



UNITED NATIONS
PACIFIC



UN Pacific Strategy Fund

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period January - December 2021





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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACEO	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
ASWO	Assistant Social Welfare Officers
AYSRH	Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health
BDM	Births Deaths and Marriages
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews
CBO	Community-based Organization
CRIM	Civil Registration and Identity Management
CRO	Civil Registry Office
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
CRVS	Civil Registration Vital Statistics
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECE	Early Childhood Education
FBoS	Fiji Bureau of Statistics
FEdMM	Forum Education Ministers' Meeting
FICAC	Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption
FLE	Family Life Education
FNU	Fiji National University

FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HFRSA	Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability
M4C	Markets 4 Change Project
MCO	Multi-Country Office
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MOH	Ministry of Health
MVA	Market Vendor Association
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
MYES	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSO	National Statistics Office
NVI	New Vaccine Introduction
NZUNPP	New Zealand United Nations Pacific Partnership
PACJN	Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network
PacREF	Pacific Regional Education Framework
PCRN	Pacific Civil Registrars Network



PIC	Pacific Island Country
PINA	Pacific Islands News Association
PHC	Primary Health Care
PNACC	Presidential National Advisory Council for Children
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRC4ECD	Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development
PYFAC	Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption
QUT	Queensland University of Technology
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
Sida	Sweden's International Development Cooperation Agency
SPC	The Pacific Community
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UN-PRAC	United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project
UNPS	United Nations Pacific Strategy
UNPSF	United Nations Pacific Strategy Fund
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WHO	World Health Organization
YTYIH	Youth to Youth in Health

INTRODUCTION

The NZ-UN Pacific Partnership represents a strong commitment by the Government of New Zealand to accelerating the United Nations reform vision in the Pacific. New Zealand's investment in the pooled financing mechanism, the United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) Fund, seeks to combine the UN's value add in three key areas of work in the Pacific.

By encouraging UN agencies to work collaboratively in teams led by Resident Coordinators, the Fund increases the likelihood that the outcomes of the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022 will be fully realized and that the results of UN interventions will be holistic and sustainable.

When agencies with different strengths cooperate to achieve the same goal, synergies, both predictable and unexpected, are created. That is the objective of the NZ-UN

Pacific Partnership and the UN Reforms- to maximize the value of the investment made in development by efficiently delivering support that is carefully designed to address multiple priorities.

The United Nations is deeply grateful to the Government of New Zealand for investing in the reforms and in its five-year Pacific Strategy by setting up the UNPS Fund. In establishing the UNPS Fund to mobilize the Pacific Partnership, the Government of New Zealand recognized

the capacity, reach, and role of UN agencies and affirmed the idea that the UN will be an even better development partner when its component agencies work together seamlessly in Multi-Country Office and Regional Teams.



SUMMARY

This report presents the work of participating UN organizations (PUNOs) by outcome area and discusses the partnerships that have been developed and strengthened through that work. It provides commentary on the cooperation between the PUNOs as they implement Fund-supported programmes and assesses the extent to which the Fund has encouraged that coherence and leveraged resources to deliver the UNPS.

The UNPS Fund generally recorded good progress towards Pacific Strategy outcomes on Gender, Equitable Basic Services, and Good Governance in its second year of operations, despite the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic greatly hindered program delivery and required a high degree of work plan adaptation. There are also indications that the Fund continued to incentivize the operationalization of UN reforms.

After two years of UNPS Fund operations, the UN agencies are working together under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators to deliver in their outcome areas. They will continue to collaborate and consider new ways to deliver jointly.

As the Fund is set to close on 31 December 2022, New Zealand and the UN will soon be considering how to mobilize their partnership in support of the next regional strategy, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Pacific. In the view of the PUNOs and the Secretariat, the main lessons to be learned from the pilot UNPS Fund are that 1) all change management exercises, including asking the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) to adapt to a new way of working, take time to become fully embedded, 2) while the PUNOs work successfully together on the ground in the delivery of joint programming,

integrated communications and reporting require the active support of the Fund Secretariat, and 3) the Resident Coordinators' role in promoting the results of the UN system as a whole is crucial to delivering in an integrated manner, and their success depends upon constant communication and back-up from agencies.

Looking ahead to the final six months of Fund operations, PUNOs are focused on delivering improved support, through their projects, to member countries and believe that, by working in concert, there will be numerous synergies achieved.

THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE PACIFIC

There are 26 resident and non-resident UN agencies serving Pacific Island Countries. Three Multi-Country Offices, in Fiji (Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu), Micronesia (Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati), and Samoa (Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau), each with its own Resident Coordinator, effectively organize this presence and drive the implementation of the UN's Pacific Strategy.

All UN agencies in the Pacific are members of the regional UN Country Team and contribute to the achievement of the UN Pacific Strategy. In this way, the agencies of the UN system offer countries convenient access to a wide range of expertise that can support their national development aspirations and regional goals.



The UN Reforms

The UN System is comprised of a remarkable range of agencies with different comparative advantages. For many years, the constituent agencies were primarily focused on their own specific mandates.

At the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in September 2017, a set of reforms, designed to efficiently mobilize all of the UN's knowledge resources and streamline the way it delivers as "One UN", were endorsed. Those reforms aim to change decades of precedent and will require time to become fully operational.



The reforms include 1) the use of UN Country Teams and Development Assistance Frameworks, 2) a system of Resident Coordinators to provide overarching leadership to all UN agencies in-country, 3) shared business services and back office functions, 4) the use of regional strategies, 5) a call for improved transparency, accountability and evaluations, and 6) the use of partnerships, funding, and a strategic approach to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda.

The UN Pacific Strategy

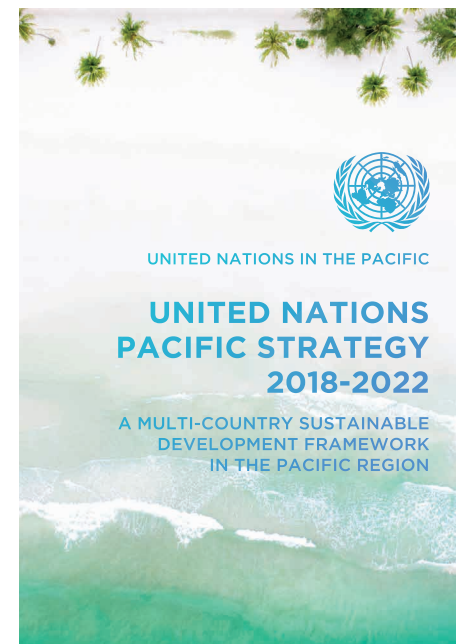
The United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022 is the five-year framework that supports the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific. It has six outcomes, namely 1) Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, 2) Gender Equality, 3) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment, 4) Equitable Basic Services, 5) Governance &

Community Engagement and 6) Human Rights. The UNPS Fund supports the achievement of Outcomes 2, 4, and 5 through the generosity and vision of New Zealand.

All UN organizations are encouraged to actively contribute to the achievement of all of the outcomes of the UNPS. The UNPS also notably ensures that the work of the UN complements that of regional organizations, including the members of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)¹ and others. The UNPS was evaluated in late 2021-early 2022 to assess achievement and inform the design of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the UN's strategic plan for the region for 2023-2028. While there were many findings, the most notable for the

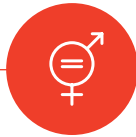
¹ Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific include the Pacific Aviation Safety Office, Pacific Islands Development Programme, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Power Association, Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, and the University of the South Pacific.

UNPSF were that the performance of the UN Coordination structures has improved and the establishment of a fully-fledged UNPSF should be pursued.



KEY RESULTS OF YEAR 2

OUTCOME 2: GENDER EQUALITY



UNDP, contributing expertise in entrepreneurship, innovation, microfinance, and economic empowerment, and UN Women, contributing expertise in the gender aspects of disaster preparation and resilience, women's economic empowerment, leadership development, and the prevention of and response to violence against women, work together to deliver support that empowers women through economic opportunity.

- The Vunisea (Kadavu, Fiji) Market Vendor Association was strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Association 1) advocated for safe and hygienic conditions, 2) engaged in joint ventures to generate income even without access to the main urban centres during lockdown periods, and



Photo Credit: UN Women

3) interacted with local government representatives, having gained confidence and knowledge from training on leadership, governance, financial management and conflict resolution.

- Individual market vendors were empowered through knowledge. Greater confidence and improved business skills resulted in the vendors being better able to provide financially for their families.





OUTCOME 4: EQUITABLE BASIC SERVICES

UNFPA, which contributes its expertise in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)/Family Life Education (FLE) to take forward the agenda of adolescent health and well-being, and UNICEF, which contributes technical expertise in terms of children’s basic needs, rights, and the support they need to reach their potential, deliver programs that engage and support adolescents and youth in terms of SRHR, improve the health of children in their first years of life, and facilitate access to government services.

- More young people, which comprise a large proportion of many Pacific countries’ populations, were equipped with knowledge and supported to live healthy lives and achieve to their full potential through SRHR and CSE/FLE that is delivered in youth-friendly ways.
- Citizens and governments demonstrated a greater appreciation of the importance of birth registration and vital statistics, and government applied best practices to the delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations.
- The delivery of immunizations, improved nutrition in the first 1000 days, and early childhood development initiatives contributed to the creation of a growing cohort of healthier children.
- Early Childhood Education was recognized as a comprehensive subsector that is integral to the education system, rather than an ‘add-on service’.



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OUTCOME 5: GOVERNANCE AND DATA/MICS

UNODC, contributing expertise in crime prevention and anti-corruption, and UNDP, contributing technical assistance in democratic governance, human rights, youth and women's empowerment, and access to justice, work together to raise awareness of integrity and fight corruption.

UNICEF leads the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). UNFPA works in collaboration with both UNICEF and SPC to add value in terms of data on Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) and Violence Against Women (VAW) in the MICS. SPC and UNFPA collaborate on census activities to provide population data on women, children & adolescents that supports evidence-based legislation, public policy and programming.

- The Teieniwa Vision, the region's collective pledge to combat corruption, was adopted by all 18 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at their Forum in February 2021.



A two-day Human Rights training was conducted in the old capital, Levuka, Ovalau from 13 - 14 June 2022 for 26 police officers in the Lomaiviti Province. Photo Credit: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji.

- Multi-stakeholder national and regional partnerships were forged to promote integrity and prevent corruption, with major results in terms of mobilizing youth engagement across the Pacific in 2021.
- There are better trained and equipped census and survey implementers who now have experience gathering, storing, and analysing data.
- The SPC-UNFPA collaboration on CAPI technology and online real-time monitoring systems is a game changer that facilitated MICS and census data collection during the pandemic, ensured both quality control and timely feedback to the field staff, and facilitated the transfer of knowledge to countries.
- With the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2021, up-to-date data on children and their families, as well as progress on SDGs, is available for Fiji.



UNPS FUND

OUTCOME: EMBEDDING UN REFORMS

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, and UN Women collaborate closely to deliver joint programmes and initiatives that are presented as “One UN” support and contribute to UN Pacific Strategy outcomes, with guidance and leadership from the 3 Resident Coordinators.

- The leadership role of the Resident Coordinators contributes to the UN system being recognized as “One UN”. Joint field visits to monitor program implementation help both the public and governments understand that UN agencies do not stand alone and are parts of a whole. Clear communication that presents the activities of agencies as “UN activities” implemented by a particular agency increases public understanding of the work of the UN system.
- Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Joint UN Country Team provided a platform for UN agencies to present their priorities and decide how they could work in concert to address the needs and aspirations of countries.



A market vendor in vunisea market having her blood pressure taken by a health personal in Kadavu.
Photo Credit: UN Women

In Fiji, for example, UN Women, UNDP and UNICEF all contributed to keeping municipal markets operational during the COVID-19 pandemic, with water, sanitation and hygiene stations provided by UNICEF (funded by UK

Aid), women’s empowerment, training and PPE provided by UN Women, and entrepreneurial skills and livelihoods support led by UNDP.



UN PACIFIC STRATEGY OUTCOME 2: GENDER EQUALITY



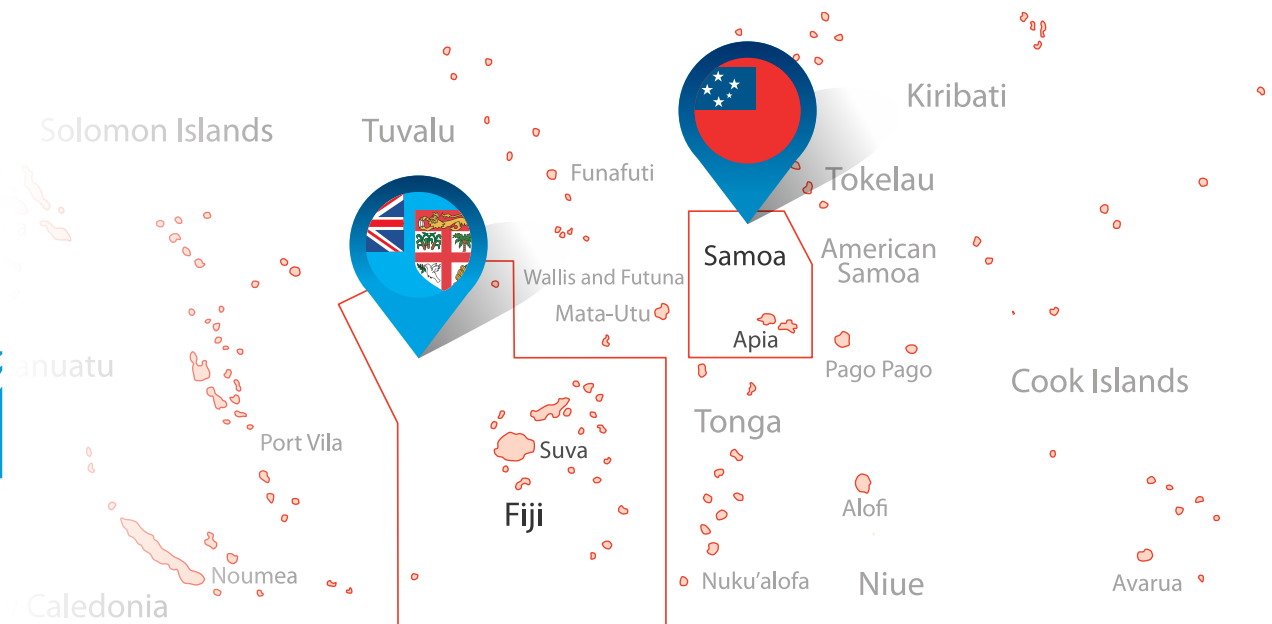
By 2022 gender equality is advanced in the Pacific, where more women and girls are empowered and enjoy equal opportunities and treatment in social, economic and political spheres, contribute to and benefit from national development, and live a life free from violence.

