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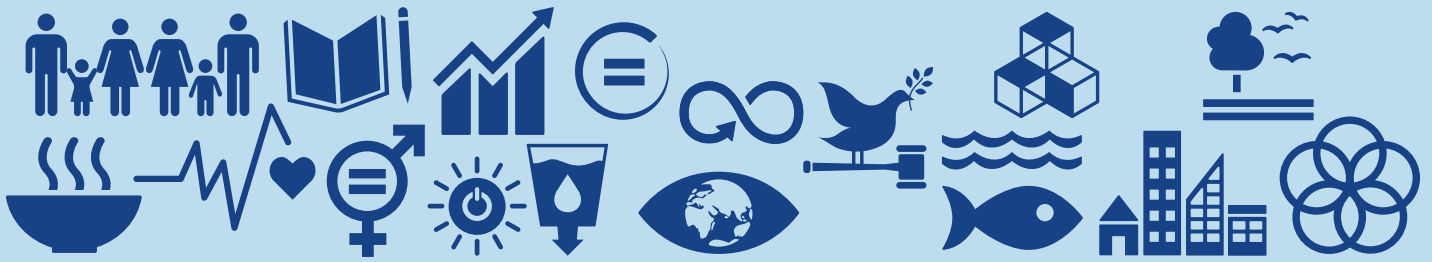
2018

# Pacific

## Sustainable

### Development

Report



# Our People, Our Environment, Our Ocean



**Prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Countries  
with the support of the CROP and UN agencies**

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# Pacific Islands Forum Leaders 2018 Decisions on Sustainable Development

“In taking into account the 1st Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report which tracks the region’s progress in realising the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway and other global commitments, Leaders committed to ensuring that sustainable development in the region is achieved on its terms and in a way that recognises the region’s rich culture, national circumstances, and oceanic resources.

Leaders endorsed the first Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report in 2018 as the Pacific region’s Sustainable Development Report on the 2030 Agenda, S.A.M.O.A Pathway and other global commitments, recognising that it will support Leaders’ participation at the 2019 UN General Assembly Special Summit on the 2030 Agenda and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid Term Review, including the remaining preparatory processes.” (Forum Leaders Communique, 2018)

## Pacific Islands Forum Member Countries



Australia



Cook Islands



Federated States Of Micronesia



Fiji



French Polynesia



Kiribati



Nauru



New Caledonia



New Zealand



Niue



Palau



Papua New Guinea



Republic Of Marshall Islands



Samoa



Solomon Islands



Tonga



Tuvalu



Vanuatu

## Foreword



**Meg Taylor, DBE**  
Secretary General,  
Pacific Islands Forum

The Blue Pacific Continent comprises our sea of islands, dotted across our vast ocean. It is again becoming a place of geo-strategic importance and interest. It is home to some of the most extensive coral reef systems in the world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and some of the healthiest and largest remaining populations of threatened marine life. It is also one of the most natural hazard risk prone regions in the world, and is at the frontline of suffering the existential threats and impacts of climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events.

Determined to chart their own sustainable development pathway, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2015 committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while calling for the SDGs to be contextualised to Pacific realities. Leaders called for the development of a regional set of targets and indicators that accounted for national priorities to jointly monitor the region's

progress against the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) and other key global and regional sustainable development commitments, including the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).

In 2017, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD) and 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators (PSDI), to guide regional efforts and support to countries for implementation, monitoring and reporting on global and regional sustainable development commitments. This Pacific Sustainable Development Report 2018 (PSDR) is the first quadrennial Pacific progress report on sustainable development. The report outlines high level trends on progress to date, as well as baseline information.

The regional report complements national monitoring and reporting and since 2015, three Pacific Islands Forum member countries (Samoa, Kiribati and Australia), have completed their Voluntary National Review processes, and reported to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu are reporting to the 2019 HLPF.

This report highlights the need for increasing the pace of progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It emphasises increasing vulnerabilities through deepening inequalities, and limited access to infrastructure and basic services. The report also emphasises significant opportunities for accelerating our development, including through Pacific-specific "know-how" - our ability to adapt to changing situations, our significant biodiversity and oceanic resources, and our ability to work as a Blue Pacific collective. The report reflects on the increasing access to and use of ICT and connectivity. The report reinforces the value of shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and reaffirms the connection of Pacific peoples with each other, and with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.

This report is a culmination of more than two years of collective work by our member countries and territories - with our Council for Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and United Nations (UN) agencies in the Pacific. The report draws from multiple published sources and datasets from Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific Islands Forum



Secretariat (PIFS), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), UN agencies, World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Monetary Fund (IMF) including Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) data sheets based on the 132 PSDIs; updates on Pacific SIDS/S.A.M.O.A Pathway partnerships; and, regional sustainable briefs prepared by CROP and UN agencies in the Pacific. This report is the result of strong and much needed collaboration between CROP and UN technical specialists who contributed to the drafting of this report - on the social elements (SPC, PIFS, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, World Health Organisation (WHO)), environment dimensions (SPREP, PIFS, FFA, SPC, UNDP, UNICEF), economic development (PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPTO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCAP), means of implementation (PIFS, SPC, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, USP, UNDP, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the PLGED (PIFS, SPC, ILO, UN Women, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP), with advisory support funded and provided by UNDP.

Annexed to this report is the Pacific SDGs Progress Wheels which presents baseline information of progress against selected 80 targets aligned to the 132 PSDI for the Pacific as a whole and for each of the 18 Pacific Islands Forum Member Countries.

As Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, I acknowledge with appreciation the efforts of our 18 member countries, the support of the CROP and UN agencies in the development of this report. I thank especially the PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPREP and UNDP for the significant resources that they have provided, for data, analytical and communications work for completing this report and accompanying publications.

As the first region in the world to take a 'collective, coherent and coordinated approach to reporting on global and regional sustainable development commitments', the Pacific is again showing leadership. This report will support Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' participation at the 2019 UN General Assembly Special Summit on the 2030 Agenda and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid Term Review (MTR) and its remaining MTR preparatory processes. More importantly, I trust that this report will trigger and be the catalyst for appropriate national and regional actions to address our challenges and seize opportunities that will accelerate our progress towards meeting our sustainable development objectives and aspirations.



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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

3Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	ECE – Early Childhood Education
AAAA – Addis Ababa Action Agenda	ECOSOC - United Nations Economic and Social Council
ABS - Australian Bureau of Statistics	EDF 11 – 11th European Development Fund Programme
AC - Agriculture Census	EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone
ACP – African, Caribbean Pacific	ERAP - Enhanced Road Access Project
ADB – Asian Development Bank	EU – European Union
AFAC - Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council	FAESP - Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific
AML - Anti-Money Laundering	FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization
AUD – Australian Dollars	FDI - Foreign Direct Investment
BBNJ - Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	FEMM – Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
BNPL – Basic-Needs Poverty Line	FFA – Forum Fisheries Agency
BSRP - Building Safety and Resilience Project	FJD – Fijian Dollars
CEDAW – Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	FPR – Framework for Pacific Regionalism
CFCs – Chlorofluorocarbons	FRDP - Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
CMS – Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	FSM – Federated States of Micronesia
CNMI - Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	GBV – Gender Based Violence
CO2 – Carbon Dioxide	GCCA - Global Climate Change Alliance
CPP - Country Preparedness Packages	GCF - Green Climate Fund
CROP – Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	GDP – Gross Domestic Product
CRVS - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	GEF - Global Environment Facility
CTF - Counter-Terrorism Financing	GER – Gross Enrolment Rate
DFAT – Department of Foreign Affairs	GHG – Green House Gases
DHS - Demographic and Health Surveys	GNI – Gross National Income
DRM – Disaster Risk Management	GPEDC – Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction	GPI – Gender Parity Index
ECCE – Early Childhood Care and Education	HCFCs – Hydro-Chlorofluorocarbons
	HDI – Human Development Index
	HIES - Household Income and Expenditure Survey



## Acronyms and Abbreviations (continued)

HLPF – High Level Political Forum	PNA – Parties to the Nauru Agreement
HPV – Human Papilloma Virus	PNG – Papua New Guinea
ICT – Information and Communications Technology	POA – Pacific Ocean Alliance
IEPA – Interim Economic Partnership Agreement	POA WG – Pacific Ocean Alliance Working Group
ILO – International Labour Organisation	PREP – Pacific Resilience Program
IMF – International Monetary Fund	PRF – Pacific Resilience Facility
ITU – International Telecommunication Union	PRP – Pacific Resilience Partnership
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature	PRSD – Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development
IUU – Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing	PSCSD – Pacific Steering Committee for Sustainable Development
JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency	PSDIs – Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators
JNAPs – Joint National Action Plans	PSIDS – Pacific Small Island Developing States
LFS – Labour Force Surveys	PSDR – Pacific Sustainable Development Report
LGBTI – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender/Transsexual and Intersex	RGD – Reference Group on Disability
MCDEM – Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management	RMI – Republic of the Marshall Islands
MDGs – Millennium Development Goals	RTSM – Regional Technical Support Mechanism
MEAs – Multilateral Environmental Agreements	SAMOA Pathway – SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
MEPS – Minimum Energy Performance Standards	SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
MFAT – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	SIDS – Small Island Developing States
MSGTA – Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Trade Agreement	SLR – Sea Level Rise
MTO – Money Transfer Operators	SME – Small to Medium Enterprises
MTR – Mid-Term review	PV – Solar Photovoltaic
NAPAs – National Adaptation Programmes of Action	SPARTECA – South-Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement
NAPs – National Adaptation Plans	SPC – Pacific Community
NBSAPs – National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	SPC SDD – SPC Statistics for Development Division
NCDs – Non-communicable Diseases	SPREP – Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
NDC – Nationally Determined Commitments	ST&I – Science, Technology and Innovation
NDMOs – National Disaster Management Offices	STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics
NGOs – Non Government Organisations	SWF – Sovereign Wealth Fund
NMDI – National Minimum Development Indicators	TC – Tropical Cyclone
NSO – National Statistics Office	TF – Trust Fund
NZ – New Zealand	TVET – Technical Vocational Education and Training
NZD – New Zealand Dollars	TYPSS – Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
ODA – Overseas Development Assistance	UN – United Nations
ODSs – Ozone Depleting Substances	UNCLOS – United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
OPOC – Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner	UNDESA – United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
PACC – Pacific Adaptation to climate Change	UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
PACCSAP – Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science Adaptation Planning	UNESCAP – UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
PACER+ – Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus	UNESCO – UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
PACP – Pacific African, Caribbean and Pacific	UNESCO-IOC – UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
PCRAFI – Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative	UNFCCC – UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
PCREEE – Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency	UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
PCRIC – Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company	UNGA – United Nations General Assembly
PEFA – Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability	UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
PFM – Public Financial Management	UNOCHA – UN Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PFRPD – Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	UNSIAP UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
PFTAC – Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre	USD – United States Dollar
PICTA – Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement	USP – University of the South Pacific
PICTs – Pacific Island Countries and Territories	VAT – Value-Added Taxes
PIEMA – Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance	VNR – Voluntary National Reviews
PIFL – Pacific Islands Forum Leaders	WB – World Bank
PIFS – Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	WCPC – Western and Central Pacific Ocean
PIGGAREP – Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project	WHO – World Health Organisation
PIPSO – Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation	WMO – World Meteorological Organization
PIRIC – Pacific Islands Risk Insurance Company	WTTC – World Travel and Tourism Council
PITA – Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association	
PLAS – Pacific Alliance Labelling and Standards	
PLGED – Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration	





# Executive Summary and Key Messages

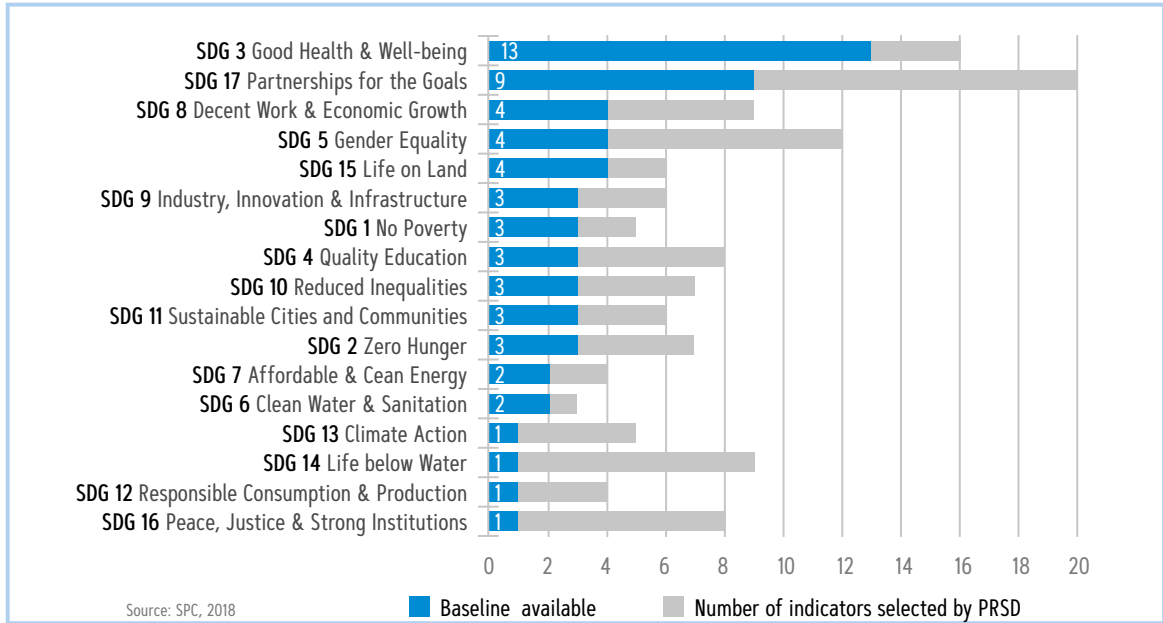
## Introduction

1. This report is the first, quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report (PSDR) to be prepared under the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD), that was endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2017. The report highlights progress made in the Blue Pacific region toward achieving sustainable development - within the context of Framework for Pacific Regionalism and national development plans and reflected in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway); the Paris Agreement; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). It also includes a review of the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).
2. The report provides a high-level narrative on development trends, results and effectiveness in the Pacific. It aims to reduce the burden on small country administrations and to demonstrate the value of integrated reporting. The regional sustainable development priorities covered in this report include those identified as transboundary issues such as climate change (SDG13), disaster risk management (SDG11) and integrated oceans management (SDG14); as well as poverty reduction (SDG1); reducing inequality (SDG10), including gender inequality (SDG5); addressing the needs of persons living with disabilities (SDG11); improving quality of education (SDG4); tackling non-communicable diseases and cervical cancer (SDG3); improving connectivity (SDG9); and ensuring decent work and economic growth (SDG8).
3. Because the mid-term review of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway started in 2018, the report also considers the situation in the Pacific with respect to food security (SDG2), water and sanitation (SDG6), transportation (SDG9), culture and sports, sustainable energy (SDG7) and tourism, waste management, sustainable consumption (SDG12), biodiversity (SDG15) and peaceful, safe communities and migration (SDG16). It also reviews progress, challenges and priorities of the means of implementation, across the areas of: adequacy and effectiveness of financing; building stronger institutions and improving national capacity; increasing development effectiveness; and, the role of inclusive partnerships.
4. Not all of the 132 PSDIs are measurable by data based on international methodologies, and for some others there is limited data available. As a consequence, only 48 percent of the indicators can be measured at this time. Of most concern is the lack of data to measure regional priorities of climate change, ocean and seas or "life below water", and quality education. However, there are various national and regional initiatives underway to more clearly define appropriate indicators and to expand the available data. Annexed to the PSDR are the Pacific SDGs Progress Wheels for the region and individual countries providing a status report on the baselines for 80 targets aligned to the 132 PSDI.
5. The report is a cooperative effort between the Pacific Islands Forum Countries, agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)<sup>1</sup> and the United Nations System.

<sup>1</sup> Pacific Aviation Safety Office, Pacific Islands Development Programme, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Power Association, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, University of the South Pacific



Figure 1: Number of Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators and availability



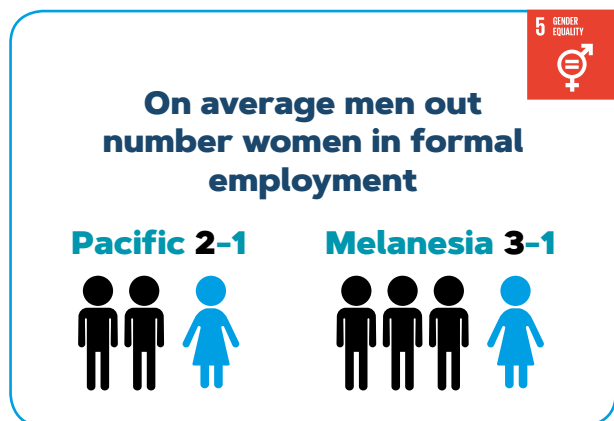
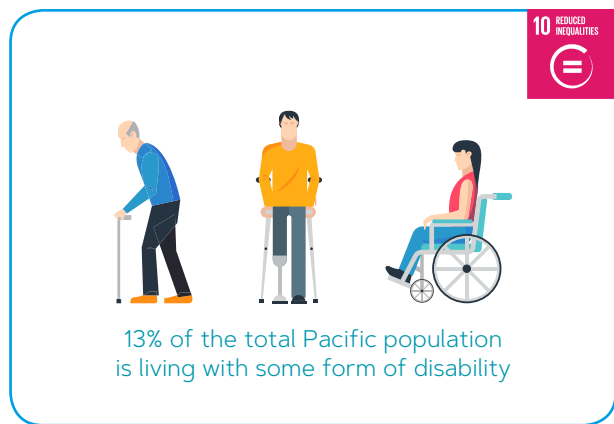
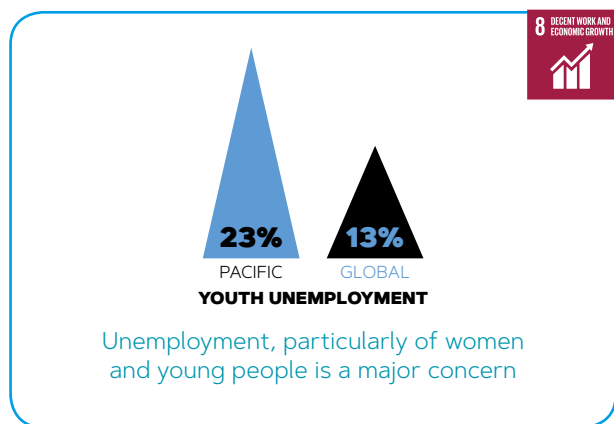
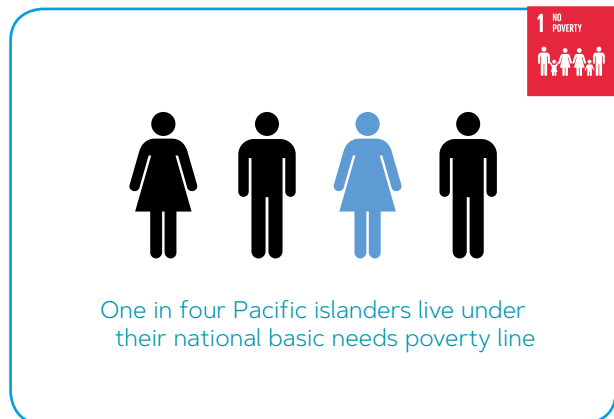
## Progress, Challenges and Way Forward

The following analysis recognises the three dimensions/pillars of sustainable development being: economic, (people and) social and environmental, and their combined impact on the Pacific region’s development objectives and aspirations.



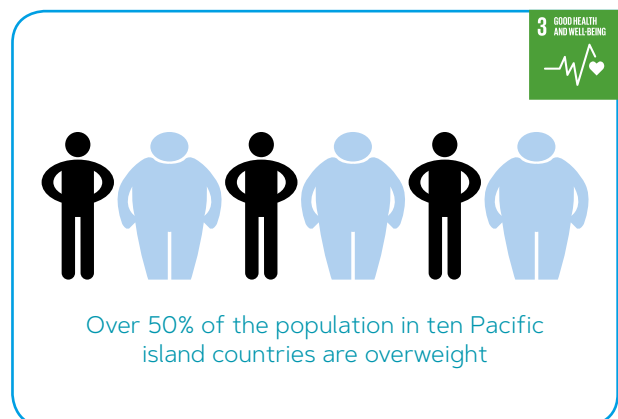
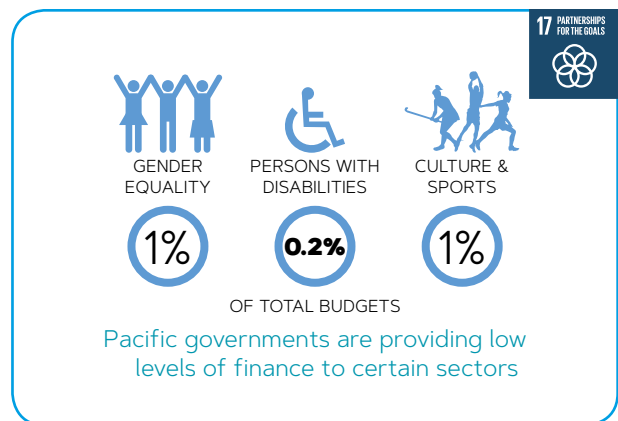
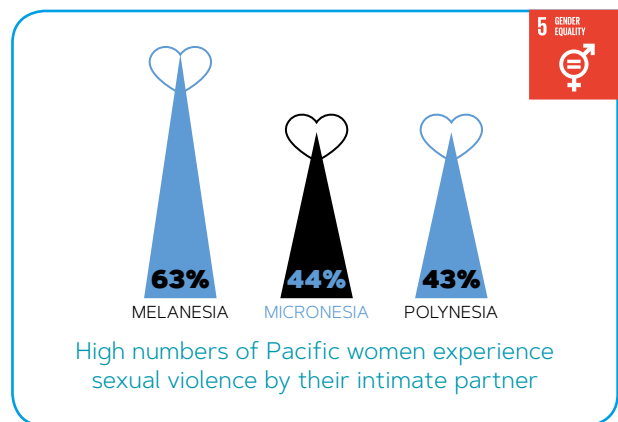
## People and Social Development

6. While the region can point to progress in a number of areas covered under the people and social development pillar, progress has often been uneven across countries. Data availability remains problematic and is often not disaggregated. While there is good data in the health area, more work is needed if we are going to be able to measure education quality and achievement and income inequality. The lack of disaggregation of a number of data sets makes it difficult to identify accurately the actual development impact on people with disabilities, youth, women and the most vulnerable.
7. In the Pacific there is a focus on hardship, lack of economic opportunity and social exclusion. While extreme poverty remains relatively low, household surveys in seven Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) indicate that the elderly and other vulnerable groups are more often likely to fall into hardship and poverty with an estimated one in every four Pacific Islanders are living below their national basic needs poverty lines (particularly PNG and Fiji). There is increasing inequality amongst marginalised population groups and for people living in remote communities. Unemployment, particularly among women and young people, is a major concern, with youth unemployment averaging 23 percent in the Pacific compared with the global average of 13 percent. Youth unemployment is particularly acute in Kiribati, Nauru, RMI and Tuvalu with youth unemployment rates over 50%. The majority of youth are in informal employment in often highly insecure circumstances with low earnings and limited access to social protection.
8. At least 1.5 million Pacific islanders (1 in 10) are living with some form of disability. Persons with disabilities in the Pacific are among the poorest and most marginalised in their communities. They are over represented among those living in poverty and underrepresented in social, economic and public life, including in national decision-making. They generally have lower economic, health and education outcomes.
9. Gender inequality in the region is manifest in the high prevalence rates of violence against women, with more than 60 percent in Melanesia, and more than 40 percent in Polynesia and Micronesia experiencing violence over their lifetimes. Sexual and reproductive health and rights issues also remain substantial challenges to be addressed. For example, the burden of cervical cancer caused by sexually transmitted Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is significant, with Melanesia classified as a



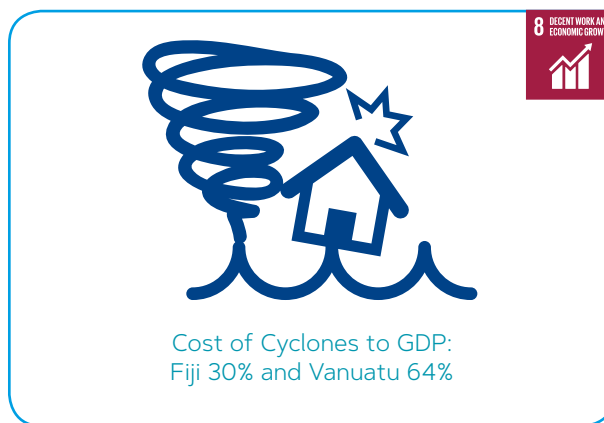
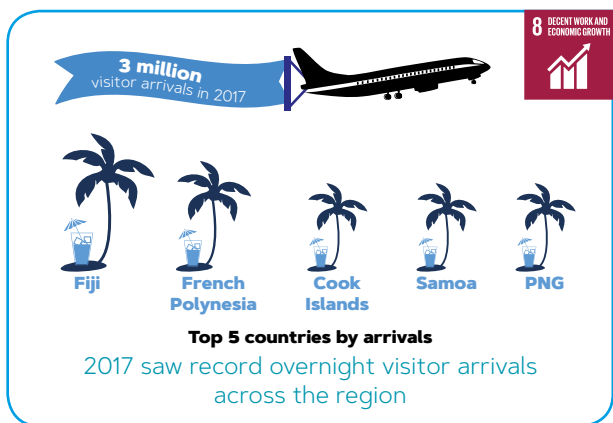
sub-region with one of the highest incidence rates of cervical cancer in the world (33.3 cases per 100,000 females per year).

10. Traditional forms of social protection are increasingly under threat, however, all PICTs have some form of social insurance or social protection while low compared to global figures are improving—highest in in Micronesia, then Melanesia and lowest in Polynesia.
11. At the regional level, Pacific Leaders have prioritised addressing challenges of vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities through the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD). Despite this Pacific government allocate very limited financing to national institutions and initiatives to address gender equality (1 percent) and persons with disabilities development (0.2 percent)
12. Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are at crisis levels in the Pacific. The region has some of the highest rates of NCDs which account for in some cases up to 84 percent of deaths in Fiji and Samoa for instance. Obesity and diabetes rates are among the highest worldwide, and are much greater than the estimated global prevalence of 10 percent.
13. While access to education has improved, quality remains a challenge. There is a need to focus on improving quality and relevance of education and cognitive learning outcomes, where overall results in the areas of literacy and numeracy have not made the expected gains. There is also a renewed focus on lifelong learning with early childhood care education and post-secondary education and training requiring priority attention. Changes in approaches to learning will require new ways of teaching.
14. Culture, in all its dimensions, is a fundamental component of sustainable development. Through tangible and intangible heritage, creative industries and various forms of artistic expression, culture is a powerful contributor to economic development, social stability and environmental protection. However, it is not generally acknowledged as a formal sector of the economy and as a consequence the economic and social benefits and contributions of culture are not fully recognised and receive less than 1 percent of national appropriations.



## Prosperity and equitable economic development

15. In the area of prosperity and equitable economic development, data is limited, although this could be addressed through the inclusion of additional questions to household and labor force surveys. The economic trends in the region have been positive, yet inconsistent. PICTs are highly sensitive to external economic shocks (such as, global commodity price fluctuations, disruptions in the global supply chain and financial stress), catastrophic events (such as cyclones, floods and droughts) and costs of adaptation to climate change. There are three major work deficits in the Pacific: the dominance of the informal economy; gender gaps; and youth unemployment.
16. The small and limited economic base of PICTs restricts their capacities to increase employment opportunities and improve social safety nets for the vulnerable and elderly. Critical domestic challenges for almost all PICTs include: creating employment opportunities for youth; reducing vulnerability and promoting sustainable enterprises; enhancing the impact of remittances from labor migration schemes; and enhancing gender equality. In the last three years, the Pacific has faced a number of disaster events causing significant economic impacts, injury and loss of life. Post-disaster needs assessments indicated significant damages and losses amounting to 30 percent of national GDPs in Fiji, 2016 to 64 percent in Vanuatu in 2015.
17. Tourism is an important sector of growth and development in the Pacific providing foreign exchange earnings, employment and income-earning opportunities for many Pacific islanders, including women. In 2017, the Pacific region (16 PICTs) received a record number of 2,983,781 million tourists of which 2,000,983 million<sup>2</sup> arrived by plane and the rest by cruise ships and yachts. Fiji took the majority of the market share at 42 percent followed by French Polynesia (10 percent), Cook Islands (8.1 percent), Samoa (7.8 percent) and PNG (7.1 percent). Just over 50 percent of tourists were from Australia (29.5 percent) and New Zealand (20.8 percent). The rest were from the United States, Europe, Other Asia, China, Japan and other PICTs.
18. In 2017, total estimated tourism spending in PICTs was US\$3.35 billion<sup>3</sup> which is equivalent to an average of US\$1,674 per visitor and US\$291 per capita for the 11.6 million Pacific Islanders (excluding Australia/New Zealand). The South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) estimates that tourism contributes between 2.3 percent share of the GDP in PNG to more than 60 percent share of the total GDP of Cook Islands, over 40 percent share of the GDP for Fiji, Vanuatu and Niue. Tourism also provided between 25 and 35 percent of total employment in the Cook Islands, Niue, Vanuatu and the FSM in 2017. The Pacific Tourism Strategy 2015-2019 promotes more sustainable tourism which includes low-volume, high yielding and green eco-tourism to protect and preserve the Pacific's highly sensitive ecology and biodiversity.
19. The fisheries sector is a significant contributor to Pacific economies, in particular to GDP in five PICTs<sup>4</sup>. The value of fishing to GDP (not including processing or service industries) ranges between 0.2 percent in New Caledonia to 14 percent in RMI. The value of the tuna catch taken by fleets of PICTs in 2017 represents around 45 percent of the value of the tuna catch in PICTs waters, which was estimated to be USD 2.9 billion in 2017 which is a significant increase on the 31 percent in 2014.



2 SPTO, 2018. Annual Review of Visitor Arrivals in Pacific Island Countries in 2017.

3 ibid

4 FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, RMI and Tuvalu



Further there was a doubling of revenue from fishing license fees between 2012 (USD 220 million) and 2016 (USD470 million) primarily due to the success of the Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) Vessel Day Scheme and a 17 percent increase in the locally based tuna catch and a decline of 20 percent for foreign vessels between 2014 and 2017.

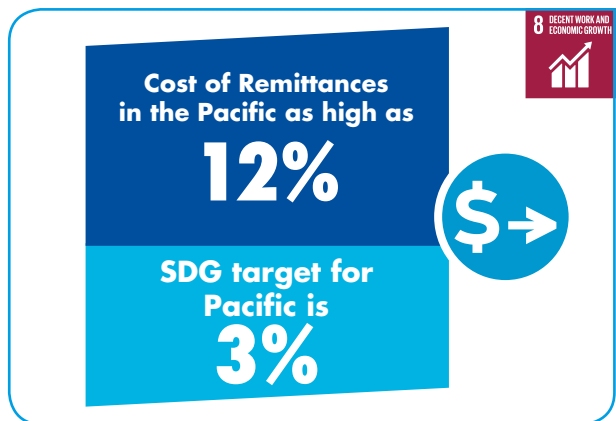
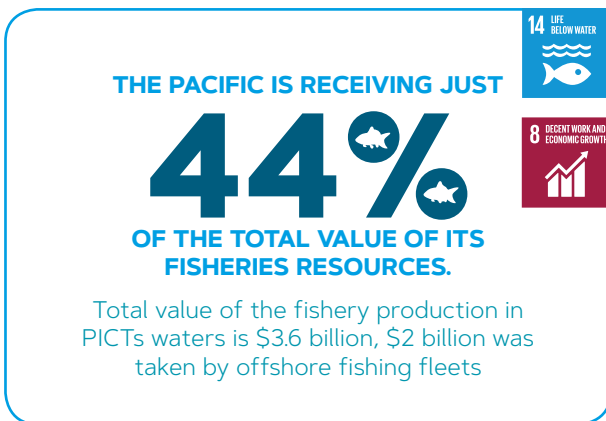
20. A 2015 SPC and FFA fisheries study highlighted other challenges such as the stagnation or decline of coastal fisheries production between 2007 and 2014 and its impact on the largely coastal Pacific population who depend on coastal fisheries for food security and livelihoods. A key objective of the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries is to:

- (i) increase the share of locally based fishing industry and revenue;
- (ii) increase employment as well as trade and investment facilitate, and ensure adequate assistance to national fisheries agencies and local communities to manage their coastal fisheries resources.

21. Remittances are significant in the incomes and growth of Pacific peoples and economies, and as a source of foreign exchange. According to World Development Indicators, remittances account for

more than seven percent of income for Pacific Island Small states<sup>5</sup>. On average, remittances' contribution to the GDP of Tonga (26 percent), Samoa (20 percent), the Republic of Marshall Islands (14 percent), and Tuvalu (13 percent) are well above the regional average of seven percent over the last 10 years. However, the average cost of sending remittances to the Pacific is between eight to twelve percent of the value of the remittance which is up to four times higher than Agenda 2030 target of 3 percent. The closure of Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) in the Pacific remains a risk to low-cost remittances in the Pacific. A major driver of these closures has been the "de-risking" of the sector by commercial banks. The Forum Economic Ministers have called for continuous and concerted efforts by all relevant stakeholders, including development partners and national governments, to address the issues around de-risking and its impact on remittances flows to the Pacific.

