

FAST FACTS

United Nations Development Programme



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Nauru Entrepreneurship Development Programme

The objective of the Nauru Entrepreneurship Development Programme was to build and strengthen the entrepreneurial capacity of Nauruans to confidently engage in individual enterprises that will provide a sustainable livelihood to those who are currently unemployed or underemployed. Particular focus was given to empowering women and young people to engage in work and self-employment.

Nauru, a small Pacific island nation went from being one of the world's wealthiest countries in the 1970s to one of the world's poorest. Phosphate mining which brought Nauru its riches, is on the decline and apart from the public service, there are few livelihood options for people on the tiny island nation, which has a total land area of 21 square kilometers and an estimated population of 10,084 (2011 Census).

The entrepreneurial climate in Nauru is also generally weak. Compounded by the lack of financial institutions in



Ivianna Gaiyabu better manages her cash flow by reduce operational on chicken feed and water. Credit: Patrick Tuimaleali'ifano/UNDP

MATTERS OF FACT

- More than 260 people participated in the programme.
- Nauru Entrepreneurship Resource Centre opened in 2010.
- 17 business projects were funded.
- 14 of them were led by women, including 10 young women, and three by men, of which two were youths.
- Overall project funding of US\$211,693.



Gary Roland (right) learnt to plan for the future and not just the short term. Credit: Patrick Tuimaleali'ifano/UNDP

the country and the lack of access to credit, business development is very difficult. Access to the internet and other information and communication technologies is also extremely limited in Nauru.

The Nauru Entrepreneurship Development Programme was a joint initiative between the Government of Nauru and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Programme which started in 2008 received support of US\$211,693 from the Australian Government. The Department

of Commerce and Business Development in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment was responsible for implementing the Programme.

"This project provides alternative livelihood options and gives people the opportunity to start a business to generate income of their own. Providing these skills, particularly to the unemployed not only equip them with a source of income to enable them to meet their basic needs, but give them a sense of self-worth, which is empowering."

Russ J Kun
Permanent Secretary for Commerce,
Industry & Environment



Lyris Kam learnt how to develop a business plan and get a loan to buy an oven and fridge. Credit: Patrick Tuimaleali'ifano/UNDP

Although on a small-scale, the Nauru Entrepreneurship Development Programme has made a contribution to the development of the small- and medium-enterprise sector – a priority identified in Nauru's National Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2025. This priority calls for the participation of the community, as the basis for the economy supported by the development of a conducive business services environment.

Nauru Enterprise Resource Centre

In 2010, the Nauru Enterprise Resource Centre opened its doors. The Centre offered entrepreneurship training on:

- Promoting an entrepreneurial climate by building and strengthening entrepreneurial skills with particular emphasis on targeting unemployed women and out-of-school youth.
- To provide livelihood opportunities for those in the informal sector.



Twenty-one-year-old single mother Rachel Waidabu had never been employed, and depended on her father and extended family for assistance. The Entrepreneurship Training Course provided her with the opportunity to start her own business. With a loan of AU\$1000 from the micro-credit scheme, Rachel opened a small shop selling items like rice, sugar, oil and local crafts.

"I worked very hard to write my business plan and I'm very happy the training opened opportunities for me. With my business, I can now provide my daughter with three meals a day," she said.

More than 260 Nauruans registered to use the facilities offered and have been able to increase their income and improve the livelihoods of their families after knocking on the doors of the Enterprise Resource Centre. A micro-credit fund that provided loans of up to AU\$2000 was also available for participants to access from the Resource Centre.

A requirement of the micro-credit was the inclusion in the business plans, of an environmentally sustainable component. Business assistance provided by the Centre ensured that all recipients were aware of environmental issues related to their businesses.

The Programme funded in total 17 business projects, 14 of them were led by women, including 10 young women, and three by men, of which two were youths.

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