- SDG 1: No Poverty
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Led by: UNDP and UN Women



Countries Funded by UNPSF: Fiji, Samoa





Support from the Pacific Partnership

Supported by the Pacific Partnership since June 2020, the M4C Project (established in June 2014) expanded from its original countries of Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to include Samoa and the rural maritime market of Vunisea in Kadavu, Fiji.

UNDP and UN Women both contribute their expertise in the social and economic aspects of gender equality to the project. UNDP applies lessons learned from other MSME support programmes and its networks with financial service providers, and UN Women supplies its technical knowledge and experience to improve working conditions for women, build gender responsive governance mechanisms in the markets, and develop women as leaders.

Women market vendors benefit from holistic support for their development as small business owners who are capable of providing for their families and advocating for themselves in terms of health, safety, and good working conditions. The combination of the expertise of both PUNOs empowers women market vendors who also receive support from other UN agencies, such as UNICEF and FAO. They therefore recognize that the UN System is committed to their wellbeing and success.

The M4C project re-programmed to deliver COVID-19 response and support. The re-programming involved the merging of donor funds from the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, through the UN-New Zealand Pacific Partnership, to leverage the impact of the support provided through the M4C project across project sites in Fiji.

The expansion of the M4C Project to Samoa with Pacific Partnership funding means that this well-respected project will reach and make a difference in the lives of more women and their families. As of December 2021, the project had completed baseline market research, held consultations with stakeholders and beneficiaries, and identified the three markets to be involved in M4C in Samoa. By the end of the year, the detailed design for M4C in Samoa had been completed and the project was recruiting staff to coordinate its activities in Samoa and prepare its COVID-19 response.



Selected Key Impacts

- The COVID-19 response delivered by the M4C Project enabled market vendors to continue to generate income during the pandemic.

- Market Vendor Associations became sufficiently organised and empowered to explore other sources of income for vendors (including through arrangements with Civil Society Organizations) when the main urban centres were enclosed by borders during lockdown periods in Fiji.
- Market vendors were acknowledged by the public as key workers during the pandemic, respected for their commitment to health, safety and food security.
- In Samoa, urban and rural markets on both Upolu and Savaii islands were identified for project interventions through extensive consultations and an analysis of market vendor data.

Partnerships: City and Town Councils, Food and Agriculture Organization, Food Well Fiji, Foundation for Rural Enterprise Development, Government of Australia, Government of Canada, Government of Fiji (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Local Government)



Principles of Partnership in Action:



Mutual accountability: UN Women and UNDP are both accountable for the success of the project as a whole and partner with national and local government and market vendor associations to improve market conditions and vendor livelihoods.



Collaboration and complementarity: This is demonstrated by UNICEF's donation of WASH supplies to the markets, which ensures that vendors clean their hands frequently and maintain hygiene standards that attract customers and prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Transparency: All partners are responsible for sharing information with each other and for reporting the details of their contributions to the UNPS Fund.



Openness to Learning: Ongoing training in Vunisea, Kadavu shows that learning is at the centre of this programme. Experiential learning, such as the trial partnership with Food Well Fiji, will lead to new opportunities for program beneficiaries.



Mutual respect: Government and the PUNOs demonstrate mutual respect when they discuss the type of support that is required for the markets.



Photo Credit: UN Women





Innovation: At the height of the pandemic, three MVAs (Suva, Lautoka and Nadi) supplied produce to the non-governmental organisation FRIEND Fiji (Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development) for care packages. The packages fed needy families and residents of social care facilities while providing income to 337 vendors.



Sharing of Best Practice: In a collaboration that used pooled resources from the Government of Australia, the Government of Canada and the Government of New Zealand through the UNPS Fund, market vendors contributed to raising awareness of the importance of COVID-19 vaccination. Photos of market vendors, with quotes advocating for vaccination, were posted on the UN Women Pacific social media pages to support the Ministry of Local Government and market managers in their efforts to encourage market vendors to receive their COVID-19 vaccination.



South-South Knowledge Exchange: The project applies lessons learned at one market to the operation of the others. In 2021, the project worked with markets in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



Key Results by Output

Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of rural and urban women market vendors to claim their rights through participation and leadership in Market Vendor Associations (MVAs) in markets in Fiji and Samoa/Tonga

- Vunisea Market vendors were engaged to sew 1,000 reusable face masks for the use of vendors and municipal council staff. The production of the reusable masks was an alternative livelihood opportunity for the women market vendors, who, by utilizing their sewing skills, were able to earn much needed income during the pandemic period.
- The M4C Project Team liaised with the Suva City Council and the Vunisea Market Vendors Association to ascertain the type and level of support needed for COVID-19 response and consider how best to adapt project activities to pandemic conditions.

Output 2.2: Strengthened market vendors' financial and business skills

- As an immediate response to their total lack of income due to the closure of the borders to the main urban centres during the COVID-19 emergency in Fiji, 936 market vendors were granted cash assistance from Save the Children Fiji, facilitated by UN Women.
- Three MVAs (Suva, Lautoka and Nadi) were supported to supply produce to the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises & Development Fiji (FRIEND). A total of 337 vendors (289 females and 48 males) supplied fresh produce which was packaged by FRIEND Fiji and delivered to 495 families and 13 social care facilities (including orphanages, retirement homes and low-income housing) in communities in the Central and Western Divisions for a period of eight weeks.
- Market vendors' role as key workers was clear during the COVID-19 pandemic. UN Women and UNDP supported keeping markets in Fiji open and as safe as possible for vendors and customers. Despite the risks to their safety and issues with the supply chain, vendors continued to sell fresh produce and seafood during the pandemic.

Output 2.3: Increased capacity of local government and market management to adopt gender responsive market by-laws, policies, plans, and budgets for the provision of a safe and secure rural market in Vunisea, Kadavu, Fiji

- Leadership, communication, negotiation, and conflict management training was provided to the vendors and executives of the Kadavu Market Vendors Association over the course of one week. A total of 44 (35 F, 9 M) MVA members attended and reported an improved understanding of the roles and responsibilities of leaders. Women vendors reported feeling more confident about their ability to engage with the Suva City Council (which oversees the Kadavu Market) and other key stakeholders.
- UN Women procured and distributed basic sanitation, hygiene, and personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies to Vunisea Market. This benefited more than 200 market vendors and the public who accessed the markets during the pandemic.

Output 2.4: Marketplace infrastructure is more resilient to disaster and other risks, including pandemics and climate change

- ICT tools, including 20 projectors, 20 pull-up screens and 20 hard drives were provided to the 13 municipal markets through the Fiji Ministry of Local Government. The ICT tools will enable the implementation of financial inclusion policies and strategies that will benefit 3000-4000 market vendors and farmers, 75% of whom are women. The equipment will also support disaster preparedness and response training.
- In a collaborative action with pooled resources from the Government of Australia, the Government of Canada and the Government of New Zealand through the UNPS Fund, 8000 face masks, 2000 bars of antibacterial soap, and 200 bottles of hand sanitizer were provided to Fiji's municipal markets through the Ministry of Local Government. Large quantities of bleach, gloves, garbage bags and masking tape were also provided.
- More than 49,306 basic sanitation, hygiene, and PPE supplies were procured for markets in Fiji and Solomon Islands. This benefited more

than 10,000 market vendors and the public that accessed markets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Consultations with the Vunisea Market vendors addressed the structural improvements required at the market. This was then communicated to the Suva City Council. UN Women supported the Council to formulate a proposal, based on a needs analysis of the vendors, to upgrade the Vunisea Market.



Performance Assessment of Outcome 2 Activities in Year 2

Development Impact: The UNPS Fund's support for M4C is able to show development impact, as evidenced by the number of women (and men) vendor farmers who have benefitted from training and business continuity support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coherence: The M4C Project is jointly implemented by UN Women and UNDP, with the support of the UN Resident Coordinators' Offices. Under the UNPSF, the project supports Vunisea Market and activities in Samoa while adhering to "Delivering as One" standards. M4C demonstrates that joint programming leverages the strengths of different UN agencies to deliver results. While it is a UN Women project,

and that agency has expertise in gender equality, collaboration with UNDP, which has a very strong financial inclusion programme, strengthens M4C.

Cooperation: There are many internal and external stakeholders that worked well together and contributed in their areas of expertise. New collaborations with FRIEND and Food Well Fiji, with pooled resources from the Government of Australia, Government of Canada, and the New Zealand UN Pacific Partnership, enabled the market vendors to continue to earn an income during lockdown periods.

Reduced costs and risks: The inputs required to design Phase 2 of the M4C Project were contributed by UNDP and UN Women, distributing both risks and costs. The communications were prepared by both agencies.

Embedding UN Reform: The Fiji Resident Coordinator (RC) joined a trip to Vunisea Market with Fiji Government representatives as part of this project, demonstrating the cohesion of UN agencies under RC leadership and the UN's integrated approach to development.

Synergies: Vendors have access to small business skills mentoring from UNDP and benefit from the empowerment strategies of UN Women. Women vendors in Vunisea, Kadavu are provided with training that builds



Photo Credit: UN Women

confidence and imparts entrepreneurial skills. Key stakeholders, including Fiji's Minister for Local Government, have taken note of women's leadership in the markets and the growing influence of Market Vendor Associations. UNICEF, involved with Outcome 4 of the UNPS Fund, also partnered with UN Women to support 12 markets in Fiji with water, sanitation and hygiene supplies with funding from the UK.



In the Words of the Beneficiaries

A pilot e-commerce business platform, developed through a partnership involving the M4C Project, Food Well Fiji and Market Vendor Associations, minimized vendors' risk of exposure to COVID-19, provided customers with access to healthy food, and enabled vendors to earn a living. Founder and Director Ms. Salote Maiwiriwiri described partnering with UN Women for three months: "So we work in partnership with our market vendors. We run our own business, but instead of getting a stock for the next three months, we use the stock from the market so that the market vendors are also selling what they have...I run it independently while trying to test run whether this will work for market vendors."



Photo credit: Food Well Fiji on Twitter

During the COVID-19 lockdown in Fiji, sales at the municipal markets drastically decreased and some market vendors were unable to pay their suppliers. The M4C Project therefore decided to support the Suva, Lautoka, and Nadi Market Vendor Associations for eight weeks by purchasing fresh produce from them for the food packs that FRIEND Fiji provided to communities in need.



Representatives from FRIEND Fiji, Suva Market Vendors Association members and Farmer Vendors.
Photo: UN Women/Iliesia Ravuci





UN PACIFIC STRATEGY OUTCOME 4: EQUITABLE BASIC SERVICES



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

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

SDG 4: Quality Education

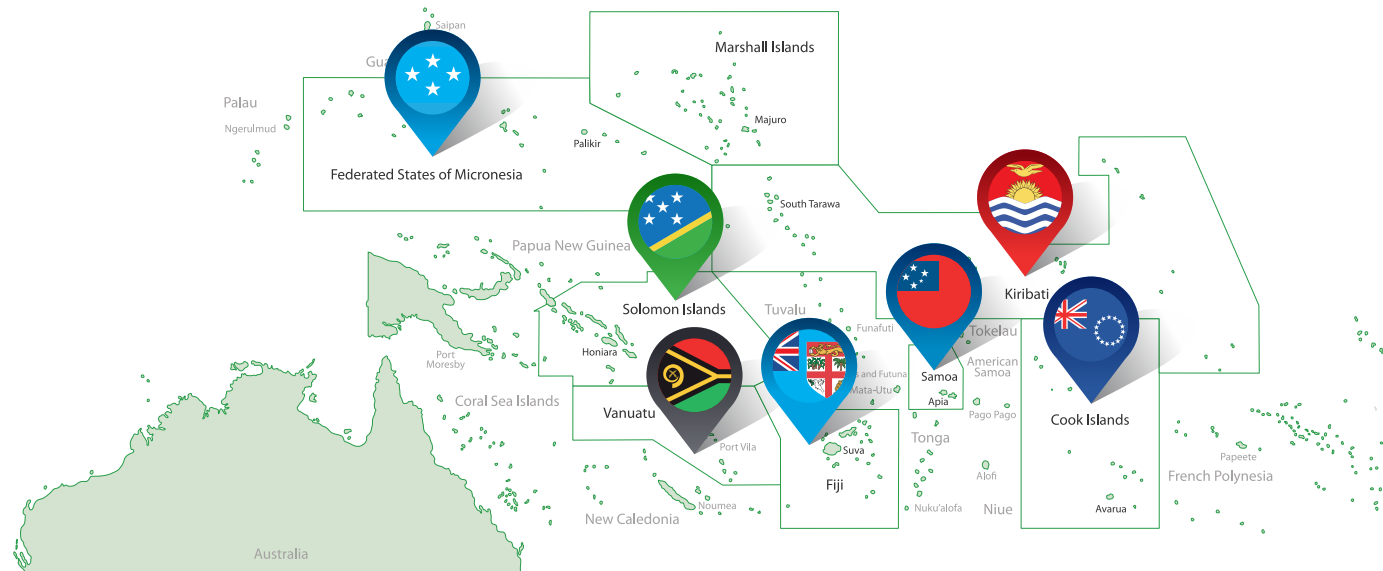
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Led by: UNICEF and UNFPA



Countries: Cook Islands, Federation States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu





Snapshot of Support from the Pacific Partnership

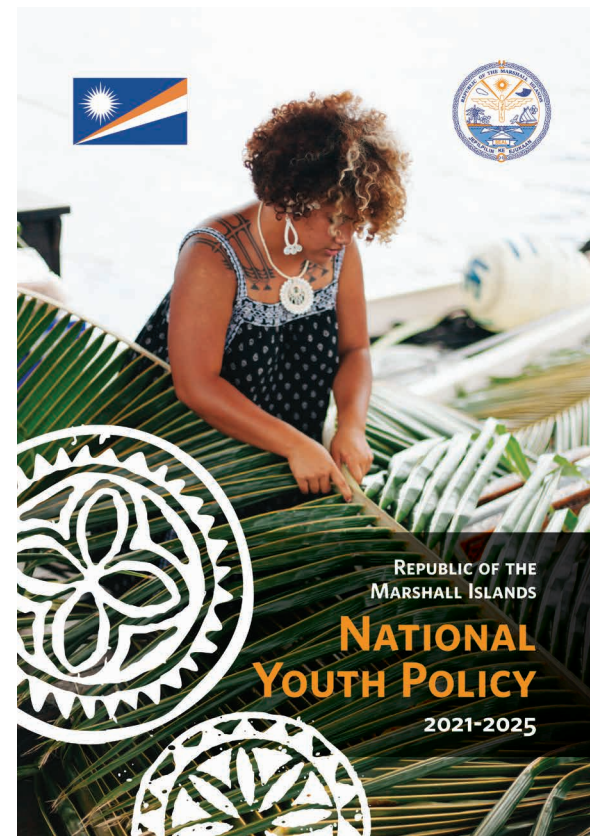
UNICEF and UNFPA work within and alongside governments to address quality issues in key services, such as newborn care, immunizations, birth registration, youth health and wellbeing and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)/ Family Life Education (FLE).