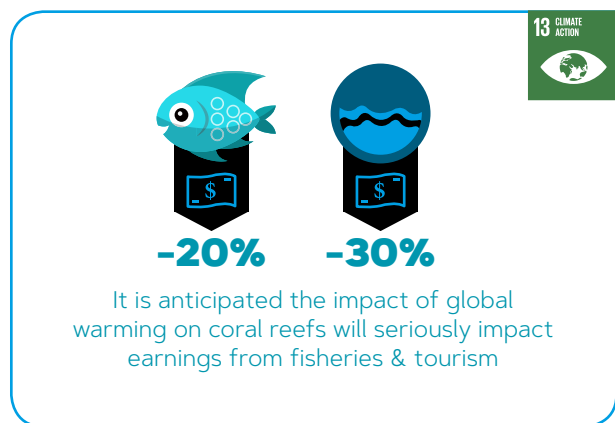
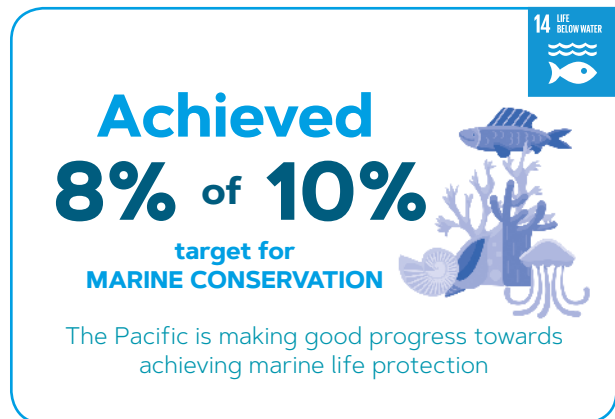
22. Accessing finance for sustainable development and climate change adaptation remains an ongoing challenge for PICTs. Financing options determine how PICTs can effectively invest in people, sustainable enterprises, institutions and resilient infrastructure and the critical role they play in meeting the development challenges of the region.



5 World bank classification and includes Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

## Planet and sustainable environmental management

23. The Blue Pacific continent contains and supports the most extensive and diverse coral reefs in the world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and some of the healthiest and in some cases, largest remaining populations of many globally threatened species such as whales and dolphins, sea turtles, dugongs, sharks and stingrays. The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) provides 2.7 million tonnes of sustainably caught tuna into the global market, which makes up more than 56 percent of global supply annually with its fisheries worth about 5.7 billion. The Pacific’s global leadership on Oceans Management including successfully lobbying for the SDG 14 on Oceans notwithstanding various regional policy frameworks on oceans management such as the Pacific Oceanscape Framework reflects the importance of the Pacific Ocean to the region.
24. Demonstrating this global leadership, the Pacific is making good progress towards achieving the SDG 14 target of 10 percent marine protection and conservation with eight percent already conserved through the many marine protected areas such as the Micronesian Challenge; the Phoenix Island Protected Area; the Cook Islands Marine Park, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and the New Caledonia Coral Sea Nature Park.
25. Climate change is a critical development challenge for the region. Some of the greatest concerns are sea level rise, saltwater intrusion of freshwater lenses and ocean acidification which will impact humans, water and food security; livelihoods; and Pacific biodiversity and culture. As a transboundary issue, climate change potentially effects population movement and tracking mobility patterns due to climate change is necessary, as is viewing migration as an adaptation strategy.

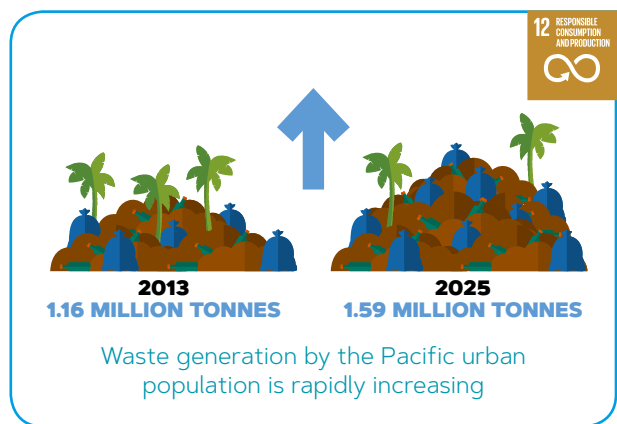


26. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, climate change impacts and increasing land and ocean pollution and contamination are already impacting the Pacific Ocean, coastal areas, homes, infrastructure, food and water security and livelihoods. The anticipated effects of global warming on the region’s coral reefs is expected to cause a decrease of 20 percent in coral reef fisheries<sup>6</sup> and 27 to 32 percent decrease in tourism earnings<sup>7</sup>. Recent cyclones in the Pacific caused significant damage to people’s homes, livelihoods and set back national development in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Natural disasters cost PICTs an average 2 percent of GDP annually and costs increased from 3.8 percent of regional GDP in 2012 to 15.6 percent in 2016 and as high as 30 percent of Fiji’s GDP in 2016 and 64 percent of Vanuatu’s GDP in 2015.

27. There is concern about the impact of climate change and population on terrestrial, coastal areas and livelihoods. The Pacific Islands region’s biodiversity is under intense pressure from natural and human-induced disturbance, invasive species, population growth and other threats. More coordinated, integrated and ecosystem based sustainable development approaches are required to improve resource management practices and ensure food security and better livelihoods.

28. The inherent challenges of structural limitations and vulnerability of PICTs are exacerbated by the impact of more frequent and intense climate induced and other natural hazard events. One event can undo decades of development progress, destroying vital infrastructure, biodiversity and adversely affecting the delivery of goods and services, livelihoods and wellbeing. The 2017 World Risk Report identified the Pacific as the only region in which the vulnerability of populations to extreme natural events had risen.

29. Growing economies and population numbers, coupled with poor waste management practices and limited land availability, has resulted in an increased volume of wastes (estimated to increase from 1.16 million tonnes in 2013 to more than 1.59



million tonnes by 2025 for the urban populations). Over 80 percent of ocean litter is from land based sources and is impacting and killing sea life including coral reefs. The North Pacific Gyre between the US and Hawaii, occupies an ocean area twice the size of Texas. Ocean pollution kills more than 1 million seabirds and up to 500 thousands whales, dolphins and seals every year.

To help improve waste management Pacific Leaders in 2017 committed to fast track the development of policies to ban the use of single-use plastic and styrofoam packaging calling on Pacific Rim partners to address marine pollution and debris to maintain the environmental integrity of the Pacific Ocean for people, planet and prosperity. National waste management initiatives include ‘Container Deposit Programmes’; pre-paid waste collection

6 Bell, J. D., Ganachaud, A., Gehrke, P. C., Griffiths, S. P., Hobday, A. J., Hoegh-Guldberg, O., & Matear, R. J. 2013: Mixed responses of tropical Pacific fisheries and aquaculture to climate change. *Nature Climate Change*, 3(6), 591-5

7 The Economics of Climate Change in the Pacific, ADB, 2013



bag systems; the 3R+Return, eco-bags, 'Clean Schools' Programme; and, waste tipping fees. Recently, Vanuatu introduced legislation to ban the use, manufacture and importation of single use plastic bags and polystyrene containers; Palau and Samoa have banned the use of single use plastic bags; and Fiji introduced 'user-fees' to discourage plastic use.

30. Despite the existence of these frameworks and legislation; enforcement and prosecution remains a challenge.
31. A multidisciplinary and integrated approach, involving several partners, is required for sustainable ocean governance, management and conservation, adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity activities. Mainstreaming through harmonisation of environmental objectives into existing national or multi-sector agency programs,

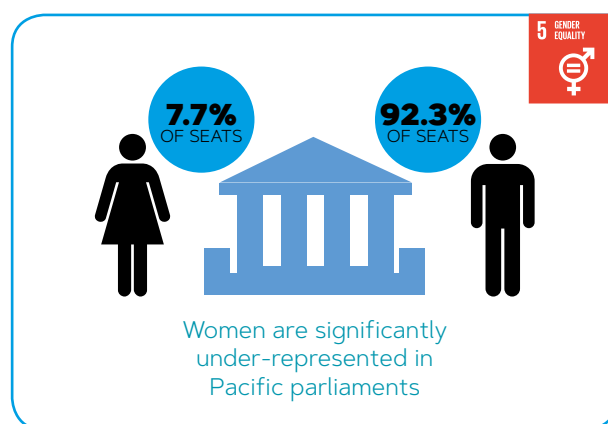
plans and policies - including increased financial and technical support is one way to build and improve policy coherence and implementation. Improving access to funding, access to technology and improvements in capacity is necessary to build climate and disaster resilience and promote clean energy development.

32. Despite the region giving a high priority to issues covered under the planet and sustainable environmental management pillar, data availability for many of the targets and indicators is poor. These challenges are not unique to the Pacific and further work is underway at both at global and regional levels to provide proxy indicators to improve reporting against these important priorities.



## Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED)

33. Under the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, progress is uneven across the PICTs in the six PLGED priority areas. Most Pacific countries are close to achieving gender parity in primary enrolment, while secondary enrolment shows girls outnumbering boys. The low investment in inclusive education and disability-friendly schools remains a barrier to education for women, men, boys and girls with disabilities.
34. There has been some progress towards women's empowerment and participation in decision making. Two countries currently have a woman as Head of Government and one has a female Deputy Prime Minister. Two countries have appointed women as Speakers of the National Legislatures. Two of the CROP regional organisations are led by women with an increasing number of women executives. Despite this progress, Pacific women still hold the lowest percentage of Parliamentary seats worldwide with only 7.7 percent of seats in FICs held by women. FSM, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are three of only four countries globally that currently have no women representatives in their national parliament.
35. Laws still exist in the Pacific that treat women and girls differently and restrict their opportunities and rights in areas such as employment, social protection, sexual harassment in the workplace, decision making, land ownership, social, health and family status, education, and in constitutional protection. In 2018, four countries, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands and Nauru reported on CEDAW with progress in areas of domestic violence, criminal and common laws.
36. Almost all countries have adopted gender policies and strategies, including disability policies and while many are engaged in global reporting processes, resources for integrating gender equality priorities and implementation are limited. Despite the call by Leaders for increased collection and use of sex disaggregated data across sectors, the lack of investments in national budgets remains a major obstacle. On average, budget allocations for national women's offices are less than 1 percent of national appropriations and very few ministries make budget allocations specifically to address gender issues.
37. Women's labour force participation rates remain low across the Pacific, including in labour migration schemes. In a number of countries men's participation in the formal economy is almost double that of women. Pacific men outnumber Pacific women in paid employment outside the agricultural sector by approximately two to one. In Melanesia, this disparity is stark with women occupying just one-third of jobs available in the formal economy. Some countries have youth unemployment rates above 50 percent. As much as 75-90 percent of market vendors in the Pacific are women. Wage or income disparity between men and women is also a major issue.
38. The Family Health and Safety Studies in eleven PICTs since 2008 show that 63 percent of women in Melanesia, 44 percent in Micronesia and 43 percent in Polynesia have experienced physical and sexual violence by an intimate partner over their lifetime. The cost of violence per annum has been estimated at AU\$22 billion for Australia, FJ\$290 million for Fiji and NZ\$8 billion for New Zealand. Women and girls with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse than those without a disability.
39. Fertility rates remain high in the majority of the countries. Limited sexual and reproductive rights and a lack of resources for women and girls, is constraining the attainment of improved levels of basic health in the region. The specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, especially in terms of sexual and reproductive health, are not adequately addressed.



## Means of Implementation

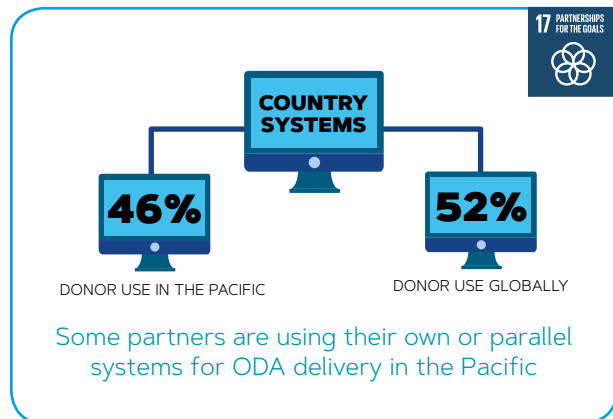
40. The 2030 Agenda, SDGs and S.A.M.O.A Pathway emphasise the importance of the means of implementation and for a transformational approach to development if the goals of prosperity, equality for all and a protected environment, are to be achieved. This will need to include: harnessing policy coherence; forming multi-stakeholder partnerships; accessing both public and private finance; effectively adopting science and technology; and improving the collection and use of data and statistics.

41. While recognising that PICTs are responsible for their own sustainable development, addressing many of the development challenges will require enhanced development cooperation and international support. To build on, and accelerate, progress already made, there is a need for an increased focus on:

- Using country systems to strengthen country ownership and leadership on sustainable development;
- Embedding the SDGs and ensuring effective development cooperation through regional knowledge exchange;
- Engaging proactively with development partners to allocate sustainable resources to enable greater south - south cooperation and peer-to-peer learning across the Pacific;
- Institutionalising dialogue and engagement with private sector and civil society stakeholders including involvement in the implementation and monitoring of development initiatives; and,
- Driving multi-stakeholder partnerships for development, to combine resources and expertise to deliver on a joint development goals.

42. Partnerships are the defining characteristic of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, recognising the limited resources at the country level and that the achievement of sustainable development requires genuine and durable engagement of multiple stakeholders. Of the 527 registered S.A.M.O.A Pathway and UN Oceans partnerships, 223 currently involve Pacific SIDS. More than 50 percent of these partnerships are aligned to SDG14 on Oceans, with a further 40 percent aligned to

either SDG13 on Climate Action or SDG17 Means of Implementation. However, only 42 percent of these partnerships have reported globally and there is limited awareness at the national level of their existence or progress made.



## Conclusions and next steps

43. Production of the 2018 PSDR has highlighted that some good progress has been made but also that considerable challenges remain. Pacific vulnerabilities are increasing, inequalities are deepening, and access to infrastructure and basic services remain elusive for some.
44. The report also highlights that despite ongoing challenges and limitations there are significant potential and opportunities for accelerating development in the Pacific through Pacific specific – know how, resilience, ability to adapt to changing situations, significant biodiversity, oceanic resources and ability to work as a Blue Pacific collective, and increasing access to and use of ICT, increasing connectivity, and our focus on renewable energy enabling improved access to energy. Specific action is needed for:
1. Enhancing equality including gender equality and opportunities for women, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities by addressing intersecting patriarchal barriers, including discriminatory policy and legislation, social and cultural norms; and consider options to provide more targeted attention, resourcing and assistance to the most vulnerable communities including expanding and increasing financing for social protection measures and other priority actions in the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD);
  2. Tackling gender gaps in employment outcomes and high youth unemployment through: i) domestic economic and labour policy that target the key growth sectors including agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism; ii) supporting an entrepreneurial culture through Young Entrepreneurs Councils now established in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati, and regional standards determined by Commonwealth Pacific countries to enhance the policy and regulatory environment to support young entrepreneurs graduate from the informal economy. Given the region's extreme vulnerability to climate change, there is a need to support the green economy and green job creation in areas including tourism, renewable energy, food production and recycling and waste management. Youth employment strategies need to be developed in a green growth framework.
  3. Continuing to promote efforts in sustainable tourism and fisheries for sustainable and equitable economic growth that conserves and protects our natural resources and environment. This includes sustainably fishing our oceans while increasing returns from existing efforts through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme, increasing value added and processing of fisheries onshore for PICTs and other efforts promoted through the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries. It also includes supporting sustainable tourism focusing on low-volume, high yielding and green eco-tourism through various regional programmes through the Pacific Tourism Strategy 2015-2019.
  4. Intensifying multisector efforts and financing for addressing the NCDs crisis including through implementation of the Pacific NCDs Roadmap which promotes actions such as: increased taxes and enforcement measures on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages; improved nutrient labelling on foods, improved NCD screening and management; and strengthened mutual accountability for monitoring NCDs. Other actions include the need to: i) increase resourcing for enforcement of policies and legislation; ii) strengthen preventative interventions across people's life cycles; iii) promote nutrition and food security and limit industry interference; and iv) enhance investment, resource allocations and accountability.
  5. Strengthening efforts to tackle the dual threats of climate change and disasters by building resilience and ensuring that all development is risk-informed and protected against losses and simultaneously boost economic growth, create jobs and livelihoods, especially for



youth and other efforts promoted through the Framework for Resilient Development (FRDP) in the Pacific;

6. Addressing the consequences of growing populations, poor waste management practices that are contributing to increased volumes of solid and hazardous wastes threatening land and oceanic resources by expanding on existing efforts to recycle, reuse waste including increasing bans on plastic across the Pacific and through implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025, the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy , the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan (PMLA) and the Moana Taka Partnership (Moana Taka Partnership).
7. Continuing to address de-risking issues and high cost of sending remittances to the PICTs as guided by Forum Economic Ministers Action Plans.
8. More effectively utilising existing, and mobilising additional financing, and strengthening coordination, capacities and institutions as reflected in the Forum Compact for Strengthening Development Coordination and the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. Increased adoption of multi-stakeholder engagements, greater use of peer learning modalities such as south-south exchanges and the effective implementation and monitoring of genuine and durable partnerships locally and internationally including the S.A.M.O.A Pathway partnerships; and
9. Increasing investment in and ensuring availability of timely, accurate disaggregated data to monitor implementation across the three dimensions of sustainable development to strengthen evidence based policy, planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and accountability as reflected in the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS).



## Section 1: Introduction

1. The Blue Pacific continent, spans some 40 million square kilometres - comprising 98 percent water and 2 percent land. In global terms the Blue Pacific is 11 percent of the world's oceans and covers about two percent of the Blue Planet. It is home to 11.6 million people dispersed across thousands of volcanic islands and coral atolls living primarily in coastal areas. Its rich biodiversity is the basis of life, sustaining crucial planetary and food security functions, helping to regulate climate, water and nutrient cycling and providing 20 percent of the world's protein. The Blue Pacific has the most extensive coral reefs in the world; the largest tuna fishery; and some of the healthiest and largest remaining populations of globally threatened species such as whales, dolphins, sea turtles, dugongs, sharks and manta rays. Because of climate change, increased frequency and intensity of disasters from natural hazard risk events, sea level rise and ocean acidification - coral reefs and marine life are dying, which in turn impact the health of the planet and global food security. These same impacts on the Pacific region are having significant and immediate degradation on freshwater sources, agricultural crops, public infrastructure, businesses, and livelihoods, homes and cultures of Pacific peoples.
2. The development of the Pacific is of material interest not just to the people of the Blue Pacific continent but to the whole-global-community. There are three policy platforms that shape Pacific conversations, prioritisation and accountability on sustainable development.
  - (i) **Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR):** Endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2014, the FPR focuses collective political conversations and settlements on key Pacific strategic issues. It addresses inherent challenges of smallness, isolation, limitations of resources, capacities, vulnerability to climate change and external shocks and seeks to amplify the region's global voice and influence. The FPR commits Pacific Islands Forum Countries and Territories (PICTs) to work together to address common challenges, harness shared strengths and ensure that individual and collective advancement brings practical benefits to all Pacific people to achieve "a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives." In 2017, Pacific Leaders endorsed the Blue Pacific identity as 'all Pacific peoples living in our ocean of islands, who recognise their needs and potential, who plan and own their development agenda, and who can act collectively for the good of all, rather than a few'. They recognised the Blue Pacific identity as an opportunity to reinforce shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, reaffirming the connection of Pacific people with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods and the interdependence of people's dignity and prosperity with a peaceful, secure, healthy and sustainable environment.
  - (ii) **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway:** A 2014 global blueprint that reinforces the 'special case of SIDS' guiding collective development support for SIDS, including the 14 Pacific SIDS.<sup>8</sup>
  - (iii) **Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD):** In September 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders committed to the full implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and called for the support of development partners in delivering the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The PRSD was agreed by Pacific Leaders in 2017 and in doing so it was emphasised that the FPR remained central to contextualising implementing and reporting on the SDGs, S.A.M.O.A Pathway and other global commitments.<sup>9</sup> Leaders committed to focus national and regional efforts to ensure that "no one is left behind" and requisite resources are secured. "The PRSD was prepared by the Pacific SDGs Taskforce<sup>10</sup>" through a consultative and country-driven process to ensure inclusiveness and strong national ownership backed by regional and international cooperation.
3. This first quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report (PSDR - this report) is a central pillar of the PRSD. It outlines the region's current progress toward meeting global and regional sustainable development, within the context of the FPR and national development

<sup>8</sup> Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

<sup>9</sup> Pacific Islands Forum (2015) Communique of the Forty-Sixth Pacific Islands Forum, Port Moresby

<sup>10</sup> Consisted of Forum Members, CROP, UN, donor, Private sector, civil society and think tank representatives



plans and reflected in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). As requested by Leaders, this report includes a review of the region's performance under the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).

4. This report highlights progress against key regional sustainable development priorities identified in the PRSD such as the transboundary issues of climate change (SDG13), disaster risk management (SDG11) and integrated oceans management (SDG14). The Pacific strongly advocates for global action on these as they are Leaders' priorities for the region. The report also monitors progress in addressing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Pacific and FPR priorities such as poverty reduction (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10) including gender inequality (SDG5), addressing the needs of persons living with disabilities (SDG11), improving quality of education (SDG4), non-communicable diseases and cervical cancer (SDG3); improving connectivity (SDG9), decent work and economic growth (SDG8). Ensuring adequate and effective financing, institutions and capacities plus enhanced development effectiveness and inclusive partnerships were key lessons from MDGs implementation and identified by Pacific SIDS as priorities in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and in the design and implementation of the Forum Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination (formerly called the Cairns Compact – endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2009). This report also covers the Pacific's progress, challenges and priorities for the Means of Implementation and Partnership (SDGs 16 and 17).
5. While the S.A.M.O.A Pathway does not include a framework with targets and indicators, its implementation is monitored by a Global Steering Committee using the SIDS Partnerships Framework; the annual Global SIDS Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Dialogues; and through the oversight role of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council, with their subsidiary bodies, the high-level political forum (HLPF) on sustainable development and regional commissions such as UNESCAP. In light of the emphasis placed on the role of genuine and durable partnerships in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) maintains a partnerships platform and regularly convenes meetings of the Inter Agency Consultative Group for SIDS (IACG). At the regional level, and as part of the PRSD, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) has been tracking the partnerships that were promised to the Pacific region.
6. Despite these oversight mechanisms and the role played by UNDESA and PIFS, accountability of the global frameworks to the SIDS' issues highlighted in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway is mixed, as are partnerships related to SIDS. At an institutional level, the 2016 Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) review of UN support for SIDS observed that links to global mandates for UN activities implemented in support of SIDS are done so with the SDGs as the primary reference point, whereas explicit reference to the S.A.M.O.A Pathway is rare.
7. In June 2018, Tonga hosted the Pacific region's preparatory meeting for the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid Term Review. The Nuku'alofa Outcome Document: Monitoring, Accountability and Transformation identifies a number of areas for action to accelerate implementation of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway. The meeting noted the importance of continuing to strengthen the 'special case' and a differentiated treatment of SIDS and the need to ensure support for strengthening the means of implementation around financing, capacities, coordination, data collection and statistical analysis, strengthened partnerships and development effectiveness. It further identified the need to ensure support to LDC SIDS through the LDC Technology Bank for their smooth transition to graduation. Specific reference was also made to: maintaining and enhancing progress in relation to climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience; conservation, protection, management and sustainable use of oceans, seas and their resources; sustainable transport and connectivity; renewable energy and access to affordable energy; water and sanitation, and sustainable management of waste including chemical and hazardous waste; capacity for data collection and statistical analysis; improved access to financing for development; poverty eradication, equality and social inclusion, gender and disability; non-communicable diseases and reproductive



adolescence and maternal health, food security and nutrition, sustainable consumption and production; sustainable tourism; SIDS Partnership Framework and strengthened national and regional enabling mechanisms for SIDS sustainable development, including an effective monitoring and accountability framework of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.

8. The PRSD advocates for merging the S.A.M.O.A Pathway monitoring, SDGs Voluntary National Review and other global reporting on the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, AAAA, GPEDC into national and sector development planning and budgeting process, and into the Pacific's regional accountability mechanisms through the quadrennial reports of Forum Leaders under the PRSD. This integration ensures strengthened accountability to SIDS' priorities, particularly where global frameworks fall short, and reduces the reporting burden on small administrations. Additionally, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) facilitates integrated implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.
9. The structure and approach for the report was endorsed by the Pacific SDGs Taskforce in November 2017 in Apia. PICTs and development partners were asked in February 2018 to complete PICTs data sheets based on the 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators, and in June 2018 to complete updates on Pacific SIDS/S.A.M.O.A Pathway partnerships (Refer to Annex 1 for the PSDI). Between April and June 2018, CROP and UN agencies prepared regional sustainable development briefs on key SDGs and S.A.M.O.A Pathway priority sectors to support drafting of this Report. The PIFS in consultation with CROP and other technical specialist agencies supported the drafting of the key chapters of this Report, on: the social elements (SPC, PIFS, USP, FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, WHO); environment dimensions (SPREP, PIFS, FFA, SPC, UNDP, UNICEF); economic development (PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPTO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCAP); means of implementation (PIFS, SPC, SPTO, USP, UNDP, UNESCAP); and, the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) (PIFS, SPC, ILO, UN Women, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP), with advisory support funded by UNDP.
10. There are significant challenges with data availability noting only 48% of the 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators (PSDI) can be measured at this time with significant data deficits in Pacific priority areas of climate and environment. Country data for the 132 PSDIs were collected from multiple sources, including national official and administrative datasets, national census and other surveys, SPC National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) website, UN Global Database, UNESCAP Asia Pacific Report, various CROP, UN, ADB, World Bank publications. Where data is available, high level trend assessment focuses on selected indicators of the PSDIs endorsed in 2017.

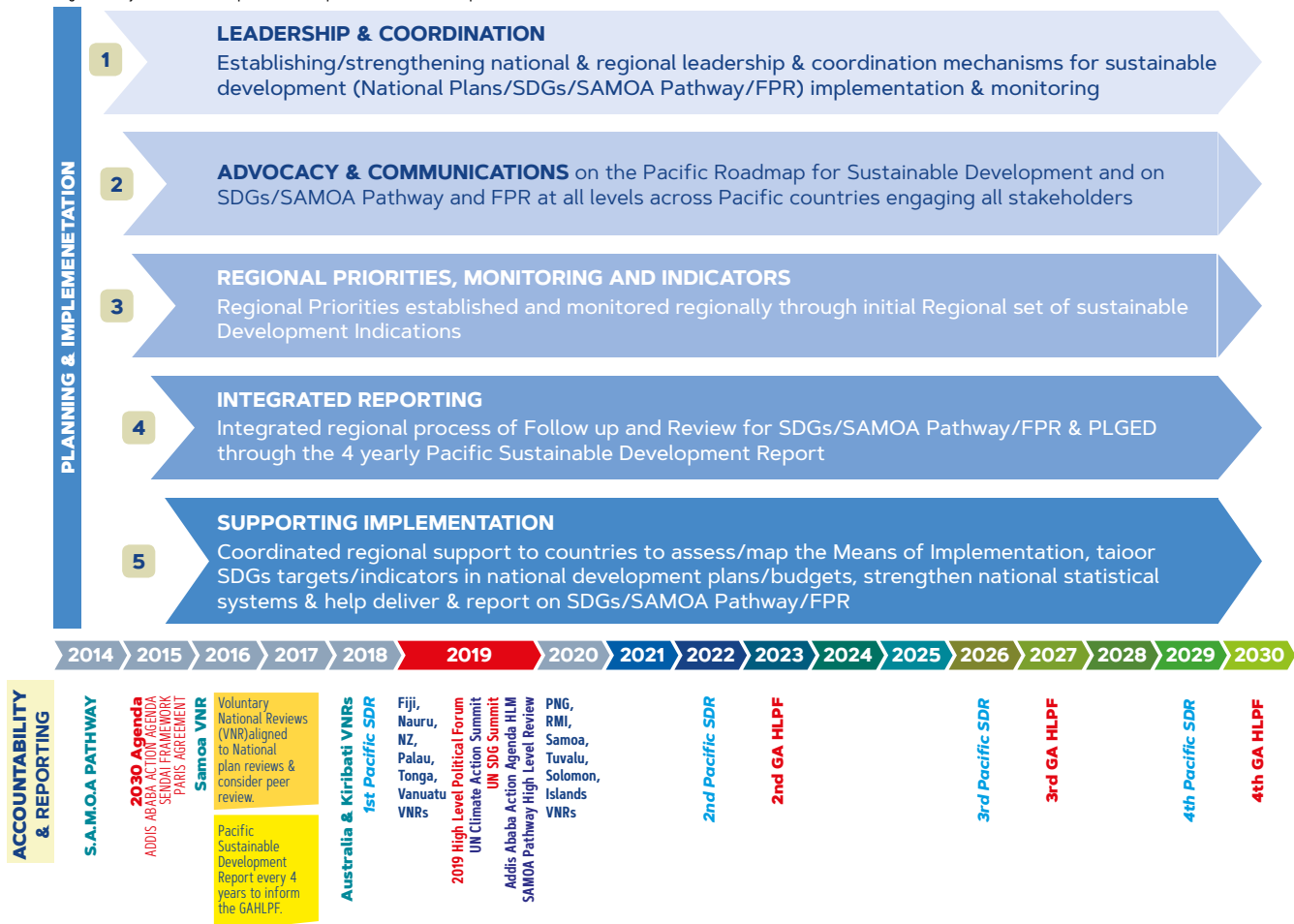




## Section 2: Pacific Roadmap For Sustainable Development

11. In 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders committed the Pacific to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, giving particular attention to the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Forum Leaders agreed that the globally developed set of SDGs indicators needed to reflect the Pacific context calling for country led, open and inclusive processes to identify a regional set of indicators that account for national priorities and which could be used to jointly monitor the region’s progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR).<sup>11</sup> In 2016, Leaders also directed that this joint regional reporting include
- a review of progress under the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).
12. In line with the commitments of development partners under the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), Leaders called for their support in the areas such as financing, statistics, partnerships, SDGs integration, follow up and review, as well as acknowledging the special case of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Leaders also tasked the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), in collaboration with CROP and UN agencies, to lead coordination of the consultation process, building on existing work streams to avoid duplication and reduce the reporting burden at the country level.

Figure 2: Key elements of the pacific roadmap for sustainable development



11 46th Pacific Islands Forum Communique, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 8-10 September 2015 - [http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2015\\_Forum\\_Communique\\_10Sept2015.pdf](http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2015_Forum_Communique_10Sept2015.pdf)



13. An inclusive Pacific SDGs Taskforce, that consisted of representatives of Pacific Islands Forum member countries, CROP, United Nations Agencies, development partners, private sector, civil society and academia, was established to develop a regional roadmap to give effect to Pacific Leaders directives. Between May 2016 and July 2017, the taskforce developed the (PRSD), which was endorsed by Pacific Leaders in September 2017.
14. The PRSD has five interlinked elements of: i) Leadership and coordination; ii) Advocacy and communications; iii) Regional priorities monitoring and indicators; iv) Integrated reporting; and v) Means of implementation. Each element promotes national and regional ownership to deliver sustainable development in ways that reflect and consider the Pacific context. The PRSD prioritises the use of Pacific expertise, scaling up and expanding regional cooperation through peer-to-peer learning and south-south cooperation - a key aspect of the Forum Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination<sup>12</sup>.
15. High-level strategic oversight for coordinating implementation and monitoring of the PRSD will be provided by the Pacific Steering Committee for Sustainable Development (PSCSD). The PSCSD consists of one high-level representative each from Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australia/New Zealand, and one representative each from the the following groups - CROP, UN agencies, development partners, private sector and civil society.
16. The quadrennial regional reports (2018, 2022, 2026 and 2029) will be informed by and complement national reporting. The four-yearly interval coincides with the global reporting to the ECOSOC High-level Political Forum (HLPF), when it convenes under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. The quadrennial reports seek to combine and consolidate previous parallel annual reporting (Regional MDGs Tracking Reports, Tracking the Effectiveness of Development Efforts in the Pacific Reports, and Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration Reports).
17. Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) reporting on the 2030 Agenda to the annual HLPF in July is part of the global accountability process for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. To date, three Pacific Islands Forum countries have reported, Samoa in 2016, and Australia and Kiribati in 2018. The following six Pacific Islands Forum countries - Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Tonga, and Vanuatu, intend to report to the 2019 HLPF.
18. Through the PRSD, PIFS, SPC, UNDP and ESCAP adopted a coordinated approach to provide financial and technical assistance to Kiribati for their 2018 VNR preparations, which required four joint missions to Kiribati. Support was provided for national SDGs sensitisation, stakeholder engagement, data collection, report preparation and production of the Kiribati VNR video for the 2018 HLPF.
19. The PRSD encourages PICTs to align the scheduling of their VNRs with national development plan reviews to reduce the reporting burden, and to also consider a peer review process to share country experiences on national planning, budgeting and monitoring. Samoa and Kiribati aligned their VNR processes with the mid-term reviews of their National Plans and through the PRSD, the PIFS facilitated peer-to-peer learning support from Samoa as Kiribati was preparing its VNR.
20. The experience of Samoa, Kiribati and Australia highlight a number of common challenges in undertaking a VNR. Namely, a lack of public awareness of the SDGs and S.A.M.O.A Pathway; a lack of ownership at sector level; a lack of data and statistics; the cost and challenge of consulting dispersed populations; and limited financing and human resources capacity. However, there are positives, for Samoa and Kiribati these included the benefit of integrating the VNR with a mid-term review of their National Development Plans and embedding the VNRs as part of government's accountability mechanisms and their reporting on commitments under the 2030 Agenda and S.A.M.O.A Pathway. All three countries noted the value of strengthening stakeholder engagement, improving national planning and budgeting coordination processes and the opportunity to focus on strengthening capacities for data collection, recording, analysis and use.

