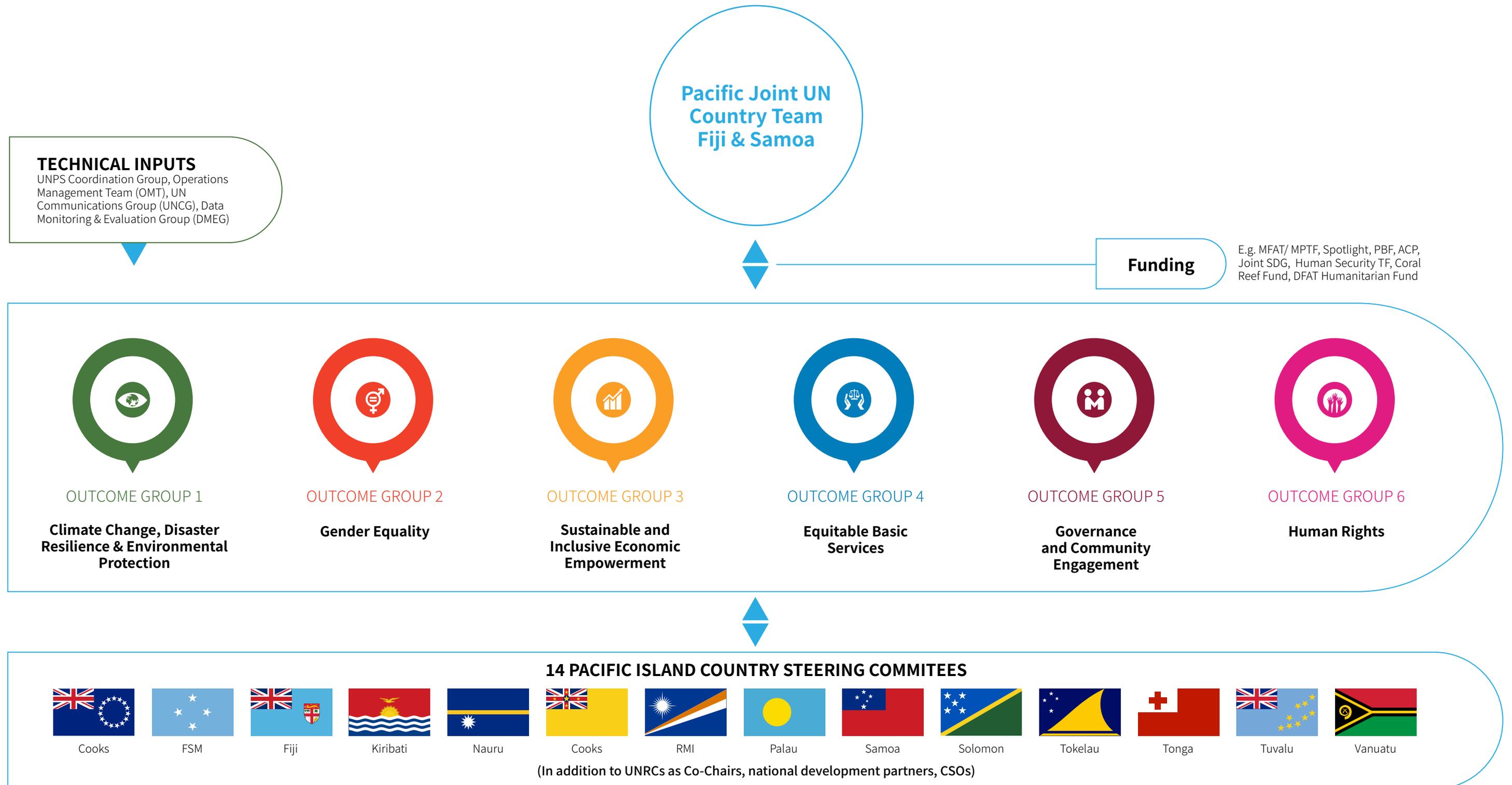
**GOVERNANCE**



**HUMAN RIGHTS**



# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





CHAPTER 1  
**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**



*Twelve-year-old Vaseva Daumaka shows her damaged house and destroyed belongings after Category Five Tropical Cyclone Yasa hit her island home in Fiji. © UNICEF Pacific/2020/Stephen*



CHAPTER 2

**UN SUPPORT TO  
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES**



# 2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

## 2.1.1 Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 is overturning economies of PICTs. The collapse of international tourism has deprived these nations of a vital source of foreign exchange revenue, with a devastating impact on livelihoods and income. For many of these economies, external trade has also been adversely affected by supply chain disruptions, including in the fisheries industry. Amid a deteriorating global economic outlook, the Pacific states have also seen a decline in commodity exports, remittances, and foreign direct investment, all of which are important external sources of finance for these countries.

The Pacific island countries have been efficient at managing the public health threat from the COVID 19 pandemic, with only few countries recording relatively small numbers of cases and few deaths. The success of the Pacific island economies in preventing the spread of the virus has been largely attributed to swift responses by the authorities at the initial onset of the pandemic, which included border closures, travel restrictions, and state of emergency declarations.

The fallout from the COVID 19 pandemic shock has been compounded by the continued vulnerability of the Pacific to recurrent natural disasters and weather-related shocks.

This Chapter describes the UN joint commitment providing UNCT’s performance on the UN’s joint work plans, Cooperation Framework responsiveness to the evolving countries and regional situation and priorities.

It provides trends and cumulative results achieved by the UNCT with focus on the 6 Outcomes as defined by the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2021.

The UN Country Report documents the commitment of the United Nations in the Pacific to implement a people centred,

human rights based approach that seeks to “leave no one behind” and to provide an umbrella framework for strategies that embody the UN commitment to “reach the furthest behind first”, and to ensure interconnectedness between humanitarian and development assistance.

## 2.1.2 UN Cooperation Framework Results

The Pacific region and PICTs have made significant progress in aligning their development priorities and goals with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, national and regional priorities.

Before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, PICTs had taken important steps towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and also launched a broad-based consultative process involving all key stakeholders in the region towards defining a visionary 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. The consultative process was focused on how best to achieve a prosperous and peaceful Blue Pacific Continent by 2050 where “all Pacific peoples are leading free, healthy and productive lives”.

In 2020, the Fiji UNCT developed a Pacific COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Response Plan (MSRP), a joint effort between UN Agencies and Development Partners, which served as the operational framework for UN Agencies in the Pacific to support an urgent response and inform targeted interventions and resource mobilisation by UN Agencies, Governments and Development Partners along the principles of “leaving no one behind” and “building back better”.

Most countries in the Pacific have made progress on reducing further already low levels of extreme poverty showing some achievements on SDG1 “No Poverty” and SDG2 “Zero Hunger”, with Vanuatu graduating from the category of Least Development Countries on 4 December 2020.



UNPS “leave no one behind” approach  
(Ref. UNPS 2018-2022)



## Climate Change

### Under Priority Area 1

“Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Environmental Protection” and compliant with SDGs 7 and 13, the UN promoted resilient and sustainable development in the Pacific by scaling up transformational adaptation initiatives, integrated with strong community engagement, for water and food security.

On SDG7 “Affordable and Clean Energy”, UN progress is evident in the support provided to the Pacific Islands states to review UN Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Support was provided on NDC implementation through various renewable energy and energy efficiency interventions to eight PICs which enhanced the capacity of the countries to report to UNFCCC.

2020 results show progress under SDG 13 on Climate Action. The UN kept raising awareness on the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and related processes, and promoted climate financing for the agriculture sector. Support was provided to displaced people and disaster affected communities to restore livelihoods, community infrastructure, and essential public services to displaced persons.

Inclusive, green and resilient growth has been identified as central to sustainable development in the Pacific Islands region. Financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation has (positively) increased in 2020, where some PICTs have leveraged funding from the Green Climate Funds.

The UN’s policy and programme work has been aligned to and supportive of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific, an integrated approach to addressing climate change and disaster risk management 2017-2030 (FRDP), the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) and the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP): 2021-2030 currently under approval.



## Gender Equality

### Under Priority Area 2

“Gender Equality” and in line with the SDG5 and SDG10, the UN has worked closely with partners to empower women and girls, and build more inclusive and equitable societies.

It has devoted strong efforts to ensure the elimination of discriminatory policies and practices in all aspects of life and is working towards achieving greater gender equality in the region.

The UN has focused its interventions in the Pacific on promoting legal and policy reforms; preventing and responding to VAWG in line with international standards; and through the implementation of improved legislation and policies for the delivery of multi-sector, quality, survivor-focused essential services.

This is evident from the strong commitments of PICs to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), accelerating commitments through strategic partnerships and dedicated funding to end VAWG.

The quality of national systems for women and girls to be able to access services that are survivor centred, clinically safe, and informed by guidelines that acknowledge and embrace overall inclusion has been strengthened in all Pacific countries.



## Economic Empowerment

### Under Priority Area 3

“Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment” shows progress on SDGs 8, 10 and 17. To ensure inclusive and sustainable economic empowerment, the UNCT assisted PICs to:

- develop policies;
- strengthen informal businesses;
- create job opportunities;
- develop social protection systems;
- advance the Decent Work Agenda;
- improve the delivery of technical and vocational education, and ecotourism;
- develop farm-to-table business models; and
- improve access to finance for low income and vulnerable people.

Progress has been made under SDG8 where the UNCT is assisting SIDS to foster enabling environments for private sector initiatives by recognising the economic benefits of marine and land ecosystems while ensuring their sustainable management.

Acknowledging the catalytic impact of partnerships to attain the 2030 agenda, the UN enhanced its partnerships between and beyond UN entities, governments, international financial institutions (IFI) and civil society organisations in 2020 making progress on SDG17.

Running socio-economic impact assessments of COVID-19 strengthened collaborations with government agencies, UN Agencies and IFIs such as Asian Development Bank and World Bank.



## Equitable Basic Services

### Under Priority Area 4

“Equitable Basic Services” the UN has made substantive headway in achieving progress on SDGs 3, 4 and 6 with a focus on three major challenges necessary to overcome the key health, education and WASH system bottlenecks in the Pacific.

Through its interventions, and with a clear and positive trend, the UN has contributed towards reducing child, neonatal and early infant deaths as well as high levels of stunting in children; improving quality of education and teaching, and access to safe drinking water and sanitation in rural, peri-urban and remote areas.

Enrolment in basic education is relatively high in the Pacific, and most countries are on track to achieve universal primary education while some PICTs are progressing well with regards to early childhood education.