Children, youth, and their caregivers in the Pacific benefitted from support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, birth registration and initiatives to improve healthcare in the first 1000 days of life, immunization, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) activities. Given the urgency of the COVID-19 response, much of the attention of governments was understandably focused elsewhere. Implementing partners continued to advocate very strongly for the importance of safeguarding children’s health in the early years and promoting healthy reproductive choices for adolescents during the pandemic.



Selected Key Impacts

- UNFPA supported better coordination between the Ministries of Health and Education in FSM and RMI to enhance complementarity and government ownership of CSE/ FLE and youth-friendly SRHR services.
- Regular engagement of government entities, civil society, youth-led organizations, and academia in FSM and RMI has created a more enabling environment for youth SRHR.
- RMI has approved a new National Youth Policy, the development of which involved many stakeholders, including government, development partners, civil society, and academia. The policy has a costed implementation plan.
- In Solomon Islands, the national Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) Guidelines were updated in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and other stakeholders to make them disability inclusive, aligned with international standards, and relevant to the local context.



- ECD and nutrition in the first 1,000 days, both focal areas of UNICEF’s work in the region, were recognized as priorities. There were many activities implemented in FSM and Tuvalu, in collaboration with PIFS, on both ECD and ECE.





Young people at YTYIH clinic. © UNFPA/Chewy Lin.



WAM Students. © UNFPA/Chewy Lin.

- Successful COVID-19 vaccination drives were made possible by staff trained by the UNPS Fund using systems and processes that were also developed by the Fund. The delivery of vaccinations was supported in Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu.

Partnerships: Chuuk Women’s Council, College of the Marshall Islands, Family Planning New South Wales, FSM Departments of Education and Health, Jodrikdrik nan Jodrikdrik ilo Ejmour/ Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH), Jo Jikim (Youth Center), Kunit Bobrae Coalition (KBC), Marshall Islands Youth Congress, Micronesia Productions, National Training

Council, National Statistics Offices, Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development, Pacific Regional Education Framework, RMI Economic Policy, Planning, and Statistics Office (EPPSO), RMI Ministries of Education and Health, Waan Aelon in Majel (WAM), Youth Services Corp.



Principles of Partnership in Action:



Mutual accountability: Partners are responsible for the leadership of specific activities and are accountable for the success of the project as a whole.



Collaboration and complementarity: The partnership between PUNOs and Civil Society Organizations is crucial. The regional partner, Family Planning New South Wales (FPNSW) provides technical support to ensure alignment to global standards and contextualization to the Pacific. In FSM, Micronesian Productions and Chuuk Women's Council are taking forward the out of school CSE/FLE and are also actively engaged in other youth-centred initiatives. In RMI, the youth-led organization Youth to Youth in Health reached out to communities with key CSE/ FLE messages and worked in close partnership with the Health Department.



Transparency: The work of the Spotlight Initiative, a regional UN programme, laid the foundations for politicians to accept, identify with, and value Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in transforming the lives of young people.



Openness to learning: The government ministries responsible for education and health have been open to collaboration and recognize that they have much to learn from each other with regard to their respective mandates.



Mutual respect: UNICEF and UNFPA work closely and respect each other's authority, independence, knowledge, and expertise. The programme itself respects and upholds human rights and acknowledges that the Pacific, with its large number of youth, must respect and harness the demographic dividend.



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Innovation: Selected health facilities in Solomon Islands were re-equipped to set up youth corners and make them more youth friendly. This was operationalized in 11 health facilities in Guadalcanal, Auki, Gizo, Buala, Temotu, and Central Island province, Solomon Islands in 2021. The Youth Corners at health facilities are safe, comfortable places designed to encourage youth to access health services. The Youth Corners were repurposed during the COVID-19 pandemic for the equally important and urgent cause of COVID-19 response.



Best Practice: The programme countries used different methods for CRVS and birth registration. The best practice is one that is contextualized and can be implemented with available resources. For example, Kiribati uses mobile phones to engage in CRVS.



South-South Knowledge Exchange: Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have exchanged information on CRVS legislation and practice.



Key Results by Output

Output 4.1: Increased and improved utilization of integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services by adolescents and youth (across the development nexus) and improved access to comprehensive sexuality education (also known as Family Life Education) for in-school youth, with a special focus on very young adolescent girls

- In Solomon Islands, UNFPA forged a multi-stakeholder partnership with the Government, development partners (including New Zealand), Civil Society Organizations, and young people (including persons with disability) to advance the agenda of youth health with a focus on SRHR. Rioting towards the end of 2021 brought activities to a halt.
- Support was provided to the FSM Ministry of Health and Medical Services to develop a Comprehensive Sexuality Education/ Family Life Education package for young people in out-of-school settings. The National Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) Guidelines were updated to be disability-inclusive, aligned with international standards, and relevant to the local context. Technical assistance for both activities was provided by FPNSW.

- The first national family planning training package that is aligned with international standards, customised for Solomon Islands, and is youth-friendly and disability-inclusive was developed.
- In-school CSE/ FLE is being adapted to international standards in FSM and RMI.²
- A stakeholder workshop to progress FLE was held in Pohnpei in September. The establishment of the FLE Committee and the engagement of senior management at both the national and Pohnpei State Departments of Education are positive signals for the government's commitment to the FLE programme. This will be leveraged to operationalize in and out-of-school FLE in 2022.
- In RMI, two sensitization workshops were organized in October 2021 to take forward the work on CSE/FLE and the youth-friendly SRH Guidelines. 14 Participants from a range of government departments and Civil Society Organizations took part in the CSE/FLE sensitization workshop. 19 people attended the youth-friendly SRH Guidelines workshop. After the workshops, activities were planned better and government counterparts were more actively engaged.

² The in-school CSE/FLE in RMI is jointly supported through UNPSF and the Spotlight initiative.

- 17 Health Assistants in Majuro were trained to deliver the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health services (including gender-based violence) in May 2021. UNFPA provided the virtual technical training and the Ministry of Health and Human Services provided on-the-ground support and coordination. The Ministry was very appreciative and proposed to integrate elements of MISP in the orientation training for all Health Assistants. That will be an excellent example of sustainability and continuity in programming.
- Preparations were made to purchase reproductive health kits as training alone is not enough to ensure the delivery of quality health care services in low resource settings in the outer islands.

Output 4.2: Improved service delivery in newborn care and nutrition, and improved health promotion and messaging on nutrition and newborn care, in FSM, Kiribati, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands

- The Breast Milk Substitute Act Review findings were discussed with relevant stakeholders to develop communication actions in Solomon Islands. The promotion of breastfeeding and healthy

diets (including frequency, diversity, and quality) and the importance of nutrition and micronutrient powders is ongoing.

- Kiribati and Solomon Islands rolled out Multiple Micronutrient Powders, a nutritious complementary food for children 6-23 months of age, after training health workers in their usage and finalizing communication materials.
- The High Impact Nutrition Framework was finalized and endorsed by the RMI Cabinet for inclusion in business planning and further resource leveraging with donors and stakeholders.
- Sub-national health system strengthening and quality care through supportive supervision continued in Kiribati and Solomon Islands (in Malaita Province).
- In Solomon Islands, technical assistance was provided through the review of the supportive supervision checklist and the development of a work plan, schedule, and budget. Supervisors were also provided with on-the-job training that included practical demonstrations on management and record-keeping.
- Provincial and zonal supervisors held meetings with health facility committees as part of the supervision process. A Health Worker Skills Mapping and Asset



Assessment was carried out following each supervision visit. The Provincial Health Management Team (PHMT) then immediately dispatched missing basic equipment. The findings of the Asset Assessment revealed many resourcing challenges and operational issues.

Output 4.3: Improved service delivery and demand for immunization

- UNICEF supported rapid formative assessments for new vaccine introductions in Samoa and Vanuatu. Both the cold chain and supply chain were further augmented to facilitate COVID-19 vaccination in PICTs. Cold chain equipment was provided and health workers were trained.



Practical sessions for cold chain training at the national EPI store in Vanuatu ©: UNICEF Pacific 2021/Michael

UNICEF supported the Fiji Ministry of Health with the procurement of spare parts to ensure the functionality and reliability of the cold chain storage facility for COVID-19 vaccines.

- Some countries postponed the introduction of new vaccines beyond 2021 (particularly HPV vaccine), in part due to competing priorities with COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, but also for more particular reasons (for example, Samoa had outbreaks of rotavirus and typhoid in 2021).
- 18 health workers (14 men, 4 women) from 6 provinces in Vanuatu received face to face training in May on CCE and vaccine management.

Output 4.4: Early Childhood Education (ECE) analysis and planning conducted in targeted countries and Early Childhood Education- in-service training pilot, review and scale-up planning conducted in targeted countries

- Kiribati and Tonga strengthened national ECE curricula with training and piloting.
- In Fiji, an animated television series, 'Bula Kids', was disseminated widely in both the i-Taukei³ and Fiji Hindi languages to

³ The i-Taukei language is spoken by the indigenous people of Fiji.

promote parental engagement in learning and development at home.

- Planned activities continued, despite the pandemic, with no significant changes to programme design. As international borders remained closed, all technical support for programme activities was delivered remotely.
- National ECE priorities and strategies were defined for Tonga and Tuvalu through ECE diagnostic workshops, the results of which will inform sector planning and policies.
- Tonga strengthened National ECE curricula with training and pilot projects. 200 teachers were trained in ECE teacher competencies and guidance, with master trainers also trained on the new ECE curriculum.
- Fiji conducted workshops to contextualize an ECE Diagnostic Tool, commenced ECE Sector Analysis, and formed a National ECE Taskforce.
- In Solomon Islands, the ECE priorities and strategies identified through the ECE Diagnostic Assessment and Subsector Planning Process were fully integrated in the National Education Action Plan (NEAP), which was finalized at the end of 2021. An evaluability assessment of the

Pre-Primary Year (PPY) programme led to the design of a country-led formative evaluation of PPY.

Output 4.5: Improved enabling environment and support for a multi-sectoral approach and investment in Early Childhood Development at the country level

- The COVID-19 pandemic continued to delay the implementation of the ECD work plan in Tuvalu and FSM. Travel restrictions limited options for technical support and monitoring, and governments prioritized COVID-19 preparedness and vaccination delivery. Implementation is, however, on track for completion by the end of 2022.
- In FSM, ECD policy planning continues to be facilitated by the SDG Taskforce under the Department of Resources and Development. In 2021, UNICEF initiated partnerships with four local CSOs to conduct state-level and community dialogues across the four states.
- In November, UNICEF supported the Caroline College & Pastoral Institute (CCPI) to convene and conduct state-level consultations in Chuuk on ECD. The Kosrae Women's Association conducted its consultation for Kosrae state in

December 2021. State-level consultations in Pohnpei and Yap were planned for early 2022.

- Through UNICEF's advocacy, ECD and nutrition in the first 1,000 days were recognized as a priority by FSM communities at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.
- In 2021, FSM also announced the re-instatement of the President's National Advisory Council for Children (PNACC) and a re-launch was held in November 2021. This was supported by UNICEF in partnership with the Office of the President. UNICEF is advocating for the PNACC to adopt ECD as a key focus area.
- The Government of Tuvalu started the ECD policy planning process with technical guidance from UNICEF. UNICEF also supported the recruitment of a National ECD Coordinator for government who will act as Secretariat of the National ECD Advisory Committee (planned for launch in 2022). Tuvalu is on track to complete its ECD policy, costed action plan and M&E framework by the end of 2022.
- At the regional level, UNICEF continues to support the work of the Pacific Regional Council for ECD.
- UNICEF collaborated with PIFS to produce a second paper for the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in July 2021. "ECD Builds Back Better" set out policy options and provided an effective response to climate change and COVID-19. Another paper on Early Childhood Education (ECE) was produced for the April 2021 Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM). Ministers were informed that the Pacific Regional Taskforce on ECE was established under PRC4ECD and is mandated to support and guide ECE regional initiatives.
- In Tuvalu and FSM, UNICEF continued to employ remote and digital forms of support, including virtual workshops and weekly monitoring by phone and email.
- UNICEF fostered local leadership and stewardship of various programmes. The project worked with state-level CSO partners in FSM to conduct ECD consultations with local leaders, in the local language, and using context-specific presentations. UNICEF is currently exploring local CSO partners in Tuvalu and will rely on CSOs for the duration of the ECD-policy planning process.

Output 4.6: Existence of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) legislation, policy and coordination framework in-line with international standards and practice. CRVS services with adequate institutional and human capacity to register newborn babies and issue certificates, and caregivers who are aware of the importance of birth registration and informed about where and how to do it.