<sup>12</sup> The Forum Compact was a regional initiative of Pacific Forum Island Leaders endorsed in 2009 to strengthen country systems, institutions and capacities to better use and account for domestic and external resources to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals



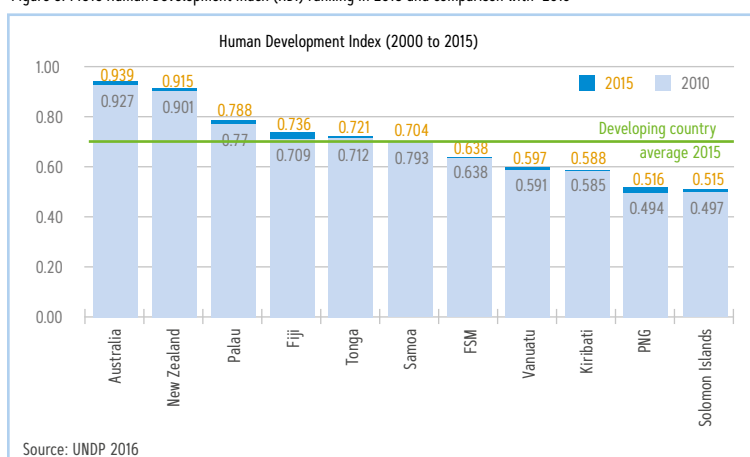
## Section 3: Regional Progress In Achieving Sustainable Development: Trends And Challenges

21. Historically, economic development, as measured by GDP, has been the primary objective of national policy-making. However, global leaders are now challenged to shift the development paradigm and put the well-being of people at the centre of sustainable development. The United Nations General Assembly confirmed “that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption can impede sustainable development”, and recognized “the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and well-being of all people”.
22. This section focuses attention on the three pillars of sustainable development of: people and social development; equitable economic development and prosperity; and planet and environmental sustainability. While the pillars are addressed separately, many of the issues are inter-related and indivisible and will need to be addressed jointly.

### People and social development (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10)

23. In 2018, an estimated 11.6 million people live in the 16 PICTs.<sup>13</sup> By 2030, it is expected that the Pacific’s population will be 14.3 million, which is an increase of 2.7 million people or a growth of 19 percent. While annual population growth remains relatively high (1.7 percent average), the rate of increase is slowing due to a stabilisation in previously very high fertility rates across the region. The Pacific has a young population, the median age in 2018 ranges from 19.5 years in the Solomon Islands to 37.2 years in Palau. The number of elderly is increasing due to mortality improvements. In 2018, the elderly population is estimated at 655,000, and this is projected to more than double to 1.9 million by 2050, which is equivalent to one in ten people.
24. The Human Development Index (HDI), based on life expectancy at birth, average years of schooling and gross national income per capita, shows mixed results for the Pacific overtime. All Pacific countries made good progress between 1990 and 2010, but

Figure 3: PICTs Human Development Index (HDI) ranking in 2015 and comparison with 2010



a. Data refer to 2015 or the most recent year available. b. Based on data from the national statistical office. c. Based on Barro and Lee (2016). d. Value from UNDESA (2011). e. Based on cross-country regression. f. Updated by HDRO based on data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2016). g. Based on data from United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys for 2006–2015. h. Updated by HDRO based on data from ICF Macro Demographic and Health Surveys for 2006–2015. Source: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI>

13 SPC 2018 Pocket Book, <http://sdd.spc.int/en/news/latest-news/173-2018-pocket-statistical-summary>



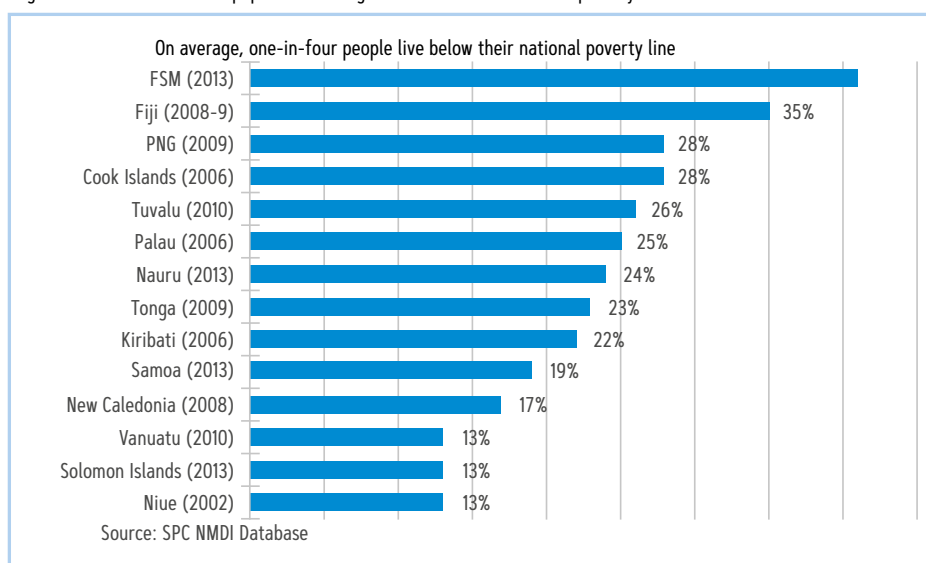
then, with the exception of Fiji and Palau, progress slowed between 2010 and 2015, with two staying the same and five declining in ranking. Despite Papua New Guinea (PNG) being the second lowest ranked Pacific country in 2015, it made the most gains between 1990 and 2015 moving from 0.360 to 0.516 HDI, an increase of 43.4 percent (refer to Figure 3).

- 25. Most PICTs have ratified the nine core international human rights treaties and most have presented second round Periodic Human Rights Reporting. This is an indication of the recognition and importance given to respecting and upholding human rights, a key aspect of the 2030 Agenda.
- 26. The frequency and intensity of extreme climate events and disasters, affects livelihoods and environmental sustainability and tests the resilience of Pacific people. Women, the elderly and children are more likely to die during an extreme weather event<sup>14</sup>. For example, 70 percent of deaths in the tsunamis in Samoa (2009) and Solomon Islands (2013) were either children or women. The epidemic of NCDs is compromising health gains, increasing the number of Pacific people living with a disability and could generate losses of 3 to 10 percent of GDP among the PICTs<sup>15</sup>. In addition, conflict and political instability are inhibiting people from engaging in and benefitting from development.

### Poverty, Income and Inequality (SDG 1, SDG5, SDG8, SDG10)

- 27. While extreme poverty remains relatively low, an estimated one in four Pacific islanders are likely to be living below their respective national basic-needs poverty lines. In the Pacific there is a focus on hardship, lack of economic opportunity and social exclusion. Children, the elderly, women, youth and people living with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable to poverty and inequality. If a child does not receive adequate nutrition, stunting may result, intellectual development may be impaired, they are more vulnerable to disease, tend to underperform in school, and are less likely to become productive adults. Child poverty threatens not only the individual child, but can perpetuate a cycle of poverty across generations.
- 28. Unemployment, particularly among women and young people, is a major concern, with youth unemployment averaging 23 percent in the Pacific compared with the global average of 13 percent. Youth unemployment is particularly acute in Kiribati, Nauru, RMI and Tuvalu with youth unemployment rates over 50%<sup>16</sup>. The main reasons for high youth unemployment rates are low economic growth, high population growth and skills mismatches. Research conducted in Fiji (Voigt-Graf and Kanemasu 2015), PNG (ADB and ILO, 2017) and Tonga (Government of Tonga, 2013)

Figure 4: Per cent of Pacific populations living below national basic needs poverty lines



<sup>14</sup> See examples at [https://www.unisdr.org/files/48152\\_disasterandgenderstatistics.pdf](https://www.unisdr.org/files/48152_disasterandgenderstatistics.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> The Economic Costs of NCDs in Pacific Islands, World Bank, 2012

<sup>16</sup> ILO, 2017. A Study of Future Work in the Pacific. Fiji



highlight significant levels of imbalance between employer needs and skills supplied by training and education institutions.<sup>17</sup> The majority of youth are in informal employment in often highly insecure circumstances with low earnings and limited access to social protection.

29. Household surveys in seven PICTs indicate that the elderly are over-represented among those living in poverty or those highly vulnerable to falling into hardship and poverty, 39 percent in Kiribati, 40 percent in Tuvalu, and 39 percent in FSM and Palau<sup>18</sup>. Elderly were under-represented in these groups in Samoa and Tonga.
30. Women are more vulnerable to falling into poverty and hardship when cultural and social barriers to gender equality exist. Census and household surveys indicate that in general, women have lower labour force participation rates than men, and have fewer opportunities for employment or income generating activities. Women work mostly in the informal sector, including subsistence agriculture, handicrafts and local markets, where they are often not protected by labour laws and are not able to participate in social insurance schemes.
31. Female-headed households are also vulnerable to falling into poverty because of a disability in the family or an unexpected event, such as a death or as a result of a disaster from a natural hazard risk event. As Pacific populations age, the number of widows far exceed that of widowers, and widow-headed households tend to be concentrated in the poorest deciles. Teenage mothers are especially vulnerable and in some societies face discrimination and exclusion.
32. Inequality is increasing in the region and is more pronounced between urban and rural areas. Inequality is measured by the Gini Coefficient, where a coefficient between 0.3 and 0.4 is considered to be a 'reasonable' level of inequality. Based on household surveys for Samoa, Kiribati, Fiji, Nauru, Cook Islands and Solomon Islands, coefficients at the upper end or even above this reasonable level have been recorded over the last decade.
33. A report on Vulnerability and Exclusion in the Pacific<sup>19</sup>, noted that disasters, including from cyclones and tsunamis, have seriously impacted food security and led to a decrease in savings, increased difficulties in meeting daily expenditure and increased levels of vulnerability, with women disproportionately at higher risk. Weakening traditional systems and a lack of comprehensive social protection mechanisms mean that many communities struggle to recover from shocks contributing to rising levels of hardship and poverty, increased rural-urban migration (which strains public service delivery in urban settings) an increased number of school drop outs and rising crime, drug and alcohol abuse. Poverty reduction, through pro-growth measures and job creation, is necessary but is not enough. The promotion of "decent work" and social protection policies as well as well managed labour mobility schemes can help enhance resilience and safeguard workers. However, the small population size, remoteness and enduring impacts of disasters, hinders the ability of countries to generate and sustain economic growth.
34. In 2018, there are an estimated 655,000 persons aged 60 years and over living in PICTs, with the proportion ranging from five percent in PNG and Nauru to 20 percent in Niue. With aging populations, there is a risk of increased poverty and rising health expenditure for families and governments, particularly given the prevalence of NCDs leading to an increase in frequency, duration and cost of health care.
35. Social protection, usually in the form of predictable direct transfers to individuals and households and universal and fee-free access to essential basic services, is a proven strategy to reduce poverty and vulnerability. Evidence suggests that pensions reduce the poverty and vulnerability of older people and results in net contributions to multi-generational household economies and the wider community. A 2012 study<sup>20</sup> indicated that a universal cash grant to all children under five would cost approximately 1.7 percent of GDP in Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands and 0.7 percent of GDP in Vanuatu. It was estimated this would lead to a 10 percent reduction in proportion of households living below the national basic-needs poverty lines.
36. Traditional forms of social protection, as provided by clan and extended family structures, have

<sup>17</sup> *ibid*

<sup>18</sup> National Poverty Reports, various years

<sup>19</sup> *ibid*

<sup>20</sup> Sampson, M. (2012) Micro-simulation analysis of social protection interventions in Pacific Island countries: AusAID Pacific social protection series: poverty, vulnerability and social protection in the Pacific



always been important in mitigating economic pressure on households<sup>21</sup>. The kinship system of *veiwekani* in Fiji, *fa'a Samoa* in Samoa or *wantok* in PNG and the Solomon Islands, sustains individuals and families on a daily or occasional basis<sup>22</sup>. Remittances, from migrants (temporary or permanent), to urban areas and overseas are important in supporting families. In 2018, more than 15,000 Pacific Islanders were engaged in seasonal worker programmes in Australia and New Zealand. Nevertheless, continued urbanisation and migration weakens family ties and can lead to the gradual erosion of traditional forms of social protection, leaving an increasing proportion of the population more vulnerable to economic and social pressures.

37. All PICTs maintain national social insurance or social security schemes, such as national provident funds and social security systems, primarily for those in formal employment. Ten countries provide universal non-contributory pension schemes for the elderly; six deliver disability benefits (the Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Caledonia Palau, and RMI); Fiji, the Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Niue and Nauru also have grants targeting children. The Cook Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia and Niue have a one-off lump sum payment for newborn and infants and New Caledonia pre-birth, maternity and child care grants while Kiribati is working with UNICEF to introduce a child care allowance. However, as the existing social protection systems cover only about one-third of the estimated total number of eligible beneficiaries,<sup>23</sup> there is significant scope for expansion of national social protection programmes.
38. There is significant variation in government spending on social protection programmes across the region. In 2015, the five Micronesian countries allocated the equivalent of 9.2 percent of GDP for social protection, up from 7.6 percent in 2012. This compares with 4.0 and 4.6 percent of GDP in 2012 and 2015 respectively in the five Melanesian countries and 2.3 and 2.9 percent of GDP in 2012 and 2015 respectively in the three Polynesian countries. Non-contributory social benefits for the elderly, children, people with disabilities,

maternity benefits and targeted benefits for the poor account for about 30 percent of total social protection expenditure in PICTs.

39. Social transfers are increasingly recognised as beneficial in many developing countries to directly reduce poverty but also assist children attend and perform better at school; enable families to invest in productive activities and provide an economic stimulus. This could be particularly significant in the outer islands and rural areas where economic opportunities are limited. In 1975, Fiji established the Poverty Benefit Scheme as the main social protection program for poverty alleviation and a safety net for those in serious need. It currently, consists of a monthly allowance of FJ\$60-100 and FJ\$50 food voucher and is being expanded to include eligible elderly, pregnant women and school-children in remote rural areas<sup>24</sup>.

## Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls (SDGs 4, 5, 10)

40. Over the last decade, the region has made some progress in achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, particularly in education and health and to a lesser extent women's participation in formal employment and national policy making. This progress is attributed to growing awareness of the need to address gender inequalities. This is evident in the implementation of national gender policies, passage of domestic violence legislation and protocols, ratification of related human rights conventions and steps taken to ensure gender responsive government institutions, civil society and the private sector through policies and programmes. At the regional level, Leaders are committed to addressing gender equality, including through the adoption of the PLGED in 2012<sup>25</sup> and the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights, endorsed by the Ministers for Women in 2017<sup>26</sup>.
41. Nevertheless, gender inequality in the region is manifest in high prevalence rates of violence

21 Oxfam, *Poverty in the Pacific: Rescuing the Millennium Development Goals*.

22 International Labour Organisation. (2006). *Social Protection for All Men and Women: A Sourcebook for Extending Social Security Coverage in Fiji – Options and Plans*. Retrieved from [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---Asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilosuva/documents/publication/wcms\\_156318.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---Asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilosuva/documents/publication/wcms_156318.pdf)

23 Total target beneficiaries (or reference populations) consist of the employed and unemployed, the elderly 60 years and above, people living with a disability, children 0-14 years and the estimated population living below the national basic-needs poverty line.

24 AusAid, World Bank (2011) *Fiji: Assessment of the Social Protection System in Fiji and Recommendations for Policy Changes*



against women. In some PICTs, women experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence in the world. Fertility rates remain high in most PICTs and sexual and reproductive health and rights remain substantial challenges. These factors have repercussions in high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, including cervical cancer and teenage pregnancies. Globally, the Pacific has the lowest representation of women in national parliaments<sup>27</sup> making up just 7.7 percent of positions or 17.9 percent when including Australia and New Zealand<sup>28</sup>.

42. Women are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and human smuggling. Several PICTs have ratified the UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, including the Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling Protocols, national legislation and regulations have not been fully aligned to these international conventions.
43. Most PICTs are close to achieving gender parity in primary education based on gross enrolment (attendance) rates. In some countries, such as Kiribati, Nauru, RMI and Tuvalu, declining enrolment rates for boys in secondary school is a concern. Women and girls still face specific limitations in accessing secondary and tertiary education in some countries and these issues are often not addressed in a systematic way. Overall education systems and infrastructure often do not meet the needs of students with disabilities, and in particular women and girls with disabilities.
44. Gender and social perspectives are not adequately or systematically embedded in national and regional development agendas. There continues to be inadequate investment (financial and human) in transforming gender and social inequalities, including all forms of discrimination against women and girls. There is often resistance to transform social, economic, and political institutions and systems that perpetuate women's exclusion from all forms of decision-making, particularly at the political level. There are also limited or under-resourced national mechanisms to make institutions accountable for progressing gender equality and women's human rights.

## Persons living with disabilities (SDG4,

## SDG8, SDG11)

45. The development needs and rights of persons living with disabilities have been recognised at the national and regional levels by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, with some countries developing national disability policies and action plans; eleven PICTs ratified the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;<sup>29</sup> endorsement in 2003 of the Biwako Millennium Framework; and the adoption in 2016 of the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD 2016-2025). The latter focuses on livelihoods; mainstreaming; leadership and the enabling environment; disaster risk management; and evidence. Implementation and reporting on the PFRPD is coordinated by a regional Reference Group on Disability (RGD) supported by the PIFS.
46. Persons with disabilities in PICTs are among the poorest and most marginalised members of the community.<sup>30</sup> They are over-represented among people living in poverty and under-represented in social, economic and public life, including in national decision-making and generally have lower economic, health and education outcomes.
47. The number of people living with disabilities in the Pacific is increasing due to high rates of diabetes-related amputations and blindness; increasing traffic and work-related accidents; and the ageing population. PICTs have also made some progress in better identifying people with a disability, through household surveys and census using the standard set of questions developed by the Washington Group. These surveys show that there is an estimated 1.5 million people or 13 percent<sup>31</sup> of the total Pacific population living with some form of disability. Disability prevalence varies across PICTs ranging from an estimated 1.2 percent in Samoa to 12 percent in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea<sup>32</sup>. Variations in disability prevalence could stem from differences in the definition of disability as well as the purpose and method of collecting data.
48. Very few persons with disability are in decision-making positions at any level and their lack of empowerment is reflected in almost every aspect of their lives. Disability is low on national policy agendas and receives very little in the way of

<sup>25</sup> Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012

<sup>26</sup> Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012; Renewed Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights 2017-2030

<sup>27</sup> Women's Representation in Local Government in Asia Pacific – Status Report, UNDP, 2010

<sup>28</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union, UN Women (May 2018) Women in Politics Global Map. <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm> (excluding Australia and NZ)

<sup>29</sup> *ibid*

<sup>30</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Regional Strategy on Disability 2010-2015

<sup>31</sup> Pacific Disability Forum Database

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2012) Disability at a Glance 2012: Strengthening the Evidence Base in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCAP: Bangkok



national budgetary resources.<sup>33</sup> It is estimated that on average PICTs spend less than 0.15 percent of GDP on people with disabilities although Tuvalu is the exception with spending of 0.5 percent of GDP and New Caledonia provides disability benefits<sup>34</sup>. Children with disabilities make up at least one third of all children who do not attend school and the dropout rate at the primary level is higher among children with disabilities. Disability limits access to education, employment, health and other social services, leading to economic and social exclusion, prejudice, discrimination and rejection. Women with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and poverty, and the rights of persons with disability to decent work is frequently denied. Persons with disability and particularly women with disability, face enormous attitudinal, physical and informational barriers to equal opportunities in the world of work.

49. Exclusion from education is a significant factor in marginalising people living with a disability from realising their potential and improving their well-being. Despite the PFRPD and progress made with all national education strategies' indicating a commitment to promote inclusive education, there is more to be done. The Pacific Indicators for Disability Inclusive Education (INDIE) programme has led to the development of specific indicators for disability inclusive education that will allow national governments to monitor progress on this issue.

50. Lack of legislation protecting the rights and freedom from discrimination of persons with disabilities is a significant barrier to their full participation and capacity to contribute to society. There is also lack of support services in most PICTs to ensure persons living with disabilities have access to specialised services such as rehabilitation services, access to mobility services and devices, access to detection services (especially early detection). Currently only Fiji and the Cook Islands have disability specific legislation and Solomon Islands has a draft bill. In recent years, some development partners have allocated resources to address issues of disability but ongoing recurrent budget support to PICTs has often been lacking. Few persons with disability receive state benefits and governments need to consider ways to address

the challenge of providing sustainable financing support to those living with a disability.

51. Support is also needed to strengthen the collective voice and capacity of persons with disabilities to engage in national and regional decision-making processes. Disabled person's organisations in PICTs have grown in number and capacity. They are effective advocates for the rights of persons with disability, and are important partners in policymaking and programme implementation. Supporting local NGOs that provide services for persons with disabilities with funding and technical assistance will help expand access to services.<sup>35</sup> The engagement of the Nuanua o le Alofa (NOLA) Disabled persons Organisation in Samoa in undertaking Access Audits of the Enhanced Road Access Project (ERAP) in Samoa helped to make new public roads more accessible.

52. There is a need for improved data on disabilities in PICTs to inform policies and to measure progress. Potential sources of disability data include additional questions in national census questionnaires, the creation of targeted subnational surveys and the provision of training for statisticians on disability-related data collection and analysis. Recent census in Kiribati (2015), Niue (2016), Palau (2015), Samoa (2016), Tonga (2016), Tuvalu and Fiji (2017) have included specific questions on disability. Governments and development partners also need to consider mainstreaming disability-inclusive development across all sectors and their support, including education, climate change, disaster risk reduction and sports and physical activity. Currently eight PICTs national development plans mention disability with references to vulnerable groups and only one (Fiji) mentions mainstreaming disability across all sectors.

## Water and Sanitation (SDG6)

53. The Pacific region's sanitation coverage levels between 2000 and 2015 plateaued at 31 percent, while drinking water coverage dropped from 51 percent to 48 percent. Over the same period, the world average increased by 9 percent for sanitation and 8 percent for access to drinking

33 Tavola, Helen, Addressing Inequality: Disability in Pacific Island Countries, 2012, p3. [http://www.addc.org.au/documents/resources/addressing-inequality-disability-in-the-pacific-island-countries\\_931.pdf](http://www.addc.org.au/documents/resources/addressing-inequality-disability-in-the-pacific-island-countries_931.pdf) (This paper draws heavily on this document)

34 Pacific Disability Forum SDG-CRPD Monitoring Report 2018

35 United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: the Millennium Development Goals and synergies with other United Nations disability instruments [A/62/157, 2007, paragraph 16]





water<sup>36</sup>. It is estimated that 1.3 million Pacific Islanders do not have access to proper sanitation facilities.<sup>37</sup> This overall low regional percentage of access to clean water and sanitation hides significant variation across the Pacific with lower access in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, RMI and 100 percent coverage in Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Tonga, Nauru and in the high ninties for the rest of the PICTs.

54. Pacific communities are also highly vulnerable to the water and sanitation (WASH) related impacts of climate change and disasters, including threats to water security due to sea level rise, changing rainfall patterns and more frequent extreme weather events, as well as an increasing burden of climate-sensitive water-borne and water-related diseases. The strengthening of WASH facilities and practices is therefore an important tool for building Pacific resilience to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards, and critical to making progress towards Goals 1 and 3 of the FRDP, which was endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2016.

## NCDs and cervical cancer (SDG3)

55. NCDs are at crisis level in the Pacific. The region has some of the highest rates of NCDs and associated risk factors in the world accounting for around 70-75 percent of all deaths in the PICTs and up to 84 percent of deaths in some countries (Fiji and Samoa). NCDs are the major leading cause of preventable death in the Pacific, with two thirds of those who die from a NCD, doing so before the age of 60<sup>38</sup>. Mortality from NCDs is three times higher than in neighbouring Australia and New Zealand. Cardiovascular disease accounts for between 29 and 38 percent of all causes of death<sup>39</sup>. Obesity and diabetes rates are among the highest worldwide. Approximately 35 percent of the population of Chuuk in FSM, 28 percent in Kiribati and 24 percent in the Cook Islands and Samoa have diabetes<sup>40/41</sup>. These figures are much higher than neighbouring Australia, where

approximately 5 percent of people have diabetes, and they are much greater than the estimated global prevalence of 10 percent<sup>42</sup>. Close to half the adult population in the Pacific is overweight or obese and childhood obesity is a growing concern. In ten countries (where data is available) between 60 and 75 percent of the adult population are overweight, and in four countries at least 50 percent of the adults are obese. Approximately half of the adult populations in Kiribati, Tokelau, Nauru, Wallis and Futuna<sup>43</sup> smoke daily and three countries (Kiribati, PNG and Tonga) are among the top ten highest rates of tobacco users in the world. Female obesity prevalence is routinely above 50 percent across the region, reaching 70 percent in Tonga. Physical activity is extremely low as is vegetable and fruit consumption<sup>44</sup>. Stunting in children, caused by insufficient nutrition in diet, is an extremely concerning challenge.

56. PICTs also have a substantial burden of cervical cancer caused by sexually transmitted Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Melanesia for example, is classified as a region with one of the highest incidence rates of cervical cancer in the world, with 33.3 cases per 100,000 females per year<sup>45,46</sup>. RMI has the distressing distinction of having the highest rate of cervical cancer in the world, with an age-standardised rate of 74 per 100,000 (2007-2014). Moreover 42 percent of cervical cancer patients die within five years of diagnosis or an overall 5 year survival rate of 58 percent.<sup>47</sup>

The burden of NCDs is resulting in high levels of ill health, premature death, increasing disabilities and high levels of health expenditure.

57. Recognising these challenges, all PICTs have made commitments at various levels to address NCDs. For example, several PICTs have national NCD strategic action plans which clearly document national targets, monitoring strategies and priority actions over the next 3-5 years; increased taxes and enforcement measures on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages; improved nutrient labelling on foods, improved efforts for prevention, NCD screening and management; and

36 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP 2015)

37 ipid

38 Pacific NCD Roadmap

39 NCD Alliance (2016), 'Pacific Islands take the bull by the horns to combat the NCD crisis', <http://ncdalliance.org>

40 World Health Organisation. STEPS country reports. Available at <http://www.who.int/surveillance/steps/reports/en/>

41 World Health Organisation (2011). Non-communicable diseases country profiles. <http://www.who.int/nmh/countries/2011/en/> 29 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. How many Australians have diabetes? Available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/how-common-is-diabetes/>

42 International Diabetes Federation (2017). IDF Diabetes Atlas 8th Edition. Available at [http://www.](http://www.diabetesatlas.org/resources/2017atlas.html)

[diabetesatlas.org/resources/2017atlas.html](http://www.diabetesatlas.org/resources/2017atlas.html)

43 Pacific Community (2011). Study of risk factors for chronic non communicable disease in Wallis and Futuna. Available at [http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/PHD/A\\_Trier/Healthy\\_Lifestyle/en\\_wallis\\_futuna\\_ncd\\_report.pdf](http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/Doc/PHD/A_Trier/Healthy_Lifestyle/en_wallis_futuna_ncd_report.pdf)

44 Ibid, NCD Alliance 2016

45 Bruni L et al. Information Centre on HPV and Cancer, Human Papillomavirus and Related Diseases in the World, Summary Report, 2016- 02-25.

46 J Obe et al. A Systematic Review of Cervical Cancer Incidence and Mortality in the Pacific Region; Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, Vol 15, Issue 21, pp. 9433-9437, 2014. DOI.

47 Cervical Cancer in the USAPI: Incidence, 5 year survival and continued challenges, Pacific Regional Central Cancer Registry, 2017)



strengthened mutual accountability for monitoring NCDs.

58. Partner agencies and PICTs have been strengthening efforts to combat the NCDs crisis by implementing the Pacific NCDs Roadmap<sup>48</sup> endorsed by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders. However, progress falls short of what is required to address the scale of the problem and while there has been some reduction in tobacco use and an increase in physical activity in some PICTs, the incidence of most NCDs has remained unchanged. Challenges related to social and economic determinants of health and the need for multi-sectoral commitment and a higher level political engagement, limits the capacity of the region to meet SDG target 3.4 on reducing mortality from NCDs. For this target to be met, there is a need to: i) increase resourcing for enforcement of policies and legislation; ii) strengthen preventative interventions across people's life cycle including reducing consumption of sugar sweetened drinks, salty and fatty food; iii) promote nutrition and food security and limit industry interference; and iv) enhance investment, resource allocations and accountability.

## Food Security and Nutrition (SDG2)

59. The PICTs share a number of challenges that make them uniquely vulnerable to high risks that impact on food and nutrition security: limited land mass and population; fragile natural environments and lack of arable land; narrow resource bases and reliance on ocean resources; high vulnerability to climate change, external economic shocks such as global food prices and fuel price upheavals, and disasters from natural hazard risk events; exposure to increasingly frequent and more intense severe weather and climate events, including droughts, floods and tropical storms; high dependence on food imports; dependence on a limited number of economic sectors; remoteness and distance from global markets; and high costs for energy, transportation and communication. These influences are increasing food prices, exacerbating the already heavy reliance PICTs have on imported and processed foods. Increased dependence on

external and non-traditional food sources furthers the loss of local production, harvesting, which contributes to a decline of cultural knowledge and dietary health. Even more important, these influences also create uncertainty around food supply. This is resulting in poor food choices due to the price gap between a nutritious diet and an affordable one. As a consequence, Pacific populations are at greater risk of malnutrition, food-borne diseases and NCDs.

60. In the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, Leaders called for accelerated action to improve food and nutritional security by addressing the 'triple burden' of malnutrition - obesity, micronutrient deficiency and undernourishment. As requested in paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, a Global Action Programme for Food Security and Nutrition of Small Island Developing States (GAP) was developed through a consultative e-global and regional process. The GAP provides a framework for SIDS and development partners to better prioritise and mobilise coordinated actions at the local, national, regional and global levels to: create enabling environments for food security and nutrition; promote sustainable, resilient nutrition-sensitive food systems; and empower people and communities for improved food security and nutrition. In the Pacific, the GAP was supported by Health and Agriculture Ministers during their respective ministerial meetings in 2017. To progress its implementation in the region, a Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS (Pacific Framework) is being developed focusing on region-specific GAP priority actions. The Pacific Framework needs to adopt relevant indicators that are linked to existing monitoring mechanisms at national, regional and global levels.

61. Despite these and a number of other regional and national interventions addressing this challenge, there is a need to develop strategies which address the multi-sectoral nature of food and nutrition security. This should include efforts to address both increased 'demand' for healthy diets through education and awareness, as well as 'supply side' interventions to ensure a more accessible, affordable and nutritious diet. Given resource constraints, there is a need to target interventions

<sup>48</sup> NCD Roadmap Report (2014). Available at [http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2014JEHM.BackgroundA.NCD\\_Roadmap\\_FullReport.pdf](http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2014JEHM.BackgroundA.NCD_Roadmap_FullReport.pdf)



that are able to most effectively increase consumption of a healthier diet, particularly among groups most vulnerable to health and economic impacts of poor diet.

## Quality Education (SDG4)

62. Education is critical to achieving a life of freedom and dignity and to breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty. In addition to limited national budgets, the provision of quality education in the Pacific is challenged because of remote, isolated and dispersed populations. The 2030 Agenda and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway emphasise the need to provide high quality education and to increase investment in education, training and skills development for all, including vocational training so that all people have the necessary skills to take advantage of employment opportunities to lead productive lives.

63. Access to education has improved, with most PICTs close to achieving gender parity in primary enrolment. The majority of PICTs have consistently shown above 80 percent net enrolment rates with any exceptions trending in the 70-77 percentile, demonstrating improvement since 2014. The focus has now shifted to quality and relevance; learning pathways inclusive of lifelong learning; early childhood care and education (ECCE); and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)/Post-secondary education and training<sup>49</sup>.

64. Statistics are not consistently available at secondary level, however, the latest available data at lower secondary levels has a gross enrolment rate (GER) in the range of 63-113 with a median of 98 across the region. These rates drop considerably at senior secondary level<sup>50</sup>. Across the region, national education systems have increased the number of years of education, with basic education now set at the level of at least 8 years of ECCE/primary education.

65. At the regional level, Year 4 and Year 6 students are reasonably proficient in numeracy achievement and this performance has been improving over time. Fifty-four percent of Year 4 students in 2015 were in the four highest proficiency levels,

compared with 40 percent in 2012. Similarly, at Year 6 almost 50 percent of students were in the three highest proficiency levels in 2015, compared with 36 percent in 2012. These improvements suggest strong growth in student learning in numeracy between 2012 and 2015. Similarly, the proportion of Year 6 students at or above the expected level (Level 5 and above) increased from 56 percent in 2012 to almost 68 percent in 2015. In terms of literacy, the regional picture is less positive. Although, the proportion of students in the lowest proficiency levels has decreased since 2012, there has also been a decline in the number of students achieving at the highest levels.

66. The quality and relevance of education needs to improve, to address the growing number of out-of-school children and adolescents, and to support the transition of young people from school to work. Based on the latest available data from 15 PICTs, the percentage of out of school children at the primary level ranges from 0-37 percent, the range at lower secondary increases to 0 – 62 percent of all school age children. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) in both cases suggests that more girls are affected. However, by the lower secondary level the range is closer to parity and the participation of young men in education starts to be of concern in specific countries.<sup>51</sup>

67. Very little data is available on TVET and post-secondary education and training in the region. Tracking of learners across education will increase in its importance as participation increases so that forecasts can be made with some certainty and the requisite resourcing identified. It is important to track learners as well as ensure the coherence of TVET programmes and employability, including by providing pre-departure training to enhance skills for labour migrants. There is an increasing understanding of the importance of TVET and higher education although they are not yet adequately funded, monitored or evaluated. From the limited TVET enrolment statistics available, it is clear that gender stereotypes are entrenched, with limited uptake of trade and vocational training by women and likewise the share of men in national nursing training programmes is small.