Under SDG6 progress has been shown through the commitment of PICTs to develop and endorse the Pacific WASH Strategy supported by the UN and its strategic partners. PICTs have managed the public health threat from the COVID-19 pandemic remarkably well, with only few countries recording relatively small numbers of cases and few deaths.

COVID-19 inflicted massive depletion of financial resources that reduced the ability of PICTs to address critical infrastructure bottlenecks, progress on climate adaptation measures and pursue sustainable development.

The UN and international partners are supporting PICTs to diversify their economies, improve food security and accelerate structural transformation.



## Governance

### Under Priority Area 5

“Governance and Community Engagement” and in line with SDGs 3, 8 and 16, the UNCT assisted PICs to sustain peace and stability, and work with governments and parliaments to develop innovative mechanisms to increase interaction and consultation with citizens (focusing on marginalised groups, and in particular women and youth). It assisted countries on increasing the transparency of institutions and the accountability of decision-makers developing anti-corruption mechanisms.

UNCT in partnership with national institutions, regional organizations, and civil society organizations assisted PICTs to strengthen inclusive political processes by supporting the participation of women, youth and people with disabilities as well as those in remote communities in the democratic governance processes. Concrete results have been achieved in increasing women’s participation in governance and political processes despite the complex and challenging contexts of many PICTs.

The 2020 Teieniwa Vision: Pacific Unity Against Corruption further recognizes “that all of our progress and aspirations for a peaceful, harmonious and prosperous Pacific cannot be realised unless we address corruption”. All PICTs have become state parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), the only legally binding, global anti-corruption instrument.



## Human Rights

### Under Priority Area 6

“Human Rights” and fully compliant with SDGs 10 and 16 the UNCT assisted Pacific States to strengthen national legal frameworks and institutions that deliver human rights protection; and also supported countries in implementing international human rights standards.

In order to effectively engage with all of the UN human rights mechanisms – namely the treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review, and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council – PICTs have increasingly recognized the importance of establishing a coordinated structure within government, known as National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF). Therefore, the “Pacific Principles of Practice” on NMRFs were adopted and launched in July 2020.

The UN’s interventions in the Pacific in 2020 have also complemented the work of regional organizations, in particular the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP), the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the University of the South Pacific (USP), etc.

The strategy engaged by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in 2020, has been fully in line with regional priorities with a focus on:

- sustainable development to improve livelihoods and wellbeing;
- ensuring environmental sustainability, inclusive and equitable economic growth;
- strengthening governance, legal, financial and administrative systems; and
- ensuring political security.

It responds to Pacific Leaders’ call to the United Nations system to “align its work programmes and operations to support internationally agreed Priority Areas” under UNPS 2018-2020.



## 2.2 Cooperation Framework



### Climate Change, Disaster Resilience, and Environmental Protection

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

# Results

## 1.1 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The United Nations' strategy in the Pacific integrates climate change and disaster risk management into UN programming in order to promote resilient and sustainable development in the region.

UN Agencies are supporting Pacific Island countries to address their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change through the scaling up of transformational adaptation initiatives, integrated with strong community engagement, for water and food security.

Particular attention is being given to ensure gender-sensitive recovery support. In addition, support is being provided to restore livelihoods, community infrastructure, and essential public services for displaced people and affected communities.

UN Agencies are assisting Pacific Island countries to build resilience by supporting livelihood diversification and adaptive capacity. This includes addressing the links between migration and climate change for the most marginalized and vulnerable populations in the Pacific, particularly those living on atolls, along the coast, and in urban areas.

The UN supports Pacific efforts in global fora such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to ensure the region links to the global climate agenda, and forms lasting partnerships to address its vulnerabilities.

Eight Pacific Island Countries: Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu (under the UN Fiji MCO), and Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa (under the UN Samoa MCO) updated their UN Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with UNDP support, with the aim to report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Tonga became the first Pacific Island Country to submit its second NDC in December 2020 and has committed to a 13% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030.

Tonga became the first Pacific Island Country to submit its second NDC in December 2020 and has committed to a 13% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030.

In the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, various renewable energy and energy efficiency interventions were extended through the support on NDC implementation. The five countries are undertaking an inclusive, nationally owned and transparent process to revise and submit enhanced NDCs in collaboration with key development partners, including the Pacific NDC Hub supported by SPC, SPREP, GGG, GIZ and the NDC partnership.

In Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Kiribati, adaptation measures in line with the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and National Climate Adaptation Policies have been implemented by the UNDP.

The Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) in partnership with SPC and UNIDO has developed a Regional Electric Mobility Policy and Program for the Pacific. It provides the framework for national roadmaps in Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

UNIDO facilitated SIDS-SIDS cooperation on e-mobility solutions with the Caribbean Islands through the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC).

In Kiribati and Tuvalu, community-based climate adaptation plans to improve fisheries and food security were established under UNDP support.

The Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu successfully completed assessments on the risks, vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change on their agricultural sector with FAO support, which has also raised awareness on UNFCCC, Paris Agreement and related processes, and climate financing for the agriculture sector.

Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu were supported to prepare for and manage disaster displacement by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This included the staggered establishment and implementation of displacement tracking monitoring assessment systems and evacuation centre mapping.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) launched an Online Capacity Building Program on Sustainable Energy Solutions for Islands in December 2020 to address the major barrier that a lack of capacities poses for the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency product and service markets in developing countries including PICTS. The program was launched in partnership with SPC's Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, the Caribbean Community's Caribbean Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Economic Community of West African States' Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Southern African Development Community's Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

Thirteen Pacific Countries were supported to enhance the protection of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters by IOM, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in partnership with government and civil society actors

## 1.2 Disaster Risks Reduction and Management

Disaster recovery efforts were strengthened in six countries in the Pacific – FSM, Fiji, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. UNDP provided Automatic Weather Stations with Hydrology Sensors, Aviation Weather Observing Systems, telemetered rain gauges and manual/synop station sensors.

Tonga and Tuvalu were supported to draft legislation and develop a strategy to improve their hydro-meteorological services by WMO. Support was provided to the National Climate Outlook Forum for Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu to enable them to better understand, absorb and use climate services and information including warnings provided by the national meteorological and hydrological services.

In partnership with SPREP, the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) and the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS), WMO provided support to convene two Pacific Islands Climate Forums (PICOF). The PICOF consensus-based climate outlook

included tropical cyclone outlook guidance.

Impact Based Forecasts and Warning Services were introduced to the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service (SIMS) which is now able to deliver weather forecasts and information including early warnings to Solomon Islanders.

The Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS)/Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) Nadi, which provides services to neighbouring PICTs including Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu, was supported by the UN to strengthen the provision of weather and extreme weather event forecasts and information.

WFP provided capacity strengthening support to PICTs to implement the SDGs through data preparedness. This included food security monitoring, shock-responsive social protection, as well as strengthening national emergency preparedness and response capabilities for food security, cash, logistics and emergency telecommunications.

Over 143 partners and 29 national coordination mechanisms were supported by the WFP through the Regional Logistics, Emergency Telecommunications, and Food Security clusters; while 15 standard operating procedures were developed with clear processes and procedures for responding to crises.

WFP launched the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service and Logistics Hub, which transported 125mt of medical cargo in the absence of viable commercial air freight options.

In Vanuatu, satellite and telecommunications capacity have been enhanced to facilitate the government's emergency response to TC Harold, and the Government of Fiji was supported with cash top-ups for 10,882 vulnerable social welfare recipients affected by the cyclone, enabling national social protection systems to be more shock-responsive.

In coordination with regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) members, WFP and government partners launched mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM), conducting 7,200 household surveys across five countries (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Kiribati) to provide detailed food security and essential needs analysis. The results brought attention to the heightened vulnerability of households headed by women, with a person with a disability, and/or children under four years.

Under the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

(IOC), Member States in the Southwest Pacific have been supported through the Pacific Wave 2020 (PacWAVE 20) exercise to test, review and evaluate their national tsunami warning and response arrangements. In 2020, UNESCO supported PICs to update the Tsunami Response Guidelines with COVID-19 considerations.

In Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu (Member States of the Oceania Regional Seismic Network (ORSNET)), earthquake and tsunami monitoring detection capacities were strengthened by the IOC in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC).

During 2020, regional collaboration also commenced with the South Pacific Tourism Organization (SPTO) following the signing of a MOU to support ecotourism and biodiversity especially in the wake of COVID-19.

In Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands and Tonga, the UN supported the enhancement of gender protection in humanitarian action and gender responsive disaster risk reduction efforts.

Women in Fiji led the response on three tropical cyclones that affected the country in 2020 (TC Tino in January, TC Harold in April, TC Yasa in December) using bulk SMS systems and convenings, enabling women and their families to stay informed before, during and after a disaster.

In the Solomon Islands, women and girls were supported to address Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE). At the policy level, gender and protection are being integrated into the national Initial Damage Assessment Tool.

In Fiji, FAO supported the establishment of a Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Unit within the Ministry of Agriculture to institutionalise the work of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster. In addition, the development of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Plans were supported with hazard and vulnerability mappings and the establishment of DRM committees.

In Fiji and Vanuatu, FAO provided assistance to restore agriculture production following Tropical Cyclone Harold supporting 21,000 beneficiaries, 163 communities, 87 women groups, and 61 youth groups.

In FSM, food security was strengthened in response to Typhoon Wutip with the distribution of 1,595 tons of food baskets led by IOM.

10 Pacific SIDS (FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) were assisted by UNDRR to self-assess their DRR policies, the results of which are recorded in the global online Sendai Framework Monitoring System. This has enabled the region to record significant progress against Target E (development of national DRR strategies) of the Sendai Framework in the global monitoring system. UNDRR also assisted many PICs to record data against Target A (mortality) and Target B (people affected), as well as to update records of losses from recent disasters in the Pacific Damage and Loss (PDaLo) database system.

### 1.3 Environmental Protection and Sustainability

In Fiji and Vanuatu, FAO provided assistance to restore agriculture production following Tropical Cyclone Harold, providing a total of 5,600 agro-inputs to 21,000 beneficiaries including 163 communities, 87 women's groups and 61 youth groups.

FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru and Palau, working closely with UNDP, have improved the management and coverage of terrestrial and marine protected areas. "The 'State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Regional Report' highlighted that seven countries have reached the terrestrial protection target of 17% (set out under Aichi Target 11) with Palau and Kiribati exceeding their marine protection targets while Tuvalu, Tonga and Republic of Marshall Islands are approaching their targets. Fiji and FSM are on track to achieve their targets of terrestrial and marine protected areas (Aichi target of 10%).