- The postponed 2nd Asia and Pacific Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Decade 2015-2024 Ministerial Conference for the Mid-Term Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific took place virtually in November 2021. The four countries supported under the UNPS Fund each fielded around ten participants, including the respective ministers responsible for CRVS.
- Kiribati presented their mobile birth registration campaign on outer islands; Samoa shared lessons learnt from the application of the process-centric methodology of CRVS improvement and their experience of maintaining services during the pandemic; Solomon Islands discussed their CRVS legislation review; and Vanuatu presented on the relationship between civil registration, identity management and vital statistics.

- The Samoa Victim Support Group (a CSO) facilitated consultations with 50 young people (34 girls, 16 boys) to inform Samoa's contribution to the Core Group Statement. In May, 5 children from Samoa (3 girls, 2 boys) with 2 adult mentors and 3 guardians participated in Asia Pacific Regional Consultations to prepare for the Ministerial Conference in November.
- The birth registration rate of newborns in Kiribati increased from 57% in 2020 to 80% in 2021. In Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, it remained the same as in 2020 at respectively 25% and 43%, while more children are getting registered at a later age, especially when they need a birth certificate to go to school. In Samoa, it decreased from 72% in 2020 to 61% in 2021. In Kiribati, the backlog of children whose birth has been notified but not registered is 25%. In Solomon Islands, 100% of children whose birth has been registered were issued a birth certificate. In Vanuatu, the backlog of children whose birth has been registered but are still awaiting the certificate is 7%.
- All four countries (Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) are in the process of revising their Civil Registration Vital Statistics (CRVS) legislation in order to align it to international standards which provide for "free, continuous, timely, accurate and universal" birth registration. One of the strategies to achieve this is the decentralisation of birth registration services so that they are more easily accessible.
- In Kiribati, the CRVS committee, established in 2015, continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the implementation of the action plan by each sector. The Civil Registration Ordinance will be reviewed during the first half of 2022.
- In Samoa, the CRVS Core Team met on a quarterly basis and worked on the revision of the Births Deaths and Marriages (BDM) Act. An Inter-Adoption Task Force was established to ensure that any amendments to the adoption section of the Infants Ordinance 1961 are aligned with the revised BDM Act requirements for birth registration.

Output 1.9 Existence of a CRVS legislation, policy, and coordination framework in line with international standards and practice

- The UNDP Accelerator Lab (AccLab) partnered with the Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS) to strengthen Samoa's birth registration system. Through its learning approach of "sense, explore,

test, and grow”, AccLab mapped the key challenges of the current system at implementation, systemic, and cultural levels. Based on its findings, AccLab is co-designing a portfolio of experiments with SBS to test solutions (including digital options) that can ramp up the current birth registration system while being in sync with the national CRVS plan.

- In Solomon Islands, three provincial consultations (in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western provinces) on the review of CRVS legislation took place in June and July 2021. A total of 93 participants (42 women) attended (31 per province). Based on the Stakeholder Consultation Report, drafting instructions for the new Solomon Islands Civil Registration Act were produced in October 2021.
- In Vanuatu, two key pieces of legislation were passed in 2021. The National Identity Card Act 2021 provides for the issuance of cards to all citizens, thereby meeting the SDG 16.9 commitment regarding a legal identity for all. The Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) Act 2021 replaced the 1971 legislation and provides the legal framework for a CRIM system reflecting current best practices and allowing the flexibility to use future technical innovations.

Output 1.10: CRVS services with adequate institutional and human capacity to register newborn babies and issue certificates.

- In Kiribati, the Civil Registry Office (CRO) trained 20 stakeholders responsible for CRVS on the outer islands of North Tarawa and Abaiang. The training included birth notification and registration processes, online reporting systems, and the importance of having a birth certificate for children and families. The CRO used the opportunity to monitor CRVS work and identify the main challenges to adherence, including improper records management and lack of transport and communications materials to inform the public.
- UNICEF supported one IT staff in Kiribati to ensure timely civil registration data verification, management, backup and maintenance. All birth certificates are now printed with unique security features including a watermark, unique ID number, and a QR code. Both hospitals on South Tarawa staffed with Civil Registry Officers can now transmit birth information to the central civil registration office in Bairiki online, which speeds up the process of issuing birth certificates.

- In Samoa, two birth registration workshops held in February reached a total of 448 village mayors and village women’s representatives (224 women).
- In Vanuatu, UNICEF continued to temporarily fund one National CRVS Coordinator and three Provincial Civil Registration Officers in Malampa, Sanma and Tafea provinces. In 2021, the revised government organizational structure, which includes those four positions, was released and seems likely to be funded by government through 2027. These personnel, working alongside Vanuatu MOH personnel engaged in the vaccination campaign, registered people getting vaccinated, checked if they were in the CRVS Information Management System (IMS), and, if not, provided them with a National Identification Card.
- UNICEF supported a technical review of the CRVS Information Management System (RegisterVIZ) in Vanuatu to identify its strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for improvement.

Output 1.11: Caregivers are aware of the importance of birth registration and are informed about where/how to do it.

- In Samoa, a media campaign to increase birth registration rates with the theme “Be counted. Leave no one behind”, took place during the second half of 2021. The campaign reached an estimated 118,000 people through radio, 79,000 through TV, and 135,000 through SMS. The Assistant Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) appeared on two popular morning television shows and on a special 30-minute TV programme.



Performance of Outcome 4 Activities

Development Impact: The interventions made in this area demonstrate increased appreciation of the importance of birth registration on the part of stakeholders and the impact of the improved management and decentralization of birth registration services. The political will and commitment at senior levels for CSE/FLE, particularly in FSM and generated as result of the UNPS Fund activities, is notable. There is more government recognition of the importance of ECD, ECE, FLE, and youth SRHR.

Coherence: Activities related to CRVS are consistent with other programming to improve and digitalize government services. The CRVS system, if digitalized, will be linked to the health, civil registry, education and other government information systems and can be used for national identity cards, passports, electoral registration and statistics for planning and monitoring purposes. This has interested other agencies of the UN system and other development partners.

Cooperation: Work toward this outcome has involved the promotion of multi-sectoral coordination. In FSM, the Departments of Education and Health recognize the complementarity in their goals and the synergies that they can leverage by working together. UNFPA has played a key role in driving this coordination. An inter-sectoral approach has also been applied to the issue of teenage pregnancy in RMI. A comprehensive approach to that challenge enables relevant stakeholders from government ministries and civil society to actively contribute towards holistic solutions.

Reduced Costs and Risks: The issue of SRHR in general, and particularly when it pertains to young people, is highly sensitive and oftentimes controversial. At the same time, the cost of not addressing SRHR issues is high and include unintended teenage pregnancy, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), irresponsible and violent behaviours, dropping out of high school, and several other negative consequences that

limit the ability of young people, and especially girls, to realize their potential. Given the sensitivities around FLE, UNFPA and the FSM and RMI governments have worked strategically with a variety of stakeholders. They have efficiently overcome resistance to sharing CSE/FLE with young people and have generated support for young people’s access to SRH services.

Challenges and Opportunities: Regionally, the greater emphasis by Pacific countries on other priorities, such as NCDs, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic, has meant less focus on other important health concerns like SRH, maternal health, and adolescent health. The Pacific Heads of Health meetings influence the agenda in the region and so are ideal opportunities to advocate for attention to be paid to all important health issues and challenges.

One opportunity created by the pandemic is that, with cold chain expansion for COVID-19 vaccine storage, PICTs were able to revisit their cold chain capacity and equipment functionality status. This was a chance to revitalize cold chain infrastructure, address needs in terms of capacity building of cold chain and logistics handlers, and replace outdated appliances.

The COVID-19 pandemic also intensified the push for digitalization. The agencies of the UN system are prioritizing that as part of their assistance to the region. The digitalization of government services will increase accessibility and should improve quality.



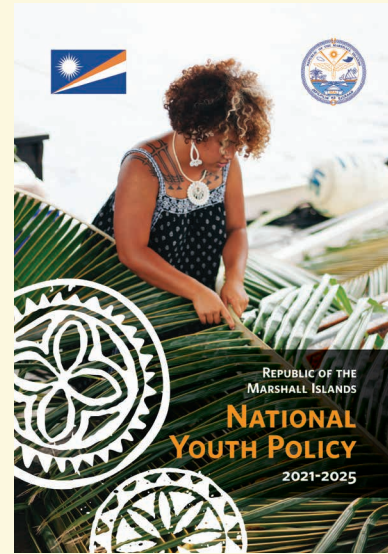
In the Words of the Beneficiaries

The 2021 Pacific International Youth Day (IYD) event was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia. During his address, President Panuelo noted that his government and the community expect young people to participate fully in the blue and green economies for the sustainable development of Micronesia. It is recognized that youth need quality and age-appropriate health information (including sexual and reproductive health information) if they are to fulfil their potential.



ECD Consultations in Chuuk led by and participated in by local stakeholders in November 2021. © UNICEF Pacific 2021/Cromwell Bacar

The Republic of the Marshall Islands' Youth Policy, passed by Parliament in 2021, is the result of collaboration between youth, government, civil society, academia, and national and regional development partners. It is based on the dictum: "The future of our islands rests in the hands of our youth," (*Iliju eo aelon kein ejpad ilo lubdrin pein jodridrik ro*).



The policy aims to support all adolescents, young people, and youth to reach their full potential, and recognizes the importance of using partnerships with families, communities, churches, government, and CSOs to achieve this. The policy's ten priority areas include enhanced family support, increased access to education and CSE, opportunities for employment, access to

health services including SRH and mental health, issues related to alcohol and drug abuse, juvenile crime, youth participation, leadership and governance as well as climate change and human lives. It is funded and has an implementation and monitoring plan to 2025.



Photo credit: UN in the Pacific Facebook





UN PACIFIC STRATEGY OUTCOME 5: GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DATA/MIS

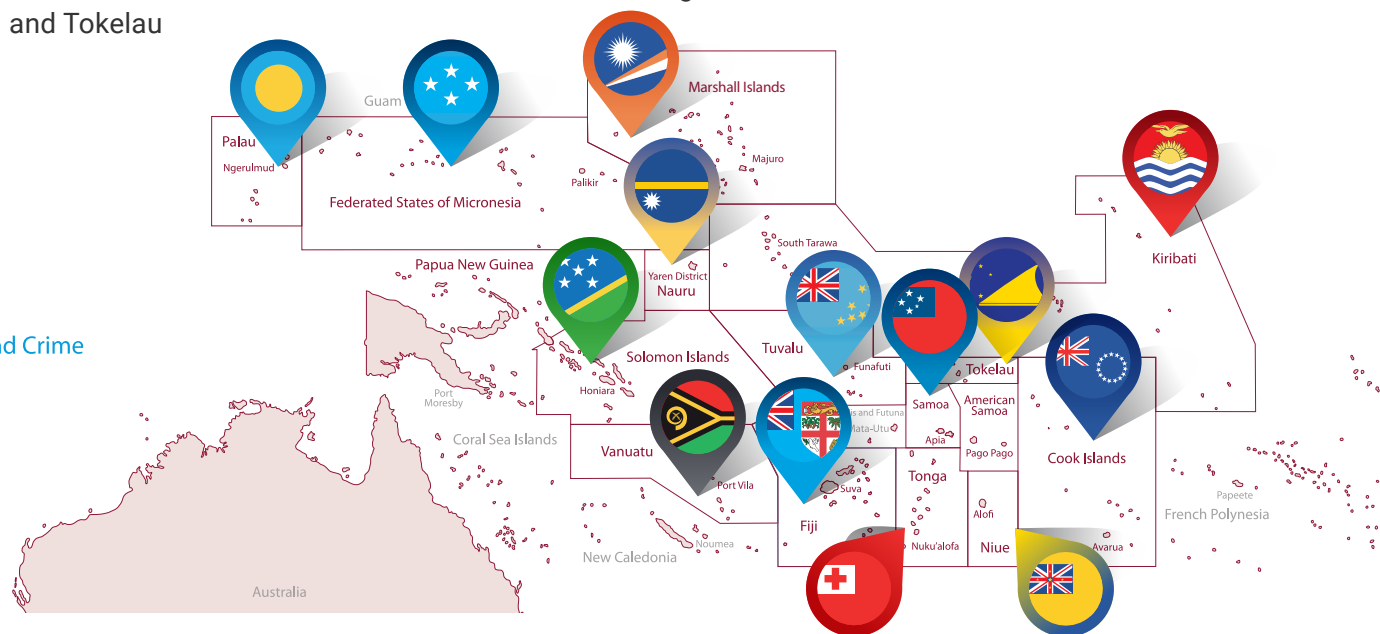


By 2022, people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed, and transparent decision-making processes; accountable and responsive institutions; and improved access to justice.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Governance Led by: UNDP, UNODC

Countries with Governance Activities: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau





UN PACIFIC STRATEGY OUTCOME 5: DATA/MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MIS)

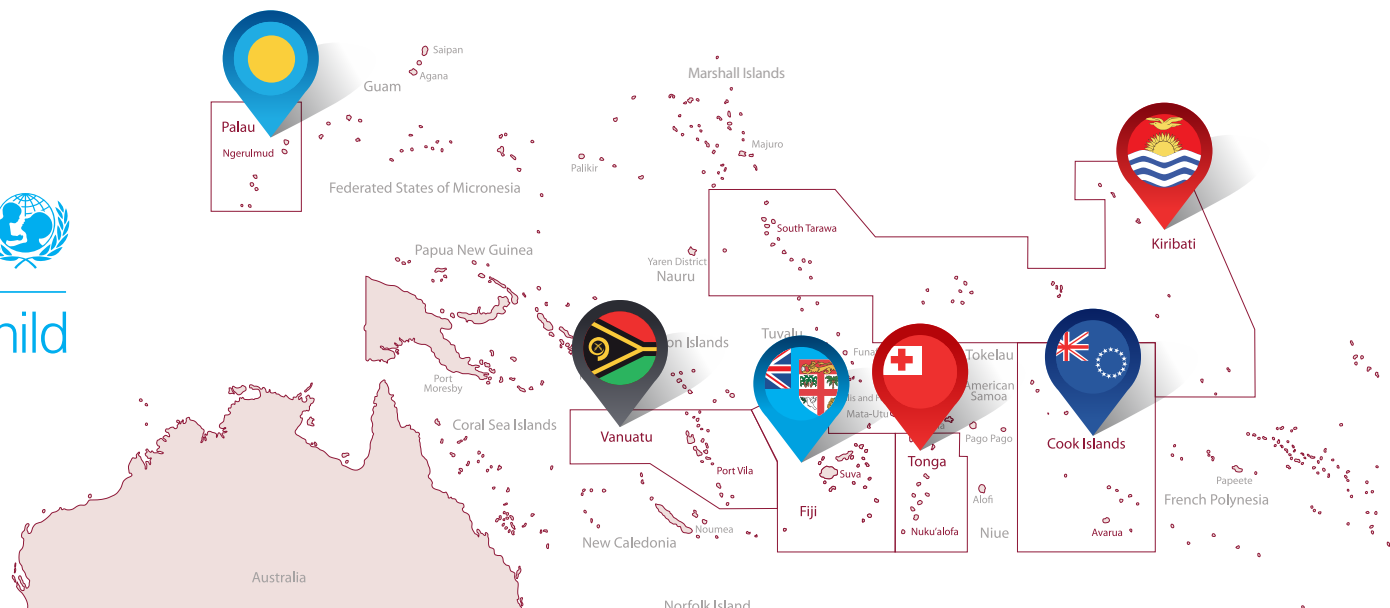


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SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Countries with Data/MIS Activities: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu

Led by: UNFPA, UNICEF





Snapshot of Support from the Pacific Partnership

The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project, jointly implemented by UNODC and UNDP, promotes integrity, the Right to Information, and anti-corruption activities in support of good governance. UN-PRAC has been working on the advancement of the anti-corruption agenda in the Pacific in partnership with national institutions and non-state actors including the private sector, media, civil society and academia, with a specific focus on the active involvement of women and youth.