49 UIS 2018  
50 SPC 2018  
51 SPC 2018



68. Pacific governments are giving greater attention to issues of quality, where results such as literacy and numeracy have not made the expected gains for all. There is a renewed focus on lifelong learning and both ECCE and post-secondary education and training are being incorporated into education systems. It is also recognised that changes in the approach to learning will require changes in teaching methods. The establishment of a regional learning hub, with an initial focus on literacy and numeracy, to develop and disseminate contextualised Pacific teaching methods and tools has been supported by Forum Education Ministers. Curricula, including for TVET and post-secondary, need to be reviewed to ensure Pacific relevance. Quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms are being supported by SPC and UNESCO.
69. While regional and national policies promote youth entrepreneurship, there has been little done within the education system to develop entrepreneurial thinking and skills. The ILO has been working with PICTs to tailor the 'Know About Business' (KAB) programme for both in-school and out-of-school youths. Research indicates that introducing entrepreneurship education at an early age helps people to think critically and seek solution to challenges.
- Culture as an enabler and driver for sustainable development (SDGs 4, 8, 11)**
70. Culture is integral to the lives of Pacific people and has huge potential to advance sustainable development and economic growth within the region. Despite the region's rich culture and cultural diversity, the role played by culture in achieving sustainable development is not well understood. There is insufficient quantitative and qualitative evidence to support the economic and social contributions of culture and the lack of evidence has often resulted in an undervaluing of culture. The first Regional Cultural Statistics Meeting was held in 2011 to build capacity in the area of cultural statistics. Despite the existence of the Regional Culture Strategy 2010-2020 (Phase II 2018-2020), there have been challenges to implementation and there is a need for more concerted effort and support to ensure its implementation. The promotion, production and analysis of cultural statistics towards informing policy and decision making will further advance these efforts. A literature review conducted by SPC on valuing culture showed that promoting culture as a vehicle for economic growth has both tangible and intangible outcomes that reach beyond the pillar of economic growth. A sustainable society depends on a sustainable culture.<sup>52</sup>
71. Through tangible and intangible heritage, creative industries and various forms of artistic expression, culture is a powerful contributor to sustainable development, social stability and environmental protection<sup>53</sup>. This is manifested through sustainable tourism, handcraft production, creative and cultural industries utilising local content, agriculture and fisheries. Traditional farming, fishing and food preparation and processing practices that are incorporated into modern practices enhance food security and increase resilience to natural disasters and climate threats. The integrated conservation of cultural and natural heritage, including marine heritage, underscores the deep connections among people, culture, knowledge and the environment. In the Pacific, supporting the balanced blending of traditional and modern systems of governance provides a pathway for sustainable development and community well-being. Cultural and creative industries and activities are growing in the Pacific, but they have yet to gain a prominent place in the architecture of development strategy.<sup>54</sup> Pacific governments should continue to work toward collecting data and improving the evidence-base on linkages between culture, well-being and sustainable development. This would help enhance awareness of both the non-monetary and monetary contributions of culture, while contributing to the achievement of SDG targets of strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

52 SPC (2010). Valuing culture in Oceania, methodology and indicators for valuing culture, including traditional knowledge in Oceania.

53 UNESCO (2010). The Power of Culture for Development

54 World Bank (2014). The Creative Wealth of Nations: How performing arts can advance development and human progress, World Bank Group, Development Economics Vice Presidency, Office of the Chief Economist.



## Maximising the contribution of Sport to Sustainable Development

72. The S.A.M.O.A Pathway reaffirmed the role of sport as a “vehicle to foster development, social inclusion and peace (SDG16), strengthen education (SDG4), promote health (SDG3) and build life skills, particularly among youth”. Sport, physical education and physical activity can also contribute to gender equality (SDG5), decent work and economic growth (SDG8) and reduced inequalities (SDG10). Sport, physical activity and physical education play an important role in addressing the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) epidemic. Sport-based activities also catalyse the inclusion of vulnerable groups, including women and girls and persons with disabilities, by building their confidence and resilience, and nurturing leadership. Besides building physical well-being, sport-based activities are essential for engaging young men and women in meaningful activities and reducing anti-social behaviour contributing to a safer and more inclusive community in PICTs.
73. There is growing recognition of the impact of sport on economic development through sport-related job creation, direct GDP contribution and the reduction of the health care burden in the Pacific. International sport events increase economic activity, particularly in the tourism sector, such as the spike in visitors to Samoa during the 2007 South Pacific and the 2015 Youth Commonwealth Games. The current employment in sport-related agencies reached 195 positions in 2018 in Fiji with 38 percent filled by females.
74. The integration of sports into national development frameworks has been limited to health promotion initiatives and remain the domain of primarily sport institutions. Sport has long been seen as a stand-alone sector for elite athletes and lacks institutional links necessary to foster sustainable development. At the same time, there is limited awareness of the contribution of sport to human development. This can be attributed to the lack of data to showcase the contribution of sport and physical activity across sectors and the lack of technical capacity in translating evidence into informed policy and practices in this area.

75. There have been calls for: (i) a Regional Action Plan to maximize the contribution of sport, physical activity and physical education to sustainable development (ii) a regional coordination mechanism to assist PICTs to realise the potential of sport and physical activity; and, (iii) strengthened data collection and analysis for informed sport policy. To this end, the 5th Pacific Sport Minister Meeting in 2017 in Vanuatu endorsed the Kazan Action Plan, and called for the development of a regionally coordinated sport policy framework. The call is echoed in the 2018 Forum Economic Ministers and the civil society organisations dialogue which endorsed the development of a Pacific Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan and a regional coordination mechanism.

### Data Availability and Challenges

Forty-eight of the 132 regional SDG indicators come under the pillar of People/social development. The region currently has baseline data (defined as at least one-half of member countries having relevant data) for 28 of these indicators. There is good data availability across the health indicators, reflecting the improvements in health information systems in the region, in part developed through the MDG era, and the consistent collection of vital statistics in household surveys.

The largest data challenges relate to education quality and achievement, income inequality and the specificity in the gender violence indicators. Many of these are Tier 3 indicators requiring further methodological refinement, and/or will require countries to incorporate new questions into routine survey collections. Improvements in national CRVS (Civil Registration and Vital Statistics) systems, and coding of cause of death, will allow more regular reporting on specific health outcomes in the future.



## Prosperity and Equitable Economic Development (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10)

76. Economic trends in the Pacific have been volatile.

The PICTs are sensitive to external shocks (such as, global commodity price fluctuations, disruptions in global supply chains and financial stress), catastrophic events such as cyclones and the high cost of adaptation to climate change. Critical challenges for PICTs include rebalancing and broadening economies for sustained growth; strengthening public financial management; increasing employment for youth; enhancing gender equality and opportunities for women; and improving social safety nets for the vulnerable, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

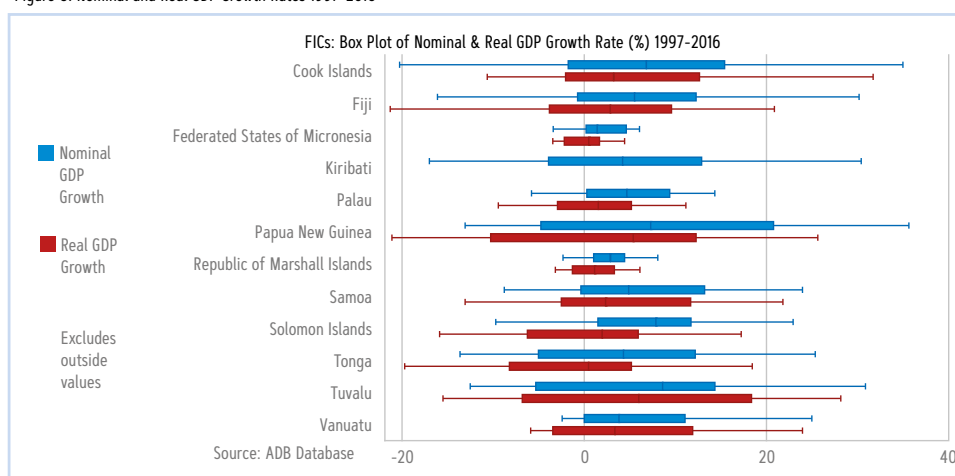
77. Despite broad-based global economic growth, there are risks because of tightening financial conditions, with associated increases in interest rates; inward looking trade protectionism and retaliation by trading partners; and rising geopolitical tensions that could derail the positive outlook. Global developments are crucial drivers of commerce, trade, financial flows and development assistance to the Pacific. Pacific economies are anticipated to grow on average by 1.9 percent in 2018 and 2.5 percent in 2019. This follows a growth of 2.8 percent in 2017. However, forecast growth is below the regional 5-year (2013-2017) average of 3.8 percent, largely because of weakening economic growth in Papua New Guinea and Nauru, down from double digit growth in the period 2013 to 2016.

78. The geographic isolation of PICTs is a key reason for lagging development in most countries. Vulnerability to disasters from natural hazards risks events, susceptibility to adverse global economic conditions<sup>55</sup>, narrow production base, low levels of productivity, and limited export variety exacerbate the challenges. High variability in major income sources (export revenues, remittances and tourism receipts); underdeveloped financial markets; reliance on foreign aid; and unreliable and high cost of doing business (such as, high transportation costs) has contributed to lower than potential economic growth and considerable fluctuations in economic output from year to year. On the long-term basis, economic growth (both in real and nominal terms) in the PICTs has been volatile with large spread, representing the inherent and external vulnerabilities (See Figure 5).

79. PICTs labour markets are especially vulnerable to climate change because agriculture, tourism and fisheries, are three of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change and are the sectors which provide most of the employment. Although a transition to a low carbon-greener economy will imply a creation of new jobs, other jobs, particularly those in sectors with fewer options for transition towards a more sustainable way of production, will be at risk.

There are three major work deficits in the Pacific; the dominance of the informal economy, gender gaps and youth unemployment.

Figure 5: Nominal and Real GDP Growth Rates 1997-2016



<sup>55</sup> Pacific countries are heavily exposed to commodity price fluctuations and are, therefore, very vulnerable to food insecurity and the impacts of a volatile international food and energy market

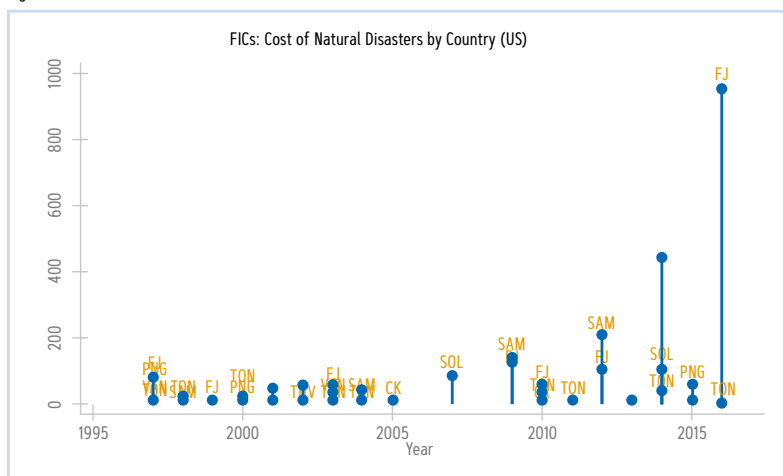


## Macroeconomic Issues and Responses

80. The 2008 Global Financial Crisis increased the development challenges for PICTs and exposed their key vulnerabilities such as limited diversification of economic base and exports; consumption driven economies; lagging reforms; and weak underlying Balance of Payment positions. Spillover effects and price shocks further exacerbated the weaknesses of these economies and their ability to respond. A key consideration in assessing vulnerability to external demand and price shocks is the country-specific exchange rate arrangement. A number of PICTs are unable to cushion these external shocks and fluctuations due to limited fiscal space and the dollarized nature of their exchange rate arrangements (that is, Eight PICTs use the US, Australian or New Zealand Dollar as their legal tender). PICTs who have their own currency arrangements have managed to better absorb some of the price shocks. However, over time they have faced issues of currency over-valuation, impacting productivity and external sustainability, and this has led to corrections in exchange rates in some cases.
81. All PICTs are increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic events. Over time, the rehabilitation and reconstruction cost for most countries has exponentially increased as a result of these events (see Figure 6). With limited fiscal space in a number of countries (especially for high debt distress countries), managing the cost of reconstruction and recovery can severely impact growth as funds are reallocated from key social sectors.

82. PICTs with a sustainable fiscal and external position (denoted by their foreign reserves as the underlying Balance of Payments position) have greater flexibility to adopt counter-cyclical fiscal policies and use accumulated foreign reserves to smooth shocks. The degree of fiscal easing should take into account the level of public debt and sustainability of external position and recognise that discretionary action should be temporary. The foreign reserves positions of selected PICTs with their own currency arrangements, shows that in the last few years most have managed to build-up sufficient foreign reserves to smooth shocks, with most having foreign reserves to adequately cover the international benchmark of 3 months of imports of goods and services. This is largely attributed to easing of global food and fuel prices in the last few years and strengthening economic sectors.
83. PICTs have limited options for dealing with economic spillovers and price shocks and as a result need to build appropriate macroeconomic and socioeconomic policy spaces to deal with events. Coordinated, forward looking and well synchronised macroeconomic policies are vital and diversification of economies with investment in early warning models will help alleviate and better prepare PICTs to deal with external shocks. Where PICTs have their own currency arrangement, active use of and some flexibility in exchange rates can also serve as an option to counter external shocks. The smallness of PICTs economies makes it difficult to respond to fluctuations in international trade and financial markets.

Figure 6: Costs of Natural Disasters across the Pacific 1995-2015



Source: EM-DAT



## Promoting Economic Growth in the Pacific

84. While the global recession exposed a number of underlying structural weaknesses in PICTs, steps were taken to try and minimise their impact. These included: i) promotion of macroeconomic stability; ii) protection of core services and the most vulnerable through strong public financial management; iii) the pursuit of economic and financial reforms to improve competitiveness; and, iv) taking a coordinated approach with development partners to weather future shocks. In a number of PICTs, economic and financial management reforms also included efforts to expand the economic base through improvements in the enabling environment for private sector activity; a strengthening of state owned enterprise governance, more focused attention on the productive sectors and inter-linkages between these sectors, such as agriculture, tourism, and fisheries; and an increased recognition of the role of women in economic development in the design of national economic strategies.

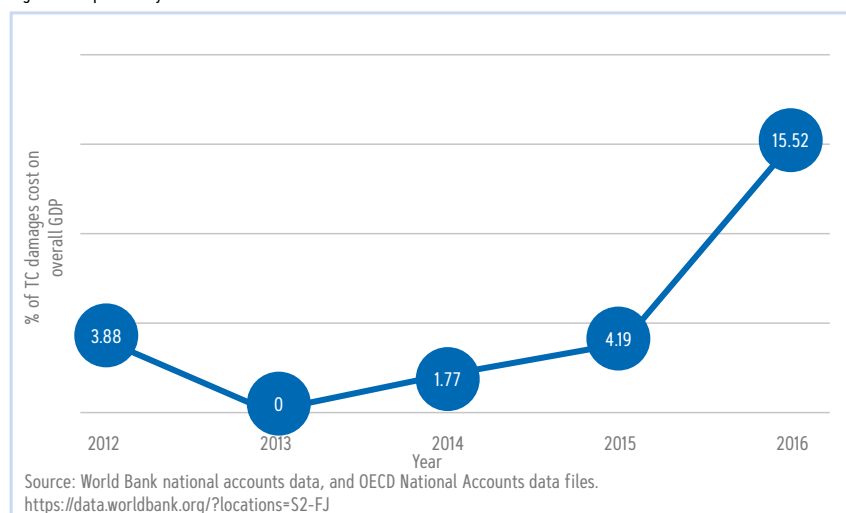
85. A country's fiscal space is impacted by the gap between current and optimal debt levels. Debt-based fiscal expansion would only appear to be viable if debt is used to finance capital projects that provide future economic returns and benefits to the economy. The recent inclusion of the potential impacts of climate change and disasters in the Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) by the IMF-WBG for Samoa and Tonga is an important step in recognising the potential impacts of

inherent vulnerability and fragility of PICTs. These will ensure that countries with high vulnerability are provided with concessional finance and grants to avoid further debt burdens.

86. Tax revenues are a constant source of development finance for most PICTs and for the majority, grants substantially supplement domestic revenues. A review of tax revenue in PICTs shows that: i) in some countries, trade liberalisation has eroded a significant portion of the import tax base and with the enactment of regional and inter-regional trade agreements, further erosion is expected; ii) although Island countries are better placed than landlocked countries to impose taxes at the border, average tariff revenue as a percentage of GDP in the period, 2008–2012, has been low in almost all PICTs; iii) generating additional revenues through presumptive tax imposes a cost on society and private sector as have recently introduced Value-Added Taxes (VAT) to supplement existing revenue streams; iv) a significant portion of potential tax revenues is lost through the provision of financial incentives to promote development and grow the private sector as well as incentives for foreign investment; v) government expenditure in most PICTs, is mainly focused on current expenditure with low levels of expenditure directed to capital creation.

87. PICTs in general have limited tax administration capacity, including a lack of access to modern IT infrastructure, and inefficient tax administration systems. In a number of PICTs, the lack of a strong link between planning and budgeting limits

Figure 7: Impact of Cyclones on the overall GDP in the Pacific





the opportunity for strengthening institutional arrangements to better manage and mobilise national revenue.

### Contribution of Tourism to PICT Economies

88. Tourism is an important sector of growth and development in the Pacific providing foreign exchange earnings, employment and income-earning opportunities for many Pacific islanders, including women. The Pacific region (16 PICTs)<sup>56</sup> received a record number of tourists in 2017 totalling 2,983,781 million of which 2,000,983 million arrived by plane and the rest by cruise ships and yachts. Fiji took the majority of the market share at 42 percent followed by French Polynesia (10 percent), Cook Islands ( 8.1 percent), Samoa (7.8 percent) and PNG (7.1 percent). Refer to Figures 8 and 9. Just over 50 percent of tourists were from Australia (29.5 percent) and New Zealand (20.8 percent). The United States of America, Europe, Other Asia, China and Japan contributed to 38 percent of arrivals. While the numbers from the United States of America, China, Japan and Europe are still relatively small, they represent potential for significant growth.

89. In 2017, total estimated tourism spending in PICTs was US\$3.35 billion. The South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) estimates that tourism contributes between 2.3 percent share of the GDP in PNG to more than 60 percent share of the GDP of Cook Islands, over 40 percent share of the GDP

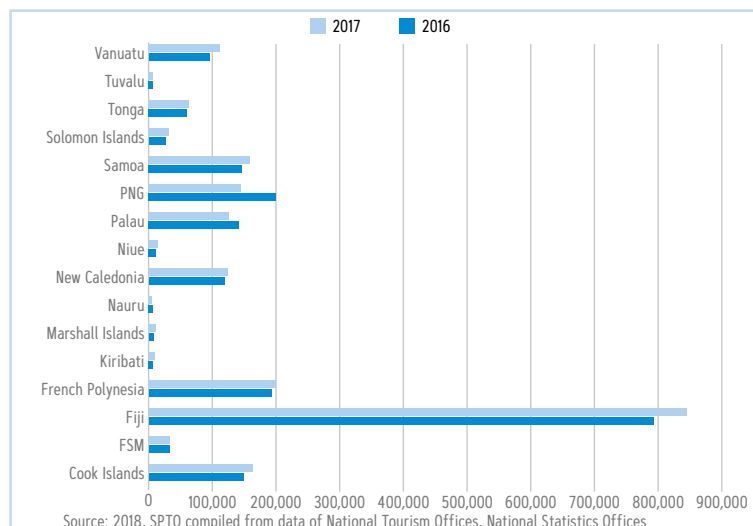
of Fiji, Vanuatu and Niue. Tourism also provided between 25 to 35 percent of total employment in the Cook Islands, Niue, Vanuatu and FSM) in 2017. Tourism will continue to be a significant source of income for PICTs with expected growth of 4% in tourism arrivals in 2019. Figure 10: Total (see Tourism Earnings by PICTs, 2017).

90. However, more arrivals do not necessarily mean more spending. For instance, Fiji received 42% of total visitors to the PICTs but earned just 26% of the total Pacific tourism earnings in 2017. Per visitor, Fiji received US\$1,005 compared to US\$3,429 for French Polynesia primarily because of price differences in the destinations.

91. The Pacific Tourism Strategy 2015-2019 coordinated by SPTO promotes more sustainable tourism which includes low-volume, high yielding and green eco-tourism to protect and preserve the Pacific’s highly sensitive ecology and biodiversity. There are current efforts to ensure more sustainable tourism including through developing, implementing and monitoring national sustainable tourism strategies and policies, as promoted under SDG target and indicator 12.b.1. Some of these efforts include the Green Tourism Project (SPTO-UNDP), the Tourism and Health Partnerships (SPTO and WHO), the SPTO-UN Partnership Projtec Proposal on Climate Resilience, zero emissions tourism sector; the SPTO-UNDP partnership with Fiji private sector on marine ecotourism.

Some remaining challenges are: i) low levels of awareness and appreciation of sustainable tourism in the Pacific; ii) lack of incentives for private

Figure 8: Total Tourist Arrivals (by Air) in PICTs in 2016 and 2017



56 16 Pacific Islands Forum Members (without Australia and New Zealand) and without SPTO’s additional 2 members- American Samoa and Timor Leste

sector investment in sustainability initiatives; iii) resources constraints for already struggling Small Medium Enterprises to implement best practices; iv) high energy costs and waste management; and, v) lack of baseline data and robust Monitoring and Evaluation systems to measure sustainability.

### Contribution of Fisheries to Pacific Economies

92. The fisheries sector is a significant contributor to Pacific economies, in particular to GDPs in Kiribati, Nauru, FSM, RMI and Tuvalu. The value of fishing to GDP (not including processing or service industries) ranges between 0.2 percent in New Caledonia to 14 percent in RMI. The value of the tuna catch taken by fleets of PICTs in 2017 represents around 45 percent of the value of the tuna catch in PICTs waters, which was estimated to be US\$2.9 billion in 2017, a significant increase on the 34 percent seen in 2014. Further there was

a doubling of revenue from fishing license fees between 2012 (US\$220 million) and 2016 (US\$470 million) primarily due to the success of the Parties to Nauru Agreement Vessel Day Scheme and a 17 percent increase in the locally based tuna catch and a decline of 20 percent for foreign vessels between 2014 and 2017. In addition to tuna fisheries the value of coastal fisheries (commercial and subsistence) was estimated at US\$450 million and aquaculture – mainly pearl production from French Polynesia – at US\$110 million. A 2015 SPC and FFA fisheries study highlighted the decline of coastal fisheries production between 2007 and 2014 impacting food security and livelihoods of the large coastal Pacific population.

93. With regard to tuna, stocks of the four main species albacore, bigeye, skipjack and yellowfin are all biological healthy according with the stock not overfished nor is overfishing occurring. However, there is concern in relation to catch rates

Figure 9: Percentage share of tourism arrivals (y air) in the Pacific, 2017

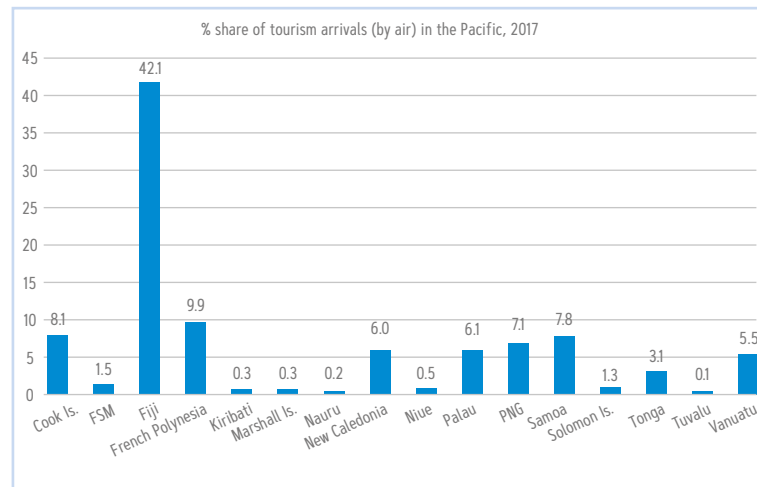
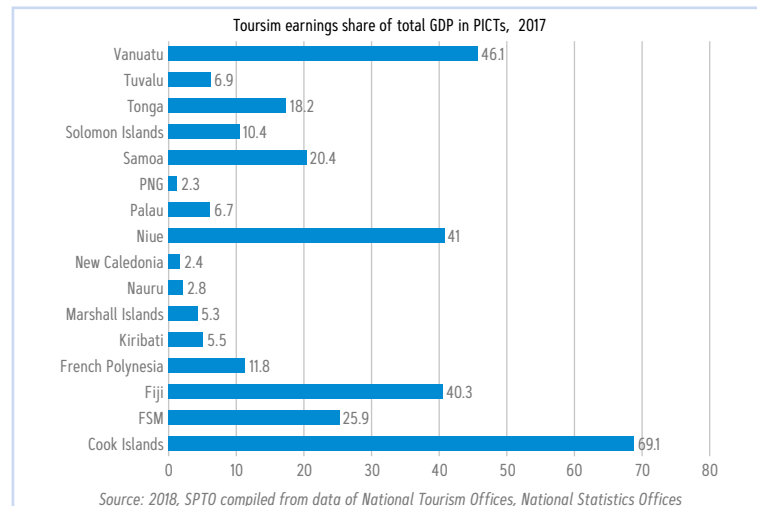


Figure 10: Total Tourism Earnings by PICTs, 2017



and the economic status of some tuna fisheries, particularly the southern longline fishery for which albacore is the primary species. The tuna industry provides around 22,000 jobs across the region, with the largest number (53 percent) employed in tuna processing in Papua New Guinea. An average 47 percent of coastal households earn their first or second income from selling fish they catch.

- 94. A 2015 SPC and FFA fisheries study highlighted the following issues for PICTs action: i) the stagnation or decline of 6 percent in coastal fisheries production between 2007 and 2014 and its impact on the largely coastal Pacific population and their dependence on coastal fisheries for food security and livelihoods; and, ii) the fact that four countries, within the area of productive tuna fishing, have no locally-based offshore fishery production.
- 95. To address these challenges, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at their 2015 Meeting affirmed the central

importance of maximising the economic returns and ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries in the region. Leaders also endorsed the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries and directed that increases in the economic returns from the fisheries sector be achieved within five years. A Task Force, consisting of SPC, FFA, PNA Office and the PIFS, is implementing a work programme to support this priority. The Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries aims to: increase the share of locally based fishing industry and revenue; increase employment, trade and investment facilitation; and, assistance to national fisheries agencies and local communities to manage coastal fisheries resources.

- 96. Remittances are significant in the incomes and growth of Pacific peoples and economies. They contribute to individual and family incomes as well as foreign exchange for countries with central banks. According to the World Development

Figure 11: Tourism earnings share of total GDP in PICTs, 2017

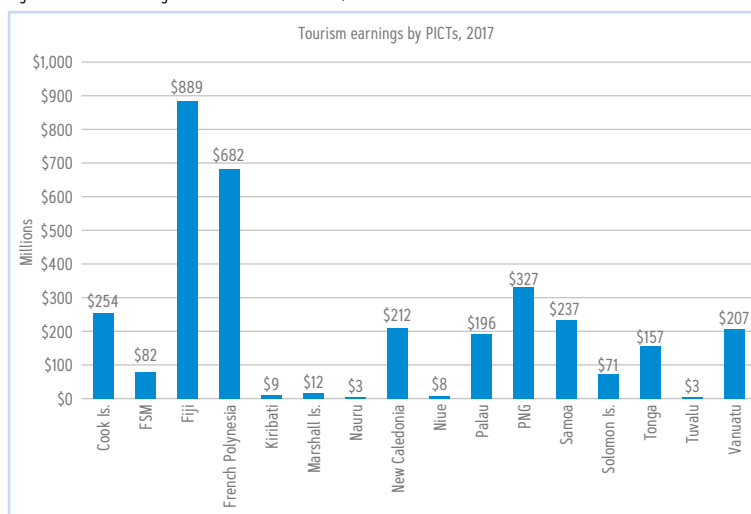
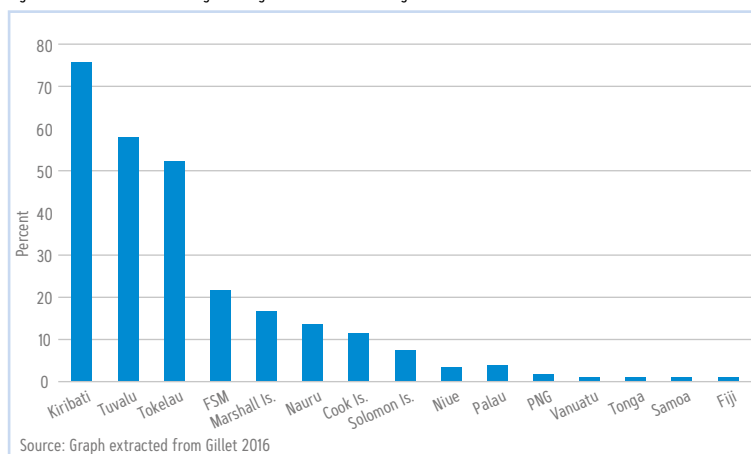


Figure 12: Access Fees for Foreign Fishing in 2014 as % of total government revenue



Source: Graph extracted from Gillet 2016



Indicators, remittances account for more than 7 percent of Pacific Island Small states GDP<sup>57</sup>. On average, remittances' contribution to the GDP of Tonga (26 percent), Samoa (20 percent), the Republic of Marshall Islands (14 percent), and Tuvalu (13 percent) are well above the regional average of 7 percent over the last 10 years.

97. However, the average cost of sending remittances to the Pacific is between 8 to 12 percent of the value of the remittance, which is up to four times higher than Agenda 2030 target of 3 percent. The closure of Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) in the Pacific in particular remains a risk to low-cost remittances in the Pacific. A major driver of these closures has been the "de-risking" of the sector by commercial banks, leading to a loss of banking services in the sector<sup>58</sup>. The recent report by the Financial Stability Board to the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors provided

key recommendations to address the decline in correspondent banking relationship including on promotion of dialogue and communication between the banking and remittance sectors and the use of innovation in the remittance sector and its possible role in enabling remittance service providers' greater access to banking services<sup>59</sup>.

98. The Forum Economic Ministers have called for continuous and concerted effort by all relevant stakeholders, including the development partners and the national governments, to address the issues around de-risking and its impact on remittances flows to the Pacific.

### Energy

99. The Pacific has the highest petroleum fuel dependency of any region in the world which continues to undermine economic resilience in PICTs. While it is among the most vulnerable to

Figure 13: Fishing licence & access fee revenue collected by PICTs.

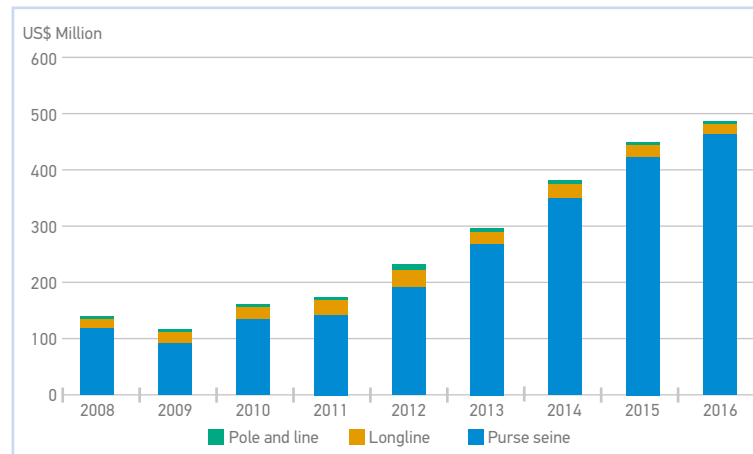
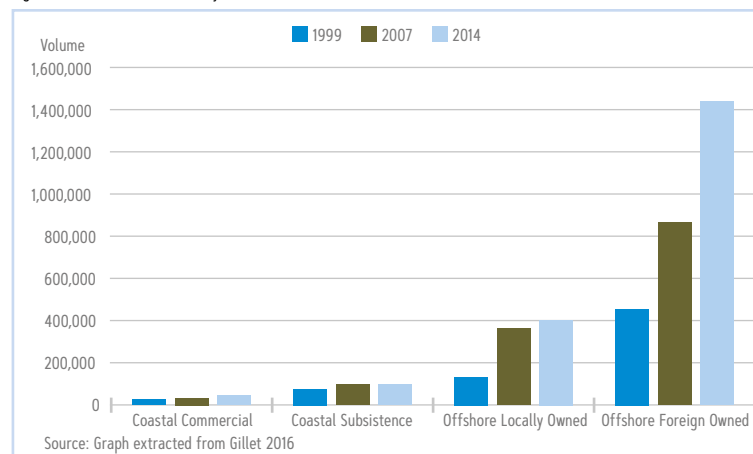


Figure 14: Fisheries Production by volume: 1999, 2007, 2014



57 World bank classification and includes Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

58 2018 FEMM paper on Update on Remittances, Palau, 2018.

59 Financial Stability Board Report, 2018, available from: <http://www.fsb.org/2018/03/fsb-publishes-progress-report-on-addressing-declines-in-correspondent-banking-and-recommendations-on-remittances/>



the impact of climate change, its energy system is still largely driven by carbon intensive sources of energy. Oil price volatility greatly undermines energy security in the Pacific, with increasing oil prices disproportionately affecting low-income countries. It undermines macro-economic stability, the balance of trade, the financial situation of major end-users such as power utilities and household disposable income. The largest portion of the fossil fuels imported into the region is consumed in the transport sector in particular shipping, which needs greater focus if significant reductions in fossil fuel reliance are to be achieved.