Fiji was supported under the Initiative Against Desertification implemented by FAO to establish agro-forestry and ecology models, with approximately 600 hectares replanted. In Solomon Islands, an integrated forest management system (including a forest monitoring portal) and protected areas were established with FAO support.

On oceanic fisheries, Pacific Islands capacities were strengthened on Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) for the sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular in Fiji where EMS reviews are now being used as a tool to monitor compliance of Fijian vessels.



*The Wintua-Lorlow micro-grid. A micro-grid is an independent energy system that operates outside of the national grid. Photo credit: Ian Iercet @UNDP*

### Vanuatu' first-ever community-run solar power station

On the remote island of Malekula, the second-largest island in Vanuatu, a new solar micro-grid is changing the lives of over 2,800 people - boosting local development while contributing to Vanuatu's sector specific target of transitioning to close to 100 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2030.

The micro-grid is Vanuatu's first-ever community-run power system: members of the communities own and manage it. This keeps electricity costs low as there are no external operation costs or a profit margin, which is usually incorporated into an electricity fee and passed onto consumers.

"This is the first-ever power cooperative for Vanuatu's last mile communities. This is a fascinating electrification idea that was made possible through our partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Austria, which funded the project", said Mr. Antony Garae, Director of Energy at the Ministry for Climate Change.

To ensure the micro-grid is well-maintained, the two communities have set up an energy cooperative in partnership with the Department of Cooperatives, which will be in charge of collecting the electricity fee. Throughout the first year of operation, the local energy service company will provide free maintenance and train members of the local communities to operate and maintain the power station.



## Gender Equality

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

# Results

The United Nations has been supporting and accelerating explicit commitments to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through strategic partnerships and dedicated funding in the Pacific.

This is evidenced through ongoing initiatives like: the Pacific Partnership to end VAWG, an investment of USD 30 million from the European Union, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and UN Women with targeted investments in nine PICs: Fiji, Kiribati, PNG, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; and the Spotlight Initiative, a Regional Programme with funding from the European Union with an approximate USD 40 million total investment, of which almost 10 million Euro supports regional interventions across 16 Pacific Island Countries, in addition to country specific action in Vanuatu. It brings together several UN Agencies (UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, and IOM), and diverse partners working to end violence against women and girls in the Pacific.

Prevalence data is available on men's use of violence, alongside women's experience of violence in Kiribati. Samoa and Tonga developed and endorsed national mechanisms for multisector, coordinated and survivor-focused service provision, which now makes a total of five countries in the region having set it up (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Tonga).

A total of 1000 service providers were supported on VAWG in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands, including 668 village representatives, 161 government workers, 159 CSO workers, 102 police and 62 health professionals.

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In 2020, the Pacific Partnership has strengthened the quality of national systems for women and girls to be able to access services that are: survivor centred; clinically safe; informed by guidelines that acknowledge and embrace inclusion of LGBTIQI communities and people with disabilities; are accessible and disability aware; and align to global good practice standards.

Health system responses to Gender Based Violence (GBV) have been strengthened in FSM, Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa, contributing to increased outreach for provision of services and support to women and girls. UNFPA supported the development of standard operating procedures and capacity strengthening efforts.

In Fiji, Kiribati, and Solomon Islands over 1,000 service providers have strengthened technical capacity to improve national multisector VAWG service delivery systems.

Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands supported 1000 service providers on VAWG

In 2020, efforts progressed to prevent VAWG in the region. Fiji has become the first Pacific Island country, and one of the two countries globally along with Australia, to have a whole of government, evidence-based approach to preventing violence against women and girls. UN Women has been the primary technical partner to the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation in developing the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.

During 2020, UN Women facilitated tailored technical support to partners in Kiribati and Fiji, and increased their capacity to effectively support advocates and leaders to lead community engagement activities.

In Kiribati in 2020, village activists and community leaders engaged 6,920 community members (2,400 women, 1,900 men, 1,300 girls and 1,320 boys) from 18 villages in South Tarawa and Betio through activities and open discussions within their villages. Village activists and community leaders are expected to continue to demonstrate attitude changes and support survivors of violence as their work in the community deepens in 2021.

During 2020, church leaders became increasingly prominent advocates for gender equality and ending violence against women and children in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga, through strategic partnerships between the UN and Pacific Conference of Churches. The partnership with PCC expanded prevention interventions among faith communities between 2018 to 2021 by 1,700% (from 1,759 to 31,959 members).

In Tonga, more women and men, girls and boys are becoming aware of Violence Against Women and Girls and how to access services through UN supported national communication campaigns and behavioural change communication strategies.

At the regional level, UNFPA initiated the design of Social Norms and Behaviour Change strategies for six Pacific Island Countries that address women's bodily autonomy, access to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and the prevention of violence against women.

In the realm of normative frameworks and national systems, including intergovernmental systems and institutional mechanisms, the United Nations has played a substantial role across the Pacific region, supporting coordination with relevant ministries and partners to deliver evidence-based legislation, public policy, and programming.

SASA Faith progress includes substantive improvement in Fiji, going beyond the 2020 indicator targets:

- Decrease by 25% in the case of women and 27% in men who think that a woman should tolerate violence from her husband/partner to keep her family together.
- Decrease by 14% of women and by 12% of men who think that women are responsible for the violence their husband/partner uses against them.
- Increase by 15% of women and 21% of men in target communities who believe that it is acceptable for a woman to refuse to have sex with a partner when she does not feel like it.
- Increase by 26% of women and 39% of men who think that if a woman has been beaten by her husband it is okay for her to tell other people.

2020 saw UN support towards Gender Responsive Budgeting in Fiji, Solomon Islands and RMI. In addition, the UN has undertaken extensive work interlinked with rule of law and accountability for human rights violations, with a special focus on supporting the work of women human rights defenders, widening the civic space by promoting, protecting, and empowering human rights defenders, while supporting women's groups with awareness and understanding of human rights.

In the context of the COVID19 pandemic and its unique contextual realities, the United Nations continues to engage closely with government leaders and local authorities to accelerate concrete policy responses to address Gender Based Violence and promote zero tolerance to Gender Based Violence. In line with ongoing efforts on data, the UN is advancing discussions to pivot admin data forms to capture the impact of COVID-19 stressors on GBV. In addition to this, across Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, the UN supported safe and timely access to services for survivors, ensuring they remained open through adaption of national reporting and referral pathways for COVID-19.

The United Nations is supporting local efforts to ensure marketplaces in rural and urban areas are safe, inclusive and non-discriminatory; and that they also promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Through the Markets for Change Initiative in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, markets were supported in the COVID-19 response to ensure they were considered 'essential services' and not shut down during the pandemic lock down periods, thus safeguarding both food security and livelihood support for market vendors, the majority of whom are rural women, during this critical period.

- In Fiji, 10,500 packs of vegetable seeds were distributed to 1,500 market vendors
- 8000 market vendor association members capacities have been enhanced to better enable women in the informal economy and prepare for disasters.
- As vendors faced increased costs and decreased revenue during the COVID-19 period Markets for Change worked alongside partners to distribute free agricultural inputs to vendors across the three countries. In Fiji, 10,500 packs of vegetable seeds were distributed to 1,500 market vendors, in partnership with FAO.
- In Kadavu, Fiji, 145 spades, 145 forks, 145 cane knives, 145 trowels and 145 hand shovels were distributed to market vendors, alongside 1800 copies of information booklets on agricultural techniques.
- Markets for Change supported markets across Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with WASH assessments, including the successful distribution of WASH supplies to markets in Fiji.
- UN Women worked with UNICEF to ensure the distribution of WASH and PPE supplies across Fiji's markets including: 235 rolls of masking tape, 22000 pairs of gloves, 5700 antibacterial soaps, 128 knapsack sprays, 148 brooms, 768 gallons of detergent, 13300 sponges, 135 galvanized buckets, 212 mops and 336 mop heads in Fiji.

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The United Nations has made flexible funding available for civil society for COVID-19 social and economic impact response through grants to eight civil society partners across five countries (Cook Islands, FSM, Niue, Palau and Tonga).

During emergency response efforts with Cyclone Harold and Cyclone Yasa, the collaboration within the Protection Cluster in Fiji and Vanuatu focused specifically on responding to gender-based violence and child protection including dedicated support by UN Women and UNICEF to government and civil society partners to transition their services following disasters and through the COVID-19 period. This enabled service providers to immediately respond to post disaster needs.

More specifically on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), UN Women has contributed to mainstreaming gender and protection in a range of regional interventions through the MHPSS Cell of the Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT), a WHO-led regional COVID-19 coordination and technical support mechanism. Further to this, UN Agencies also jointly contributed to the report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on the incidence of GBV and measures taken. In Fiji 127 multisectoral service providers are now able to identify the impacts of COVID-19 on women and children and adapt their services accordingly, with the capacity to provide safe phone counselling and support in the context of lockdowns and curfews (UN Women, UNFPA and UNICEF).

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In 2020, the United Nations made significant efforts to progress on the “Promise to Leave No One Behind”. In Solomon Islands it supported rural women to actively participate in government consultations on the Traditional Governance Bill (TGB), a key piece of legislation being drafted that will inform the governance of natural resources in the country, an area considered to be the domain of men.

The Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster (PHPC) in collaboration with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) led capacity strengthening efforts to improve measures for disability inclusion during emergencies.

The United Nations has strengthened health system responses to GBV in the Marshall Islands, FSM, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Samoa, contributing to increased outreach for provision of services and support to women and girls. UNFPA worked with the WeDecide initiative to address gender-based violence and SRHR for women with disabilities.

The Markets for Change initiative in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu benefitting older and rural vendors and people with disabilities through gender-informed design and construction reflects the needs of women vendors.

The UN is undertaking explicit action to support National Statistics Offices and Line Ministries across the region on Gender Based Violence multi sectoral administrative data. UNFPA and UN Women are working to identify best practices across the range of Pacific countries.

UNFPA, with key inter-governmental bodies and strategic regional actors such as SPC and University of Melbourne, is supporting actions to strengthen the evidence base for GBV prevention and response through the safe and ethical collection and reporting of both prevalence and multi sectoral administrative data systems. This is an extension of the global kNOWVAWdata initiative to support Pacific country capacity in evidence-based policy and programmes.

In 2020 the UN committed to strengthening UNCT capacities to achieve improved gender mainstreaming practices, fostering adherence to minimum requirements for gender equality processes across the United Nations system set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). As result the UN in the Pacific rolled out the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, a system wide comprehensive assessment, and advanced joint efforts to strengthen capacity of its staff on the gender marker.