As reliable and accurate data and MIS are essential to effective governance, UNICEF and UNFPA provide advice and guidance to countries regarding censuses and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). As a result, the UN system provides a comprehensive, coherent suite of interventions designed to support good governance. The governance results of the Partnership were helpful in terms of monitoring SDG achievement and vaccination delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Selected Key Impacts

- UNFPA, in collaboration with UNICEF and SPC in the MICS, provided additional information on Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) and Violence Against Women (VAW) data in Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu.
- 2021 saw the unprecedented engagement of youth throughout the Pacific in promoting integrity, transparency and accountability. Young entrepreneurs in Fiji, Samoa, and Palau benefited from activities that promote business integrity, and the Fiji Youth Entrepreneurs' Commitment Statement was adopted in 2021 through the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation.
- 5,122 youth leaders, students and professionals from 12 Pacific countries attended the virtual Pacific Youth Summit, organized in partnership with the University of South Pacific Students Association (USPSA). Athletes in Fiji and Tuvalu also accessed the Integrity in Sport Toolkit.

Partnerships: Cook Islands Statistics Office (CISO), Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC), Fiji Ministry of Health, New Zealand Public Service Commission Fale, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's Freedom of Information Division, Ombudsman New Zealand, Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands News Agency (PINA), Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption (PYFAC), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO).



Principles of Partnership in Action:



Mutual accountability: The Teieniwa Vision, the region's collective pledge to combat corruption, was adopted by all 18 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders at their Forum in February 2021. UN-PRAC mobilizes that vision, delivering anti-corruption knowledge and tools to public sector institutions, the private sector, media, civil society, and academia, with specific focus on youth and women.



Collaboration and complementarity: As UNODC does not have a physical presence in the countries of the Samoa MCO, UNDP handled all the necessary arrangements for engagement with the relevant stakeholders. UNDP agreements were also used to implement the work with a split of 50:50 on the resources for the Women Entrepreneurs and Business Integrity for Youth work in Samoa. As per the partnership between UNDP and UNODC, the agencies jointly delivered the workshops and shared the technical advisory work.



Transparency: The UN-PRAC project promotes complete transparency among its implementers which work closely together, sharing successes and cooperating to address challenges.



Openness to learning: Regional and national knowledge-sharing events have been organized by PINA through the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN) and national media associations. Topics included public reporting and parliamentary reports, whistle-blower protection, and anti-money laundering. A special event was organized in partnership with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) on the October 2021 Pandora Papers leak.



Groupwork Day 1.PCOC 3.11.21.jpg





Mutual respect: In order to holistically tackle corruption, this outcome area combines the crime prevention expertise of UNODC with UNDP's expertise and experience in promoting good governance and ethical business development.



Innovation: The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of new technologies for data collection which were more cost-effective than previous methods. To this end, the MICS program developed MICS Plus, a high frequency phone survey (with interviews conducted over the phone). MICS Plus is being implemented in Samoa and will be used in Fiji in 2022.

The SPC-UNFPA collaboration on CAPI technology and an online real time monitoring system facilitated MICS and Census data collection and allowed for quality control. It also facilitated the transfer of knowledge to countries and adaptation to the country context.



Sharing of Best Practice: His Excellency Te Beretitenti Taneti Maamau, President of Kiribati, delivered a statement at the Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC (COSP 9), as Head of Delegation that included the Secretary for the Public Service Office and the Chair of the Leadership Commission. This is the third successive COSP that H.E. Te Beretitenti attended.



South-South Knowledge Exchange: There was institutional knowledge exchange between the Fiji Independent Commission against Corruption (FICAC) and the Solomon Islands Independent Commission against Corruption (SIICAC).

Building on the establishment of a Women Entrepreneurs Group by the Palau Chamber of Commerce, as part of UN-PRAC's South-South exchanges, Palau women entrepreneurs shared their experiences with women members of the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) who subsequently created a customized Women Entrepreneurs' Handbook and established their own Women Entrepreneurs group.



Key Results by Output

Output 5.1.1: Right to Information (RTI) regimes considered, enhanced or operationalized

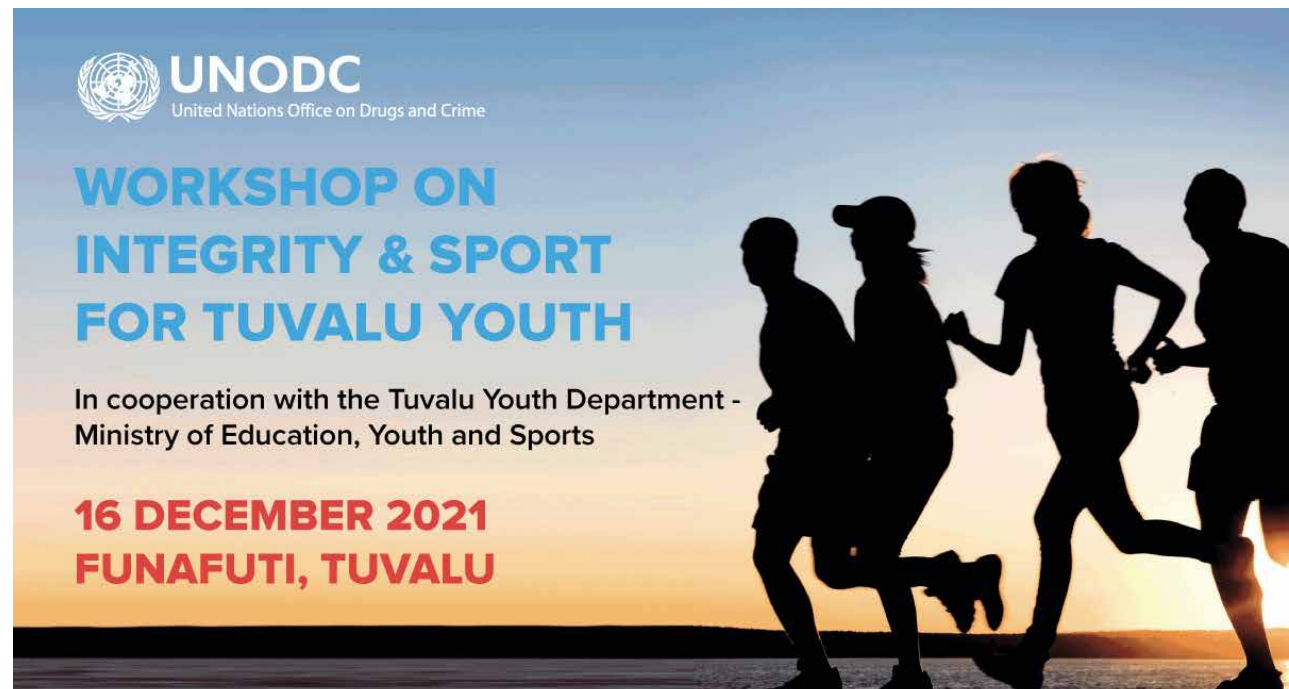
- RTI activities were scaled up with a focus on FSM, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. Partnerships have continued with the New Zealand Ombudsman, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's Freedom of Information Division, and United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- UN-PRAC worked with Vanuatu's RTI Unit to develop a customized web portal and tracking system that allows the public to make online information requests. The system was designed for internet connections of varying speeds and can be accessed from anywhere. The portal will be launched in 2022.
- Samoa's RTI policy was reviewed by the UN-PRAC team and knowledge-sharing support was provided in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications

and Information Technology of Samoa (MCIT) and the Samoa Public Service Commission (PSC) to 61 participants (34 female, 27 male) from government departments and agencies responsible for information sharing.

- Recognizing that journalists are critical to uncovering and reporting information of public interest, UN-PRAC organized a whistle-blowing protection and Freedom of Information legislation knowledge-sharing session for 95 (54 female, 41 male) journalism students at the National University of Samoa.

Output 5.1.2: Active youth engagement in integrity initiatives

- Working in partnership with institutions, business associations and youth networks including the Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption (PYFAC), young entrepreneurs in Fiji, Samoa, and Palau benefited from activities that promote business integrity. Impact was demonstrated in Fiji, where the Fiji Youth Entrepreneurs' Commitment Statement was adopted in 2021 through the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation.



- In Samoa, UN-PRAC and the UNDP MCO in Samoa conducted four hybrid Business Integrity for Young Entrepreneurs workshops which promoted corruption-free business practices. In total, 68 participants (34 female, 34 male) attended.
- The Pacific Youth Summit was held in partnership with the University of the South Pacific Students' Association in December, in recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) on 9 December 2021. A hybrid, high-impact event, titled 'The Value of Integrity for the Achievement of Sustainable Development: Resilient Youth Leaders: Drivers of Sustainable Development', brought together 5,122 youth leaders, students and professionals from 12 Pacific countries to discuss the importance of integrity and stronger youth action on anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability. The event was widely covered in print, online and social media.
- The Integrity and Sport for Pacific Youth Toolkit was developed in partnership with the Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports, Fiji National Sports Commission, Voices of the Athletes Champions and the Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee.

- In Tuvalu, a webinar was held in December on youth integrity through sport with 8 participants (3 female, 5 male).
- An initiative with the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTIC) included updating the 2015 UN-PRAC Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Advocate's Toolkit. The updated Toolkit builds on UN-PRAC's work with young people since 2015 and is designed to help young people with their advocacy against corruption.
- In 2021, UN-PRAC produced the following videos and distributed them on YouTube: Youth as Game Changers, A Pacific Story on Human Rights, A Collective Effort to Build a Corruption Free Pacific, Corruption Risks in Pacific Health, and Corruption Risk in Climate Change.

Output 5.1.3: Media oversight over management of public resources increased and of better quality

- UN-PRAC's partnership continued with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA) to build the capacities of journalists and improve corruption reporting. Impact was demonstrated on 15-16 September, when the 2021 PINA Pacific Media CEO's Summit committed to increasing

investigative reporting on how corruption affects women, youth and marginalized communities, and to work more with civil society to tackle corruption. The Prime Minister of Solomon Islands opened the event.

- During the second half of 2021, more than 115 corruption-related stories were published across the region. This included coverage on Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu, including four where journalists received UN-PRAC grant support to research, write and publish high quality investigative stories that probed corruption issues, boosted integrity, and had public interest value.

Output 5.4 Regulatory framework and capacities for efficient public sector updated

- In 2021, 18 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders adopted the UN-supported Teieniwa Vision as the anti-corruption roadmap for PICs' engagement through PIFS processes. With UN support, the Pacific anti-corruption voice was heard in the UNGA Special Session against Corruption. The UN's assistance also contributed to addressing and prioritizing the UNCAC review recommendations. This included those recommendations relating to

existing anti-corruption strategies in two countries (Kiribati and Solomon Islands) and the roll-out of a nationwide public sector anti-bribery and integrity campaign in Fiji.

- In September, during the 12th Session of the Implementation Review Group in Vienna, executive summaries of UNCAC reviews were finalized and published by Nauru and Palau.
- In December, representatives from Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tuvalu attended the 9th session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the UNCAC. A pre-COSP even had prepared delegates well.
- On 14 December 2021, a COSP event on digitalization was jointly organized by UNDP, Sida and high-level anti-corruption authorities from Uzbekistan and Fiji. Another COSP event, 'Women as drivers for fair and ethical business' co-organized by the UNDP Pacific Office, took place on 15 December 2021.
- UN-PRAC continued to engage with Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu on their draft/ongoing National Anti-Corruption Strategies (NACS). Currently three PICs are implementing and monitoring their NACS, and Tuvalu, Cook Islands and

Vanuatu are at an advanced stage of development.

- The Government of Vanuatu decided to establish a specific anti-corruption mandate to be shared between the Vanuatu's Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ombudsman's Office. UN-PRAC provided advice and input.
- In November 2021, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) signed off on its NACS which UN-PRAC had extensively supported, both in-country and virtually.
- Virtual meetings with Nauru and Samoa considered the possible future drafting of a NACS using UNCAC reviews as a basis.

Output 5.5 Transparency and accountability in the management of public finances improved

- UN-PRAC published and distributed a knowledge product 'Corruption risks in public procurement in the context of COVID-19 in Pacific Island countries'. The paper provides recommendations on how to address increased corruption (and other) risks. It was used as a resource for journalists in UN-PRAC media workshops and provided to MPs at the Fiji Parliament SDGs Briefing and to the Parliament's

Standing Committee on Public Accounts in December 2021.