100. Energy access remains alarmingly low in most of the Melanesian countries where a total of around seven million people still do not have access to electricity. This greatly hinders development opportunities in these countries given the central importance of modern energy services for sustainable development.
101. While there has been a general decrease in the cost of fossil fuel imports as a percentage of GDP between 2009 and 2015, the costs of electricity and petroleum products in the Pacific are still among the highest in the world. There is a very large variance in the price of fuel between PICTs, some of which can be explained by market size, remoteness and the absence of economies of scale with highest costs in Nauru, PNG, Tonga and Tuvalu. These costs are further exasperated by inefficiencies, for instance, the total losses in some power utilities are quite high at above 20 percent and contribute directly to high tariffs. Several Pacific governments have undertaken regulatory reforms by enacting legislations to empower regulators to regulate the energy sector to improve performance in the provision of energy services.
102. In several countries there has been an increase in the percentage of the population who have access to electricity from 2009 to 2015, with the increase in national electrification levels largely coming from household access to off-grid systems such as photovoltaic solar home systems. With respect to the SDG target 7.1, a number of countries have achieved or are close to achieving universal access to electricity, resulting in gains in the average electrification rate in the region, notwithstanding very diverse rates of electrification from country to country. Nearly all the households in Niue, Nauru, Palau, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu have both electricity and fossil fuel access. However, there are low-income households in most of the region that use little petroleum fuel or electricity because of high costs, even though these can be easily accessed. In Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands there are very significant gaps in electricity and/or fossil fuel access. In general, biomass access is not a problem in the Pacific, except in urbanised atolls.
103. Given the potential impact, overall energy efficiency investments at the national level appear to be significantly more attractive than renewable energy but has generally not been a priority of countries or development partners. More recently, there has been an increased focus on both demand and supply side efficiency in the electricity systems. For example, on the demand side Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and labelling has been introduced in Tuvalu with the 2016 Energy Efficiency Act and the Energy Efficiency of Electrical Appliances and Equipment and Lighting Products Act 2016 in Vanuatu. Land, sea and air transport accounts for around 75 percent of the region's petroleum fuel use, however there has been limited (if any) progress in this sector<sup>60</sup>.
104. Pacific Leaders have recognised the centrality of energy security to resilient sustainable development. Goal 2 of the Leaders endorsed FRDP aims to reduce carbon intensity of development processes, increasing the efficiency of end-use energy consumption and enhancing the resilience of energy infrastructure, thereby increasing energy security while decreasing net greenhouse gas emissions. The following are regional energy priority actions: i) show global leadership in the greenhouse gas reduction efforts through a region that is 100 percent powered by renewable energy ii) reaching universal access to energy; iii) increasing the share of renewables in the energy mix; iv) energy efficiency measures in the transport, industry, and building sectors; v) institutional, legislative and regulatory reforms in the energy sector; and, vi) collecting, centralizing,

<sup>60</sup> <http://edd.spc.int/en/document-download/finish/11-reports/1993-pacific-islands-fuel-pricing-manual-english-copy>



analysing and disseminating energy-related data and policy relevant information. Three regional partnerships in the energy sector are addressing some of the challenges. They are the: i) Pacific Regional Data Repository (PRDR for SE4All); ii) Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE); and, iii) Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST).

## Sustainable Transport

105. Mobility underpins the sustainable development of PICTs<sup>61</sup>. Within the Pacific, most of the islands are scattered and widely dispersed with some so remote that air or shipping services are non-existent or inadequate because of the economic costs and operational challenges involved in servicing such locations. As a result, people on these islands do not have the same level of access to economic opportunities and social services and therefore are disadvantaged. The transport sector is therefore a key driver for socio-economic development and provides job opportunities and essential services for communities' livelihood that are critical for supporting isolated and small communities' socio-economic needs such as education, healthcare, employment, tourism, emergency services, and the import and export of materials and goods, which are crucial for food security among others. The transport sector is the biggest consumer of petroleum products in the Pacific, taking up about 75% of the fuel supplied to the region. Transport infrastructure

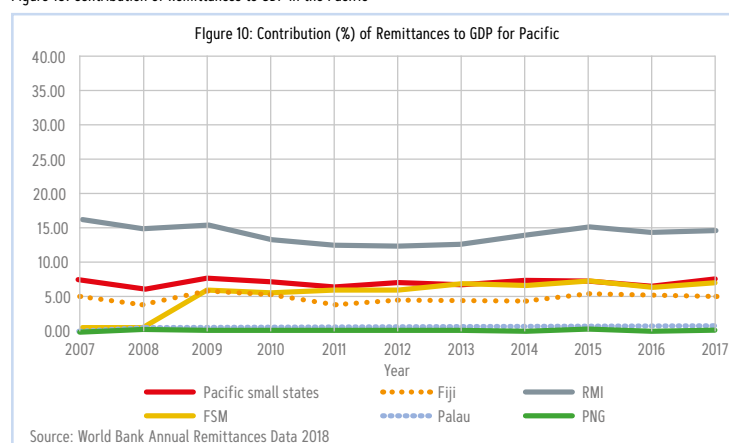
and adapted modes of transport need to be developed to respond to needs and provide reliable and affordable services.

106. In terms of maritime transport, Fiji and PNG are the most well-connected of the PICTs. FSM, Palau, Kiribati and Marshall Islands remain the least connected. The PICTs are also the most distant from each other, Fiji is closer to Australia than to Papua New Guinea and Palau is closer to Asia than to most other PICTs. While for the average country the cost of international transport is approximately 9 percent of the value of imports, it is about 10 percent for the Pacific - in 2017 this amounted to US\$3billion.<sup>62</sup>

107. Maritime transport is responsible for about 2.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Given the predicted increase, of between 50 percent and 250 percent by 2050, current trends are incompatible with the internationally agreed goal of keeping global temperature increase to below 2°C. The Paris Agreement requires worldwide emissions to be at least halved from 1990 levels by 2050 and the recent IMO agreement to cut the shipping sector's overall CO2 output by 50 percent by 2050 while welcomed, is grossly inadequate for meeting the global emission targets. For many PICTs, existing maritime transport services are increasingly unaffordable and unsustainable, with fossil fuel as the largest single operating cost for shipping operators.

108. Various frameworks and declarations from Pacific Leaders have highlighted the need for safer and more efficient transport services in Pacific that

Figure 15: Contribution of Remittances to GDP in the Pacific



61 Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, American Samoa (United States), French Polynesia (France), Guam (United States), New Caledonia (France), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (United States), Pitcairn Islands (United Kingdom), Tokelau (New Zealand) and Wallis and Futuna (France).

62 UNCTAD and ESCAP



are accessible to all and contribute to low carbon development in the Pacific. Regional frameworks for policy and actions on transport include the Framework for Action for Transport Services 2011-2020 which identifies national and regional priorities.

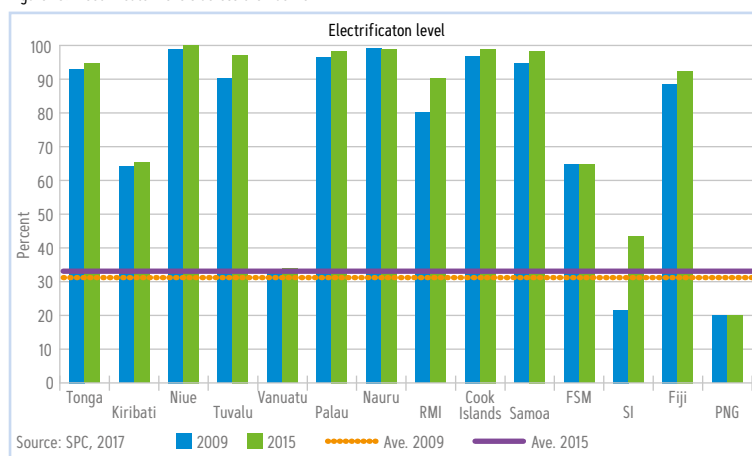
## ICT and Connectivity

109. Information and communications technology (ICT) is important in overcoming the challenges of distance and isolation. A deregulation of telecommunications' markets in the early 2000s, led to a major expansion in ICT connectivity.<sup>63</sup> By 2015, 10 PICTs had access to high-speed and high-bandwidth capacity submarine cables, which replaced or complemented satellite access. It is expected that by 2020, every PICT will be connected by a submarine cable. Most islands have between 80% and 95% mobile coverage with 2.5/3G/4G in the capital city and plans to roll that out to rural areas in the next few years.
110. The main ICT challenge is driving digital transformation while continuing to develop the infrastructure. The broadband divide continues to widen within the Pacific and between the Pacific and other parts of Asia-Pacific and of the world in fixed- and mobile-broadband with the most recent information on market shares (i.e. subscription per 100) showing differences within the region and between fixed and mobile broadband. Affordability, measured as

a percentage of gross national income (GNI) spent on broadband services (i.e. less than 5 percent indicates affordability), is a challenge for the Pacific. Most recent figures show Tonga (2 percent) and Fiji (4 percent) as the most affordable of the PICTs, which reflects the high mobile-broadband penetration (of 56 and 54.3 per 100), respectively. PNG (9 percent), FSM (9 percent), Solomon Islands (9 percent) and Vanuatu (10 percent) are the least affordable of the PICTs. A recent World Bank<sup>64</sup> report projected that ICT-enabled opportunities have the potential of increasing growth rates depending on levels of investment.

111. In 2016, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders identified ICT as a game changer for development in the region<sup>65</sup>. Using broadband connectivity and digital technologies will enable more efficient operations, better decision making and stronger collaboration and partnerships. The capacity of the ICT sector to implement and sustain digital transformation needs strengthening and requires multi-sectoral partnerships. USP chairs a regional ICT working group to facilitate coordination and strengthen ICT collaboration under the Pacific Regional ICT Strategic Action Plan (PRISAP). ICT Ministerial Meetings have been held in the past but there is no regular intergovernmental meeting.
112. Key partners in the Pacific include Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) and Pacific ICT Regulatory Resource Centre, ITU,

Figure 16: Electrification levels across the Pacific



63 Increase in teledensity (fixed line/mobile) and Internet subscriptions per 100 people.

64 Broadband divide is the difference in the ratio in penetration rates (or fixed broadband or mobile) between the different groups of economies, between women and men, young and elderly, and different regions (ITU, 2007)

65 See ESCAP 'Broadband Connectivity in Pacific Island Countries' 2017



World Bank, private sector operators including Digicel and the Asia-Pacific Tele-community. The partners are developing Digital Transformation strategies and initiatives that regional development agencies and other sectors should be engaged in. Cybersecurity was identified by Leaders as a critical issue and capacity building and policy development has commenced. There is a gender imbalance with few women in the ICT sector.

113. Some of the collaborative work across the partners include:
- Connectivity, with ADB/World Bank, Governments and Companies;
  - Regulatory issues, data, monitoring and evaluation of ICT, with the PRIRD based at USP, World Bank, USP and others;
  - e-Government, with governments and development partners;
  - e-Commerce, with Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) and firms;
  - e-Learning, with USP and Ministries of Education;
  - e-Health, with World Health Organisation and governments; and
  - Disaster management with governments and regional organisations.

### Planet and Sustainable Environmental Management (SDGs 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

114. The Pacific Ocean spans 90 million sq. km (with PICTs EEZs comprising 40 million sq. km) and is ecologically one of the richest regions on earth, ranging from mountain forest ecosystems and volcanic islands to low lying coral atolls and deep

### Data Availability and Challenges

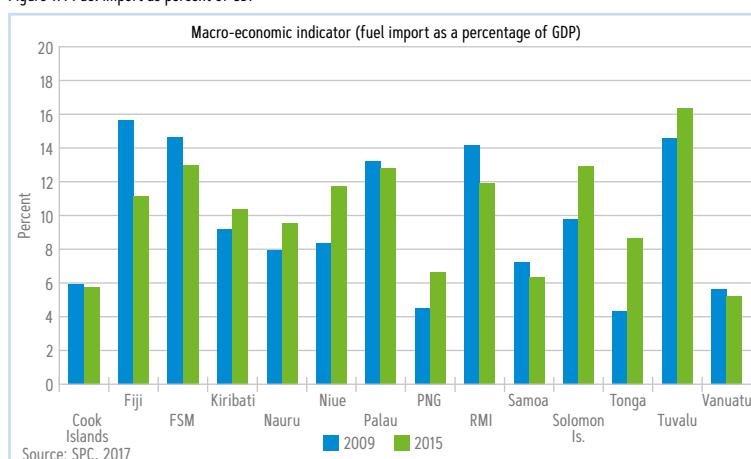
Twenty-three of the 132 regional SDG indicators come under the pillar of Prosperity/Economic Development, and there is baseline data (defined as at least one-half of member countries having relevant data) for 11 of these indicators.

Good data coverage on electricity (access and renewable energy), and key economic indicators (GDP, unemployment, manufacturing employment, tourism share of GDP, and aid for trade flows) is counterbalanced by poor data coverage in other indicators (remittance costs, average hourly earnings, average income of small scale food producers, youth not in education, employment or training, and sustainable tourism).

Data deficiencies will be addressed in part through the inclusion of new questions in household surveys, the inclusion of labour force surveys in some country collection schedules, and through information sharing with financial institutions (to report remittance costs, and proportion of population with a bank account).

ocean trenches. The huge expanse of ocean and seas supports the most extensive and diverse coral reefs in the world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and the healthiest and in some cases, the largest remaining populations of many globally threatened species including whales and dolphins, sea turtles, dugongs, sharks, rays and saltwater crocodiles. Many of these endemic and threatened species are of material value or spiritual and cultural significance to Pacific people. However, the rich Pacific Island

Figure 17: Fuel Import as percent of GDP





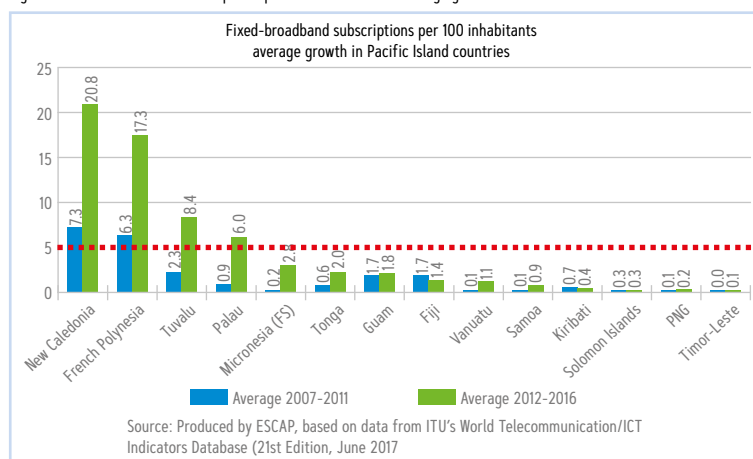
biodiversity is under intense pressure from natural and human-induced disturbance, invasive species, population growth and other threats<sup>66</sup>.

115. The region’s biodiversity is the basis of life and sustains crucial planetary environmental functions. It helps to regulate climate through, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, reducing the impact of waves and flash floods and contributing to water regulation, nutrient cycling and erosion control. The Pacific’s oceanic resources are an important source of food, livelihood, and employment, economic and cultural development. Fisheries contribute up to 60 percent to national incomes for 5 PICTs, and provide the first or second income for 47 percent of coastal households. Pacific populations consume 3-5 times more fish than the global average<sup>67</sup>. However, the importance of the marine and oceanic resources extends well beyond the PICTs. The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) provides 2.7 million tonnes of sustainably caught tuna for the global market or more than 58 percent of global supply annually - providing 20 percent of total global protein<sup>68</sup>. The Pacific Ocean generates about USD 3.6 billion in total global fisheries production.

116. The increasing frequency and intensity of disasters from extreme natural hazard risk events, climate change impacts and increasing land and ocean pollution and contamination are already impacting the Pacific Ocean, coastal areas, homes, infrastructure, food and water security and livelihoods. The anticipated effects of global warming on the region’s coral reefs is expected to cause decreases of 20 percent in coral reef fisheries<sup>69</sup> and between 27 and 32 percent in tourism earnings, by 2050<sup>70</sup>. The recent cyclones in the Pacific caused significant damage to people’s homes, livelihoods and set back national development in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Disasters cost PICTs an average 2 percent of GDP annually and increased from 3.8 percent of regional GDP in 2012 to 15.6 percent of total regional GDP in 2016 and as high as 30 percent of Fiji’s GDP in 2016 and 64 percent of Vanuatu’s GDP in 2015.<sup>71</sup>

117. Pacific Leaders have been at the forefront of global policy making to address these challenges having ratified all major Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)<sup>72</sup>. They have identified climate change as the region’s single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of Pacific people. Climate change will affect countries

Figure 18: Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants – average growth in the PICTs



66 SPREP 2018

67 SPC 2008. Status Report: Nearshore and Reef Fisheries and Aquaculture. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia. Bell, J.D., Kronen, M., Vunisea, A., Nash, W.J., Keeble, G., Demmke, A., Pontifex, S. and Andrefouet, S. 2009: Planning the use of fish for food security in the Pacific. Marine Policy 33: pp 64-76

68 Lehodey, P., Hampton, J, Brill, R.W., Nicol, S., Senina, I., Calmettes, B., Portner, H.O., Bopp, L., Ilyina, T., Bell, J.D. and Silbert, J. 2011: Vulnerability of oceanic fisheries in the tropical Pacific to climate change. In: J.D. Bell, J.E. Johnson, and A.J. Hobday (eds) Vulnerability of Tropical Pacific Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change. Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Noumea, New Caledonia.

69 Bell, J. D., Ganachaud, A., Gehrke, P. C., Griffiths, S. P., Hobday, A. J., Hoegh-Guldberg, O., & Matear, R. J. 2013: Mixed responses of tropical Pacific fisheries and aquaculture to climate change. Nature Climate Change, 3(6), 591-59

70 The Economics of Climate Change in the Pacific, ADB 2013

71 International Monetary Fund (2016) Resilience and growth in small states of the Pacific. Washington DC

72 All fourteen Forum Island Countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and most importantly the Paris Agreement. FICs are also party or signatory to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Protocols such as the Convention on Migratory Species, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, World Heritage Convention and the Biosafety Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization” (Nagoya Protocol) of the CBD.

73 Some of these policy frameworks include the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020, Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific, Pacific Islands Regional Marine Species Programme 2013-2017, Oceania Humpback Whale Recovery plan, the Pacific Islands Regional Guidelines for Whale and Dolphin Watching, and the Pacific Oceanscape Framework

74 Holland, P., 2014, Hydro meteorological Disasters in the Pacific – Statistical summary. (SPC PR187) [https://library.wmo.int/pmb\\_ged/2014\\_spc-wmo-unisdr\\_hydrmeteorological-disasters-pacific\\_en.pdf](https://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/2014_spc-wmo-unisdr_hydrmeteorological-disasters-pacific_en.pdf)



in the Pacific but will vary in nature and extent from country to country, and there are a range of regional policy frameworks, programmes and projects designed to guide environmental, climate change, disaster risk and oceans management and biodiversity conservation in the Pacific<sup>73</sup>.

## Climate Change and disaster risk reduction (SDGs 11 and 13)

118. The Pacific region is highly exposed to natural hazards both geophysical (such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis) and climate-related (such as cyclones, flooding, landslides and droughts<sup>74</sup>). In 2017, the Pacific was identified by the World Risk Report as the region with the highest disaster risk from a five-year perspective, and the only region where the vulnerability of populations to extreme natural events had risen (Vanuatu and Tonga were assessed to be the most vulnerable, with a further four PICTs identified amongst the fifteen most vulnerable countries on earth).<sup>75</sup> The effects of climate change intensify extreme weather events and cause long term degradation to ecosystems upon which peoples livelihoods depend. This exacerbates the existing development challenges of the region.
119. Since the late 1980s, Pacific Leaders have consistently stated their concerns to the international community, in particular the need to keep temperature rise to 1.5 degrees warming above pre-industrial levels, due to the existential threats faced by PICTs.<sup>76</sup> PICTs were among the first to sign and ratify the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement.<sup>77</sup> Starting with their work preparing the first National Communications to the UNFCCC, all PICTs have established national climate change units – some have become fully fledged Ministries (such as in Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu). Much progress has been made in both mitigation and adaptation, and valuable lessons have been learned from regional projects such as the PACC, PIGGAREP and GCCA. However, much more work remains to be done. Though the region contributes a mere 0.03 percent of global emissions,<sup>78</sup> PIF Leaders have shown their commitment to the Paris Agreement with highly ambitious Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs). That commitment will be supported through the Regional NDC Hub, whereby NDCs will be reviewed to ascertain the feasibility of including other sectors such as transportation and waste. This exemplifies PICTs leadership in their ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (mitigation needs) and National Adaptation Plans targets for the Paris Agreement, as noted in Annex 1.
120. The region has promising renewable energy potential and has adopted ambitious renewable energy targets. While advances have been made in renewable energy and energy efficiency, progress has been slow with limited improvement in access and affordability. The Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) aims to empower the private sector to invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency. PCREEE is part of a global network of regional centres to promote SIDS-SIDS collaboration on sustainable energy.
121. To achieve the SDGs, tackling the dual threats of climate change and disasters is essential. By building resilience and ensuring that all development is risk-informed, countries and communities can protect against losses and simultaneously boost economic growth, create jobs and livelihoods, strengthen access to health and education, and ensure that no one is left behind. At national level, countries have progressed the integration of DRM and Climate Change (CC) activities through the development of Joint National Action Plans for CC and DRM, as well as other integrated and inclusive approaches. At the regional level, the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) is an integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk<sup>79</sup> was endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2016. It provides high levels guidance to stakeholders on how to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters, and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the UNFCCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.
122. The 2015 regional climate change impact assessment reports,<sup>80</sup> highlight the issues each PICT is likely to face under various climate change scenarios, as identified by the IPCC 5th Assessment Report. It reinforces the findings of

75 BÜNDNIS ENTWICKLUNG HILFT (2017) World Risk Report 2017. Berlin: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilt - [http://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WRR\\_2017\\_E2.pdf](http://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WRR_2017_E2.pdf)

76 See Pacific Islands Forum Communiqués since 1990 and onwards [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)

77 See UNFCCC website [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

78 Hay and Stern, 1999

79 Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: <http://gsd.spc.int/frdp/>

80 Pacific-Australia Climate Change Science Adaptation Planning (PACCSAP) program

81 PACCSAP project

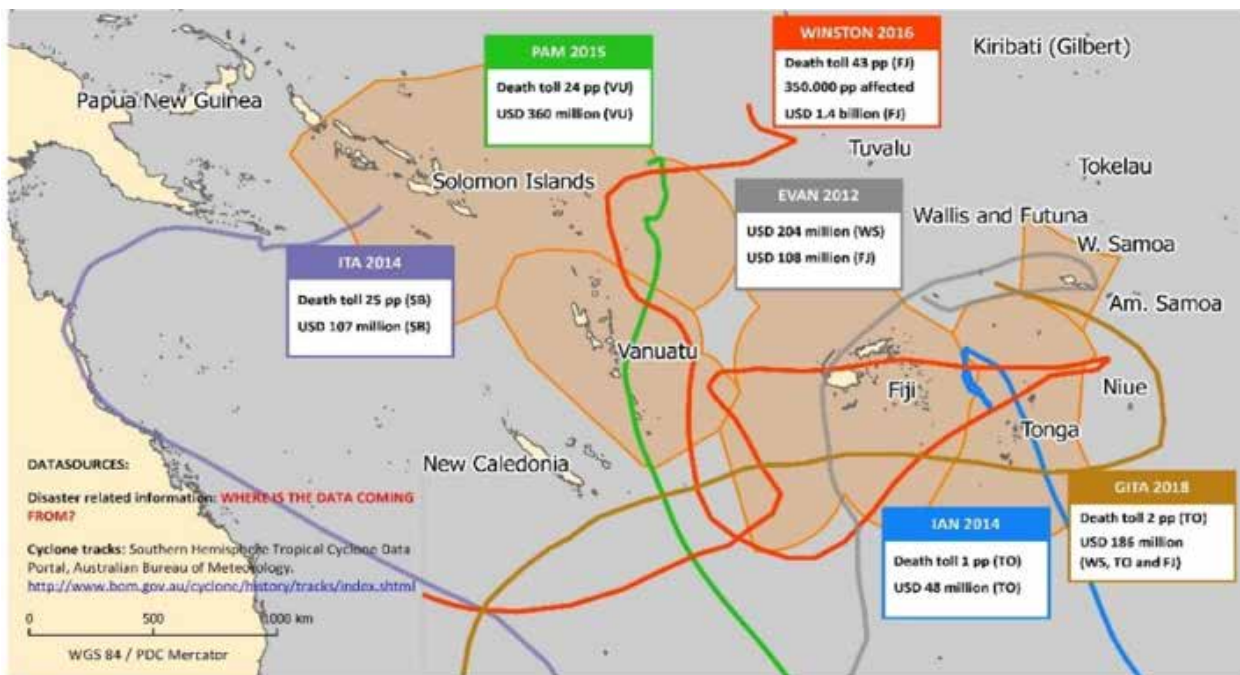


the UNFCCC National Communications. Some of the greatest concerns for PICTs are:

- Sea Level Rise (SLR):** The region is sensitive to SLR given the low lying islands and atolls, population densities along the coast as well as the location of critical infrastructure and development in coastal areas. Current projections<sup>81</sup> suggest SLR will increase between 20cm and 60cm in the Western Pacific, by 2100. More recent studies, which account for global ice melt, suggest that SLR could be even greater at +1m if global emissions continue at current rates. The greatest concern is that globally, critical tipping points may be passed, locking in irreversible SLR in the future. There is evidence that the Greenland ice sheet may face irreversible decline around 1.6°C of warming above pre-industrial levels, which would be catastrophic for many Pacific communities. Figures 20 and 21 show maps of Saloluaafata Village in Samoa taken in 2017, and expected sea level inundation based on current sea level rise predictions for the year 2100, which indicate sea level rise for Saoluaafata Village and Apia Town of 1 meter.

- Ocean acidification and rising Sea Surface Temperature:** The current rate and magnitude of ocean acidification is at least 10 times faster than any event within the last 65 million years. Ocean acidification will affect marine organisms that produce calcium carbonate shells or skeletons, and as a consequence affect the ocean ecosystem where these organisms play a vital role within food webs, nutrient cycling and in habitat creation (such as coral reefs). Rising sea surface temperatures and marine heat waves will also affect coral reefs leading to a likely increase in the frequency of bleaching events. Some projections indicate that under a 2°C warming above pre-industrial levels scenario, by 2050 - virtually all coral reefs globally (that is 98 percent) will be suffering from permanent degradation due to bleaching and/or ocean acidification.<sup>82</sup> Loss of coral reefs has direct implications for the populations of reef fish they support, and this in turn food security.
- Water security:** The occurrence of moderate meteorological droughts is expected to decrease for most PICTs, although increased

Figure 19: Costs of Cyclones over the past 5 years in the Pacific as percentage of GDP



Source: World Bank (See below for the overall GDP in PICTs<sup>86</sup>)

82 Schlessner C-F, Lissner T, Fischer E, Wohland J, Perrette M, Golly A, Rogelj J, Childers K, Schewe J, Frieler K, Hare W and Schaeffer M (2016) Differential climate impacts for policy relevant limits to global warming: the case of 1.5°C and 2°C Earth Syst. Dyn. 7 327–51; Climate Analytics (2016) The Low Carbon Monitor: Pursuing the 1.5C Limit Benefits & Opportunities. For the United Nations Development Programme and the Climate Vulnerable Forum

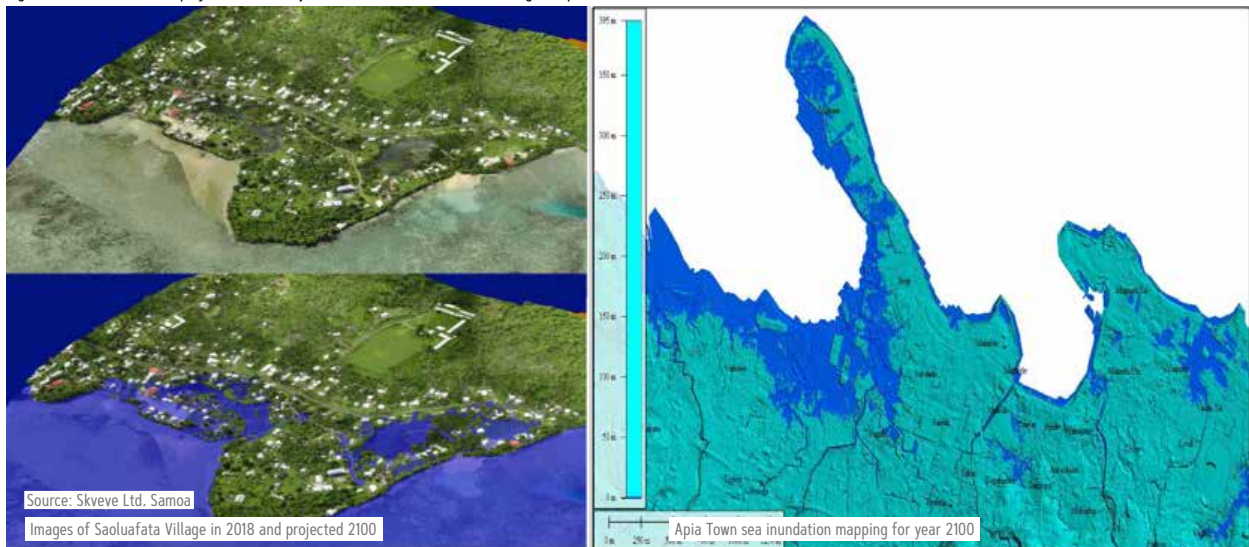


evapotranspiration, water demand (from sectors and/or population growth) and projected increases in extreme ENSO frequency can also impact water security. Many atolls and small Pacific Islands such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, RMI and Nauru with limited water storage and high variability in precipitation levels already face major challenges with water security. This is exacerbated by saline intrusion to freshwater supplies which is a growing problem. This is being addressed through major water projects funded by the EU, the World Bank and other development partners in these atoll islands who are installing water harvesting and storage systems (such as water tanks) at household and community levels.

- Extreme events: Research into the connection between tropical cyclones and climate change is limited however, current indications are that while the frequency of tropical cyclones may decrease, the intensity of such storms is projected to increase with increases in the global temperature. In addition, extreme precipitation events have been found to scale-up, with the moisture carrying capacity. Extreme rainfall events are therefore likely to intensify by about 6 percent per degree Celcius increase of warming (globally), thus increasing the risk of flooding in the region.

123. In the last 10 years, the Pacific has recognised the need to align adaptation approaches with national policies and strategies and the necessity to work with communities to develop and implement solutions that are sustainable. In parallel to this, the region has established ambitious mitigation targets for the energy sector and has advanced several practical approaches to renewable energy and energy efficiency.<sup>83</sup>
124. While progress has been made, and PICTs have strategies for how to meet their adaptation and mitigation ambitions, challenges remain in accessing resources because of capacity constraints. While a more programmatic approach is a priority for Pacific Leaders, project-based interventions remain the norm for climate change initiatives in the region. Whatever the approach, the investment required for and by PICTs remains large. For example, the cost of US\$500,000 to prepare a US\$9 million FSM Adaptation Fund project. The high level of detailed information and research required by international funds also remains an obstacle for PICTs.
125. Response efforts to recent disasters in the Pacific, such as that experienced during Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam 2015, TC Winston 2016 and the slow onset of drought in the RMI over the 2015 to

Figures 20 & 21: Inundation projections for the year 2100 in Samoa (Saoluafata Village & Apia Town)



83 FAESP and PIGGAREP



2016 period, highlighted the need for increased capacity to improve coordination domestically with their international and regional humanitarian partners and donor governments. National private sector and civil society response efforts while well intentioned, are often ad hoc and not coordinated through National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs). NDMOs have sought international assistance for specialist support to coordinate the work of development partners and the military particularly during extreme disaster events such as the recent Category 5 cyclones.

126. There are a number of challenges with implementation of the FRDP. The proliferation of DRM and CC networks and partnerships, including those that currently exist at the national level, suggest that there is a need for these to be aligned with the PRP to support FRDP implementation. A second challenge is the limited financing available for implementing the FRDP.
127. Although PICTs recognise the importance of accessing and using risk information, the capabilities needed and resources required are still out of their reach. Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) infrastructure and connectivity issues also limit country capacity to access and analyse risk information for informed decision-making.
128. Multi-hazard end-to-end early warning systems remain a challenge in the Pacific. Some countries do not have systems in place for forecasting, detecting and monitoring key hazards beyond cyclones. There is also limited capacity to analyse the risks posed in order to develop actionable and targeted warning messages for the public. All of which is compounded by limited access to suitable technologies for disseminating advance warnings, though a few countries have invested in the installation of communication equipment and infrastructure to ensure warnings from NDMOs reach communities. Also critical is the requisite response by communities to warning messages, especially vulnerable groups. Despite these challenges, there has been some progress with investments in sirens, collaboration with telecommunications companies for early warning through mobile phones, and ongoing community based preparedness, drills and awareness

programmes in the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tokelau, FSM and Solomon Islands.

129. As climate change continues to contribute to increasing weather related hazards and associated risks, Pacific governments are exploring ways to lessen national exposure and vulnerability to risks through a mixture of financing instruments and measures. In the future, some of these challenges can best be addressed through the full implementation of the FRDP, ongoing steps to strengthen national and inter-regional coordinated responses, strengthened investment in resilience and strengthened multi-hazard early warning capabilities. All of this needs to be accompanied by an increase in risk financing and insurance. There is a need to expand the establishment of national disaster funds, regional insurance instruments, national insurance cover for public assets and micro-insurance products for communities, households and small to medium enterprises (SME) as well as investments in infrastructure. In 2016, the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) was established under the second phase of the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI 2) and has already demonstrated its utility. Following TC Gita, Tonga received US\$3.75 million from the PCRIC, in addition to US\$7 million from the ADB's Disaster Resilience Programme. PIFS continues to work with its members to elaborate the establishment of a Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) to strengthen the risk prevention for the financial resilience of PICTs; provide cost-efficient and contextualised financing options for risk resilient development; strengthen partnerships with development partners to harness support for disaster risk reduction and preparedness; and encourage capacity development in national climate and disaster risk budgeting and financing.