In the Pacific region, the UN is actively engaged in existing coordination structures to support gender equality and women’s empowerment. These coordination structures include the Pacific Gender Coordination Group, co-chaired by the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Gender Technical Working Group composed of UNFPA, UN Women, PIFS, SPC and several key CSO stakeholders.



Oripa Lee-Teacher and Coach “GetIntoRugbyPlus - Oceania Rugby Photo credit: @ UN Women

### The Story of Oripa Lee

Oripa Lee from Waciwaci, Lakeba, in Lau have been teaching at a primary school in Lautoka for 20 years. The school was part of the Fiji Get Into Rugby PLUS Lifeskills pilot programme implemented by UN Women, and she is the only coach in this programme in the district.

“We support girls and boys in schools with a safe and inclusive playing environment and build their skills so they can think and talk more openly about gender, respectful relationships, impact of peer pressure, values, and power. These are all taught

through our rugby values, which is integrity, solidarity, respect, discipline and passion. I see this programme contributing to the upbringing up of our future leaders. There are so many changes I am seeing in the students – behaviour is one. Not only do they openly share their problems with me, but they have also started sharing with their parents, compared to previous years. The students came with all these preconceived ideas that girls cannot play rugby and the gendered roles in their homes and power dynamics between women and men, girls and boys and even adults and children. Our sessions are helping them open-up and analyse things critically” – Oripa said.



## Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment

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

# Results

With the aim of serving the people of the Pacific in particular youth, women, and vulnerable groups, to ensure inclusive and sustainable economic empowerment, the UN delivered and supported the development and strengthening of policies, strengthening of informal businesses, increased research and improved extension agriculture services to increase the productivity of small land holders and subsistence farmers, enhanced links between agriculture and the tourism industry, and advanced the concept of blue and green economies.

The UN is continuing efforts to assist SIDs on creating job opportunities for women, men and youth, develop social protection systems, advance the Decent Work Agenda, support youth and women's entrepreneurship, improve the delivery of technical and vocational education and training, expand organic farming, ecotourism, develop farm-to-table business models, support the informal sector to increase employment opportunities, income generation and investments in social enterprise, and improve access to finance for low income and vulnerable people

## 3.1 Economic Empowerment, Social Inclusion, and Community Wellbeing

Advancing the concept of blue and green economies UNCT is assisting SIDS countries to establish enabling environments for private sector initiatives by recognising the economic benefits of marine and land ecosystems while ensuring their sustainable management.

In Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, FAO supported small-scale nearshore fish aggregating devices (FAD) and fish processing.

Tuvalu's Fisheries Department's 2020-2022 Corporate Plan prioritised small-scale fisheries following FAO assessments of the safety of small-scale fishing boats, the design of a minimum size fishing boat adapted to prolonged oceanic activities and recommendations on safety, new technologies and Fish Aggregating Devices.

In 2020, the UN embarked on a new joint program with ILO, UNESCO, UNDP and IFAD to address unemployment and support sustainable enterprises in the informal sub-sectors following the impacts of COVID-19 on Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The Pacific model of master-apprentice was revived to enable specialised skills transfer to creative local talent, enable market linkages, and strengthen the long-term sustainability of businesses in the informal sector in Fiji, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu to a tune of USD 2.5m.

IFAD promoted Nutrition and Food Systems across the Pacific in partnership with Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), the Pacific Islands Farmer Organisations Network (PIFON) and the University of South Pacific (USP). More

than 20 Innovation Grants were competitively awarded in support of small and medium enterprises and a total of eight community-based organizations benefited from community nutrition grants in Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In Kiribati, IFAD has supported 18,000 beneficiaries' access to improved food security, nutrition and access to clean water in the outer islands with participatory and inclusive planning.

Some 40,000 farmers, fisherfolk and households in rural communities have indirectly benefitted from the establishment of an agriculture-related ICT platform that supports the upgrade of local food crops and fisheries value chains.

In Tonga, IFAD is working in partnership with the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust to improve the livelihoods of more than 6,000 rural poor households and help communities be more resilient to the effects of climate change and extreme weather across Tonga's five main island groups, through inclusive community engagement.

IOM supported the Republic of the Marshall Islands Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Working Group as a means of coordinating support to female entrepreneurs and businesswomen.

The ILO Office for Pacific Island Countries held consultations with Tuvalu and Kiribati ILO tripartite partners to discuss standard employment contracts (SECs) for migrant workers and relevant human rights and labour standards across key sectors such as fisheries and horticulture. The rights of migrant workers have been a priority of the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) programme.

In 2020, the UN organized the Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as a platform to voice and advocate for regional issues of concern and to build capacity to review and implement the SDGs.

Support was provided for the finalization of the Fiji Youth Policy 2021-2025 and Solomon Islands National Children Policy 2020-2025 including adolescent and child participation. To amplify the voice of children and youth, UNICEF supported participation of 27 young people during the 2020 Tonga National Youth Parliament.

## 3.2 Support for evidence-based policy making, data and analytics.

With the aim of supporting evidence-based policymaking and national systems of data collection, the UN engaged in extensive Socio-economic Impact Assessments (SEIAs) in 2020 focused on capturing various multi-dimensional vulnerabilities in the Pacific and rapid assessments of COVID-19 impacts on vulnerable groups and workers in informal employment. In Fiji and Solomon Islands, FAO analyzed the effects of COVID-19, policy responses and long-term implications for the resilience of national agri-food systems. The Fijian Policy for Food Security and Nutrition was reviewed and multi-stakeholder engagement supported on food systems discussions and COVID-19 response. In addition, FAO supported the Solomon Islands Government to develop an Agriculture Sector Strategy and Investment Plan.

FAO supported Fiji and Niue's agriculture censuses to support evidence-based decision-making, including a gender report on agriculture, forestry and fisheries for Fiji.

In partnership with SPC and National Statistics Offices, FAO supported the monitoring of SDG indicators, with food security profiles published for Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. Support was provided to the livestock production and animal health sectors in Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu with the aim to increase livestock production and improve food security and nutrition.



## The Story of Olive Kata

Olive Kata, like many women in the small communities on 'Eua and across Tonga, spends much of her time making bark cloth pieces that will be used to make ngatu. Through the farmer field school organised by IFAD, Olive and other women on the island are learning sustainable production methods to ensure that the mulberry trees and other natural resources they need to produce their handicrafts continue to flourish.

"I grow a few mulberry trees in my garden," explains Olive. "I cut branches from the tree when they are two or three years old and let them dry for a couple of days in the sun. Then I strip the outer layer of bark off the branches to get to the soft inner layer of bark. I remove it from the branch and soak it in water overnight. The next day, it is ready for me to use." It's a process that requires time, skill and much patience.

Olive joins an orchestra of women across the island, rhythmically pounding the soft, creamy-coloured inner bark with an ike, or wooden mallet, into paper-thin pieces. Each woman in her work group contributes a pre-determined number of cloths and, together, they glue the many pieces together with a natural paste made from cassava root to assemble a large expanse of ngatu.

"We use black and brown colours that we get from tree bark, earth and roots," tells Alavina. "Traditionally we used the root from the mangrove tree for dye. But these days we are using mud from around the roots instead." The farmer field school is helping islanders protect mangrove swamps, which serve as a protective barrier to cyclones, and to sustain production of the other plants they use to make dyes



Olive making ngatu in Angaha Community, 'Eua @IFAD





## Equitable Basic Services

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

The United Nations continued its efforts to support its 14 programming PICTs to ensure equitable access to basic services for all, despite the compounded impact of the simultaneous shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. The UN took a multidimensional approach that focused on strengthening national systems and institutional frameworks, engaging and building national capacities, and utilizing innovative solutions to build resilience and better respond to the devastating effects of the pandemic.

In 2020, the UN focused on three major challenges necessary to overcome key health, WASH and education system bottlenecks in the Pacific, which contribute to high rates of neonatal and early infant death; high levels of stunting in children; quality of education and the quality of teaching; and access to safe drinking water and sanitation in rural, peri-urban and remote areas. The collective efforts of the UN system strengthened policies and legislative frameworks, improved planning and coordination mechanisms, and improved delivery of quality services, including at the community level.

## Results

### 4.1 Improving and sustaining health and nutrition services:

In response to COVID-19, UN Agencies and partners came together establish a Pacific Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT) to coordinate preparedness and response efforts. Despite avoiding or quickly containing COVID-19 transmission in the 14 PICTs, essential health services were disrupted, and government revenues declined.

#### HEALTH

Ensured COVID-19 response readiness and improved capacity to deliver essential health services and quality nutrition;

8,179 frontline health workers supplied with personal protective equipment (PPE), 70,000 test kits and biomedical procured for all 14 PICTs;

89 per cent rating episode delivery excellent and 313 nurses received accreditation point through 'Health Care on Air' training introduced in FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu, 29 medical trainers trained on health worker engagement with communities in Kiribati;

2,200 community members from 28 communities were engaged on a dialogue on COVID-19 in Solomon Islands

Strengthened access to quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls

46,087 women, men and girls were reached with essential SRH information and services;

33% increase in CYP (couple-year protection) distributed in 14 countries

The UN's preparedness and response efforts for both COVID-19 and tropical cyclones aiming at strengthening comprehensive health system activities improved the quality and resilience of health and nutrition services in all 10 PICTs under the Fiji MCO:

- UN procured personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health workers in 10 PICTs as well as biomedical equipment for critical care, including oxygen concentrators and COVID-19 test kits.
- Technical assistance was provided to strengthen COVID-19 vaccine preparedness by establishing national immunization coordinating committees, adapting the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Assessment Tool, preparing three-year budget estimates, and completing rapid cold chain assessments.

- UN also assisted nine PICTs eligible for Gavi's Advance Marketplace Commitment to meet submission deadlines for COVAX technical assistance plans and vaccine applications. Support was provided for the drafting of a generic national deployment and vaccination plan for adaptation and use by PICTs.
- All 10 PICTs are COVID-19 vaccine ready.
- The capacity of the sub-regional cold room to accommodate the delivery of new vaccines was doubled and cold chain capacity was increased in Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Communication strategies for routine immunization, introduction of new vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines were developed for Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- COVID-19 distance education initiative targeting health workers in remote locations with limited or no internet connection was introduced in FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu to support frontline health workers with skills and tools to deliver essential health services during the pandemic regardless of their location.
- Primary health care quality improved in 66 per cent of facilities that received at least two supportive visits in seven sub-national locations across Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
- National capacities were enhanced to strengthen quality health and nutrition policy and legislation in FSM, Kiribati and Solomon Islands.
- Access to quality integrated sexual and reproductive health services for women, adolescents and youth was strengthened in the region, as evidenced by a 33% year-on-year increase in couple-year protection, afforded by the distribution of contraception in the Pacific. This coverage had the potential to avert over 33,000 unintended pregnancies and prevent 200 maternal deaths. Action was also taken to ensure sustained access for women, adolescents and youth to high quality, integrated SRH information and services under the Pacific Humanitarian Response Plan and Phase 2 COVID-19 Action Plan, with over 45,975 direct beneficiaries reached in the TC Harold response in Vanuatu.