- UNDP, through UN-PRAC, partnered with UNDP's EU-supported Public Finance Management (PFM) project to improve the public finance management capacities of non-state actors, while simultaneously starting consultations on potentially expanding the opportunities to include public servants in Fiji.
- A four-month online training course titled "Introduction to Public Finance Management" was delivered in partnership with UNDP's Public Financial Management Project. It aimed to increase citizen knowledge and engagement in public finance management and strengthen oversight. The 'Almost Expert' mentorship programme helped civil society organizations (CSOs), communities and artists develop related skills and competencies.
- Collaboration with the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network (PILON) resulted in knowledge-sharing with Pacific law officers based on UN-PRAC's work on whistle-blower protection.
- A series of virtual training events were provided on the mitigation of corruption risks in public procurement and oversight mechanisms in response to COVID-19.

There were six webinars organized by UN-PRAC and PACJN to upskill Pacific media on anti-corruption issues. The event on 20 May was tailored to the Federated States of Micronesia and was attended by 19 women and 17 men. The second event, on 23 May, was tailored to Tuvalu and was attended by 3 women and 4 men.

Output 5.6 Improved public reporting in public service institutions

- “Whistle-blower Protections and Corruption Reporting in Pacific Island Countries”, which examines the status of whistle-blower protection in the Pacific and provides recommendations to improve it, was published and distributed.
- UN-PRAC developed a publication titled “Improving Public Reporting in Pacific Island Countries to Better Address Corruption”. To be finalized in 2022, it addresses the principles of public reporting and RTI, discusses implementation, and introduces the concept of ‘proactive disclosure’, which refers to how official information can be provided to citizens without any legal requirement that it be requested.



IMG_4419.JPG

- Proactive disclosure initiatives in Palau continued, along with needs mapping and the identification of tools and measures for improved public reporting in Fiji.

Output 5.7 Improved focus on people effectiveness in the public sector

- Partnerships were established to promote integrity with the New Zealand Fale and the Kiribati, Palau, and Samoa Public Service Offices/Commissions.

The Samoa Public Service Office and institutions in the UK and Finland discussed the formulation of a study on enhancing the effectiveness of the public service administrations of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

- The Fale and UNDP worked to develop an innovative public integrity and ethics self-assessment methodology which will feed into a scalable integrity management strategy aligned to the work of the Fale. The tool will reinforce institutional policy and regulatory efforts to improve anti-corruption, ethics and integrity.



thumbnail_Special Prosecutor and team.PCOC.3.11.21.jpg

Output 5.8 Increased understanding of the importance of corruption risk assessment and analysis in public/ private sector entities

- UN-PRAC published and distributed 'The COVID-19 pandemic: Exacerbating the threat of corruption to human rights and sustainable development in Pacific Island countries'. The paper identifies how the pandemic has exacerbated the threats that corruption poses to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and identifies policies and measures to address them.

- A Corruption Risk Assessment Methodology was developed for the Solomon Islands by the UNDP Pacific and Solomon Islands Offices. This was piloted at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

Outcome 5.9 Integrity and compliance measures introduced in selected sectors

- The last quarter of 2021 saw the resumption of the public sector integrity campaign that was launched in December

2020. It had been on hold due to the extended COVID-19 lockdown in Fiji. The restarted campaign included seven additional institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Fijian Elections Office, the Sugar Industry Tribunal, the municipal councils, and two private sector institutions (HFC Bank and Ranjit garments). 330 officials (most in senior positions) were trained. Cumulatively, to mid-December 2021, 1,147 civil servants from 14 institutions were trained and awarded official 'I don't accept bribes' badges.

- The 2021 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) had the theme 'Education and Youth'. Over 100,000 primary and secondary school students at around 900 schools were encouraged to engage with the anti-corruption agenda. UN-PRAC also partnered with FICAC to hold an essay and poster design competition for students and a writing competition for civil servants on the value of integrity. 128 entries were received from students at 58 schools and 39 entries were received from civil servants.
- The UNDP Pacific Office partnered with UNDP Solomon Islands on a Public Integrity Community Outreach Campaign in Isabel province, which celebrated IACD and promoted the values of community integrity. Briefly postponed due to local



unrest, the 12-day campaign started on 10 December 2021 and involved community events, formal briefings, presentations and panel discussions.

- Partnerships were established with the Chambers of Commerce in Palau, Samoa and Niue to enhance private sector integrity in line with Global Compact Principle 10, “Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.”

Output 5.10 Strengthened internal control mechanisms, ethics, and compliance in sectors with predominantly women-owned/managed businesses

- UN-PRAC worked with Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) through the UNDP Samoa office to deliver a series of workshops which helped women entrepreneurs combat corruption and safeguard their businesses. The events included a preview of a draft anti-corruption toolkit in the Samoan language. In total, 51 participants (all female) attended the three workshops.
- UNDP Samoa established a partnership with the Niue Chamber of Commerce to address strengthened internal control mechanisms, ethics, and compliance

in sectors with predominantly women-owned/managed businesses.

- In Palau, following the production of the Anti-Corruption Toolkit for Women Entrepreneurs and capacity-building activities with youth and women held earlier in 2021, UN-PRAC supported a Code of Conduct workshop with the Palau Chamber of Commerce. The event included a preview of an integrity-focused companion guide to the Palau Business Resource Guide and involved 41 participants (23 female, 18 male). The Palau Chamber of Commerce subsequently finalized the ‘Anti-Corruption Business Integrity Companion Guide’.



The following are the Outcome 5 outputs that are related to data and MIS.

Output 5.2.1: Planning and advocacy for Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) conducted in targeted countries.

- While data collection for MICS in Fiji was completed before the lockdown period, the data interpretation and report writing workshop was held virtually. This did not impact the progress made.

- In Vanuatu, the pandemic led to a slowdown in survey implementation as international experts were unable to provide in-person support due to travel restrictions and key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health prioritized COVID-19 preparedness and vaccination roll-out. Although remote technical support and guidance for preparatory activities (including drafting the list of indicators, survey planning, and budgeting) continued, the National Statistics Office was instructed by health authorities to put MICS implementation on hold late in the year.
- In Cook Islands, survey planning was challenging due to a lack of on-the-ground staff. UNICEF continues to pro-actively engage with NSO. Implementation status in Cook Islands is off-track.

Output 5.2.2: Survey personnel in targeted countries received MICS technical support/ training on survey design, data processing, and further analysis and dissemination.

- Working in collaboration with SPC, the UN supported the implementation of the Fiji Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2021 by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) in collaboration with other government ministries as part of the Global MICS Programme.

- 106 field staff (supervisors, interviewers and measurers; 66 women, 40 men) were trained in February and March on MICS questionnaire content and techniques for successful interviewing. They were also trained to use tablets for Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and to carry out water quality testing, salt testing, and height and weight measurements.
- The data interpretation workshop was held in July for 72 participants (FBoS staff, key stakeholders from ministries and non-governmental organizations, UN partners) who reviewed the generated survey results in detail and were provided support and guidance on how to understand and interpret MICS tables and indicators. The Fiji MICS preliminary report was released and published in September 2021.⁴ The survey findings and statistical snapshots were finalized in November. Official release and distribution is expected in mid-2022.
- The Vanuatu NSO was remotely supported with the development of the draft survey plan including timeline and budget, sample design, list of draft indicators and draft questionnaires, ahead of a planned launch in 2022. Work was put on hold at the direction of the Ministry

of Health to prioritize the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. All non-field activities were able to continue virtually.

- Data provided through MICS supports policy planning and reporting at the national level and allows for the monitoring of progress towards global SDG indicators and regional targets. The implementation of thoroughly designed household surveys increases and strengthens the capacity of the government officials in terms of survey planning, implementation, analysis and reporting.

Output 5.2.3: Census. Planning and advocacy for census, followed by technical support in key areas of implementation including questionnaire, design, data processing, analysis and dissemination.

- SPC and UNFPA successfully supported the Population and Housing Census in Kiribati, RMI, Tonga, and Vanuatu.
- The SPC-UNFPA partnership in Vanuatu supported the country to complete its census. The Vanuatu 2020 Population and Housing Census (PHC) results were released in June 2021, six months after

the completion of the fieldwork. The detailed Volume One, Basic Tables Report with tabulations of all the variables collected in the PHC questionnaire was released in November 2021. It is notable that the VNSO received support from UNFPA to conduct a data quality evaluation for the first time. The VNSO was also supported to finalize its Statistical Act.

- Tonga released its preliminary PHC report in December 2021.
- RMI completed its PHC fieldwork and data cleaning ahead of the preparation of analytical reports.
- The Cook Islands, FSM, and Samoa preparation was completed in 2021, although the data collection was delayed to early 2022. Through UNFPA's agreement with SPC, these countries, with the exception of Cook Islands, received varying levels of support for CAPI roll-out, including the implementation of a field work monitoring system.

⁴ The Fiji MICS Preliminary Report is available online.





Performance of Outcome 5 Activities

Development Impact: Impact was demonstrated with the signature of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy by the President of FSM. The Strategy was signed on 25 November 2021 and announced on International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2021.

Coherence: Fourteen PICs have endorsed the Teieniwa Vision as a shared long-term vision on anti-corruption. The substantiated buy-in from Pacific Leaders is accompanied by national level engagement which reinforces complementarity on the ground. Countries are participating in the development of a Coordinated Action Plan that is both informed by Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) findings and tailored to country needs and capacities.

Cooperation: The collaboration between UNODC and UNDP was consistent from the start and continued to increase as UN-PRAC implementation progressed in 2021. Cooperation with external partners drove achievement in the sphere of anti-corruption. The partnership with the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), for example, had a direct impact on media organization CEOs. Through the initiative where journalists received grants to produce investigative reports, widely-read media outputs that focused on anti-corruption

were published. The new partnership developed with the University of the South Pacific Students' Association (USPSA) resulted in a highly-successful and impactful Pacific Youth Summit.

Reduced Costs and Risks: UN-PRAC has increased its use of social media to share its messaging with wider global, regional and national audiences, which is very cost effective. UN-PRAC also successfully developed regional partnerships (ie with the New Zealand Public Service Commission Fale), built regional capacity, and initiated and expanded South-South knowledge exchanges with media organizations, new private sector stakeholders and youth and women entrepreneurs. The expansion of regional partnerships reduces costs due to the physical proximity of resources to beneficiaries and reduces risk as responsibilities are shared amongst partners.

In terms of Data/MIS, the cost of conducting surveys in the Pacific is significantly higher than in other regions due to the fact that clusters are randomly selected and may be located on remote islands. A greater number of partners helps respond to funding gaps and increases the technical support available, thereby ensuring the proper implementation of MICS.

The SPC-UNICEF-UNFPA collaboration supported a regional approach to data collection that created synergies and

economies of scale while upholding international standards and using state-of-the-art methodologies and technology.



Impacts of COVID-19 and Disasters:

COVID-19 lockdowns created programmatic and operational challenges. The political unrest in Solomon Islands in November and the volcanic eruption in Tonga in December also created challenging situations. UN-PRAC successfully adapted and was able to implement all planned activities and respond to new requests.

National and sub-national stakeholders, including the leaders of anti-corruption and integrity institutions, demonstrated continued and, in some cases, increased interest in engaging with UN-PRAC, indicating that project activities remain relevant and support progress against SDG targets.

Implementing partners' operational skills related to the organization and conduct of virtual and hybrid in-person events improved. Increased uptake of virtual meetings provided enhanced opportunities to engage regularly, economically and in an environmentally-sustainable manner across a large geographic region. The hybrid Pacific Youth Summit stands as an unprecedented example of the positive



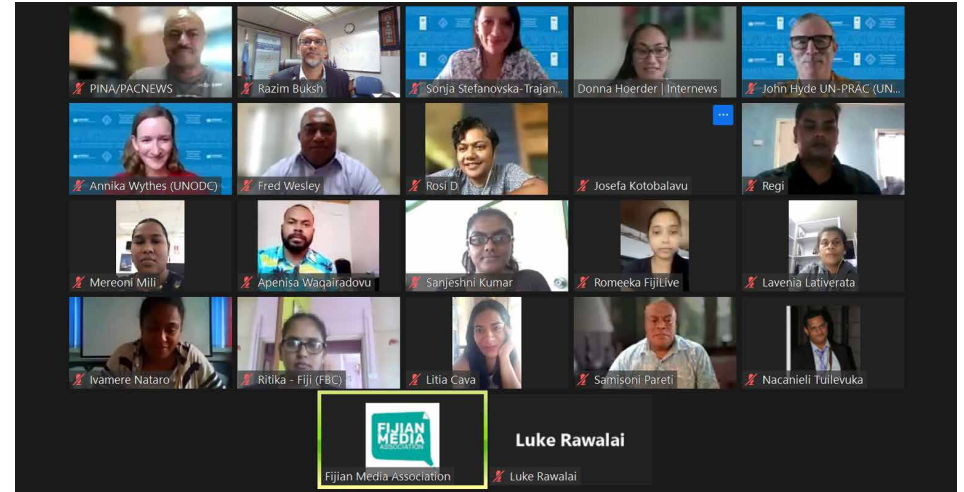
Group Pic Day 1.jpg

benefits of hybrid in-person/virtual events, as well as youth mobilization, community engagement and expanded partnerships to create national/regional ownership.

UN-PRAC also helped prepare PIC delegates in December for a hybrid in-person/virtual COSP, which was an opportunity to identify in advance the resolutions that were of interest to Pacific States parties and to further develop high level partnerships, including that with PIFS. However, varying priorities in some PICs limited activities and impact. In Niue, for example, a constitutional review process led by the UNDP MCO in Samoa did not materialize due to other national priorities. The opportunity is being revisited in 2022.

In Cook Islands, initial discussions on MICS with the Statistical Office were held in 2020 and since then UNICEF MCO has been engaging with the Cook Islands NSO to plan for the implementation of MICS. Remote communication remains challenging, and travel restrictions do not allow for more detailed planning for the survey implementation.

The fieldwork/data collection in Fiji for the MICS coincided with tropical cyclone season and resulted in increased costs due to transport challenges and changes in the travel plans of the data collection teams. Going forward, cyclone season will be taken into account when planning for data collection.