## Ocean Management and Fisheries (SDG 14)

130. The sustainable use and management of the Pacific Ocean is a central priority of the Pacific region. Since 1970, there have been seven regional declarations on the sustainable use and conservation of the Pacific Ocean. In 2013, the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner (OPOC) was established to coordinate the development



and monitoring of Pacific Ocean related policies and plans. The Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Blue Pacific identity and vision reaffirms the importance of increasing economic returns and ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries' in the region. At the global level, the Pacific was instrumental in the establishment of SDG 14 on Oceans and its importance globally at the inaugural UN Oceans Conference held in June 2017.

131. The S.A.M.O.A Pathway specifically addresses oceans, with reference to sustainable use, conservation, pollution, research, coral reefs, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, small-scale fisheries development and management, subsidies capacity, cooperation, and commits to a target of creating protected areas across 10 percent of the Pacific Ocean. Many of these issues have been taken into account in both national and regional agendas. PICTs have the largest collective EEZ in the world, with fisheries crucial to the food security, livelihoods and economic development of the region. Of particular concern are the contraventions to agreements to fishing rights.
132. In terms of SDG target 14.4 - ending overfishing, the region has a good record with regard to the region's largest fishery (tropical tuna). As of 2017, stock assessments have shown that none of the four target species in the Western Central Pacific Ocean is overfished, nor is overfishing occurring.<sup>84</sup> This is not the case in tuna fisheries in any other ocean area across the globe and is due in part to the control of illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing. While most pelagic fisheries in the Pacific benefit from robust systems for controlling IUU developed over many years and involving a high level of data sharing and regional cooperation: many coastal fisheries resources are under considerable pressure due to exploitation of export species like sea cucumber which are severely overfished in many areas. In 2016 an assessment of the extent of IUU fishing in the Pacific estimated that levels were considerably lower than previously thought, and that illegal fishing by unlicensed vessels was only occurring at very low levels. However, IUU fishing is still estimated to cost the region in excess of \$100 million per year along with mis-reporting of catches and other breaches of licence conditions which remain a problem. As a result of the need to protect regional fisheries capacity from IUU the capacity to patrol and enforce fisheries status is being strengthened with support from Australia, which includes two aircraft deployed for aerial surveillance as well as roll-out of new fishery patrol boats in 12 countries in the region, in 2018.<sup>85</sup>
133. The six Pacific Island members<sup>86</sup> of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have played an important role within the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries in pursuing an appropriate measure to discipline fisheries subsidies which support IUU fishing and overfishing. While no measure could be agreed at the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference in 2017, the Pacific countries remain committed to reaching an agreement, before the SDG deadline of 2020.
134. The growing economic contribution of fisheries access revenues to the economies of some of the smallest and most vulnerable SIDS in the region has been covered earlier in this report. The region's commitment to ensuring equitable and sustainable access to marine resources for coastal communities in line with SDG goal 14.9 has also been well articulated in the 'New Song for Coastal Fisheries' agreed in 2015.<sup>87</sup> The systems of community based fisheries management developed in the region are providing coastal fishing communities with considerable control over their inshore resources.
135. The region is making progress towards achieving the SDG 14 target of 10 percent marine protection and conservation. A total of 2,161,088 km<sup>2</sup> across 346 marine protected areas with an additional 204 marine/terrestrial areas of 35,774 km<sup>2</sup> already protected across the Pacific.<sup>88</sup> This is approximately 8 percent of the combined PICTs EEZ of 27,449,000 million km<sup>2</sup>. The protected areas include: The Micronesian Challenge; the Phoenix Island Protected Area; the expansion of the Locally Marine Managed Areas (LMMA); the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary (the world's first regional shark sanctuary); and shark sanctuaries in nine Pacific countries; the listing of three species of thresher sharks, silky sharks and nine species of manta rays onto the CITES

84 2017 Tuna Fishery Annual Report Card, FFA & SPC, available at the SPC digital library of fisheries publications

85 MRAG, 2016 Towards the quantification of IUU fishing in the Pacific Islands Region, FFA <https://www.ffa.int/files/FFA%20Quantifying%20IUU%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

86 Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

87 <http://coastfish.spc.int/component/content/article/461-a-new-song-for-coastal-fisheries.html>

88 Source Pacific Island Protected Area Portal <http://pipap.sprep.org/>



Appendix II; and blue sharks on the CMS. Other examples include the Cook Islands, Marae Moana sanctuary marine park (second largest of its kind in the world), Niue's large scale 'marine protected area', the Kiribati Phoenix Island Protected areas, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and the New Caledonia Coral Sea Nature Park in its entire Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) of 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup>.

136. Notwithstanding PICTs commitments to large marine protection and conservation, national commitments to marine protection and fisheries management as well as community conservation efforts require implementation as well as ongoing support and enforcement. Not all marine protected areas are fully implemented as some of the boundaries are still under dispute and some nations lack the resources to enforce the 'no take' zones. For the former, engagement with development partners may be of assistance but the latter requires national governments to adequately resource environmental and fisheries management from national budgets.
137. Partnerships such as the MEA on Oceans Management and the UNFCCC have progressed some aspects of the vision of Pacific Leaders under the FPR and regional ocean policies and plans, but challenges remain in providing the resources, technology and technical training to implement and enforce. Under the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the 1st UN Oceans Conference Commitments, Pacific SIDS are party to 223 SIDS registered partnerships. The highest number of partnerships are listed for SDG 14 on Life below Water (151 partnerships) and SDG 13 on Climate Action (52 partnerships). There is a need to strengthen implementation and accountability for these partnerships (Refer to Section on Means of Implementation)
138. The Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA), which was formed as part of the responsibilities of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner through the OPOC, held its inaugural meeting in 2015. As a network of private, public and civil sector representatives to advance integrated ocean management it is an important mechanism to progress many regional ocean priorities. The POA has provided technical advice for the development of an internationally binding instrument under the UNCLOS, on the

conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) - producing a report and a series of technical papers on issues toward a potential BBNJ Treaty - to support members and the Pacific Ocean Commissioner in their negotiations and advocacy. The Pacific Ocean Commissioner and the OPOC, in collaboration with national, regional and international partners, will continue to work together, to unite PICTs to pursue achieving sustainable, integrated ocean management and conservation.

## Biodiversity (SDG 15)

139. The Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific (2017-2020) guides conservation efforts in the region. It encourages coordination and cooperation among conservation players in the region. Under the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, regional organisations and partners continue to work to support implementation of the Framework. Habitat loss continues to be an issue and is caused by human impact and unsustainable practices such as unsustainable logging and forest conversion for plantation and agriculture; land-based activities that contribute to marine pollution and other forms of improper waste management; clearance of mangrove areas, foreshore reclamation, coral harvesting, dredging, sand mining and coastal development; poorly managed mining operations; and the impact of natural disasters and extreme events.
140. Invasive species is the leading cause of species extinction on island ecosystems and can also impact food and economic security through the introduction of new diseases and pathogens with the potential to wipe out agricultural, fisheries and crop development. The management of invasive species requires national commitment and regionally coordinated responses as these unwanted species do not respect borders. There continues to be commitment to address the issue and targeted interventions continue to be implemented in the region.
141. Ecosystem-based approaches are being integrated into national and sector plans,



including NAPAs, NBSAPs, NAPs and JNAPs. Such approaches can help reduce vulnerability to climate and non-climate risks leading to multiple economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits. These benefits include a reduction in disaster risk, enhanced livelihood opportunities and food security; increased biodiversity conservation; and improved carbon sequestration and sustainable water management. In 2014 SPREP, with the Governments of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu implemented the Pacific Ecosystems-based Adaptation to Climate Change Project to explore and promote ecosystem-based adaptation options to climate change.

142. The ratification of major MEAs along with the Pacific Ocean Alliance has provided support to countries in the development of an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ).

## Waste Management (SDG12)

143. Growing economies and populations, poor waste management practices and limited land availability has resulted in increased volumes of solid and hazardous wastes that threaten sustainable development in the region. Waste generation for the entire Pacific urban population was estimated at over 1.16 million tonnes in 2013, and projected to be more than 1.59 million tonnes by 2025. Organic waste constitutes an average of 44 per cent of the waste stream, contributing to odours, pests and noxious leachate from dumps and which can be minimised by diverting organic waste into recycling programmes such as composting or anaerobic digestion. Over 80 percent of ocean litter is from land based sources which is impacting and killing sea life including coral reefs. The North Pacific Gyre, or the Great Pacific Garbage Patch between the US and Hawaii, occupies an ocean area that is twice the size of Texas. Ocean pollution kills more than 1 million seabirds and hundreds of thousands of whales, dolphins and seals every year.
144. Shipping and marine pollution threatens the region's coastal environments. While marine pollution often originates on land it also includes

pollution during port operations; leaching of toxins from anti-fouling paints on ships' hulls; disposal at sea of ships' waste, marine litter (including plastics, general garbage and lost or discarded fishing gear); inadequate facilities to receive ships' waste; and vessel grounding and sinking, which can result in physical damage to coral reefs. Shipping accidents sometimes leads to the catastrophic release of contaminants and oil pollution. These developments undermine the quality and health of vulnerable ecosystems and have negative impacts on health care, environmental quality, water resources, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, and trade and food security.

145. To help improve waste management, Pacific Leaders in 2017 committed to fast track the development of policies to ban the use of single-use plastic and styrofoam packaging calling on Pacific Rim partners to address marine pollution and debris to maintain the environmental integrity of the Pacific Ocean for people, planet and prosperity. There has also been a growing number of national and local initiatives. Approximately 88 percent of the urban population (or 47 percent of the national population) across 18 PICTs have access to a regular collection services. However, providing consistent and reliable waste collection services in rural areas and outer islands of many PICTs continues to be a challenge. Local initiatives such as the 'Container Deposit Programmes'; pre-paid waste collection bag systems; and the introduction of waste tipping fees to assist countries finance the appropriate disposal of waste should be supported and replicated. These initiatives are being promoted through public education and awareness activities, such as the 3Rs+Return, eco-bags and the Clean Schools programmes. Recycling initiatives in a number of countries, including Palau and Kiribati, have resulted in a substantial volume of waste being taken offshore. Examples where positive steps have been taken in the region include: The Vanuatu legislation to ban the use, manufacture and of single use plastic bags and polystyrene takeaway food containers; Palau and Samoa banning the use of single use bags; and Fiji has 'user-fees' to discourage the use of plastics. Despite the existence of these frameworks and legislation; enforcement and prosecution remains





a challenge. This is partly being addressed through continued capacity building for local law enforcement on environmental management laws and fines and while SPREP and IUCN are supporting these initiatives, there remains a need for more sustained interventions. Ultimately it is only when prosecution of environmental offences is enforced that legislation will be effective.

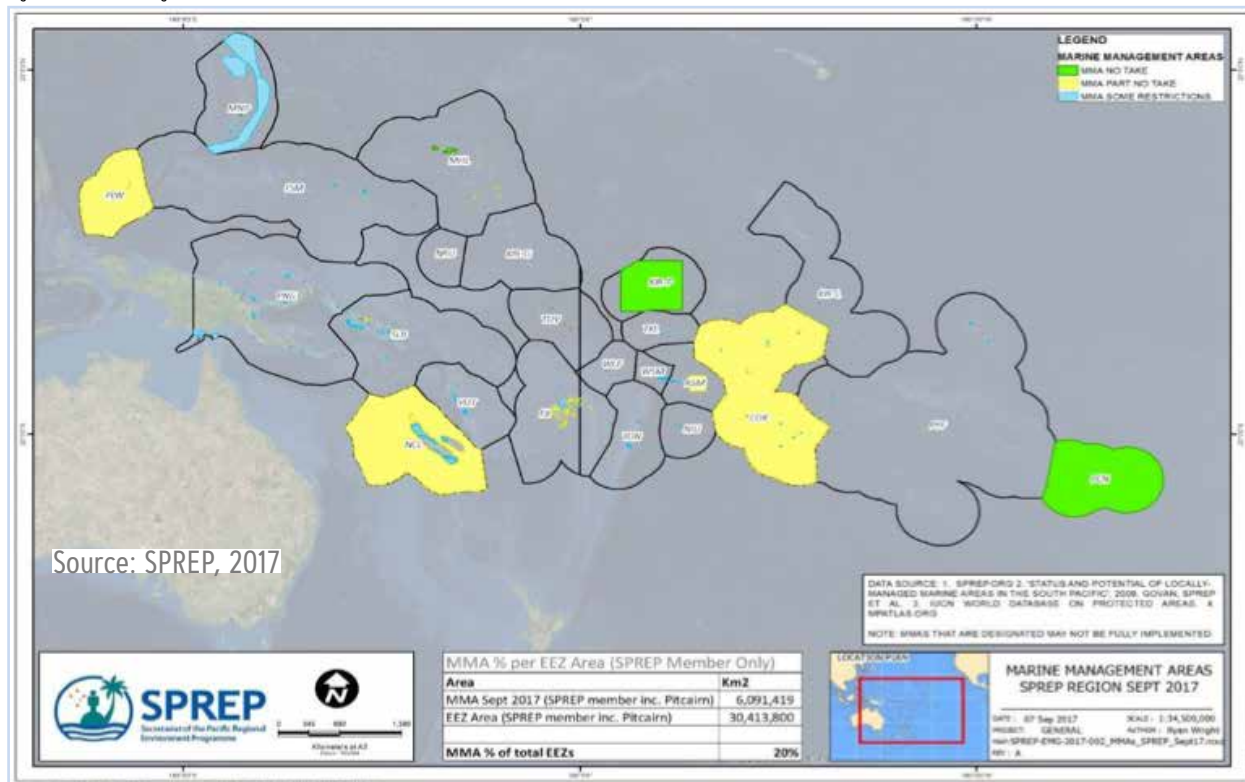
- 146. All PICTs have phased out the use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and currently face the challenge of completely phasing-out consumption of Hydro-Fluorocarbons (HCFCs) or the main Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) used in the Pacific region primarily used in refrigeration and air-conditioning.<sup>89</sup>
- 147. The challenge of managing waste remains and is further complicated by climate change, through increased disaster waste and in many landfill sites becoming inoperable through flooding and SLR. The Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (2016–2025) aims to help improve the management of waste and pollution.

The Cleaner Pacific 2025 strategy, made possible with partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the European Union, under their 11th EDF, seeks to strengthen institutional and human capacity, promote public-private partnerships, implement sustainable best practices and promote regional and national cooperation.

### Next Steps

- 148. Issues addressed under planet and sustainable environmental management pose formidable challenges for the region. As a consequence, a multidisciplinary and integrated approach involving all relevant stakeholders and partners is required. There is a need to mainstream environmental objectives and agendas into existing national or multi-sector agency programs and policies, including the provision of increased financial and technical support to build and improve policy coherence and implementation.

Figures 22: Marine Managed Areas in the Pacific, 2015



89 SPREP Pacific Regional Waste Management Strategy 2016-2025

Improving access to funding, access to technology and improvements in capacity is necessary in building climate resilience and promoting clean energy development.

149. In order to fulfil commitments under international frameworks, PICTs require simplified access to international climate change financing, including the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and bilateral funding sources. Additional funding and technical support will also be required to meet NDCs. New funding opportunities and increased support from development partners are necessary to address climate change. There is growing interest among countries to achieve accreditation for direct access to global funding. This will require continued strengthening of national capacities to access and effectively manage climate change finances, including for targeted institutions and public financial management structures.

The Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Efficiency, the new Pacific Centre for Climate Change and the INFORM Project and Climate Change Portal will all expand opportunities for improving information sharing and learning from each other.

150. Climate change and environmental degradation pose significant challenges to economic growth and employment. However, if properly managed, climate change action can lead to a greater number of and better jobs. Both adaptation to climate change and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, offer opportunities to create new jobs, which securing existing ones. To address waste management issues, there should be more attention to replicating good waste management practices in some member countries and intensify efforts to implement the Cleaner Pacific 2025, the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan and the Moana Taka Partnership.

## Data Availability and Challenges

Thirty-three of the 132 regional SDG indicators come under the pillar of Planet/Sustainable Environment management. Despite their priority, there is currently limited ability to monitor progress, with baseline data currently available for 11 of these indicators. There is poor data availability for resource management indicators (such as wastewater, urban solid waste, and hazardous waste), marine resources (such as coastal eutrophication, marine acidity, sustainable fishing, instruments to address illegal fishing, budget allocation to marine technology) and climate change adaptation. Measurement challenges reflect both definitional issues and the absence of existing reporting systems, including for example a lack of clarity over defining sustainable fishing and plastic debris density. These challenges are not unique to the Pacific, and further work is underway, at global and regional levels to develop proxy indicators to enable relevant data to be reported in the future.

Environmental health indicators (drinking water, sanitation services), disaster impacts (human and financial costs from disasters), and land resources (forest area, coverage of protected terrestrial and freshwater areas) have good data coverage in the Pacific.



## Section 4: Means Of Implementation –Development Effectiveness And Partnerships

151. The Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) implementation highlighted the lack of attention to capacities, systems and financing for developing countries to deliver the MDGs. Therefore the 2030 Agenda has sought to address this through a dedicated section on the Means of Implementation through Goal 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Goal 17 on Partnerships. Sixty-five (37 percent) of the 169 SDGs targets and 27 (22 percent) of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway paragraphs are directly related to means of implementation. The AAAA and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway are recognized in paragraphs #40 and #42 respectively of the 2030 Agenda, as keys to implementation of sustainable development in SIDS. Progress on Goal 17 on Means of Implementation is a standing item of the annual HLPF and the Pacific region has identified it as a critical aspect of being able to deliver global, regional and national commitments on sustainable development.
152. The 2030 Agenda, SDGs and S.A.M.O.A Pathway emphasise the necessity for a transformational approach to development if prosperity, equality for all and a protected environment, are to be achieved. This transformation includes harnessing policy coherence, forming multi-stakeholder partnerships, accessing public and private finance, stronger trading relationships, effectively adopting science and technology, and improving the collection and use of data. While recognising that PICTs are responsible for their own sustainable development, addressing many of the challenges requires enhanced cooperation and international support.
153. The PRSD guides regional responses to support achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the context of national priorities, FPR and S.A.M.O.A Pathway. It builds on the strong Pacific leadership that helped shape the global agenda and reaffirms the need for national ownership backed by regional and international cooperation.
- ### Financing (SDG 17)
154. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and other regional and global commitments requires unprecedented domestic and international investments. The capacity to deploy every dollar effectively will need to be enhanced, as well as the better utilisation of technology. Given the ongoing significant role of ODA and other external development financing in many of the PICTs, mutually respectful and accountable partnerships with development partners will continue to be important. Development partners need to continue to actively respect government leadership and ownership and support government efforts to strengthen their capacities to lead by aligning with national priorities, increasing levels of budget support and helping to strengthen and use country systems.
155. Development financing in the PICTs includes: i) foreign capital (foreign direct investments and loans), ii) inflows of unrequited transfers (including remittances and foreign aid); iii) build-up of domestic sources of finance (mobilising domestic savings for private investment, domestic resource mobilisation and Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) or Trust Fund (TF) earnings); (iv) generation of net foreign revenues (exports, fishing licenses, tourism earnings, etc.); and, (v) investments in national economic resilience and insurance through regional platforms (eg. Pacific Islands Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC), Contingent Credit/Saving Facility, and proposal for development of a Pacific Resilience Facility). The 2030 Agenda is transforming the financial requirements for sustainable development. Strengthening and building institutional capacities and genuine partnerships are paramount for the effective delivery of the SDGs.
156. Mobilising adequate financing will be particularly difficult for PICTs where financing needs for sustainable, climate-sensitive development are



estimated to be among the highest in the world (when measured as a proportion of national output). These financing needs are set to rise to address the impacts of climate change and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. Indeed, for some PICTs, climate change poses an existential threat and more finance will be needed to invest in long-term development and measures to address sudden shocks from extreme weather events, and to plan for and adapt to climate change.

157. While the Pacific and its development partners should not underestimate the scale of the challenges ahead, many countries have made important strides over recent years to reduce poverty, protect their natural environments and mobilise more revenue for development, through, for example, fisheries, tourism and extractive industries. External investment has increased, PICTs can generally count on committed development partners for financial and technical support and south-south cooperation has increased.
158. Further increases in external finance can also be expected over the next few years from a variety of sources. These include: climate finance, substantial increases from several multilateral development banks and Foreign Direct Investment Flows (FDI), especially from Asia. Innovative development finance actors and instruments have also emerged and become more prominent over recent years. These offer opportunities to leverage new and additional sources of finance and are complemented by efforts in the region to strengthen development effectiveness and the impact of domestic and external financing flows.
159. As part of the Forum Compact Peer review process an increased focus was given to supporting national efforts to strengthen PFM systems by using the outcomes of the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessment to develop PFM roadmaps outlining the required reform actions.
160. A review of development finance options indicated that:
  - Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been sporadic in PICTs and concentrated in specific sectors. It is generally volatile and pro-cyclical in nature and tends to lead to profit repatriation. Also in many cases FDI is not automatically directed towards sustainable development.
  - Remittances are significant<sup>90</sup>, however, inflows are sensitive to labour market conditions in the remitting economies. The recent change in the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) Laws provoked the withdrawal of correspondent banking. An occurrence commonly referred to as de-risking that led to the closure of Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) with a negative effect on low-cost and ease of remittance transmissions.
  - Foreign Aid flows form an integral part of development financing as many PICTs supplement domestic revenues with direct budget support and sectorial aid allocations by development partners. Changes are occurring in the way development partners are engaging with PICTs, especially through more coordinated support, increased support for public financial management and budget support. Some development partners are engaging in more joint analysis and programming. However, complex processes for access to development and low use of country systems remain challenges for some PICTs.
161. Without relevant support mechanisms, development finance is inefficient and ineffective. Key enablers of development finance include: i) strengthened financial infrastructure to respond to changes in rules and regulations governing payment systems; ii) innovative financial instruments to facilitate money transfers more cheaply and swiftly as a consequence of the closure of MTOs; iii) robust and credible Public Financial Management that complements macro-fiscal targeting and successful deployment of fiscal policy instruments; iv) sound fiscal positions for creating fiscal resilience to cope with unexpected shocks; v) generating and leveraging domestic financial resources from the public/private sectors through taxation and other forms of public revenue generation; vi) mobilising domestic savings for private investment where the private sector has the ability to secure loans to start and expand businesses; vii) improved lending criteria

<sup>90</sup> Forms a large portion of Samoa's and Tonga's GDP, contributing 20 and 23 percent of GDP



and interest rates of financial institutions to ease access capital; and, viii) the use of superannuation funds to expand development financing options and contribute to economic growth.

## Partnerships for Sustainable Development (SDGs 16, 17)

162. The 2030 Agenda, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism recognise the centrality of collaborative, genuine and enduring partnerships in the achievement of sustainable development goals and aspirations. The preambles of the 2030 Agenda, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the FPR all acknowledge that the success of these instruments depends on inclusivity and the broad alliance of support, commitment and ownership by all stakeholders - including governments, civil society, private sector, regional organisations, development partners, media and others.
163. There are three SDG targets and 8 eight S.A.M.O.A Pathway paragraphs dedicated specifically to genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships. The theme of the 3rd SIDS Conference held in Samoa in 2014 "The sustainable development of SIDS 'through' genuine, durable partnerships" recognised that international cooperation and partnerships of various kinds and across a wide variety of stakeholders are critical for the implementation of the sustainable development of SIDS. Further, that such partnerships should be based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. One of the six values of the FPR strives for effective, open and honest relationships, and inclusive and enduring partnerships, based on mutual accountability and respect - with each other, within our sub-regions, region and beyond.
164. PICTs acknowledge the importance of inclusive, transparent and accountable partnerships at national and regional levels. The private sector and civil society are consulted in national policy making. In a few countries, like New Caledonia, Samoa and PNG, there are dedicated financing facilities to help the private sector and civil society contribute to national development.
- At the highest political level Leaders, including Forum Economic Ministers hold annual regional dialogue sessions with the private sector and civil society. While engagement has improved, there is a need to shift from consultation to working in partnership at national and regional levels. This requires institutionalised and systematic engagement with stakeholders, including their involvement in the programming, implementation and monitoring of development initiatives.
165. Partnerships are the defining characteristic of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, and the SIDS Partnership Framework serves two purposes: i) to ensure that SIDS development work remains at the forefront of the international agenda; and, ii) to monitor progress of existing, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. A total of 304 SIDS partnerships were launched in Samoa in 2014 with an additional 223 partnerships registered over the past three years arising out of the UN Oceans Conference in 2017 totally 527 SIDS partnerships on the SIDS Action Platform.
166. Of these 527 partnerships, the Pacific has the highest number at 285 of which 62 or 22 percent have been completed and 223 are registered as ongoing. A majority of the 223 active Pacific SIDS partnerships are aligned to more than one SDG with the highest number aligned with SDG 14 (155 partnerships), SDG 17 (53 partnerships) and SDG 13 (52 partnerships). This is a direct correlation with the Pacific's regional priorities of climate change, oceans and means of implementation. SDG 8 on economic growth and SDG 12 on sustainable consumption attracted around 40 partnerships each, with SDG 2 on hunger registering 31 partnerships. The rest of the SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15 and 16, each have less than 30 partnerships. Despite being regional priorities, there are very few partnerships for SDG 16 peaceful societies and strong institutions; and SDG 10 reduced inequalities.
167. Of the 223 PICTs partnerships, 78 are expected to be delivered in only one country, 89 are regional and delivered in two or more countries and 56 are global and expected to be delivered in the Pacific along with other SIDS regions. The graph



below shows the total number of partnerships per country and whether it is a global, regional or national partnership.

- 168. In the absence of reporting for most of the 223 partnerships on the SIDS Action Platform, a request from the PIFS to PICTs, CROP and UN agencies for progress reports on the 132 (68 government led and 64 combined for CROP and UN Agencies) partnerships that they lead generated some information on the actual progress of 75 (26 of the 68 government-led and 39 of the 64 CROP/UN led partnerships). This is 34% percent reporting on the 223 partnerships.
- 169. PICTs are taking the lead role in 68 of the partnerships, which is 30 percent of the total 223 partnerships in which they are currently involved. Of the 68 country-led partnerships, Fiji has the most at 20, with Samoa and Tonga having 10 each, and Cook Islands with 6 partnerships. The other PSIDS, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia,

Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu all average between 1 to 5 partnerships with Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia being the only PSIDS without country-led partnerships. Most of the country specific and led partnerships were registered after the UN Oceans Meeting in 2017 and primarily focused on national efforts for coastal fisheries, oceans management, addressing ocean acidification, pollution and conservation. As of October 2018, ten<sup>91</sup> of the fourteen PICTs that lead on some of their partnerships have reported on their combined 26 partnerships that they lead on or 38 percent of total national partnerships that PICTs are leading.

- 170. Overall, countries are engaging well with other stakeholders from the private sector, NGOs, regional and international development partners to plan and implement the partnerships. While

Figure 23: The 223 PSIDS Partnerships alignment to the 17 SDGs.

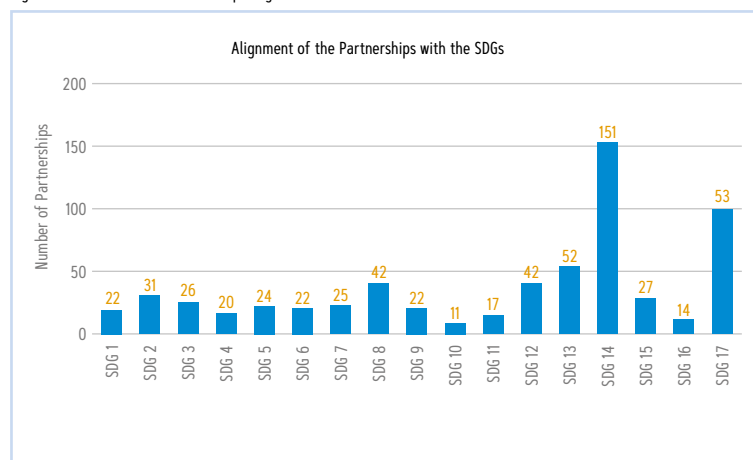
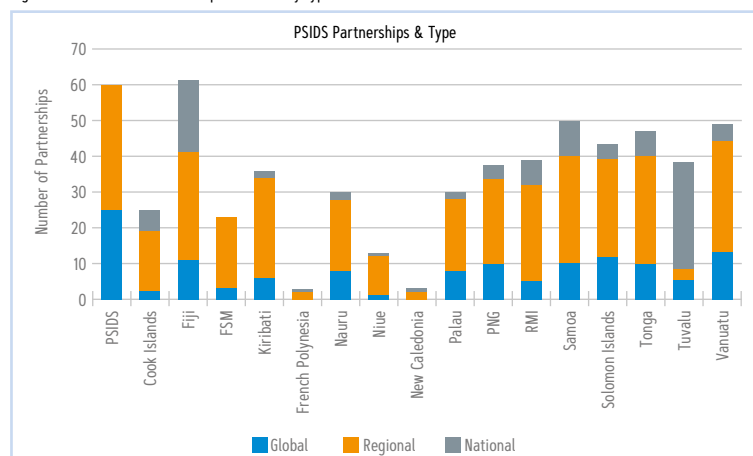


Figure 24: Number of Partnerships for PICTs by type



91 Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu





174. Many of the Pacific SIDS partnerships from 2014 were pre-existing partnerships globally and in the Pacific which included professional networks, advisory and steering committees, annual and biannual conferences, frameworks, technical facilities, research and learning networks including south-south cooperation and pilot projects. Many of the 223 new partnerships that have been announced since 2014, were commitments made at the UN Oceans Conference in 2017. These are primarily for individual countries, which significantly increased the number of partnerships on ocean management and/or SDG 14. There was some noticeable duplication in partnerships in water, and in climate change and disaster risk management although in the case of climate change, about four key climate change partnerships have now merged into the Pacific Resilience Partnership. There are some good examples of successful partnerships that have been institutionalised or have delivered tangible outcomes at country and regional level. These partnerships are in the areas of climate change, resilience, ocean management and conservation, disaster risk reduction, NCDs action, culture, education research, capacity building and development effectiveness.
175. Advocacy, ownership, and accountability for the commitments made against these partnerships need to be strengthened substantially in order for this mechanism to remain legitimate and sustainable over time. There is a need to review the status of all of the PSIDS partnerships to address gaps in implementation, strengthen monitoring and feedback from partnership focal

points and determine which partnerships need to be removed from the website because they are inactive or have been completed.

176. In terms of bilateral and multilateral development assistance, the top five development partners to Pacific SIDS, in terms of financing, typically offer 1-5 year ODA cycles, with continued effort needed to improve coherence between development assistance and national development priorities. The climate financing opportunities for SIDS that are in addition to traditional ODA must, in addition to facilitating better access for SIDS, also address the need for financing predictability over multiple years.

### Effective institutions, capacity building and south-south cooperation (SDG 16, 17)

177. In 2009, the Forum Compact expressed the determination of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to better use the totality of domestic and external financing flows in the region to improve the lives of people in the Pacific. Attention focused on increasing the effectiveness of key institutions, including through capacity building and south-south cooperation. The Forum Compact also included an annual reporting process for development partners on their efforts to reduce aid fragmentation, ease the burden of aid administration and improve aid effectiveness, through measures such as increased use of country partner systems, multi-year funding commitments, pooled funding, the delegation of aid delivery to lead donors and collaborative analytical work.

Figure 28: Pacific Spending by Partner (2015-18)

Rank	Pacific Partner	Value (millions USD) from 2015-2018
1	Australia	\$2,702
2	Asian Development Bank	\$622
3	United States	\$404
4	World Bank Group	\$387
5	EU Institutions	\$330
6	New Zealand	\$309
7	UNDP	\$142

Source: IATI (accessed April 2018)  
 Note: Data includes all PICTs and Timor-Leste.





178. Under the Forum Compact, thirteen PICTs underwent a peer review of their national systems and processes of planning, budgeting, public financial management and aid management. Peer review teams included PICTs officials and a development partner representative (for some reviews there was also representation from civil society). In addition, New Zealand and Australia opened up their systems and processes for peer review by PICTs and other development partner representatives to allow PICTs to better understand how development partner policies, procedures and actions are formulated and implemented and provide feedback on how they might be adjusted to more effectively support PICTs development efforts.
179. The Forum Compact pointed to what can be done to improve the region's development performance. This included: i) simple national planning with a limited number of measurable targets consistent with available national resources; plans that reflect political priorities and are owned and regularly reviewed by a high level cross-government body or central agency and reported to Cabinet, Parliament and the public; ii) effective and mutually accountable partnerships with the private sector and civil society in setting and accounting for national priorities and the means of implementation; iii) budget processes that ask public servants to specify what they will achieve with the domestic and external funds, including a regular account of results; iv) attention to the public financial management systems that convert budgets into actions in the most efficient, accountable and transparent way; v) well informed Parliamentary oversight; vi) strong central point for all development assistance, with close links to central budget managers, to shape development assistance in line with the country's needs and integrated into the national budget; and vii) responsiveness of development partners to provide development assistance in ways that enhance national leadership and national systems and minimises the management burden, particularly on smaller administrations.
180. These points are frequently described as technical or administrative in nature. However, in all cases, it is important to understand the power relationships within countries; the broader issues of governance as well as how decisions are made to allocate resources, as these all impact on the relationships that are formed and maintained with development assistance partners.
181. As a consequence, over the last few years, there have been a range of initiatives to improve the quality of national and sector policy development, planning, statistical collection and analysis; support for a broad range of governance programmes, including interventions designed to improve the function of parliaments, addressing key aspects of gender inequality in leadership roles, anti-corruption efforts and a wide range of other activities. Most significantly, there have been efforts by the IMF through the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) and other partners to work with governments to improve overall public sector financial management. This is critical for encouraging development partners to use national systems and, in doing so, address one of the key principles of development effectiveness.
182. The 2010 meeting of Forum Economic Ministers endorsed the Pacific Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap and since then, with the active support of a number of development partners, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have been subject to repeat PEFA assessments of their experiences in implementing public financial management reform. These assessments demonstrate that progress in implementing reform can be hampered where there is not: (i) a critical mass of specific skills (accounting and audit) available; (ii) wide buy-in across government to assure fiscal discipline; (iii) strong links between policy and multi-year frameworks; (iv) adequate attention given to some issues (i.e. fiscal risk of off-budget expenditures and state owned enterprise operations) because of political sensitivities; and (v) easily identifiable solutions to complex and entrenched practice as is often the case in the area of procurement.
183. The Forum Compact and peer review process complemented efforts at the global level, in that it adapts the principles of the GPEDC to the country context. The level of Pacific country engagement and participation in development



effectiveness monitoring at regional and global levels has increased significantly with all 14 PICTs participating in the second GPEDC monitoring round, in 2016. The GPEDC monitoring highlighted good progress in country leadership and ownership with most PICTs having national development strategies, some with credible links to budgets and monitoring frameworks, and most with public financial management reforms action plans and development cooperation policies. There was also good progress by some development partners in harmonisation of efforts through joint budget support matrices and joint missions. Challenges remain in the low use of country systems, with the lowest use of country systems by development partners recorded in the Pacific (46 percent compared to global average of 52 percent)<sup>92</sup>. Difficulties also remain for PICTs to successfully monitor the effectiveness of development cooperation using the GPEDC indicators, an issue of data collection deficiencies and limited capacity as seen in the MDG reporting and already experienced in the implementation of the SDGs.