The COVID-19 pandemic wasn't the only emergency facing the Pacific in 2020. Multiple cyclones affected the region, and UN Agencies supported response and recovery efforts, including ensuring essential health services through national emergency medical teams and provision of medicines and medical supplies. A total of 46,087 women, men and girls were reached with essential SRH information and services.

### 4.2 Improving access to WASH

#### WASH

Strengthened enabling environment for WASH

Draft WASH related policy completed for Fiji WinS designed standards adopted in FSM, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Water Resource Management and Sanitation Policy drafted in Kiribati Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data in the Pacific launched

Strengthened access to water and sanitation:

71,813 cyclone-affected people in Fiji and Vanuatu, and nearly 25,000 people in Solomon Is and Kiribati, provided with WASH-related support 'WASH for Babies' initiative launched (intersectoral approach with ECD, C4D and Nutrition) in Kiribati 94 schools and 52 health care facilities provided with gender-segregated WASH facilities and supplies in Fiji 71,813 people reached through the WASH TC Yasa and Harold response in Fiji and Vanuatu.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), including handwashing with soap. However, the latest data shows that the region is lagging behind in achieving the 2030 Agenda target of universal access to basic water and sanitation services. Despite these challenges, all 10 PICTs were supported in their WASH-related response to COVID-19, which included the provision of supplies, risk communication and community engagement, guidance and remote technical support.

The Pacific WASH Strategy was endorsed at the Ministers of Health Meeting, supported by the UN and its strategic partners. The work on strengthening national WASH systems and institutional frameworks has resulted in the completion of the draft National Water Resource Management and Sanitation Policy and the development of a Water and Sewage Act in Fiji; and the adoption of WASH in schools design standards in FSM, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Kiribati has drafted its water resource management and sanitation policy that integrates disaster and climate risk issues. In Vanuatu, building further on the Tropical Cyclone Harold response, support continued to improve climate-resilience in WASH by expanding 'resilient water safety planning' and/or DWSSPs in communities, schools and health care facilities.

Other significant activities included developing drinking water safety and security guidelines in Vanuatu; ongoing consultations towards a national water resource management and sanitation policy in Kiribati; ensuring communities have the tools and knowledge to practice effective WASH techniques in FSM. Access to quality WASH services is improved in FSM with the renovation of 24 health facilities led by IOM.

WASH data generation for evidence-based programming was improved with the completion of WASH assessments of 159 health facilities in Solomon Islands, a COVID-19 school readiness baseline survey in 80 schools conducted in FSM and the WASH in schools formative evaluation ongoing in FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

A high-level webinar was held for Pacific SIDS in November 2020 to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in water resources management to reinforce social inclusion, eradicate poverty and move towards environmental sustainability as well as the launch the 2019 UNESCO WWAP Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data in the Pacific.

### 4.3 Expanding access to quality education

#### EDUCATION

##### Expanding access to quality education

COVID-19 response plans for 9 PICTs completed  
Regional Inclusive Education Taskforce established  
Advanced commitments to develop locally relevant Early Childhood Education (ECE) curricula and teacher training in Tonga and Kiribati  
Education sector analyses and plans completed for Kiribati and Vanuatu

##### Advancing commitments to EC

10-year regional work plan for ECD adopted by the Pacific Regional Council for ECD (PRC4ECD)  
ECD policies developed in Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu  
Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for ECD in FSM, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu established  
Improved capacity in support of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education  
Improved education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted key vulnerabilities within education systems in the region reinstating the need to continue to plan, build capacity and strengthen school systems to enable distance learning, and strengthen safe school operations, with the development and implementation of context-specific guidelines on COVID-19 prevention and control.

All ten countries designed and implemented their COVID-19 responses or mitigation measures in the education sector, addressing short- and long-term strategies to ensure continued child learning and well-being. Remote learning programmes, teacher training on the design and facilitation of student-led and home-based learning, safe school protocols and communication materials, and system development efforts were the key focus of UN's support in 2020. Partners were supported to develop and implement Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plans and activities, such as the provision of technical guidance, production and distribution of national outreach campaigns. The UN-supported 'Waka Moana: Regional Learning Management Platform in the Pacific SIDS' (Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu) in collaboration with the University of South Pacific making middle-school subject materials available through online and off-line learning platforms.

On early learning, Kiribati and Tonga advanced their commitment to expanding access to quality early childhood education (ECE) nationwide by developing locally relevant ECE curricula and teacher training programmes. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, notable progress was made, with training of trainers ongoing and draft curricula and teacher guidance ready for piloting in both countries. Solomon Islands introduced pre-primary year, developed in all government schools as part of basic education. Kiribati and Vanuatu completed robust, relevant and equity-focused education sector analyses and plans.

Enhancing capacity in support of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education has been a priority for Pacific states to adequately equip young people for labour markets given high youth unemployment in the region. COVID-19 has further intensified the importance of this area. Capacity building of TVET providers in Fiji and Kiribati was conducted to make linkages and TVET learning

pathways across the education levels as well as between formal and non-formal education and training making lifelong learning accessible to all. Capacity building and country level technical assistance were extended to seven countries (Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu).

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including knowledge and skills to cope with climate change or to mitigate damages from natural disaster such as cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis, crucial life skills for the Pacific, is recognized as an important vehicle in disaster risk reduction and enhancing resilience in societies as well as harnessing the rich Pacific traditional culture and heritage. The UN provided support to review curriculum and assist countries develop teaching and learning materials from early childhood to tertiary levels, while enhancing relevance to the country context in Fiji, Nauru, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The national capacity to design and implement community and school based family life education programmes that promote human rights and gender equality was strengthened with the completion of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education/FLE situation assessments for six (Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu) countries and this has led to the development of government owned action plans, conceptual frameworks and implementation.

The ten-year Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) partnership was finalized in 2020, with a US\$15-million, three-year first phase implementation plan to be launched in 2021. The UN has leveraged funds to support the establishment of a regional taskforce to guide the integration of key components from the Pacific Regional Inclusive Education Framework (PRIEF) into the Pacific Regional Education Framework. The UN also supported the initiation of an inclusive education review for the Pacific.





Photo credit: © UNICEF Pacific/2020/Bacareza

### Youths take lead in COVID-19 awareness efforts

UNICEF partnered with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Micronesia Red Cross Society for a house-to-house campaign to engage children and other locals on COVID-19 awareness. A total of 60 youth volunteers were trained on prevention and hygiene promotion for this four-month campaign.

Youth volunteers highlighted taking a boat to reach a community called Pakin which took two hours from mainland Pohnpei to reach 19 households with about 100 people.

They conducted one-on-one discussions as well as practical demonstrations on basic hygienic practices with the locals. Village members actively participated in the sensitization sessions which will foster community

ownership and sustain adoption of safe hygiene practices.

In addition to community engagement, the youth volunteers were also trained on data collection with a mobile application to assist the government with important information for COVID-19 preparedness and response planning.

“We used mobile phones to record information such as how many people were living in one house, how many children and sick people as well as how many were suffering from non-communicable diseases,” says Gorinna.

For Gorinna and Donny, this was an experience they will never forget and are looking forward to being part of yet another journey to help their small island nation in the fight against COVID-19.





## Governance and Community Engagement

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

With the support from the United Nations, Pacific Countries committed to promote inclusive governance across the region and promote accountable, transparent and democratic systems which adhere to the rule of law and human rights, while addressing the impact of COVID-19.

The UNCT committed considerable efforts to sustain peace and stability in the region and worked with governments of the Pacific countries to develop innovative mechanisms focusing on marginalized groups, in particular women and youth. Priority was given to promote and empower youth and women by providing fora for policy dialogue with decision-makers and improving conflict resolution skills. Assistance was provided to the countries to implement SDG16, with specific support on strengthening the rule of law and access to justice.

The UN collaborated with national institutions, regional organizations, and civil society to advocate for the legal and policy reforms to increase the number of women represented in national and local legislatures and institutions. UNCT assisted countries to effectively provide alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and expand access to justice to remote areas with a focus on women, youth and vulnerable groups.

## Results

### 5.1 Regional support

Following the 2017 commitment to improve data availability, PICTs established a set of 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators (PSDIs) to monitor progress against regional and global priorities. PICTs are now able to monitor more than half of these priority indicators. Kiribati and Tonga were supported to implement aspects of their MICS/DHS and both launched their report findings. Meanwhile, Tuvalu completed its fieldwork while Fiji completed preparations for 2021 fieldwork. In Fiji, the MICS is now in data collection/fieldwork phase, while FSM, Nauru and Vanuatu are in the survey-design stage. Vanuatu and Kiribati successfully used CAPI (computer assisted personal interviewing) for the first time, to complete their census enumeration in spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its related impact. The technical support to PHC was provided in close partnership with The Pacific Community (SPC), thereby investing in sustainable technical expertise over the long term.

Through a regional approach, UN strengthened inclusive political processes by supporting the participation of women, youths, people with disabilities and those in remote communities in democratic governance processes. Concrete results were achieved in increasing women's participation on governance and political processes despite the complex and challenging context of many PICs.

The partnership with Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations (PIANGO) was instrumental in bringing CSOs and over 400 citizens to engage with parliaments to analyse impact of COVID-19 and implications for budgeting in response to the impacts of COVID-19. The ability of the UN to negotiate with development partners and the 14 parliaments in the region to enable the reprogramming of funds in response to the impacts of COVID-19 had positive results by supporting institutional business continuity.

A key 2020 result was the establishment of the Pacific Group on Disability Statistics as a coordination mechanism to guide the collection, compilation, analysis, dissemination and use of disability statistics.