FMA&PINA-PACJN AML Webinar 5 Oct.jpg

Lastly, program implementers and beneficiaries agree that, with the increased number of virtual meetings, stable, high-bandwidth internet connections, especially for live audio-visual feeds, are crucial but cannot be taken for granted across the region.



In the Words of the Beneficiaries

A law student at USP's Emalus Campus in Vanuatu, Angela Tahu, who attended the Pacific Youth Summit remotely, said the speakers and discussion forum taught her a lot. "The primary issue that drew my attention was the topic on bribes and corruption. Many Pacific Island Countries are battling corruption and bribery today, as demonstrated in the summit, therefore the solution offered by the speakers and other regional campus colleagues has been very beneficial in expanding my awareness on these two areas," she stated.⁵



The US Embassy Youth Council led an impactful discussion on business integrity, anti-corruption and COVID-19 at the Pacific Youth Summit organized by UNDP under UN-PRAC.

⁵ Quote taken from the following article: <https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/pacific-youth-summit-highlights-realities-of-the-pacific/>



Pacific Youth Summit photo showing hybrid attendance (in person and online)

The SPC and UNFPA collaboration on technology-facilitated data collection benefitted Kiribati and Vanuatu, both of which successfully switched to computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) and new data management systems and survey monitoring dashboards. The CAPI format is both cost-effective and user-friendly. The interviewers use a tablet, mobile phone or a computer to record answers, and the technology's self-correcting function detects inconsistencies and mistakes. When errors are resolved during data capture, the post-enumeration phase becomes much more efficient.

"With limited internet access in the Pacific Island region, and the additional training required, the decision to switch to an electronic collection process was not an easy move to make initially. However, we and other national statistical offices across the region have reported a handsome payback," says Aritita Tekaieti, Republic Statistician in Kiribati.

PARTNERSHIPS

This report has explained how the UNPS Fund activities demonstrate the five principles of partnership⁶, and presented progress in each outcome area. Many partnerships have been established or developed as a result of the Pacific Partnership's activities under the UNPS Fund, which is an example of SDG 17, Partnership for the Goals, in action.

Partnerships for Sustainability

Partnerships are crucial to sustainability, and this is made clear in all three of the outcome areas supported by the UNPS Fund. Activities in all of the outcome areas are implemented using a whole of society approach which involves engagement with stakeholders at multiple levels, including through policy dialogue, and prioritizes regional and South-South knowledge exchange.

⁶ Organisations participating in the Global Humanitarian Platform agreed to the Principles of Partnership. The UNHCR statement to that effect is found at <https://www.unhcr.org/5735bd464.pdf> and globalhumanitarianplatform.org.



Outcome 2

The Markets for Change (M4C) project promotes gender equality through the economic empowerment of women market vendors in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. It brings together governments, market vendors and market vendor associations (MVAs), civil society organizations and UN agencies. M4C is implemented by UN Women in partnership with UNDP and the Governments of Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.



Outcome 4

Government is an important partner of UN agencies working to improve health provision to babies, children, and adolescents, particularly with regard to the first 1000 days of life, immunizations, and youth SRHR and CSE/ FLE. By placing funded staff within ministries, investing in capacity building, setting up demonstration initiatives within government

systems, and working with the government counterparts to meet quality and technical standards, the UN is encouraging attention to those areas.

The UN deploys technical partners to enable country governments to meet international standards and also fosters in-country partnerships with civil society, communities and the key target audience so that initiatives are conceptualized, relevant to Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and are owned by the government.

Government buy-in is essential for sustainability, and the UNPS Fund clearly contributed to this in the areas of ECE/ECD and Adolescent Health in the North Pacific in 2021. The roles that different departments and officials play, and the synergy and efficiencies that could be leveraged through multi-sectoral partnerships, is recognized, emphasized and nurtured as the UN system addresses SRHR and ECE/ECD.





Outcome 5

The sustainability of the UN-PRAC has been assured by keeping institutional partners informed and involved and ensuring that methodologies and tools (e.g. the integrity assessment methodology, business integrity toolkits, and knowledge products such as practitioner publications) are developed collaboratively and address the priorities of all involved. The sustainability of anti-corruption work is also linked to a political commitment, the Teieniwa Vision, made by all of the region's leaders. That is the strongest possible declaration of partnership.

It is crucial for the issue of corruption to be rooted into a regional body that will outlive projects and has regional ownership. This provides for sustainability, long-term vision and impact. Coordination is key so as to ensure that the support is strategic and guided by the needs of the countries.

CROP agencies, including the Pacific Community and the University of the South Pacific, are significant partners that have contributed to results in Outcomes 4 and 5. PIFS, for example, is ideally placed as the policy and coordination body of the Pacific with a clear mandate to implement the Teieniwa Vision and is an important partner for anti-corruption work.

All agencies of the UN system seek to deepen their ties with regional organizations to deliver contextualized assistance that suits local conditions, needs, and priorities as identified by Pacific leaders and research in the Pacific. For example, working in collaboration with SPC, the UN supported the carrying out of the Fiji Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2021 by Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) and other government ministries as part of the Global MICS Programme, and supported the Population and Housing Census (PHC) in several PICTs.

Large scale population surveys and user-producer partnerships are critical to ensure that the resources invested in data collection meet the needs of countries and that the findings will be fully utilized after the results become available. UNFPA played a critical role in ensuring that the MICS-DHS process in the countries was consultative and inclusive of agencies which are major stakeholders as both producers and users of data. This included the RMNCAH Program of the Ministries of Health, the Ministries with responsibility for Gender, Youth and the Disabled, as well as CSOs providing support services in Sexual and Reproductive Health, such as the Family Life Associations, and to survivors of Violence Against Women, such as the Women's Crisis Centres. The involvement of these agencies is very important as it validates the data needs identified by the National Statistical Offices, develops an understanding of the complex, lengthy and costly data collection processes, and establishes ownership of the results and a commitment to use the data.

Developing Partnerships within the UN System

Internal partnerships and joint programming support the UN Reform that the UNPS Fund was established to promote.

In each instance that PUNOs involve other partners in their activities, the notion and practice of the UN system as a unified development partner is embedded in the mindset of all parties involved, from implementers to beneficiaries. The more work that is done jointly, the greater will be the demand for those type of interventions, and the more automatic they will become.

PUNOs are already very well-accustomed to designing and implementing joint programmes, many of which have been highly successful. The UNPS Fund has enabled the expansion of a few of those joint programmes, namely Markets 4 Change and the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project.

The Future of the UNPS Fund

The next phase of the UNPS Fund may look slightly different, but should retain certain characteristics, including 1) involving at least 4 or 5 UN agencies, 2) involving Resident Coordinators in matters of governance, and 3) using pooled financing to encourage the true integration of programming and budgets.

A key outcome of the Fund is improved cooperation between UN agencies. While this is a cornerstone of UN reform and provides clear benefits for all stakeholders, it requires a significant change to standard operating procedures and will take time to become fully embedded. The complete integration of PUNOs activities in each outcome area requires both high-level commitment and significant effort to jointly organize and deliver activities and outputs. The Fund Secretariat is looking to ensure that PUNOs contributions to the outcome areas are collective at every point and purposefully create synergies.

Since the design process for a joint programme involves close collaboration and lays the foundations for working closely together, new programmes created specifically to 1) progress UN reforms, and 2) support the implementation of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework would make sense in a new Fund. The reason why existing programmes were used for the Pilot Phase of the UNPS Fund is that there was limited time in which to operationalize the Fund.

Supporting the UN's regional strategy is the most cost-effective and efficient way of driving progress across the PICs. The UN has a broad range of technical expertise and resources that are physically present across the Pacific, well-

placed and knowledgeable about both national development plans, regional aspirations, and the importance of supporting progress toward the SDGs. If the agencies of the UN system continue to access financing for projects that they implement in siloes, then projects will be less sustainable and more limited in scope, and beneficiaries will not have access to the full range of UN expertise. Smaller agencies will run the risk of their assistance not being fully appreciated, and the Resident Coordinators may not be made aware of the full range of activities being implemented.

Expanding Partnerships

As the activities implemented under the UNPS Fund are promoted and recognized, other UN agencies may be interested in contributing their resources and expertise. The involvement of additional UN agencies supports the Pacific Partnership's intention to promote UN reform. It would also likely be welcomed by beneficiaries. Additional funding partners are important to ensuring the UNPS Fund's continuity in its present or an evolved form.

With the success of the Pacific Youth Summit, and the conclusion of surveys and censuses, interventions in the governance area should consider virtual or tech-enabled solutions as treatments for risks such as restricted travel, health emergencies, and disasters. Census administrators successfully used tablets in their work and, with increasing demand for digitalization, more beneficiaries are likely to ask for online resources and training.

Local change agents are valuable resources.

The M4C Project supports women leaders on the ground at all the markets, and encourages their ideas for innovation and value-adding. The role of vendors as entrepreneurs and influencers was recognized when they were asked to help promote the COVID-19 vaccination drive.

Community leaders and communities continue to be change agents in promoting immunization and other primary health care. Engaging communities in the planning for new vaccines, including against COVID-19, providing correct information through community health workers, social listening and seeking community perception using different communication channels and digital platform will be further strengthened.



Photo Credit: UNRCO Fiji.

Educating youth and entrepreneurs on the dangers and risks of corrupt activities will contribute to growing a critical mass of local change agents who do not tolerate corruption and demand openness, transparency, and accountability. UN agencies working to combat corruption collaborate with a range of partners beyond traditional government counterparts, and it is this increased number of local partners that will make their efforts sustainable.

Looking Ahead

After two years of operations, the UNPS Fund is demonstrating that a multi-partner trust fund for a regional strategy can be a success in terms of development work. This is the model that can be replicated, with minor changes, moving forward. It is clear that the agencies of the UN system are able to deliver jointly with the leadership and support of the Resident Coordinators. In order to assess the success of UNPS Fund, it should be critically reviewed with a view to ascertaining if, over the implementation period, agency collaboration deepened and increased.



GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

This section highlights the governance and management structures and operations of the UNPSF.

Governance

The governance of the UNPSF is set out in an oversight framework, designed to facilitate efficient and transparent decision-making, as well as streamlined allocation processes. The framework also clarifies the lines of accountability.

UNPSF Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is informed and guided by the principles of partnership, including mutual accountability, collaboration, complementarity, transparency, openness to learning and mutual respect.

The Steering Committee provides overall strategic direction to the UN Pacific Strategy Fund. Co-chaired by the Resident Coordinators

(RCs) of the Fiji, Micronesia, and Samoa Multi-Country Offices (MCOs), it includes the fund contributor, which is currently New Zealand (represented by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and participating UN Organizations (currently UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, and UN Women), which are referred to as PUNOs. The MPTFO/Administrative Agent and the Fund Secretariat are ex-officio members of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee governs the UNPSF with the support of the Secretariat, which provides technical, operational, and administrative support to the Pacific Partnership.

Steering Committee Meetings

The Fund held two Steering Committee meetings in 2021. These were held virtually in March and November.

The Steering Committee, true to its design, was an effective platform for partnership and enabled the identification of gaps. For example,

the meeting learned that a thorough review of human rights in some UNPSF Fund countries identified a gap that can be addressed in the UNPP. It also heard that, if there were a way to consolidate reporting, this would be helpful.

Operations

UNPSF Secretariat

The UNPSF Secretariat advances the Pacific Partnership and provides technical, operational, and administrative support to the UNPSF. The Secretariat has a Head of the Secretariat, who is based at the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, Fiji Multi-Country Office, as well as technical staff from the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Fiji and the Samoa Multi-Country Office. These staff members comprise Data Management Officers, Results and Reporting Officers, Partnership and Development Finance Specialists, and Communications and Advocacy Officers.

The PUNOs assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds transferred to them by the Administrative Agent, in accordance with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures, including fiduciary standards.

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) Administrative Agent

The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) Administrative Agent is responsible for Fund design and set-up, maintenance of the Fund account, receipt of donor contributions, and disbursement of funds upon instructions from the Steering Committee. The MPTFO Administrative Agent is also responsible for the provision of periodic consolidated reports.



Photo Credit: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji.





CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT of the Administrative Agent

UN PACIFIC STRATEGY FUND

for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
United Nations Development Programme
PARTNERS GATEWAY:  <https://mptf.undp.org>

15 May 2022



United Nations
MPTF Office



Definitions

Allocation	Amount approved by the Steering Committee for a project/programme.
Approved Project/ Programme	A project/programme including budget, etc., that is approved by the Steering Committee for fund allocation purposes.
Contributor Commitment	Amount(s) committed by a contributor to a Fund in a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement with the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), in its capacity as the Administrative Agent. A commitment may be paid or pending payment.
Contributor Deposit	Cash deposit received by the MPTF Office for the Fund from a contributor in accordance with a signed Standard Administrative Arrangement.
Delivery Rate	The percentage of funds that have been utilized, calculated by comparing expenditures reported by a Participating Organization against the 'net funded amount'. This does not include expense commitments by Participating Organization.
Indirect Support Costs	A general cost that cannot be directly related to any particular programme or activity of the Participating Organizations. UNSDG policy establishes a fixed indirect cost rate of 7% of programmable costs for inter-agency pass-through MPTFs.
Net Funded Amount	Amount transferred to a Participating Organization less any refunds transferred back to the MPTF Office by a Participating Organization.

Participating Organization	A UN Organization or other inter-governmental Organization that is a partner in a Fund, as represented by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the MPTF Office for a particular Fund.
Project Expenditure	The sum of expenses and/or expenditure reported by all Participating Organizations for a Fund irrespective of which basis of accounting each Participating Organization follows for donor reporting.
Project Financial Closure	A project or programme is considered financially closed when all financial obligations of an operationally completed project or programme have been settled, and no further financial charges may be incurred.
Project Operational Closure	A project or programme is considered operationally closed when all programmatic activities for which Participating Organization(s) received funding have been completed.
Project Start Date	Project/ Joint programme start date as per the programmatic document.
Total Approved Budget	This represents the cumulative amount of allocations approved by the Steering Committee.
US Dollar Amount	The financial data in the report is recorded in US Dollars.






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Introduction

This Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the **UN Pacific Strategy Fund** is prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) in fulfillment of its obligations as Administrative Agent, as per the terms of Reference (TOR), the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the UNDP MPTF Office and the Participating Organizations, and the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) signed with contributors.