184. An independent review of the Forum Compact in 2017 noted that the “Forum Compact served as the political framework to address a number of long-standing obstacles across the region” concluding that: i) The Compact was implemented as Leaders intended, and in some cases constructively beyond the letter of its mandate; ii) It had some influence over changes in development effectiveness, but was only one factor in a rapidly changing environment; and iii) The issues it covered, and the practices of sharing problems and solutions that it developed remain relevant.
185. The review also highlighted that despite gains, the Pacific continues to face challenges including the growing threat of climate change and recommended the following key elements of the Forum Compact be taken forward:
- i. Reinforce country ownership, backed by mutual accountability;
  - ii. Strengthen whole of government approaches and build institutions;
  - iii. Embrace the private sector and civil society;
- iv. Facilitate knowledge exchange; and,
  - v. Integrate regional reporting on development outcomes and the means of implementation.
186. The most unique feature of the Forum Compact was its ability to empower the Pacific countries, as a collective, to: find; celebrate; and, replicate home grown good practices and acknowledge existing expertise in the Pacific region. It also allowed the region to share common challenges and find courage and voice in solidarity with their peers especially with regards to engaging with and holding development partners to account for less than effective cooperation.
187. Some of the important work on development effectiveness such as strengthening national capacities and systems to plan for, allocate, implement, account and report on national development priorities including supporting the VNRs for the SDGs, including through south south cooperation and peer to peer learning, will continue as part of implementation of the the PRSD.

## Science and technology (SDGS 9, 17)

188. Science, technology and innovation (ST&I) is becoming of increasing importance in the Pacific as social and environmental pressures impact on the region’s people and key economic sectors (tourism, forestry, fisheries and agriculture). The application of ST&I across the Pacific would greatly benefit from a strategic regional approach or framework that aligns and builds on development outcomes. Such a framework requires a thorough understanding of the Pacific context and therefore a sensible first step towards a regional framework would be a stock take assessment of existing science capacity (including institutional capacity) and activities in the Pacific.
189. The development of ST&I in the region will only be successful if it recognises where Pacific institutions add significant value for Pacific people in terms of science education and infrastructure, and where partnerships with international institutions will need to be leveraged. The Pacific, as a region, stands to gain the most benefit from targeting scientific capacity building and education in areas

<sup>92</sup> GPEDC 2nd Global monitoring



of relevance including climate change, resilience, sustainability, food security, energy, ICT and transportation. This will require an emphasis on developing scientific capacity for providing evidence-based solutions. It is recommended to work within existing institutional arrangements to support the implementation of regional ST&I priorities. An existing regional organisation could coordinate and participate in national, regional and global ST&I initiatives. It would also ensure Pacific principles and values were at the core of all ST&I activities, through leveraging the world's best scientific practice through a Pacific-centric approach to developing the ST&I sector.

190. Although trade and regional integration has not been directly targeted by the SDGs, there are a number of trade-related targets and indicators in SDG 8 and SDG 17 while many of the SDGs are impacted by more effective trade policies and cooperation.

191. In the Pacific, trade is a driving force for economic growth and in turn poverty reduction.<sup>93</sup> In its simplest and most direct form, trade can lead to an increase in a country's gross domestic product (GDP), a measure most used to compare differences in living standards between countries and regions. The region has five main trade agreements, namely:

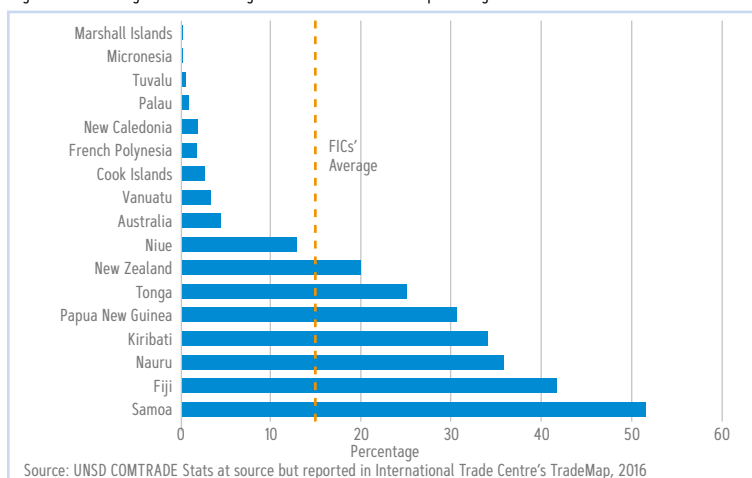
- SPARTECA – South-Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement
- PICTA – PICTs Trade Agreement

- PACER+ – Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus
- IEPA – Interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union (EU)
- MSGTA3 – Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Trade Agreement

192. Despite these agreements, the Pacific has not fully embraced regional integration. Intra-regional trade across the PICTs is low at 15 per cent. Figure 29 shows the share of intra-regional trade (originating from regional partners) as percentage of total trade. Intra-regional trade mainly occurs between Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, and their trade with the rest of the PICTs. For example, at the regional level, Marshall Islands only import goods from Fiji and Australia and none from the rest of the PICTs. FSM, Tuvalu, RMI, Palau, New Caledonia and French Polynesia trades mostly with countries outside the Pacific region compared to Samoa, Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, PNG, Tonga, New Zealand who do more 'regional trading' as proportion of their total trade.

193. The contribution of trade towards economic development and the achievement of the SDGs is supported by the inclusion of sustainable development clauses in trade agreements with third parties.<sup>94</sup> However, the inclusion of sustainable development provisions in regional agreements, including in the Pacific, is not common or a comprehensive practice. Similarly, most agreements lack monitoring mechanisms

Figure 29: Percentage of PICTs Intra-regional trade in the Pacific as percentage of total trade in 2016



93 See, amongst others, Hoekman, B., Michalopoulos, C., Schiff, M. & Tarr (2002). Trade Policy. In Klugman, J. (ed.), A Sourcebook for Poverty Reduction Strategies, Volume 2. The World Bank: Washington.

94 The incorporation of sustainable development clauses within trade agreements is not a new story. The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the first one to include environmentally-related provisions in its text. Sustainable developments provisions have also extended their commitments in trade agreements with EU, focusing mainly on labour standards and environmental provisions. RECs like EFTA, ASEAN, and MERCOSUR have now started to include these kind of clauses in their agreements too.

95 Toubeau, 2015



to track the performance of regional economic cooperation and the contribution of regional trade agreements to sustainable development.<sup>95</sup> However, through the directive, provided by the 2017 PACP Leaders, a comprehensive assessment of the Pacific Trade Agreements is being carried out using a Regional Trade Integration Index system. The system will incorporate the relevant indicators to assess and analyse the sustainability in both intra and extra-regional trade and regional economic integration in the region.

## Data and statistics (SDG 17)

194. The integration of the SDGs into planning and budgeting brings an unprecedented demand for data and statistical information. While national statistical systems were able to increase resources 'on the back' of the MDGs, challenges remain. Evidence-based performance budgeting and the monitoring and evaluation of national development strategies has created additional demands for statistics. Agenda 2030 calls for a 'data revolution', recognising that resources for data and statistical information are inadequate. For example, the absence of reliable and up-to-date data on migration, means that states are unable to formulate policies designed to respond to prevailing mobility trends. Challenges such as this relating to both data availability and use are a consistent theme across the areas of sustainable development in the Pacific.
195. Statistics development in the Pacific is guided by the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2010-2020 which has led to improvements in the timely collection of core social and economic official statistics across the PICTs through: Population Censuses, Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Agriculture Census (AC), Labour Force Surveys (LFS), Merchandise Trade Statistics, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Price Indices, and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). The compilation of Balance of Payments, Government Finance, and Monetary statistics continues to be a part of the core official statistics collected in the region, in many countries these are compiled by Ministries of Finance and Reserve Banks.
196. Depending on funding availability, the cycle of national core data collections takes place every 5-10 years for each country. This cycle places a heavy burden on small and under-resourced national statistics offices (NSO) in the region. The PICTs recognises the value of partnerships and acknowledges all agencies and development partners providing technical and financial support for statistics.<sup>96</sup> Despite progress during the TYPSS, many PICTs still struggle to mobilise resources to implement their planned data collection cycles. This means that national policymakers and development partners are working with out-of-date data adversely affecting decision-making. Over the next five years, PICTs are scheduled to run approximately 35 core surveys and censuses essential to enable PICTs to produce up-to-date core national statistics to meet national and international reporting commitments, including for the SDGs.
197. Although there have been improvements in cooperation between NSOs and development partners, the region still experiences unplanned statistical collections which are often driven by funding availability or specific partner agendas. To overcome this a Regional Five-Year Data Collection Plan has been developed to align collection activities with work plans and funding cycles of PICTs. An assessment of available data points for the 132 PSDIs suggests that the region has baseline data for about 48 percent of the 132 PSDIs (defined as where at least half the PICTs have a data point available). Where baseline data is available the majority are categorised as Tier I indicators, where a measurement or methodology exists. Approximately fifty percent of the Pacific indicators require information derived from key national household collections; the Population Census, DHS, HIES, LFS and AC. These are costly exercises for countries. For this report, data is being sourced from multiple areas, including SPC-SDD's National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) website, UNESCAP's Asia-Pacific Report, the UN global database, WHO, UNICEF, national census and survey collections, and administrative datasets held in each country.
198. The PSDIs include 30 Tier III indicators, with no accepted methodology, and 10 of these are in the priority regional areas of Climate Action (Goal 13) and Life Below Water (Goal 14). These are

<sup>96</sup> The World Bank, PFTAC, Statistics NZ, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the European Union (EU), University of the South Pacific (USP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP), and other UN agencies including International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).



viewed as important to tell the Pacific story. As a consequence it is expected that the necessary indicator definitions will be developed to enable countries to measure and report on these indicators in time for the second regional report in 2022. The number of PSDIs, together with the number of indicators having baseline data, is shown in the Figure 26.

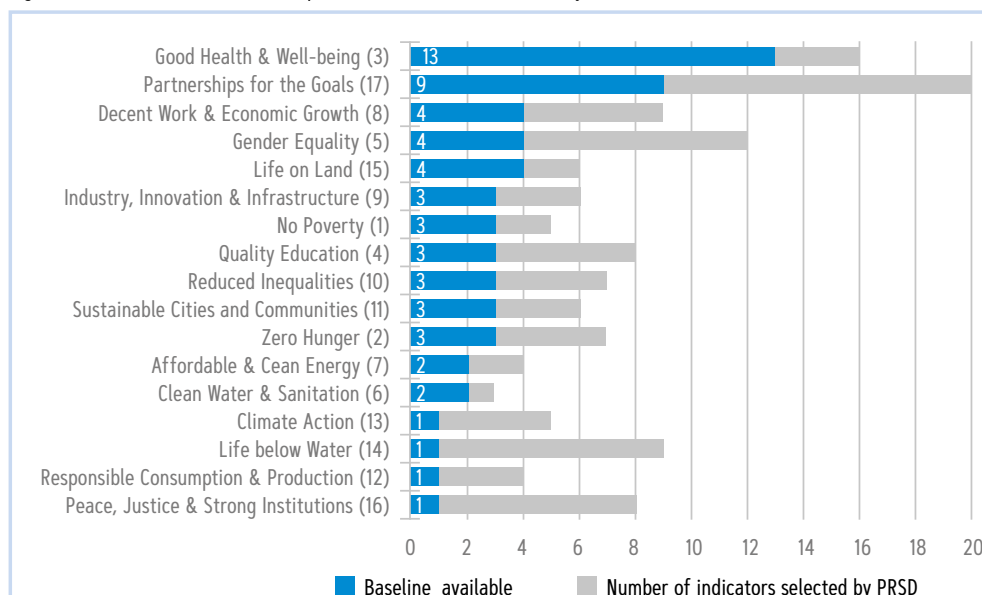
- 199. A regional dissemination strategy and database tool being developed by SPC-SDD will provide a central repository for country-level statistics and an interactive display of SDGs data including mapping functionality that will allow countries to display sub-national data where available. Disaggregated sub-national data is important for monitoring 'leaving no one behind', and will assist policy-makers to identify and target the most vulnerable in the community.
- 200. Key challenges faced by NSOs include: i) lack of financial resources, statistical capacity and the low profile of NSOs in government to meet the increasing demand for data; ii) insufficient coordination between NSOs and development partners; iii) unscheduled surveys promoted by external agencies; and, iv) a shortage of qualified statisticians.
- 201. The importance of maintaining regular core collections of census and surveys cannot be overstated. The SDGs also require the collection of quality and consistent administrative data by sector ministries and agencies. The critical nature of administrative data can sometimes be

overlooked, but it is essential for reporting on civil registration and vital statistics, health, education, environment, public safety and governance. It is, therefore, essential that statistical systems, involving both NSOs and sector ministries involved in collecting administrative data, is well planned, resourced and sufficiently robust to ensure sustainability. The region needs more graduates from regional Universities and from other regional statistical training opportunities provided through SPC, Australia, New Zealand, IMF/WB, ADB and UNSIAP, amongst others.

### Next steps

- 202. To accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there is a need to focus on: i) strengthening the use of country systems, country ownership and leadership on sustainable development; ii) strengthening regional knowledge exchanges to embed the SDGs and promote effective development cooperation; iii) ensuring proactive engagement with development partners for increased south-south exchanges and peer-to-peer learning; iv) institutionalising dialogue and engagement with private sector and civil society stakeholders including their involvement in the implementation and monitoring of development initiative; v) driving multi-stakeholder partnerships for increased engagement and more effective use of resources; and vi) ensure more effective regional and national accountability for the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and UN Oceans Partnerships.

Figure 30: Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators(PSDI) availability



## Section 5: Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

203. In 2015, Pacific Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the Gender Equality Declaration adopted at the Forty-Third Pacific Islands Forum in Cook Islands in 2012. At-the-time Leaders were concerned that despite gains in girls' access to education and some positive initiatives to address violence against women, overall progress in the region towards gender equality remained slow, uneven and in some areas fragile. It is recognised that improved gender equality will make a significant contribution to creating a prosperous, stable and secure Pacific for all current and future generations. The Declaration reinforces commitments by Leaders to implement the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights (2018-2030), a roadmap for accelerating gender equality and the well-being of women and girls. The Leaders commitment to gender equality has been further confirmed at the regional level through the FPR and at the global level by the S.A.M.O.A Pathway and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. These international commitments have been transferred into the PRSD.
204. Women's empowerment in the Pacific is constrained by compounding and intersecting patriarchal barriers, including discriminatory legislation, regulations and policies, social and cultural norms that severely impact on their health, safety, and security; access to economic opportunities and engagement in decision making. This report sets out progress made to date against each of these areas using the PLGED monitoring framework.
205. Laws still exist in some Pacific jurisdictions that treat women and girls differently and restrict their opportunities and rights in areas such as employment, social protection, decision making, citizenship, land ownership, social, health and family status, education, and in constitutional protection. Almost all countries have adopted gender policies and strategies, including disability policies, and while many are engaged in global

### Gender Responsive Government Programs and Policies

The Declaration calls for the incorporation of CEDAW articles into legislative and statutory reforms as well as policy and monitoring and evaluation initiatives across government; production and use of sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform policies and programs; and strengthened consultative mechanisms with civil society groups, including women's advocacy groups, on key budget and policy issues of national and sub-national governments.

reporting processes, resources for integrating gender equality priorities and implementation are limited. In 2018, four countries (Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Cook Islands and Nauru), reported on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>97</sup>, and progress was noted in areas of domestic violence, criminal and common laws.

206. Despite the call by Leaders for gender mainstreaming and increased collection and use of sex disaggregated data across sectors, the lack of financial investments, especially in national budgets, remains a major obstacle as has been noted in the 2016 PLGED Report. On average, budgets for national women's offices' are less than 1 percent of national appropriations and only a few sector ministries make specific budget allocations to address gender issues; consultative mechanisms with civil society groups on budget and policy issues of national and sub-national governments need to be strengthened. PICTs have seized upon gender mainstreaming to broaden and deepen the promotion of gender equality and women's human rights across sectors, and while some progress has been made, notably in climate change, health, education and fisheries sectors, the technical capacity for gender mainstreaming at national level is constrained.

<sup>97</sup> Tonga and Palau have not yet ratified CEDAW.

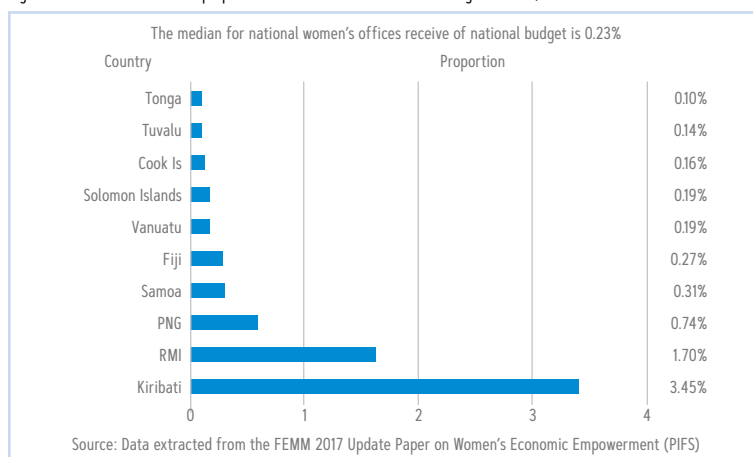


207. Increasing investment and financing, tracking allocation of domestic resources towards gender equality programmes, and clear alignment of national development strategies and national gender policies is imperative to progress the PLGED (FEMM, 2017). At the regional level, gender mainstreaming policy priorities, including building resilience, security, health, education, food security and economic development can fast track national and regional progress on sustainable development.
208. As of May 2018, only 7.7 percent seats in the national parliaments of 14<sup>98</sup> Forum Island countries, are held by women. The percentage increases to 30 percent with the inclusion of Australia, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and New Zealand. When representation includes that of local government the percentage held by women in the Pacific is still the lowest globally at 17.9 percent,<sup>99</sup> which is far below the international benchmark of 30 percent.
209. In the Pacific, two countries have a woman as Head of State (RMI and New Zealand) and one country has a female Deputy Prime Minister (Samoa). Of the 41 women members of Parliament in the region (out of a total of 559), 14 (35 percent) from 6 countries are in senior political leadership positions (President, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Minister or Associate Minister). Fiji and Cook Islands (until recently) appointed women as Speakers of the House.
210. Although women have legal rights, often constitutional, to fully participate in local and national decision-making processes, their participation remains low, and this is decreasing in some countries. The Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are three of only four countries globally that currently have no women representatives in their national parliament.<sup>101</sup> For Papua New Guinea, no women were elected to Parliament in 2017, whereas previously there had been three women members.
211. Social and cultural norms continue to inhibit women's participation in public life and decision making, as do electoral systems. Women candidates face challenges such as unequal access to finance and other resources for campaigning and generally occupy low-level positions in political

### Decision Making

The Declaration calls for measures to accelerate women's full and equal participation in governance reforms at all levels and women's leadership in all decision making; and increased representation of women in private sector and local level governance boards and committees.

Figure 31: The estimated crude proportion of National Women's Office Budgets in FICs, 2016



Statistics compiled by PIFs (May 2018) from data from Inter-Parliamentary Union Reports, UNDP <https://www.pacwip.org/women-mps/national-women-mps/> and SPC data on New Caledonia and French Polynesia<sup>100</sup>.

98 Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu

99 Inter Parliamentary Union, UN Women (May 2018) Women in Politics Global Map. <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>

100 For Australia and Palau the percent covers both chambers

101 <http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

102 Samoa and Vanuatu recently passed Constitutional Amendments to promote women's political participation: 10% of seats reserved for women in Samoa Parliament and 30% in municipal councils in Vanuatu. New Caledonia and French Polynesia both have been implementing to the French Parity Law since 2000, which requires political parties to put forward equal numbers of women and men candidates for legislative office. In Bougainville, PNG, three seats are reserved for women Parliamentarians.



party candidate lists. Only two countries have adopted specific measures to support increased women’s leadership and political participation.<sup>102</sup> An increased commitment is required to transform political culture, social norms and practices at both regional and national level to ensure women’s full and equal participation.

### Economic Empowerment

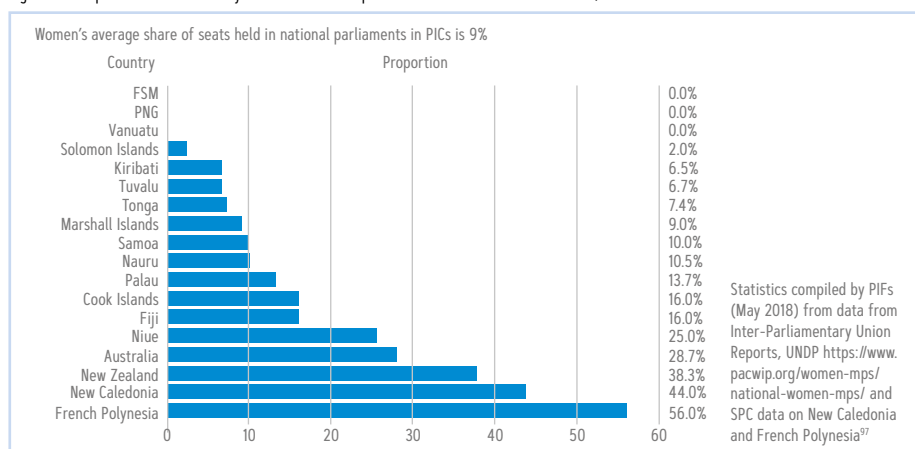
The Declaration calls for the removal of barriers to women’s employment and participation in the formal and informal sectors, including legislation that directly or indirectly limits women’s access or contributes to discrimination in pay and conditions; implement equal employment opportunity and gender equality measures in public sector employment and advocate for a similar approach in the private sector; improve the facilities and governance of local produce markets to encourage women’s safe, fair and equal participation in local economies; and target support to women entrepreneurs in the formal and informal sectors.

212. In the 2016 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration Trend Assessment Report, there was: evidence of greater financial inclusion and financial literacy for women; an increasing number of women contributing to superannuation funds (including women working in the informal

economy in a few countries); and, improved maternity and familial leave provisions in the public service. Since that report, close to 6,000 women received financial literacy training and had access to financial services.<sup>103</sup> In three countries (Tonga, Kiribati, and Cook Islands), women’s employment in the non-agricultural sector is close to parity.<sup>104</sup> From 2014 -2017<sup>105</sup> women market vendors across 19 markets in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have improved access to financial literacy training, financial support and services and increased capacity to advocate for improved work conditions for market vendors at the informal sector level.<sup>106</sup>

213. The labour force participation rate for women remains low across the Pacific, and in a number of countries men’s participation in the formal economy is almost double that of women’s.<sup>107</sup> Similarly, Pacific men outnumber women in paid employment outside the agricultural sector by approximately two to one.<sup>108</sup> In Melanesia, this disparity is particularly stark with women occupying just one-third of jobs available in the formal economy. Countries like Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu have youth unemployment rates that rise above 50 per cent. This problem is most apparent for female youth and there is no clear evidence showing changes to the difference in unemployment rates between females and males between 2000 and 2015.<sup>109</sup> Contributions to national superannuation or social security schemes point to an increasing

Figure 32: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments in Forum Island Countries, last election



103 Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Annual Progress Report 2016-2017

104 Cook Islands 47.3%, Kiribati 47.4% and Tonga 47.9

105 projects such as Markets for Change

106 Markets for Change provided financial literacy training to over 4,700 women market vendors in from 2015-17.

107 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration Trend Assessment Report 2012-2016

108 Pacific Regional Millennium Development Goals Tracking Report 2013





number of women in formal sector employment, so almost paradoxically while the number of women employed is increasing, unemployment rates for women are likewise increasing. Average gross earnings from three PICTs show that women's average earnings are increasing at a faster rate than the number of contributors, although the difference is slight for FSM. PICTs have a mixed record on including gender issues in terms of regulations that explicitly cover gender discrimination in the hiring process and regulated equal pay for work of equal value.<sup>110</sup>

214. Women dominate the informal economy, which is an important source of livelihood for households across the Pacific,<sup>111</sup> including sale of agricultural surplus, market vending, fisheries including seafood and shell fish collection and sales as well as cultural industries – an ever important source of income for women and their families. However, this work is typically unregulated and open to exploitation, with little or no income protection available (some social insurance is available but uptake is low). Economic and employment opportunities for women in the rural areas are very limited. In addition, women are expected to perform a greater share of unpaid care and domestic work than men, including a disproportionate role in the care of children, older family members and those who are sick or have disabilities. These demands limit their ability to engage in skills development and employment as well as other income generating activities, exposing them to higher risks of poverty.
215. To improve women's economic empowerment, it is critical that discriminatory laws are reformed and that legal remedies, including enhanced social protection, are enacted and enforced to provide safeguards for women reliant on the informal economy for their livelihoods. Measures to address inequalities within households and the care economy involve increasing access to quality and affordable care and respite care and psychosocial support. These must be complemented by programs to transform social norms that overcome traditional understanding of femininity and masculinity, household decision making and access to and control over resources

that involve considerable investment.

216. In October 2017, the 6th Meeting of the Ministers for Women endorsed the outcomes of the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women, identifying a range of interventions to accelerate progress towards women's economic empowerment. These include: addressing data and information gaps; mainstreaming gender in key economic sectors and in macroeconomic policies; strengthening public-private partnerships to ensure sustained investments; and, making institutions more accountable to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### Ending violence against women

The Declaration calls for progressing the implementation of a package of essential services (protection, health, counselling, legal) for women and girls who are survivors of violence; and the enactment and implementation of legislation regarding sexual and gender based violence to protect women from violence and impose appropriate penalties for perpetrators of violence.

217. The Family Health and Safety Studies in eleven Pacific islands countries<sup>112</sup> since 2008 provide evidence of high levels of sexual and physical violence across the region and the violence is intergenerational. This evidence shows that 63 percent of women in Melanesia, 44 percent in Micronesia and 43 percent in Polynesia have experienced lifetime physical and sexual violence by an intimate partner. Just as alarming is that a large proportion of the women think violence by an intimate partner, particularly physical violence, is justified. The cost of violence per annum has been estimated at FJD 290 million for Fiji, AUD 22 billion for Australia and NZD 8 billion for New Zealand.<sup>113</sup> Women and girls with disabilities are 2 to 3 times more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse than those without a disability.<sup>114</sup>
218. Transforming the harmful social norms, stereotypes and behaviours that perpetuate gender-based violence and ensuring access to quality essential services and justice for

109 Improving labour market outcomes in the Pacific: Policy Challenges and Priorities Report by ILO and ADB June 2017

110 Page 48 Improving labour markets outcomes in the Pacific: Policy challenges and priorities report by ILO and ADB 2017

111 For example, as much as 75-90 per cent of market vendors in the Pacific are women.

112 Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Palau, RMI, FSM, Tonga, Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Nauru

113 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration Trend Assessment Report 2012-2016

114 A Deeper Silence (2013) UNFPA "The unheard experiences of women with disabilities sexual and reproductive health and violence against women in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tonga".



survivors is crucial to reducing violence and achieving gender equality. There is currently emerging research that looks into gender-based violence experienced by women and girls who are particularly vulnerable, including women and girls with disabilities, and LGBTI which shows women with disabilities face additional problems in accessing appropriate support and have fewer options of escaping violence.<sup>115</sup>

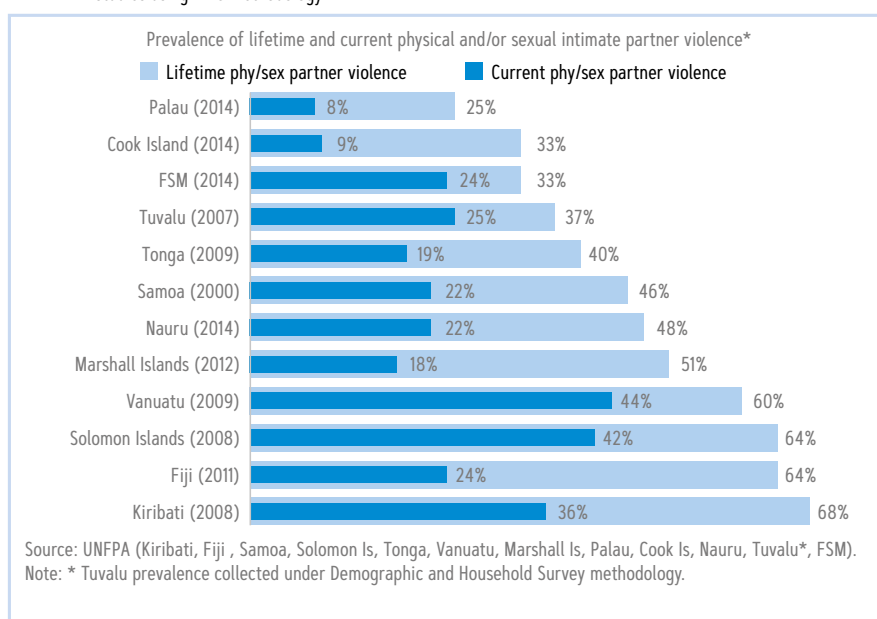
- 219. Increased information and awareness on domestic violence, in partnership with and in some cases led by CSO partners, has helped break the silence and initiated legislative reforms to increase protection for women and children. Nevertheless, access to justice and essential services for survivors including execution of protection orders<sup>116</sup> remains inadequate and largely insufficiently resourced, particularly outside urban areas.
- 220. Sexual and reproductive health and rights issues are often wrongly labelled as ‘women’s business’, yet men are equally involved as partners. These issues are apparent in high rates of sexually transmitted diseases, the incidence of certain cancers including breast, cervical, uterine and prostate cancers and teenage pregnancy rates. Fertility rates remain high in the majority of the

### Health and Education

The Declaration calls for adequate funding support to be made available for reproductive health (including family planning) education, awareness and service programs; and to ensure gender parity in informal, primary, secondary and tertiary education and training opportunities is encouraged.

PICTs. In almost all PICTs, universal marriage (consensual or legal) is associated with child bearing, and because of high teenage fertility rates and societal norms often young men and women enter into early marriage. The young population structure of PICTs poses increasing demands and challenges for access to quality, appropriate and confidential sexual and reproductive health services in all areas of all PICTs. This is apparent in the high rates of teenage fertility across the region. For many PICTs, limited resources for programmes to improve the health of women and girls, as well as men and boys, is affecting progress. Some PICTs have implemented mass HPV virus immunization programmes through schools, and an emerging promising practise is the increasing

Figure 33: Prevalence of lifetime and current physical and/or sexual partner violence across studies using WHO methodology\*



115 Pacific Disability Forum (2014) Toolkit for Eliminating violence against women and girls with disabilities in Fiji  
 116 Fiji Women’s Rights Movement (2017) Balancing the scales : improving Fijian women’s access to justice.



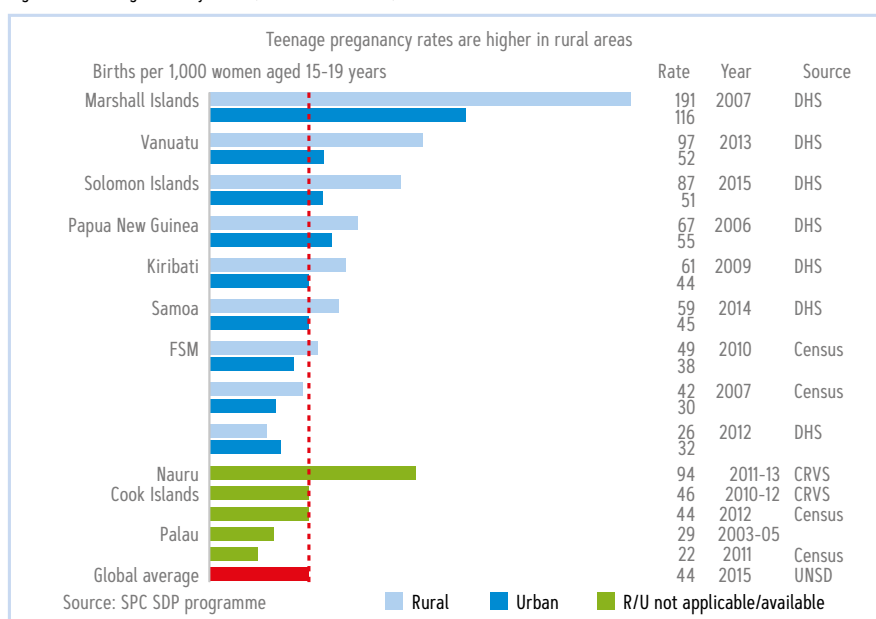
number of boys being immunised. However, the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, especially in terms of sexual and reproductive health, are not adequately addressed.