### 5.2 Anti-corruption, transparency and accountability

The UN supported three countries (Cook Islands, FSM and Fiji) in drafting anti-corruption strategies, and supported Solomon Islands and Kiribati to implement their existing anti-corruption strategies. The UN partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) was key to the successful Kiribati Pacific Regional Conference on Anti-corruption in February 2020 and the adoption by 18 Pacific Leaders of the Teieniwa Vision "Pacific Unity Against Corruption". This was supported by strong partnerships with PIFs, DFAT and MFAT.

The UN strengthened the capacities of youth and women with a focus on business integrity where 258 people (97 male and 161 female) benefited from UN support. The first-ever anti-corruption toolkit for women-owned micro, small and medium enterprises was launched in 2020. The UN assisted Fiji to integrate a COVID-19 responsive approach to public service provision and the launch of a nation-wide public service anti-bribery campaign in line with SDG16 targets in Fiji.

In Palau, through support from UN, the Public Auditor successfully reviewed and strengthened the financial systems and processes of five pilot state governments.

In the Solomon Islands, the UN supported the newly established Solomon Islands Independent Commission Against Corruption (SIICAC) to enhance its anti-corruption programming capacities through a review of the Solomon Islands' anti-corruption strategy.

### 5.3 Access to justice, human rights protection and service delivery

A total of 6557 people in Fiji received a COVID-19 response through integrated information and service delivery provided by government and CSO partners through the UN REACH Platform.

#### UN REACH Platform in Fiji supported 6,557 People.

46% Women  
38% Men  
16% Children

Marginalized populations including remote communities, urban poor settlements, women and children increased their awareness and knowledge on SGBV, child abuse and the rights of persons with disabilities, and accessed social, economic and legal services provided by government and civil society service providers through UN coordination and grant provision to CSOs. A total of 21,545 people, of which 59% were women and 41% were men, were reached through the COVID-19 response integrated services delivery modality.

In the area of birth registration, 754 children in Kiribati were registered during a mobile birth registration campaign conducted in remote areas on three outer islands. In Vanuatu, UNICEF supported a review/planning workshop with all national and provincial registrar officers, 15 supervisory visits to the six provinces, and a mobile campaign in cyclone-affected areas, during which the lost birth certificates of 2,592 children and 4,370 adults, and the identity cards of 2,690 children and 5,948 adults, were replaced.

#### 21,545 PUBLIC SERVICES

(Social, Economic and Legal) delivered  
18,366 Rural Areas  
3,179 Poor Urban Communities

Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa finalized their inter-agency Child Protection guidelines/referral pathway, and FSM integrated theirs with those related to GBV. Samoa finalized its national

Child protection policy and five-year, costed, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder plan. Fiji passed its Adoption Act and developed its national Child protection policy and is working on its five-year, costed, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder plan. In the Solomon Islands, support to the Public Solicitor's Office (PSO) enabled the deployment of paralegals and community legal advocates to the provinces resulting in the raising of awareness on PSO services among the populations with gender balance. Justice sector stakeholders, NGOs, CSOs and the Government agreed to strengthen cooperation through the Hibiscus Commitment Statement on Disability Sector Collaboration coordinated by UN.

In Fiji, engaging CSOs through a grants scheme and the Community Advocates for Human Rights Programme, awareness and access to services for SGBV survivors and persons with disabilities were strengthened. The Community Advocates for Human Rights Programme, convened by the UN, which trained 226 women, who further empowered 705 women by enhancing their knowledge and awareness on their rights.

#### 10,302 Women benefitted from Services proved by the CSOs:

- 4,940 women benefitted from sexual and reproductive health services and information
- 2,475 women benefitted from increased knowledge and awareness raising on rights of disabled persons
- 1,440 women supported from one-stop-shop clinical services
- 1,142 women benefitted from tele-counselling
- 250 women benefitted from community-based counselling and programming
- 55 women supported with access to justice accompaniment services

Through utilization of digital technologies, the Fiji Consumer and Competition Commission conducted a total of 14,308 surveys focusing on enforcement of under duty and accompanying pricing reductions in line with the Government of Fiji' COVID-19 economic policies.

### 5.4 Parliamentary Development

11 PICs legislatures have been assisted by the UN to bring their parliamentary businesses online thereby enabling parliaments and committees to virtually hold sessions and hold public consultations remotely.





ENOUGH IS ENOUGH  
TAKE A STAND  
AGAINST

BOB ANUNJUS UTAR

SOMEBODY'S LIFE  
EVERBODY'S  
BUSINESS  
DON'T BE A  
BYSTANDER!



## Human Rights

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





To enhance coordination around human rights reporting for SIDS, the UN in the Pacific has continued to strengthen and promote National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs).

The UN assisted the Pacific State Parties on reporting under the World Heritage Convention and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

To effectively participate in the periodic reporting of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention), the UN provided targeted capacity development for Pacific States attending the convention (Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu).

Additionally, the UN has supported the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage between seven Pacific States (Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).

UN through ILO strengthened capacities of Pacific States on the ratification, implementation and reporting on the International Labour Standards and on Labour Migration.

### 6.2 Human rights approach to mitigate climate change and related migration.

Pacific Leaders have identified climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of Pacific peoples. The UN supported Pacific States' interventions that highlighted peacebuilding, human rights and human security dimensions and implications of climate change to increase attention to the multiple impacts of climate change on Pacific peoples' and communities.

Interventions that reflect the links between Priority Areas of the UN Pacific Strategy, like Priority Area 1 on Climate Change and Priority Area 6 on Human Rights, include the milestone cross-border support provided by the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) on Climate Security for Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; the Human Security Trust Fund (UNTFHS) and New Zealand Aid Programme to address climate change, human security and migration in 12 Pacific countries. In relation to specific support for climate change and human rights, and support around global advocacy on climate change, OHCHR focused on the situation of Low Lying Atoll Nations in the Pacific, engaging civil society, states, national human rights institutions, academia, UN Agencies, and the private sector to ensure that atoll nations' voices are elevated in international fora, when accessing green finance and highlighting the need for climate adaptation to protect atoll citizens' human rights.

The UN Agencies IOM, ILO, OHCHR, ESCAP in collaboration with PIFS and PDD assisted the communities adversely affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region to address issues related to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement, and planned relocation. There was engagement with 13 Pacific governments on a regional policy dialogue to inform the development of a regional rights-based framework; and support was extended on National Labour Migration Policies for Kiribati and Tuvalu.

One of the priorities of the UN is to ensure that climate action is informed by the experiences of Pacific Islanders and international human rights commitments is to promote a human rights-based approach through the meaningful participation of youth and other groups.

### 6.3 Strengthening Rule of Law and Accountability for Human Rights violations

Strengthening human rights in law enforcement for accountability and the prevention of human rights violations in Pacific States has been supported through multi-stakeholder engagement by the UN. In Fiji, OHCHR and other UN Agencies partnered with the Fiji Human Rights Anti-Discrimination Commission and civil society to strengthen human rights capacities of the Fijian Police Force.

Over 400 police officers from across the country, including 92 women police officers, improved their understanding of fundamental human rights concepts, including obligations during emergency situations, to ensure the rights of the most vulnerable

The formation of the first ever Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network (PHRDN), made up of civil society organizations and human rights defenders from across the region, is contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in the Pacific with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, LGBTQI, and women and girls. The UN is committed to ensuring the collective protection and empowerment of human rights defenders in the Pacific region, with a special emphasis on women human rights defenders. This UN supported network has some 115 members where 63% are women from across six Pacific Island Countries (Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). In 2020, the UN made significant strides to ensure that disability inclusion was a central feature of UN Agencies work in the Pacific. Engaging with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to apply the principles of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) in UN agency operations, programmes and leadership has helped the UN's consolidated effort to reflect the idea of 'nothing about us without us'. The UN Country Team in Fiji has endorsed and is implementing the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, one of ten pilot programmes across the world.

“Women living with disabilities are more at risk of gender-based violence in emergencies, but it is a silent issue. We need to advocate at all levels to ensure gender-based violence is reported.”

Lanieta Tuimabu  
Office Manager  
Fiji Disabled People's Federation



### Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster

Lanieta Tuimabu calls for the safety, protection and dignity of people with disabilities during times of crisis. Her call comes after thousands of people filled evacuation centres in the aftermath of tropical cyclones that hit Fiji in the half of 2020. According to Fiji's 2017 census, 13.7% of Fijians experience disability.

Disability- friendly provision at evacuation centres is one of the issues that we have been trying to address for a long time. Privacy and protection at evacuation centres is a major concern for women and girls with disabilities. There is also a risk of violence.

Most evacuation centres in Fiji are schools, churches or community halls with wide open spaces that offer little privacy. Lanieta says access to medical attention and the use of disability- friendly restrooms also remains a challenge.

Lanieta's call is among many others that have prompted the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster, an interagency group of over 40 organisations (including government, CSOs, development partners) which is chaired by UN Women to carry out a Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Workshop in October 2020. Key learning and recommendations from the workshop have been shared with all partners and stakeholders in Fiji's emergency and humanitarian response sector. In the wake of TC Yasa in December, partners were able to strongly advocate on the issues raised from the workshop for disability inclusiveness in preparedness and response mechanisms.



## 2.4 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

The United Nations under the Fiji MCO works with a broad spectrum of partners which comprise member state governments; national and subnational parliaments; bilateral and multilateral donors; multilateral development banks; regional organizations; international and local NGOs; civil society organizations; private sector organizations; groups representing people with disabilities; community stakeholders and representatives; and faith-based organizations.

In 2020, the UN held its first major dialogue forum with its development partners under the Fiji Multi-Country Office. This forum provided the UN and its partners a platform to discuss key areas of collaboration around “Climate Financing in the Pacific” and noted that addressing climate threats requires a wide array of adaptation measures, and at costs often exceeding many island countries’ financial capacities. The forum also noted that Pacific governments need to continue making crucial investments in development, which also helps build resilience to climate change, and in disaster risk reduction. External finance is thus critical to the Pacific Islands as a means to supplement governments’ own expenditures.

The UN continued to expand and sustain strategic partnerships in the area of climate change, disaster resilience and environmental protection to support PICs access finance from bilateral and multilateral vertical funds. Notable progress was made in securing catalytic financing from global vertical and multi-partner trust funds.

The UN successfully mobilized funds from the Secretary General’s Peace Building Fund for vulnerable atoll nations (Kiribati, RMI and Tuvalu) to assess, better understand and address their critical climate security challenges. Additionally, in response to the Fijian Government’s lead globally to highlight the plight of SIDS on the severe impacts of climate change, in particular around the blue economy and SDG14: Life Below Water, the UN mobilized more than \$10m to support Fiji finance catalytic work on protecting coral reefs and investing in the “blue economy” at the end of

2020. Financing from the Joint SDG Fund and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs focuses on the development of a pipeline of investment-ready blue economy opportunities and funding for innovative solutions in Fiji such as the Government’s “Drua Incubator” (a product of COP23 programme), which is mandated to operate as a regional body to promote the development of innovative climate finance project.