The MPTF Office, as Administrative Agent, is responsible for concluding an MOU with Participating Organizations and SAAs with contributors. It receives, administers and manages contributions, and disburses these funds to the Participating Organizations. The Administrative Agent prepares and submits annual consolidated financial reports, as well as regular financial statements, for transmission to stakeholders.

This consolidated financial report covers the period 1 January to 31 December **2021** and provides financial data on progress made in the implementation of projects of the **UN Pacific Strategy Fund**. It is posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY  (<https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/up100>).

2021 Financial Performance

This chapter presents financial data and analysis of the **UN Pacific Strategy Fund** using the pass-through funding modality as of 31 December **2021**. Financial information for this Fund is also available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY, at the following address:  <https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/up100>.

1. Sources and uses of funds

As of 31 December **2021**, 1 contributor deposited US\$ **16,643,420** and US\$ **26,987** was earned in interest. The cumulative source of funds was US\$ **16,670,407**.

Of this amount, US\$ **10,537,329** has been net funded to **5** Participating Organizations, of which US\$ **4,635,580** has been reported as expenditure. The Administrative Agent fee has been charged at the approved rate of 1% on deposits and amounts to US\$ **166,434**. Table 1 provides an overview of the overall sources, uses, and balance of the **UN Pacific Strategy Fund** as of 31 December 2021.

TABLE 1. Financial Overview, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

	ANNUAL 2020	ANNUAL 2021	CUMULATIVE
Sources of Funds			
Contributions from donors	6,407,000	10,236,420	16,643,420
Sub-total Contributions	6,407,000	10,236,420	16,643,420
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	19,609	7,379	26,987
Total: Sources of Funds	6,426,609	10,243,799	16,670,407
Use of Funds			
Transfers to Participating Organizations	5,962,206	4,183,070	10,145,275
Net Funded Amount	5,962,206	4,183,070	10,145,275
Administrative Agent Fees	64,070	102,364	166,434
Direct Costs	78,991	313,063	392,054
Bank Charges	28	25	54
Total: Uses of Funds	6,105,295	4,598,522	10,703,817
Change in Fund cash balance with Administrative Agent	321,314	5,645,277	5,966,590
Opening Fund balance (1 January)	-	321,314	
Closing Fund balance (31 December)	321,314	5,966,590	5,966,590
Net Funded Amount (Includes Direct Cost)	6,041,197	4,496,133	10,537,329
Participating Organizations Expenditure (Includes Direct Cost)	1,683,590	2,951,989	4,635,580
Balance of Funds with Participating Organizations	4,357,606	1,544,143	5,901,749

2. Partner Contributions

Table 2 provides information on cumulative contributions received from all contributors to this fund as of 31 December 2021.

The **UN Pacific Strategy Fund** is currently being financed by 1 contributor, as listed in the table below.

The table includes financial commitments made by the contributors through signed Standard Administrative Agreements with an anticipated deposit date as per the schedule of payments by 31 December 2021 and deposits received by the same date. It does not include commitments that were made to the fund beyond 2021.

TABLE 2. Contributions, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

CONTRIBUTORS	TOTAL COMMITMENTS	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2020 DEPOSITS	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021 DEPOSITS	TOTAL DEPOSITS
Government of New Zealand	16,643,420	6,407,000	10,236,420	16,643,420
GRAND TOTAL	16,643,420	6,407,000	10,236,420	16,643,420

3. Interest Earned

Table Interest income is earned in two ways: 1) on the balance of funds held by the Administrative Agent (Fund earned interest), and 2) on the balance of funds held by the Participating Organizations (Agency earned interest) where their Financial Regulations and Rules allow return of interest to the AA.

As of 31 December 2021, Fund earned interest amounts to US\$ 26,987.

Interest received from Participating Organizations amounts to US\$ nil, bringing the cumulative interest received to US\$ **26,987**. Details are provided in the table below.

TABLE 3. Sources of Interest and Investment Income, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

INTEREST EARNED	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2020	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021	TOTAL
Administrative Agent			
Fund Earned Interest and Investment Income	19,609	7,379	26,987
Total: Fund Earned Interest	19,609	7,379	26,987
Participating Organization			
Total: Agency earned interest			
GRAND TOTAL	19,609	7,379	26,987

4. Transfer of Funds

Table 4 provides additional information on the refunds received by the MPTF Office, and the net funded amount for each of the Participating Organizations.

Allocations to Participating Organizations are approved by the Steering Committee and disbursed by the Administrative Agent. As of 31 December 2021, the AA has transferred US\$ 10,145,275 to 5 Participating Organizations (see list below).

TABLE 4. Transfer, Refund, and Net Funded Amount by Participating Organization (in US Dollars)

Participating Organization	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2020			CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021			TOTAL		
	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded	Transfers	Refunds	Net Funded
UNWOMEN	1,133,549	0	1,133,549				1,133,549	0	1,133,549
UNDP	372,587	0	372,587	1,278,049	0	1,278,049	1,650,636	0	1,650,636
UNFPA	646,465	0	646,465	1,144,477	0	1,144,477	1,790,942	0	1,790,942
UNICEF	3,585,577	0	3,585,577	1,017,025	0	1,017,025	4,602,602	0	4,602,602
UNODC	224,027	0	224,027	743,518	0	743,518	967,545	0	967,545
GRAND TOTAL	5,962,206	0	5,962,206	4,183,070	0	4,183,070	10,145,275	0	10,145,275

5. Expenditure and Financial Delivery Rates

All final expenditures reported are submitted as certified financial information by the Headquarters of the Participating Organizations. These were consolidated by the MPTF Office.

Joint programme/ project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization, and are reported to the Administrative Agent as per the agreed upon categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. The expenditures are reported via the MPTF Office's online expenditure reporting tool. The 2021 expenditure data has been posted on the MPTF Office GATEWAY at <https://beta.mptf.undp.org/fund/up100>.

5.1 Expenditure Reported by Participating Organization

In 2021, US\$ **4,183,070** was net funded to Participating Organizations, and US\$ **2,878,657** was reported in expenditure.

As shown in table below, the cumulative net funded amount is US\$ **10,145,275** and cumulative expenditures reported by the Participating Organizations amount to US\$ **4,548,686**. This equates to an overall Fund expenditure delivery rate of **44.84** percent.

TABLE 5.1. Net Funded Amount and Reported Expenditures by Participating Organization, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE			DELIVERY RATE %
			Prior Years as of 31-Dec-2020	Current Year Jan-Dec-2021	Cumulative	
UNDP	1,650,636	1,650,636	299,759	787,981	1,087,740	65.90
UNFPA	1,790,942	1,790,942	183,746	779,407	963,152	53.78
UNICEF	4,602,602	4,602,602	795,956	952,254	1,748,210	37.98
UNODC	967,545	967,545	215,864	256,046	471,910	48.77
UNWOMEN	1,133,549	1,133,549	174,705	102,969	277,674	24.50
GRAND TOTAL	10,145,275	10,145,275	1,670,029	2,878,657	4,548,686	44.84



5.2 Expenditure by UNDAF Outcome

Table 5.2 displays the net funded amounts, expenditures incurred and the financial delivery rates by UNDAF Outcome.

TABLE 5.2. Expenditure with breakdown by Outcome (in US Dollars)

OUTCOME	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021		TOTAL		DELIVERY RATE %
	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	Net Funded Amount	Expenditure	
Global and Interregional					
2 Gender Equality	534,532	442,251	1,816,642	731,764	40.28
4 Equitable Basic Services	1,673,519	1,154,832	4,044,432	1,643,227	40.63
5 Governance	1,975,019	1,281,573	4,284,202	2,173,694	50.74
Global and Interregional: TOTAL	4,183,070	2,878,657	10,145,275	4,548,686	44.84
GRAND TOTAL	4,183,070	2,878,657	10,145,275	4,548,686	44.84

5.3 Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

Project expenditures are incurred and monitored by each Participating Organization and are reported as per the agreed categories for inter-agency harmonized reporting. In 2006 the UN Development Group (UNSDG) established six categories against which UN entities must report inter-agency project expenditures. Effective 1 January 2012, the

UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) modified these categories as a result of IPSAS adoption to comprise eight categories. All expenditure incurred prior to 1 January 2012 have been reported in the old categories; post 1 January 2012 all expenditure are reported in the new eight categories. See table below.

TABLE 5.3. Expenditure by UNSDG Budget Category, as of 31 December 2021 (in US Dollars)

CATEGORY	EXPENDITURES			PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROGRAMME COST
	PRIOR YEARS AS OF 31-DEC-2020	CURRENT YEAR JAN-DEC-2021	TOTAL	
Staff & Personnel Cost	336,767	972,758	1,309,525	31.24
Supplies, commodities and materials	4,237	101,182	105,419	2.51
Equipment, vehicles, furniture and depreciation	14,376	53,288	67,664	1.61
Contractual Services Expenses	218,608	1,000,055	1,218,663	29.07
Travel	86,116	86,861	172,977	4.13
Transfers and Grants	651,915	156,268	808,182	19.28
General Operating	185,784	323,675	509,458	12.15
Programme Costs Total	1,497,804	2,694,086	4,191,889	100.00
¹ Indirect Support Costs Total	172,225	184,571	356,796	8.51
GRAND TOTAL	1,670,029	2,878,657	4,548,686	

1 Indirect Support Costs charged by Participating Organization, based on their financial regulations, can be deducted upfront or at a later stage during implementation. The percentage may therefore appear to exceed the 7% agreed-upon for on-going projects. Once projects are financially closed, this number is not to exceed 7%.


6. Cost Recovery

Cost recovery policies for the Fund are guided by the applicable provisions of the Terms of Reference, the MOU concluded between the Administrative Agent and Participating Organizations, and the SAAs concluded between the Administrative Agent and Contributors, based on rates approved by UNDG.

The policies in place, as of 31 December 2021, were as follows:

- **The Administrative Agent (AA) fee:** 1% is charged at the time of contributor deposit and covers services provided on that contribution for the entire duration of the Fund. In the reporting period US\$ **102,364** was deducted in AA-fees. Cumulatively, as of 31 December **2021**, US\$ **166,434** has been charged in AA-fees.
- **Indirect Costs of Participating Organizations:** Participating Organizations may charge 7% indirect costs. In the current reporting period US\$ **184,571** was deducted in indirect costs by Participating Organizations. Cumulatively, indirect costs amount to US\$ **356,796** as of 31 December **2021**.

7. Accountability and Transparency

In order to effectively provide fund administration services and facilitate monitoring and reporting to the UN system and its partners, the MPTF Office has developed a public website, the MPTF Office Gateway  (<https://mptf.undp.org>). Refreshed in real time every two hours from an internal enterprise resource planning system, the MPTF Office Gateway has become a standard setter for providing transparent and accountable trust fund administration services.

The Gateway provides financial information including: contributor commitments and deposits, approved programme budgets, transfers to and expenditures reported by Participating Organizations, interest income and other expenses. In addition, the Gateway provides an overview of the MPTF Office portfolio and extensive information on individual Funds, including their purpose, governance structure and key documents. By providing easy access to the growing number of narrative and financial reports, as well as related project documents, the Gateway collects and preserves important institutional knowledge and facilitates knowledge sharing and management among UN Organizations and their development partners, thereby contributing to UN coherence and development effectiveness.

8. Direct Cost

The Fund governance mechanism may approve an allocation to a Participating Organization to cover costs associated with Fund coordination covering overall coordination, and fund level reviews

and evaluations. These allocations are referred to as 'direct costs'. Cumulatively, as of 31 December 2021, US\$ 392,054 has been charged as Direct Costs.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	CURRENT YEAR NET FUNDED AMOUNT	CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURE	TOTAL NET FUNDED AMOUNT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
UNDP	313,063	73,333	392,054	86,894
TOTAL	313,063	73,333	392,054	86,894





UN PACIFIC STRATEGY FUND

Annexes to Financial Report



ANNEX 1 Expenditure by Project within Outcome

OUTCOME / PROJECT NO. AND PROJECT TITLE	PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION	PROJECT STATUS	TOTAL APPROVED AMOUNT	NET FUNDED AMOUNT	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	DELIVERY RATE %
2 Gender Equality						
00123419	Markets for Change	UNDP	On Going	683,092	683,092	454,091 66.48
00123419	Markets for Change	UNWOMEN	On Going	1,133,549	1,133,549	277,674 24.50
2 Gender Equality: TOTAL				1,816,642	1,816,642	731,764 40.28
4 Equitable Basic Services						
00123420	Youth Sexual & Reproductive He	UNFPA	On Going	1,107,650	1,107,650	543,629 49.08
00123421	Birth Registration	UNICEF	On Going	265,900	265,900	219,995 82.74
00123422	Early Childhood Development	UNICEF	On Going	426,446	426,446	78,475 18.40
00123423	Early Childhood Education	UNICEF	On Going	1,041,127	1,041,127	322,785 31.00
00123424	Expansion of First 1,000 Days	UNICEF	On Going	749,509	749,509	220,660 29.44
00123425	Immunization	UNICEF	On Going	453,799	453,799	257,682 56.78
4 Equitable Basic Services: TOTAL				4,044,432	4,044,432	1,643,227 40.63
5 Governance						
00123426	Regional Anti-Corruption Progr	UNDP	On Going	967,543	967,543	633,649 65.49
00123426	Regional Anti-Corruption Progr	UNODC	On Going	967,545	967,545	471,910 48.77
00123427	Census	UNFPA	On Going	448,446	448,446	323,471 72.13
00123428	MICS	UNFPA	On Going	234,847	234,847	96,053 40.90
00123428	MICS	UNICEF	On Going	1,665,821	1,665,821	648,612 38.94
5 Governance: TOTAL				4,284,202	4,284,202	2,173,694 50.74
GRAND TOTAL				10,145,275	10,145,275	4,548,686 44.84

CONTRIBUTORS



Government of
NEW ZEALAND

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations
Development
Programme



United Nations
Population Fund



United Nations
Children's Fund



United Nations Office
for Drug and Crime



United Nations Entity for
Gender Equality and the
Empowerment of Women







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