221. Most countries have or are close to achieving gender parity in primary enrolment in terms of gross enrolment rates, with gross enrolment rates varying and where gender parity in enrolment does not necessarily equate with gender parity in learning outcomes. However, relatively simple changes in national policies, such as making primary schooling fee free and compulsory, have led to increases in school enrolment. While secondary enrolment shows girls outnumbering boys (apart from Papua New Guinea), women and girls continue to face barriers to access tertiary education. The 2012 World Bank Report, *Towards Gender Equality in East Asia and the Pacific*, states that where educational systems and curricula (including teacher learning materials and classroom resources) reinforce harmful social norms, the choices that both men and women make for future education and employment results in the reinforcement of traditional skills and values, with women remaining in lower paid employment.<sup>117</sup> This is also seen in technical and vocational education and training (TVET), where

general trends show that men dominate programs for trades related vocations (mechanics, carpentry, engineering) and women are the majority in service related training programs (teaching, nursing, community development).

222. There is a need to challenge gender stereotypes and harmful social norms and identify ways to address gender-based violence (GBV) in school curricula, teaching and learning resources; and non-discriminatory approaches in teacher recruitment and training. The low investment in inclusive education and disability-friendly schools remains a barrier to education for women and girls with disabilities. Implementation of gender mainstreaming within the sector is critical, as is the integration of human rights education, and should include efforts to reduce barriers and gender stereotyping in education, TVET and science and technology. The science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs have been effective in breaking down barriers of occupational concentration and segregation, lowering the gender wage gap and STEM training opportunities need to be promoted for young women through targeted scholarships, training and internships. There is a need to promote lifelong learning and increased access to “second

Figure 34: Teenage fertility rates (SDG indicator 3.7.2), latest available



117 World Bank Report (2012), *Towards Gender Equality in East Asia and the Pacific*, pgs. 69-70.



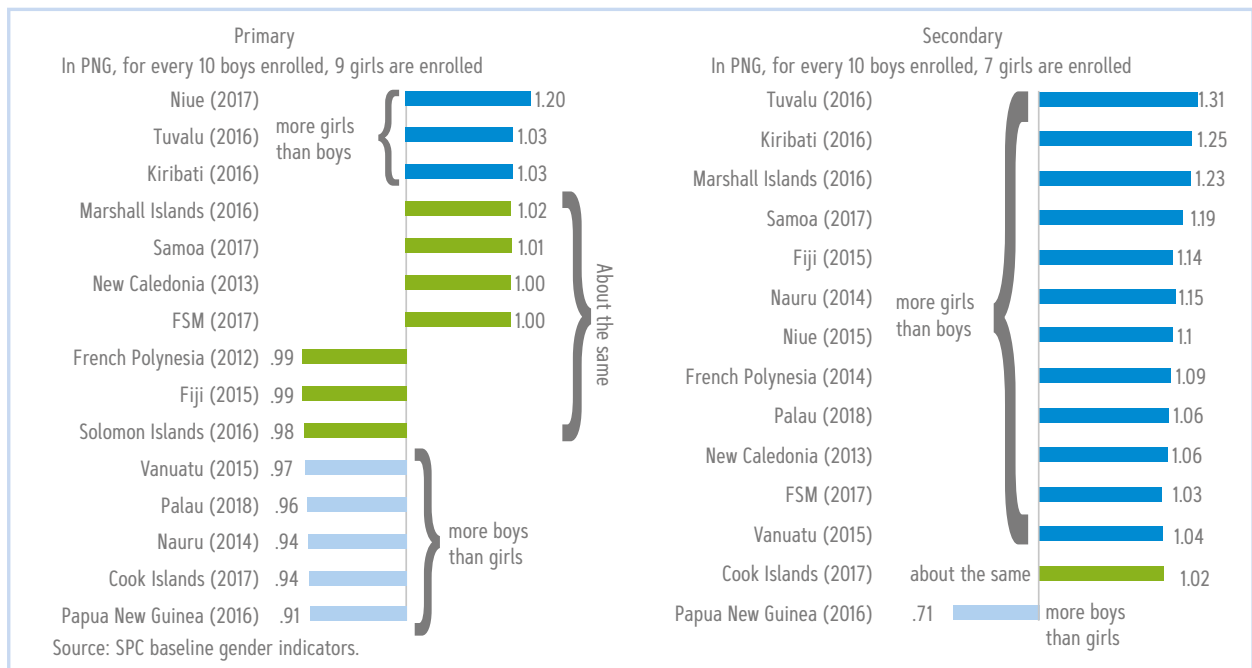
chance” education for students who do not meet academic criteria to progress to the next level of schooling, along with academic and TVET streams.

### Next Steps

223. The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration is a vehicle to help mobilise regional and national political will to prioritise, resource and implement national actions to accelerate gender equality and empowerment of girls and women in the Pacific. The 2018 progress includes greater efforts towards mainstreaming gender, reporting on women’s human rights, increasing financial literacy and inclusion, efforts to improve access to essential services for violence against women

and improvements in girls’ education. Despite these wins, persistent challenges remain including negative social norms and perceptions of the role of women and girls, lack of financial investments for gender mainstreaming at national level, cultural and social barrier to women decision making at all levels, access to essential services for all women including women with disabilities and LBGTQI and implementation of Family Protection orders, high fertility rate particularly in rural areas and limited opportunities for girls and women in the areas of secondary, tertiary, STEM and TVET. Dedicated resources and prioritization at national level to address these challenges will lead to shifts in the current trends recorded in 2018.

Figure 35: Gender Parity Index of the Gross Enrolment Rate for primary and secondary level, latest year available Primary



## Section 6: Conclusions And Recommendations

224. The Pacific Leaders have been at the forefront of the negotiations that led to the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and which underline the necessity for increased attention to be paid to the particular vulnerabilities of Smaller Islands Developing States.
225. Production of the first quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report (PSDR 2018) highlights some good progress but it also outlines there are considerable challenges. Our vulnerabilities are increasing, our inequalities are deepening, and access to infrastructure and basic services remain elusive for some. The report also highlights that despite our ongoing challenges and limitations, we have significant potential and opportunities for accelerating development in the Pacific through our Pacific specific – know how, resilience, our ability to adapt to changing situations, our significant biodiversity, oceanic resources and ability to work as a Blue Pacific collective, and our increasing access to and use of ICT, increasing connectivity, increase in focus on renewable energy enabling more access to energy. Importantly the report points to the need for the region to focus more attention on operationalising commitment to action at national and regional levels. Despite the existence of an extensive number of regional and national frameworks, policies, partnerships and projects, progress in achieving sustainable development is slow and inconsistent across the region.
226. Successful implementation of appropriate policies and programmes requires additional financing, strengthened coordination, capacities and institutions. There is a need for an increased adoption of multistakeholder engagements, greater use of peer learning modalities such as south-south exchanges and the effective implementation and monitoring of genuine and durable partnerships - both locally and internationally.
227. The availability of timely, accurate disaggregated data to monitor implementation across the three dimensions of sustainable development will be critical for strengthening evidence based planning, budgeting and implementation and in order to meet the region's commitments made through a variety of frameworks and policies.
228. The region's population is facing increased inequalities and in some countries there is growing hardship especially for the most vulnerable such as persons living with disabilities, women, youth, the elderly and those living in remote areas. Unless economic and social inequalities are addressed, the region will not deliver on the promise of leaving no one behind. This is further exacerbated by the social and economic consequences of extremely high levels of NCDs and the impacts of climate change resulting in increased extreme weather events and disasters.
229. Beyond some advances in infant and maternal health, access to school, health, water, sanitation and electricity services, empowerment of women and environmental protection there remain significant development and institutional challenges. An estimated one in four Pacific Islanders live under their respective national poverty lines. Unemployment, particularly of women and young people, is a major concern, with youth unemployment averaging 23 percent in the region compared with a global figure of 13.1 percent. Inequality and insecurity is deepening across the region and this potentially gives rise to economic, social and political instability. Gender inequality remains a key challenge: violence against women is amongst the highest in the world, employment and pay scales continue to favour men and women's participation in leadership and decision-making is among the lowest globally.
230. In order to address limitations to women's empowerment it is necessary to address compounding and intersecting patriarchal barriers, including discriminatory policy and legislation, social and cultural norms which severely impact on their health, safety, access to economic opportunities and decision making.

118 SPC (2015). The Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014-2023: A coordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific; SPC and UNICEF, 2011. The State of Pacific Youth Report, 2011 & ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth 2017



231. Economic trends in the Pacific have been volatile. Countries are sensitive to external shocks (such as, global commodity price fluctuations and financial stress), catastrophic events (e.g. cyclones.) and the high cost of adaptation to climate change. There is a need for PICTs to broaden economies; strengthen public financial management; increase employment especially for youth; enhance gender equality and opportunities for women; and improve social safety nets for the vulnerable, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
232. To achieve the SDGs, tackling the dual threats of climate change and disasters from natural hazard risk events is essential. By building resilience and ensuring that all development is risk-informed, countries and communities can protect against losses and simultaneously boost economic growth, create jobs and livelihoods, strengthen access to health and education, and ensure that 'no one is left behind'.
233. It is important that more attention is given to the health of the region's rich biodiversity as it is the basis of life and sustains crucial planetary health and environmental functions such as regulating climate, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, contributes to water regulation and nutrient cycling. The Pacific oceanic resources are an important global source of food, livelihood, employment, economic and cultural development.
234. The region needs to address the consequences of growing economies and populations, poor waste management practices and limited land availability that is contributing to increased volumes of solid and hazardous wastes threatening sustainable development in the region. Waste generation for the entire Pacific urban population is projected to be more than 1.6 million tonnes by 2025, with over 80 percent of ocean litter from land based sources, impacting coral reefs and killing 1 million seabirds and 100 million whales, dolphins and seals every year.



## Annex 1: Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators

	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
1	1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	1.1.1	1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	Tier I	Y
1	1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Tier I	Y
1		1.2.2	1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Tier II	N
1	1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	1.3.1	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	Tier II	Y
1	1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	1.4.1	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	Tier III	N
2	2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.1	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	Tier I	Y
2	2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	2.2.1	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	Tier I	Y
2		2.2.2	2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Tier I	Y
2	2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	2.3.2	2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	Tier III	N
2	2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality	2.4.1	2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Tier III	N
2	2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed	2.5.1	2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities	Tier I	N
2	2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries	2.a.1	2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	Tier II	N



	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
3	3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	3.1.1	3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	Tier I	Y
3		3.1.2	3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Tier I	Y
3	3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	3.2.1	3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate	Tier I	Y
3		3.2.2	3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	Tier I	Y
3	3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3.2	3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	Tier I	Y
3		3.3.3	3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	Tier I	Y
3		3.3.5	3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	Tier I	N
3	3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4.1	3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	Tier I	Y
3	3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5.2	3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	Tier I	y
y3	3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	3.7.1	3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	Tier I	Y
3		3.7.2	3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Tier II	Y
3	3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	Tier III	N
3	3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.2	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)	Tier II	Y
3	3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate	3.a.1	3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	Tier I	Y
3	3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States	3.c.1	3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	Tier I	Y
3	3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks	3.d.1	3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	Tier I	Y
4	4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	4.1.1	4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	Tier III	N
4	4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education	4.2.2	4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Tier I	Y
4	4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	4.3.1	4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	Tier II	N
4	4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	4.5.1	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	Tier I/II/III	Y
4	4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy	4.6.1	4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	Tier II	N





	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
4	4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	4.7.1	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	Tier III	N
4	4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	4.a.1	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	Tier II	N
4	4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States	4.c.1	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country	Tier II	Y
5	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	Tier III	N
5	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Tier II	N
5		5.2.2	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Tier II	N
5	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Tier II	Y
5	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Tier II	N
5	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	Tier I/II	Y
5		5.5.2	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Tier I	Y
5	5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	Tier II	N
5	5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.2	5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	Tier II	N
5	5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Tier I	Y
5	5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	Tier II	N
6	6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Tier II	Y
6	6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1	6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services including a hand washing facility with soap and water	Tier I	Y



	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
6	6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated	Tier II	N
7	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	7.1.1	7.1.1 Proportion of population with electricity	Tier I	Y
7	7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	7.2.1	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	Tier I	Y
7	7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology	7.a.1	7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	Tier II	N
0	7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	7.b.1	7.b.1 Investments in energy efficiency as a proportion of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services	Tier III	N
8	8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	8.1.1	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Tier I	Y
8	8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	8.3.1	8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	Tier II	N
8	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	8.5.1	8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	Tier II	N
8		8.5.2	8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Tier I	Y
8	8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	8.6.1	8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	Tier I	N
8	8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	8.9.1	8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	Tier II	Y
8		8.9.2	8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs	Tier III	N
8	8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all	8.10.2	8.10.2 - Proportion of adults (aged 15+) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with mobile-money service provider	Tier I	N
8	8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries	8.a.1	8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements	Tier I	Y
9	9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries	9.2.2	9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	Tier I	Y
9	9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	9.a.1	9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	Tier I	Y
9	9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020	9.c.1	9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	Tier I	Y



	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
10	10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average	10.1.1	10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	Tier II	N
10	10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Tier III	N
10	10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	10.4.1	10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	Tier II	Y
10	10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions	10.6.1	10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	Tier I	Y
10	10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	10.7.2	10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies	Tier III	N
10	10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes	10.b.1	10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)	Tier I/II	Y
10	10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent	10.c.1	10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	Tier II	N
11	11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	11.1.1	11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	Tier I	N
11	11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations	11.5.1	11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 people.	Tier II	Y
11		11.5.2	11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters	Tier I	Y
11	11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	11.6.1	11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities	Tier II	N
11	11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels	11.b.2	11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	Tier II	N
12	12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement	Tier I	Y
12		12.4.2	12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	Tier III	N
12	12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	Tier III	N
12	12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	12.b.1	12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools	Tier III	N
13	13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.2	13.1.2. Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 REPEAT OF 1.5.3 and 11.b.1	Tier I	Y



	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
13	13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning	13.2.1	13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production	Tier III	N
13	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning	13.3.1	13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula	Tier III	N
13	13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible	13.a.1	13.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year between 2020 and 2025 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment	Tier III	N
13	13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	13.b.1	13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	Tier III	N
14	14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	14.1.1	14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	Tier III	N
14	14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	14.2.1	14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	Tier III	N
14	14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	14.3.1	14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	Tier III	N
14	14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics	14.4.1	14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	Tier I	N
14	14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information	14.5.1	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	Tier I	Y
14	14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiations	14.6.1	14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Tier III	N
14	14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	14.7.1	14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries	Tier III	N
14	14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries	14.a.1	14.a.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology	Tier II	N



	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
14	14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets	14.b.1	14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries	Tier III	N
15	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	15.1.1	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	Tier I	Y
15		15.1.2	15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	Tier I	Y
15	15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species	15.5.1	15.5.1 Red List Index	Tier II	Y
15	15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed	15.6.1	15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits	Tier I	Y
15	15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products	15.7.1	15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	Tier II	N
15	15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	15.8.1	15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species	Tier II	N
16	16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.3	16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Tier II	N
16	16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1	16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Tier II	N
16	16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	16.6.1	16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	Tier I	N
16	16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	16.7.1	16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions	Tier III	N
16		16.7.2	16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	Tier III	N
16	16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Tier I	Y
16	16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	16.10.2	16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	Tier II	N
17	17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection	17.1.1	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	Tier I	N
17		17.1.2	17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	Tier I	N
17	17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries	17.2.1	17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	Tier I	N
17	17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	17.3.1	17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget	Tier I	N
17		17.3.2	17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	Tier I	Y



	Target	Ind Short	Indicator Full	Tier (Dec 2017)	Available
17	17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress	17.4.1	17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	Tier I	N
17	17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	17.6.2	17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	Tier I	Y
17	17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed	17.7.1	17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	Tier III	N
17	17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology	17.8.1	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	Tier I	Y
17	17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation	17.9.1	17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	Tier I	Y
17	17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development	17.14.1	17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development	Tier III	N
17	17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development	17.15.1	17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation	Tier II	Y
17	17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries	17.16.1	17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals	Tier II	Y
17	17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships	17.17.1	17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships	Tier III	N
17	17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts	17.18.2	17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	Tier II	N
17		17.18.3	17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding (modified from old)	Tier I	Y
17	17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries	17.19.1	17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	Tier I	Y
17		17.19.2	17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration	Tier I	Y
PI		Proxy	Number of countries with a reproductive health policy, guidelines and protocols for service delivery fully or partially resourced	PI	N
PI		Proxy	Proportion of the national budget allocated to culture, including for protection, preservation (heritage) and promotion	PI	Y
PI		Proxy	Existence of implementation plan for the different UN Treaty Body recommendations and UPR recommendations which are fully or partially resourced	PI	N
PI		Proxy	Value of PIC exports of goods and services	PI	N
PI		Proxy	Percent of SDG Pacific Headline Indicators included in regional progress reports	PI	N



## Annex 2: Nationally Determined Contributions Of Pacific Islands Forum Member Countries

Countries	NDC Targets
Australia (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce GHG emissions to 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2030.</li> </ul>
Cook Islands (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% renewable energy coverage by 2020.</li> <li>• Unconditional - emission reduction from electricity generation by 38% by 2020, based on 2006 level.</li> <li>• Conditional – emission reduction from electricity by 81% by 2020, based on 2006 level.</li> </ul>
Federated States of Micronesia(3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unconditional - reduce by 2025 a 28% of its GHGs emissions below emissions in year 2000.</li> <li>• Conditional - an additional reduction by 2025 up to 35% below emissions in the 2000 base year.</li> </ul>
Fiji (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% renewable energy by 2030 from around 60% in 2013. In addition, an indicative reduction of 10% CO2 emissions for energy efficiency improvements economy wide will be sought.</li> <li>• These measures will reduce CO2 emissions in the energy sector by around 30% from BAU by 2030. From the 30% emission reduction target, 10% will be achieved through the implementation of the Green Growth Framework, utilizing resources available in country (unconditional) whereas the remaining target can only be met with the availability of external funding amounting to US\$500 million (conditional).</li> </ul>
Kiribati (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unconditional - Reduce emissions by 13.7% by 2025 and 12.8% by 2030 compared to a BAU projection.</li> <li>• Conditional - 48.8% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025; and 49% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to the BAU projection. With appropriate international assistance, Kiribati can reduce its emissions by more than 60% (61.8%) by 2030.</li> </ul>
Nauru (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guided by the targets of the Nauru Energy Roadmap which commits to achieve by 2020, subject to external support:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/7 grid electricity supply with minimal interruptions;</li> <li>• 50% of grid electricity supplied from renewable energy sources; and</li> <li>• 30% improvement in energy efficiency in the residential, commercial and government sectors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
New Zealand (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce GHG emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.</li> </ul>
Niue (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unconditional - 38% share of renewable energy of total electricity generation by 2020. In 2014, the renewable energy share was 2%. This will in part be delivered by a 10% reduction in residential, commercial and government electricity demand by 2020. This contribution will be maintained through to 2025.</li> <li>• Conditional - upon external assistance, Niue could increase its contribution to an 80% share of renewable energy of total electricity generation, or to even higher levels by 2025.</li> </ul>



Countries	NDC Targets
Palau (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% energy sector emissions reductions below 2005 levels by 2025;</li> <li>• 45% Renewable Energy target by 2025; and</li> <li>• 35% Energy Efficiency target by 2025. These are conditional on external support.</li> </ul>
Papua New Guinea (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to 100% renewable in the power sector by 2030, and will mostly require external support.</li> </ul>
Republic of the Marshall Islands (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantified economy wide-target to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 32% below 2010 levels by 2025, and up to 45% below 2010 levels by 2030.</li> </ul>
Samoa (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noting 26% of electricity was generated from renewable energy sources in 2014. Samoa commits to generating 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources by 2025. This is conditional on Samoa attaining this target in 2017 and receiving external assistance.</li> </ul>
Solomon Islands (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unconditional - reduce emissions by 12% below 2015 level by 2025 and 30% below 2015 level by 2030 compared to a BAU projection.</li> <li>• Conditional - with international assistance, contribute a further 27% reduction in GHG emissions by 2025 and 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to BAU projection.</li> </ul>
Tonga (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2020. In 2015 renewable energy accounts for approximately 9% of total electricity generation, with confirmed and funded investments taking this to 13% in 2016.</li> <li>• 70% of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030.</li> <li>• Improve energy efficiency through reduction of electricity line losses to 9 percent by 2020 (baseline of 18 percent in 2010).</li> </ul>
Tuvalu (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emissions reduction from the electricity generation by 100% (i.e. almost zero emissions) by 2025. Tuvalu's indicative quantified economy-wide target for a reduction in total emissions of GHGs from the entire sector to 60% below 2010 levels by 2025. These emissions will be further reduced from the other key sectors, agriculture and waste, conditional upon the necessary technology and finance.</li> </ul>
Vanuatu (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% renewable energy in the electricity sector by 2030 with external support. This target would replace nearly all fossil fuel requirements for electricity generation in the country and be consistent with the National Energy Road Map (NERM) target of 65% renewable energy by 2020.</li> </ul>

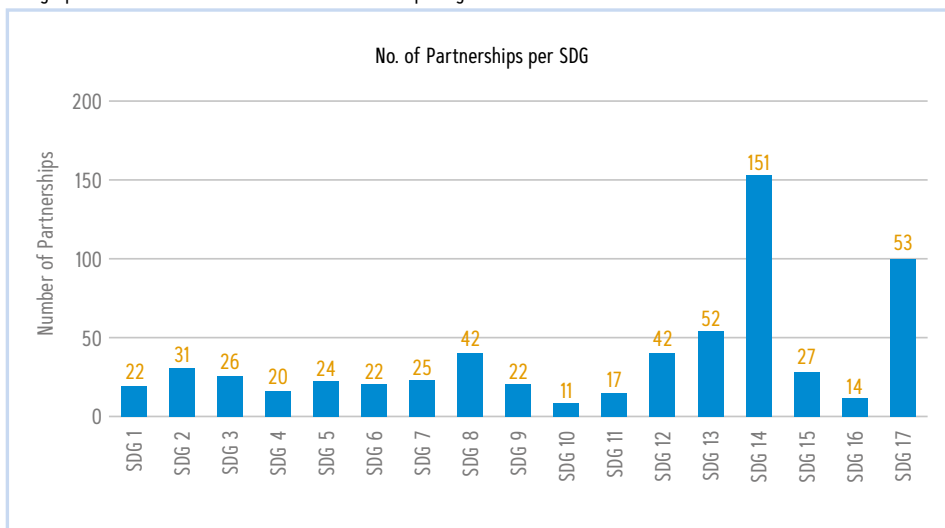




## Annex 3: Update On S.A.M.O.A Pathway/UN Oceans Partnerships In The Pacific

- In addition to summary on pages 36-38, this Annex provides more detailed information and a listing of the 223 partnerships. A total of 304 SIDS partnerships were launched in Samoa in 2014 with an additional 223 partnerships registered over the past three years primarily from the UN Oceans Conference in 2017. As of May 2018, a total of 527 Partnerships have been registered on the SIDS Action Platform with 285 or 54 percent delivered in the Pacific. Of the 285 PSIDS Partnerships 62 or 22 percent have been completed and 223 are registered as on track (ongoing). A majority of the 223 active PSIDS Partnerships are aligned to more than one SDG with the highest number aligned with Goal 14 (151 partnerships), Goal 17 (53 partnerships) and Goal 13 (52 partnerships). This is a direct correlation with the Pacific’s regional priorities of climate change, oceans and means of implementation. SDGs 8 on economic growth and 12 on sustainable consumption attracted around 40 partnerships each, with SDG2 on hunger registering 31 partnerships. The lack of attention to partnerships for peaceful societies and strong institutions (Goal 16), reduced inequalities (Goal 10), poverty reduction (Goal 11) Sustainable Cities and Disaster management is a concern.
- While UNDESA’s 2018 global SAMOA Pathway partnerships assessment notes that the majority of the partnerships are on track, it is important to highlight that out of the 223 Pacific SIDS Partnerships, only 10 have reported officially to UNDESA on the SIDS Action Platform. In 2016, a rapid assessment by PIFS with member countries highlighted that most of the PICTs had limited information on the partnerships they were registered for as partners or beneficiaries. That assessment indicated that of the 304 partnerships launched in Samoa, only 74 partnerships were registered as benefiting or partnerships with a Pacific country and only 10 percent of the 304 were having traction on the ground.
- One or more Pacific countries are listed as a partner or beneficiary of 223 SIDS Partnerships. Analysis shows that Fiji is engaged in the most number of partnerships with 63, Vanuatu and Samoa with 52 each and Tonga with 49 Partnerships. Pacific countries with the least engagement in the SIDS partnerships are the French territories, New Caledonia with 5 Partnerships and French Polynesia with 4 Partnerships. The other PSIDS engagement in the partnerships range between 24 to 45 partnerships. The Partnerships per country have been categorized into Global, Regional and National. It is important to note as well that there are a number of Partnerships that involve all PSIDS.

The graphs below illustrate the 223 PSIDS Partnerships aligned across each of the 17 Goals

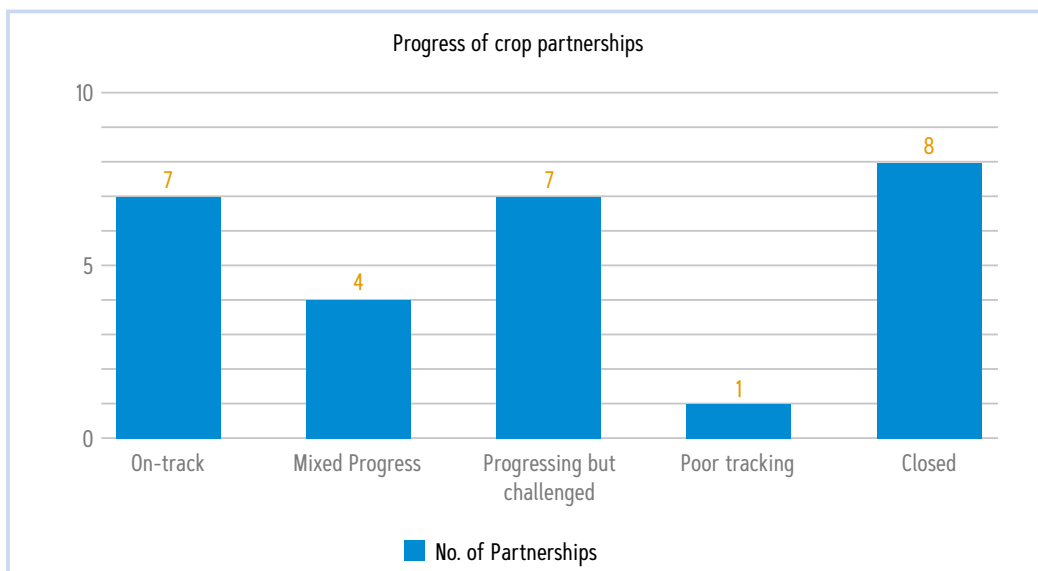


4. Of the 223 Partnerships in the Pacific 138 or 62 percent can be considered to be led and managed by Pacific SIDS and agencies working in the Pacific. Pacific SIDS combined lead or are registered to be the focal points for a total of 78 of the 223 partnerships or 35% of the total partnerships. CROP agencies are partners in 87 of the 223 Pacific Partnerships leading in 27 of those Partnerships. UN agencies are partners in 77 of the 223 Pacific Partnerships leading in 33 of those partnerships. All Partnerships are registered as on track on the website but only 1 and 3 CROP and UN agency led partnerships are registered as having submitted a progress report on the SIDS Action Platform.
5. In the absence of reporting for most of the 223 partnerships on the SIDS Action Platform, a request from the PIFS to CROP and UN agencies for progress reports on the 60 partnerships they lead generated some information on the actual progress of 35 of the 60 partnerships. About 20 percent of the 35 partnerships that have reported are either closed, closing or considered for closing. The common challenges for the partnerships that have closed or ongoing are the lack of funding, political commitment, changes in organisational priorities, and human resource challenges including turnover or lack of staff to

maintain the partnership. It would be important for the Pacific SIDS to update the progress of the partnerships they lead in for 2018 to help inform the Pacific’s discussions at the 2018 Inter-Regional Summit for the SAMOA Pathway Mid Term Review.

6. Many of the Pacific SIDS partnerships from 2014 were pre-existing partnerships globally and in the Pacific which included professional networks, advisory and steering committees, annual and biannual conferences, frameworks, technical facilities, research and learning networks including south-south cooperation and pilot projects. Many of the new 223 partnerships since 2014 were commitments made at the UN Oceans Conference in 2017 and primarily for individual countries which increased significantly the number of partnerships in oceans management or SDG14. There was some noticeable duplication in partnerships in a few of the sectors most notably in water and climate change although for climate change, about four key climate change partnerships have now merged into the Pacific Resilience Partnership. There are some good examples of successful partnerships that have been institutionalised or have delivered tangible outcomes at country and regional level. These partnerships are in the areas of climate change,

The graph below illustrates the Progress of CROP Partnerships:



resilience, oceans management and conservation, disaster risk reduction, NCDs action, culture, education research and capacity building.

7. Of the 27 Regional Partnerships where CROP agencies lead on, 7 are on-going and tracking well. These are aligned the most to Goal 14 on oceans and focused on research, data collection, capacity building, building networks and developing country specific strategies. Another 7 of the partnerships are categorised as progressing but challenged by resource constraints, either in regards to finances or capacity. These partnerships are aligned the most to Goal 7 and Goal 2, 9, 12, 14 focused on network building, convening meetings/workshops, advocacy, data collection, capacity building and developing national and regional frameworks. There are an additional 8 partnerships that have been completed and need to be registered as so on the SIDS Partnerships website and 4 showing mixed progress. The Partnerships have been effective in implementing some of its stated deliverables however the challenges encountered extend beyond the scope of the Partnerships. 3 of these 4 partnerships are from the Water and Sanitation sector which have reported that there are ongoing issues with securing institutional programmatic support for relevant initiatives, outdated regional frameworks, coordination and capacity at the national level and a need for increased engagement from PSIDS and partners in progressing globally set water and sanitation targets.
8. UN agencies are partners in 77 of the 223 Pacific Partnerships. Out of the 77, they are the lead and focal point for 33 Partnerships. Only 3 of the 77 Partnerships from UN agencies is registered as having submitted a Progress Report, 1 from UNDP and 2 from FAO.
9. Financial resources for the 223 PSIDS Partnerships registered on the SIDS Action Platform indicates a substantial amount of \$4.1 bn USD spread across the 17 SDGs between 2014 and 2018. Goal 14 has the highest registered resource allocation at \$2.3bn USD or 56 percent of the total followed by Goal 17 with around \$1.5

The table below provides the number of partnerships and financial resources allocated to the various SDGs:

SDG	No. of Partnerships	Total Financial Allocation
SDG 2	1	\$300,000.00
SDG 3	1	\$440,000.00
SDG 5	3	\$28,265,000.00
SDG 6	2	\$8,727,000.00
SDG 7	5	\$91,170,000.00
SDG 8	5	\$4,008,000.00
SDG 9	1	\$19,090,000.00
SDG 11	1	\$3,500,000.00
SDG 12	6	\$3,053,920.00
SDG 13	3	\$112,100,000.00
SDG 14	39	\$2,363,539,063.00
SDG 15	1	\$15,194,862.00
SDG 16	1	\$35,000.00
SDG 17	6	\$1,542,480,000.00

bn USD or 34 percent of the total resources. While the resourcing is significant, without consistent monitoring and reporting it is difficult to identify the effectiveness of implementation of such large resource allocations. Regional partnerships recorded the highest financial allocation at \$2.4bn with Global partnerships recording \$1.6bn and national partnerships recording \$120m. Goal 1 on Zero Hunger, Goal 4 on Quality Education and Goal 10 on Reducing Inequalities do not have financial resources allocated to Partnerships that cover implementation in those areas.

### Issues with SIDS Action Platform

11. The platform requires regular updating and a full-time person to manage it. Advocacy, ownership, and accountability of the commitment made against these partnerships needs to be



strengthened substantially in order for this mechanism to remain legitimate and sustainable over time. Poor monitoring and reporting hinders the effectiveness of these resources and also delves the issue of transparency on whether there is real impact on the ground. There is a need to review the status of all of the PSIDS partnerships to address gaps in implementation, strengthen monitoring and feedback from partnership focal points and determine which partnerships need to be taken off the website. The effectiveness of the platforms monitoring and evaluation mechanisms does require strengthening to the level of identifying clearly to Partnership holders who the focal point for communication is for information on the required monitoring and follow-up.

12. The following section provides a list of the 223 PSIDS Partnerships with information on the type of Partnerships, the relevant SDG it is linked to, the Participating PSIDS in each of the Partnerships, the resource allocation for implementing deliverables against that partnership. The yellow highlighted are those that have submitted progress reports on implementation.

<sup>1</sup> Holland, P., 2014, Hydrometeorological Disasters in the Pacific – Statistical summary. (SPC PR187)  
[https://library.wmo.int/pmb\\_ged/2014\\_spc-wmo-unisdr\\_hydrometeorological-disasters-pacific\\_en.pdf](https://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/2014_spc-wmo-unisdr_hydrometeorological-disasters-pacific_en.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> BÜNDNIS ENTWICKLUNG HILFT (2017) World Risk Report 2017. Berlin: Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft  
[http://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WRR\\_2017\\_E2.pdf](http://weltrisikobericht.de/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/WRR_2017_E2.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> See Pacific Islands Forum Communiqués since 1990 and onwards [www.forumsec.org](http://www.forumsec.org)

<sup>1</sup> See UNFCCC website [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

<sup>1</sup> Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: <http://gsd.spc.int/frdp/>

<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2017) PCRAFI Programme Phase II Furthering Disaster risk Finance in the Pacific. Regional Collaboration on Climate and Disaster Risk Financing. 36pp - Insert Hyperlink