The UN in partnership with regional organisations such as the SPC and SPREP supported a number of countries (Kiribati, Palau, RMI and Tuvalu) on community-based and responsive early warning systems for coastal inundation as well as on using traditional knowledge in early warning systems. The UN also supported the delivery of the Sixth Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum (PICOFs) in partnership with other regional organisations. PICOF brought together relevant partners to allow dialogues and learning between the providers and end-users of climate information.

Significant strategic partnerships and financing to uplift the work on gender and to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) was undertaken in 2020. This was achieved through the implementation of substantive programmes such as Pacific Partnership to End VAWG; the Spotlight Initiative; and new financing from the UNPS Fund supported by the Government of New Zealand, which directly supports the scaling up of the Markets for Change work implemented by UN Women and UNDP in Vanuatu and Fiji.

The strategic partnership with PCC aims to advance regional, faith-based, primary prevention work and institutional change to EVAWG at national and regional levels through its 31-member church institutions, and nine National Councils of Churches across 15 PICs.

Joint efforts between the UN and the Governments of Fiji, RMI, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu also resulted in accessing catalytic financing through the Joint SDG (USD1million) to support work on integrated national financing frameworks. The UN also strengthened partnerships with national parliamentary standing committees, CROP agencies, NGOs

and governments to advocate for and ensure the meaningful participation of children and youth in decision-making and national budgeting processes. A partnership with IFIs (ADB) resulted in joint recommendations for targeted responses on the youth unemployment crisis in the Pacific.

Partnerships with National Statistics Offices in Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands led to the estimation of national and child poverty rates post COVID-19 lockdowns for families and children.

With the aim of enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific Region, partnerships were forged among UN entities working in this space and the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

In 2020, the UN combined forces with regional organisations and commercial airlines to support countries on preparedness and readiness efforts to introduce COVID-19 vaccines, as well as combined efforts to deliver COVID-19 and cyclone-relief related supplies to countries in need.

As the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development (PRC4ECD), UNICEF partnered with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and other development partners (Australia, New Zealand and the World Bank) to promote comprehensive support for young children and their families. The PRC4ECD comprised of Ministers of Finance, Education, Health and Social Welfare in 15 countries, which adopted a 10-year regional work plan for ECD. Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for ECD are being established and strengthened in FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu.

UNICEF’s partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) was developed through successful advocacy during the PCC General Assembly in October 2018, for the inclusion of a commitment to promote child protection in church activities in a resolution of the General Assembly, and in PCC’s five-

year strategic plan 2020-2024. The innovative partnership with PCC is strategic because the church plays a major role in Pacific peoples’ lives and in influencing behaviours. Through its membership of all mainstream churches and national councils of churches, PCC covers 75 per cent of the population of PICTs.

UNESCO, UNICEF and partners in the Pacific region have made significant progress in the implementation of the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) during 2020, despite multi-layers of challenges caused by COVID-19. The PacREF implementing partners developed a joint three-year implementation rolling plan 2021-2023 and submitted funding applications to cover the basic education portion of the framework to the Global Partnership for Education and the Government of New Zealand.

By the end of 2020, Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability (HFRSA) assessments were completed in partnership with Ministries of Health in eight countries. This assessment provided important findings such as less than 4% of service delivery points in all countries were offering quality assured youth friendly SRH integrated services according to WHO global standards.





## 2.7 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization



UN PROGRAMMING 2020  
US\$ 160,588,000

Around 70% of the financing across the UN Pacific Strategy for the year 2020 was focussed on two key priority areas “Climate change, disaster resilience and environmental protection” and “Equitable basic services”, with a substantial increase in health spending in response to COVID-19.

The 2020 Joint Country Action Plans (JCAPs) for the 10 Pacific Island countries had a budgetary provision of US\$ 160,7 Mln, of which US\$ 49 Mln (31%) was reprogrammed for the COVID-19 response. The latter is also inclusive of new funding secured, including the UN Secretary General’s COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund; UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and additional provisions through UN Agencies.

Additional financing was raised via the newly established UN Pacific Strategy Fund (UNPSF) where the main contributor is New Zealand with funding of USD15,825 million through a 2.5-year partnership. The United Nations Pacific Strategy Fund (UNPSF) provides funds to deliver the UN Pacific Strategy (UNPS) in 14 Pacific Countries and supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

The UN also mobilized additional financing to support Pacific countries with integrated national financing frameworks and development finance assessments through the Joint SDG Fund. UNCT mobilized over USD10m in financing for Fiji to support “Investing in Coral Reefs and the Blue Economy” through the Joint SDG Fund and leveraged additional financing under the Global Fund for Coral Reefs to support SDG 14: Life below water.

Under South-South Cooperation Framework UNCT mobilized over USD7m through the UN-India Development Partnership Fund to support eight countries under the Fiji MCO for COVID-19 related health and medical supplies; strengthen national gender machinery (Micronesia) and develop a climate disaster risk financing framework (Fiji).



COVID-19 FUNDS  
US\$ 49,034,826

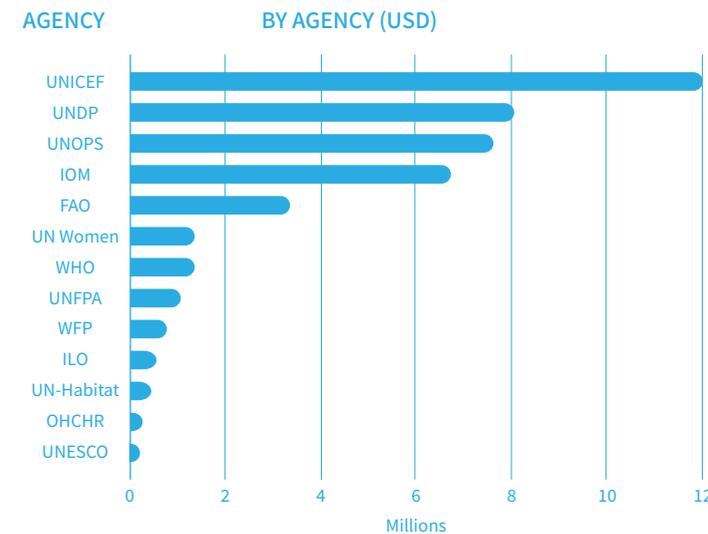
In 2020, UNCT mobilized resources under the SG’s COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) a UN inter-agency finance mechanism launched by the UN Secretary-General to support countries in overcoming the health and development crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. USD3m was spread across eight UN entities and covering eight countries (out of the 10 under Fiji MCO) in the Pacific focusing on health emergency, social impact, and economic response and recovery, targeting those most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption.

To complement national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans in the Pacific, the UN’s system-wide and multi-sectoral approach provided a coordinated and comprehensive response through three targeted components:

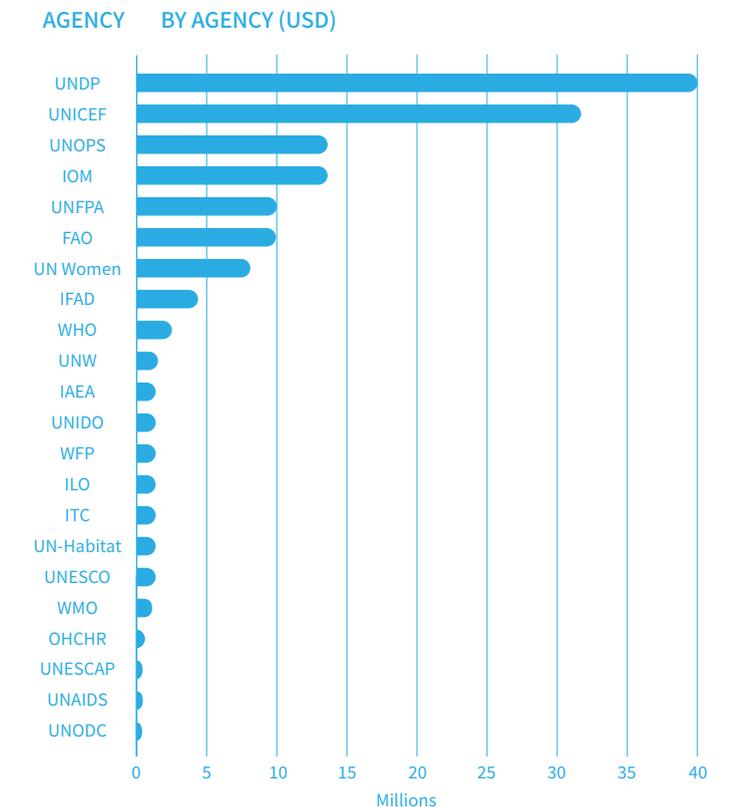
- Health response: stop virus transmission and care for affected people;
- Humanitarian response: address immediate multi-sectoral needs; and
- Socio-economic response: address immediate social and economic impacts.

The framework consists of five streams of work connected by a strong environmental sustainability and gender equality imperative to build back better.

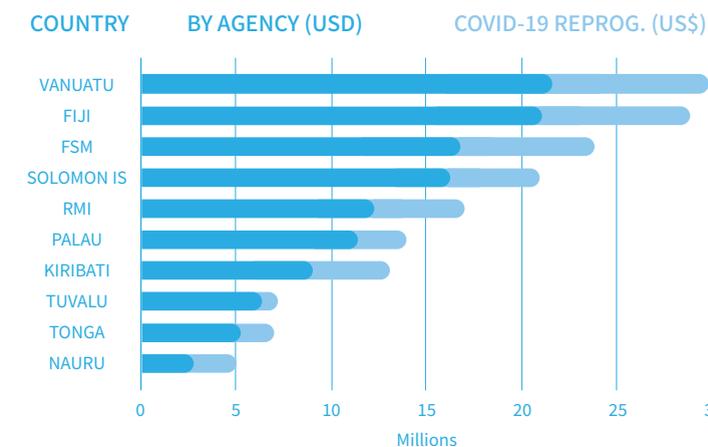
REPROGRAMMING COVID-19 BY AGENCY



2020 UN PROGRAMMING BY AGENCY



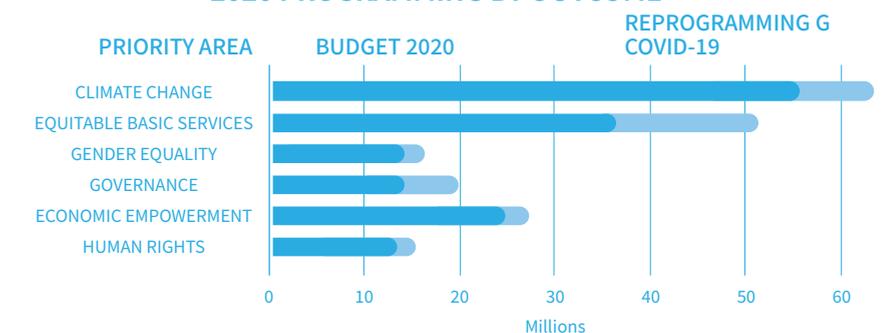
2020 TOTAL BUDGET BY COUNTRY



2020 PROGRAMMING BY PRIORITY AREA (%)

Priority Areas	FSM	Fiji	Kiribati	Nauru	Palau	RMI	Sol. Is.	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Climate Change	72.29	32.9	34.41	15.8	74.91	52.69	23.6	27.93	64.46	25.46
Gender Equality	1.33	16.9	13.74	5.53	1.29	4.42	13.79	14.91	2.7	14.89
Economic Empowerment	1.68	12.9	13.73	0	0.07	2.25	10.51	23.82	15.91	6.73
Equitable Basic Services	20.85	16.8	33.36	58.11	22.45	39.84	33.09	23.26	14.67	35.81
Governance	2.33	19.7	4.45	19.46	0.04	1.46	19.01	9.7	2.15	16.81
Human Rights	1.51	0.9	0.3	1.1	1.24	0.35	0	0.38	0.11	0.3

2020 PROGRAMMING BY OUTCOME



## COVID-19 MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE PLAN

UNCT mobilised and coordinated the financing of COVID-19 Response via two strategic inter-agency mechanisms i) Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT) and ii) Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The two inter-agency mechanisms provided an immediate health response to COVID-19, and mobilised resources to mitigate the socio-economic fall-out of the crisis.

To advance a localised response to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the UN supported country governments and people in the Pacific through a tailored Joint Country Action Plan (JCAP) which reflects each country's national priorities.

### HEALTH FIRST:

Protecting health services and systems during the crisis



Required  
(USD)



Available  
(USD)



Gap  
(USD)



### PROTECTING PEOPLE

Social protection and basic services



### ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Protecting jobs, small and medium sized enterprises, and vulnerable workers in the informal economy



### MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION:



### SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



CHAPTER 3

## UNCT FOCUS FOR 2021



World Health  
Organization

Representative Office  
for the South Pacific



# 3.1 UNCT Key Focus for 2021



UN PROGRAMMING 2021  
US\$ 231.7



REGIONAL PROGRAMMES 2021  
US\$ 60.7

2021 will be a pivotal year for the UN in the Pacific: The new Cooperation Framework for the Pacific 2023-2027 will be developed while the current UN Pacific Strategy will be evaluated, and the Common Country Assessment revised. The UN Country Team will also be working together with respective regional offices and Member States to establish the North Pacific Multi-Country Office which will look after FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau and RMI.

Throughout 2021, the UN system will continue to provide integrated support to PSIDS in their COVID-19 health and vaccination response and sustainable and inclusive socio-economic recovery efforts; promote national priorities on DRR, climate change adaptation and mitigation; increase equitable access to and utilization of inclusive, resilient, and quality basic services, strengthen legal frameworks and institutions for the protection of human rights; provide coordinated conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy; and accelerate the implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Regional Programming 2021 UN TOTAL/PRIORITY AREAS

Climate Change	47.8%
Gender Equality	10.5%
Economic Empowerment	12.4%
Equitable Basic Services	25.6%
Governance	2.9%
Human Rights	0.8%

The UN system is committed to ensuring that these ongoing and evolving strategic priorities and programming are:

- Jointly owned and governed with national governments
- Informed by up-to-date and integrated analysis
- Driven by Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, Disability Inclusion, and Gender Equality principles
- Founded in a commitment to leave no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first

- Strengthening peace building capacities
- Promoting human rights at the national and regional levels
- Promoting social cohesion, climate security and inclusive participation, prioritizing collaborative and joint programming and joint offers to Member States in the spirit of ONE UN.

In 2021, the United Nations will embark on the process of developing the new United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023 -2027), to advance the 2030 Agenda and SDGs as well as support PSIDS’s aspirations in meeting their development priorities. The new Cooperation Framework will be fully aligned with the recommendations of the Secretary-General on reinforcing UN support in multi-country offices (4 E/RES/2020/23 and A/RES/74/297) and will be a consultative, collaborative and inclusive process involving PSIDS Governments and all relevant stakeholders, including people furthest left behind. It is expected that the final document will be available in April 2022.

The UN will support the achievement of national priorities and the SDGs through a multi-country programming approach comprising individual country, multi-country, and regional joint programming, projects, and initiatives. The programming approach will address strategic priorities identified in the UNPS 2018-2022 that promote mutual accountability for development results in the Pacific and enable the targeting of valuable UN resources to the areas where they are most needed.

In 2021, the UN system also aims to nurture meaningful and sustainable partnerships with a wider range of external stakeholders; increase financing leveraged for PSIDS acceleration of SDG implementation; and improve PSIDS access to integrated financing for development through nationally led Development Finance Assessment (DFA), Integrated National Financing Framework for Sustainable Development (INFF) and innovative digital financing technologies.

Human rights-based and SDG-focused UN Advocacy and Communication efforts in the Pacific for 2021 will enhance the existing work with Member States on COVID-19 risk

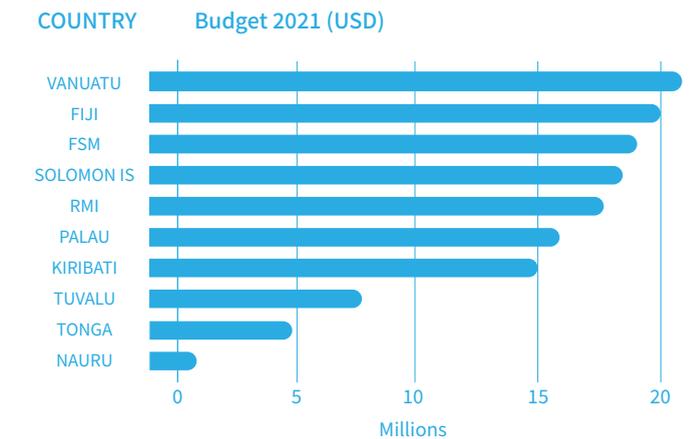
communications strategies and for the promotion of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UN system remains accountable to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Disability Inclusion and Gender Equality commitments as put forward in relevant Scorecards by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. 2020 represented a year of growth in terms of building the systemic foundation for the acknowledgment, leadership and shared commitment to each in the UN Country Team Fiji. Thus in 2021 we expect to further realize sustainable, meaningful, and humble strides forward as a UN family in line with the PSEA, Disability Inclusion and Gender Equality assurances, both internally and externally.

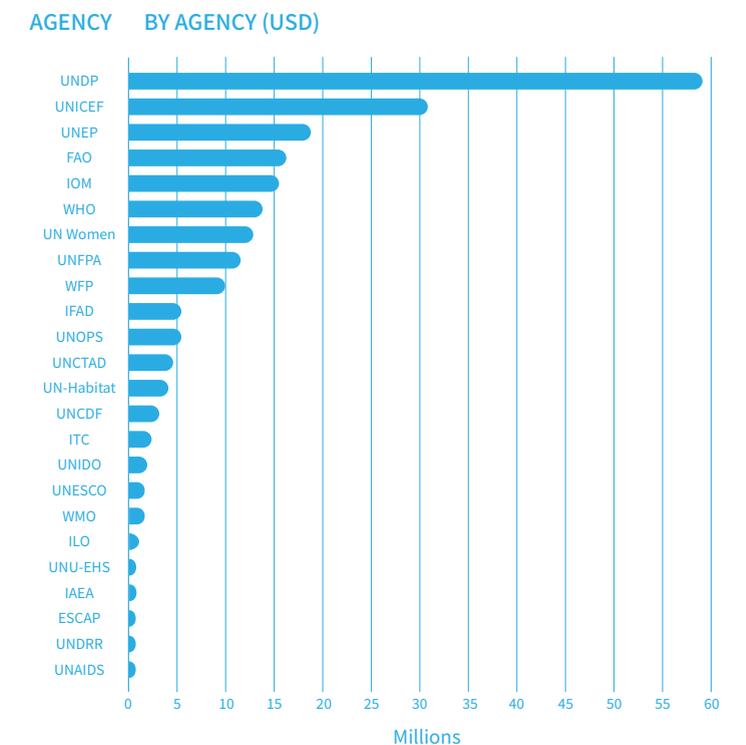
The UN Country Team will continue to strive for advanced UN common business operations to enable joint work and generate greater efficiencies and significant collective savings.

The country programming for 2021 provides a resource overview that seeks to match the programming “footprint” of the UNPS 2018-2022 with countries’ priorities and needs. For 2021 the total UN contribution programmed for 10 countries amounts to around USD 231,2 Mln. About ¾ of the resources will focus on the Priority Area “Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Environmental Protection” with 47.8% and Priority Area “Equitable Basic Services” with 25.6%.

### 2021 PROGRAMMING BY COUNTRY



### 2021 PROGRAMMING BY AGENCY



### 2021 PROGRAMMING BY PRIORITY AREA (%)

Priority Areas	FSM	Fiji	Kiribati	Nauru	Palau	RMI	Sol. Is.	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Climate Change	63.8	329	46.9	52.1	82.3	61.6	35.5	27.5	86.55	27.5
Gender Equality	4.1	117	6.3	5.6	6.4	48.1	16.1	14.5	2.6	24.8
Economic Empowerment	0.3	13	11.5	0.7	2.9	1.1	3.8	30.1	2.8	12.3
Equitable Basic Services	30	134	33.1	38.3	5	27	26.2	34.8	7.8	28.5
Governance	0.7	16	2.2	2.4	1.1	0.6	18.2	0.4	0.3	6.7
Human Rights	1	1.1	0.1	0.9	2.3	1.6	0.1	2/6	0.1	0.1





**UNITED NATIONS**  
**MULTI-COUNTRY**  
**OFFICE FIJI**



**OFFICE OF THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR**

For Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands,  
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