

The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (Phase II)

Jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with the funding support by the Government of Australia, the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project Phase II is a four-year initiative that aims at supporting Pacific Island countries (PICs) to strengthen their national integrity systems to promote 'clean' governments and create an enabling environment for trade, business, investment and sustainable development to increase in the region. This, in turn, will enhance the delivery of equitable and high-quality services to all Pacific Islanders. The first phase of the project was from 2012-2016. The project is currently on Phase II from 2016-2020.



Where We Work

UN-PRAC covers 15 countries and territories in the Pacific. They include the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the territory of Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Who Do We Work With

Our stakeholders include Members of Parliament, governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), media agencies, private sector organizations, regional and international organizations.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this Project is to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and fight corruption more efficiently and effectively in the Pacific region. This aligns with the purpose of the United Nations Conventions Against Corruption (UNCAC) and the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.

The objectives of this Project are three-fold:

1. To provide Niue, Samoa and Tonga with sufficient information and support to enable their accession to UNCAC, and to support Pacific States parties to actively participate in the UNCAC review process.
2. To support PICs to strengthen their national anti-corruption legislation and policies, as well as institutional frameworks and capabilities to effectively implement UNCAC.
3. To provide support on the demand side of accountability, primarily through supporting a stronger engagement of non-State actors in the oversight of corruption and in the design of tools for a more transparent service delivery.

Anti-Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals

A related anchor of UN-PRAC is the SDGs, adopted by the UN Member States.



SDG 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Target 16.5 specifically calls on States to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, and target 16.6 to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

Shift from 'Why' to 'How'

Over the past few years, the debate has shifted from 'why' countries should prevent and fight corruption to 'how' they should do it. UNCAC is the only international legally binding anti-corruption instrument; it provides a solid legal basis upon which PICs can develop sustainable anti-corruption reforms. It is for this reason that the Project has been designed to draw on UNCAC, as well as the efforts undertaken during the first phase (2012-2016) of the UN-PRAC Project. This includes leveraging PICs' recognition of the UN as a trusted, impartial partner. A medium by which PICs have been addressing the 'how' question is through the mechanism for the review of the implementation of UNCAC (UNCAC Review Mechanism). This requires States parties to consider what national legislative, institutional and practical frameworks exist to effectively address corruption. While continuing the work related to the UNCAC Review Mechanism, UN-PRAC Phase II has aimed to further partner with governments and non-State actors on specific activities that promote integrity and accountable service delivery.

The Journey So Far

UN-PRAC was recognized as a global model for joint UN action in the fight against corruption at the seventh Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC according to Resolution 7/7.

The impact of the Project through the provision of technical assistance, including legislative reviews, policy advice, capacity-building, trainings and social accountability projects is evident throughout the region. In the lifetime of UN-PRAC, seven PICs (Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Niue and Samoa) acceded to UNCAC, and the Pacific was the only region to have finalized its UNCAC reviews in the first cycle in a timely manner.

The Project has been supporting the development of national anti-corruption policies and strategies around the region. With UN-PRAC support, the Solomon Islands and Kiribati adopted and launched their national anti-corruption strategies, while Vanuatu and Tuvalu are in the process of developing their strategies. Numerous PICs were supported with legislative reviews, including Vanuatu with the development and implementation of the Right to Information Law, and the Solomon Islands with its recently adopted Anti-Corruption Law and Whistleblower Protection Law. In addition, both Kiribati and Vanuatu also established national anti-corruption committees during the Project, and another is being considered in Samoa.

UN-PRAC further successfully implemented social accountability projects with various organizations in the Pacific together with Parliaments, civil society organizations and the private sector. For example, technical support was given to Papua New Guinea's *Phones Against Corruption Project*, an initiative that encourages the reporting of corruption through text messages. Recently, UN-PRAC support was given to the

President of the Republic of Kiribati, H.E Taneti Maamau during the last Conference of the States Parties to UNCAC when he declared that one of the key pillars of the Kiribati Vision for 20 years is to create a corrupt free society by the year 2036.

UN-PRAC continues to sustain strategic regional partnerships with networks and organizations. These include the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption, Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions, Pacific Regional Alliance of Regional NGOs, University of the South Pacific, including the University of the South Pacific Students Association, and the Pacific Youth Council. One more recent partnership has been with the Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption that is a platform for youth engagement and championing anti-corruption efforts.

“Corruption has disastrous impacts on development when funds that should be devoted to schools, health clinics and other vital public services are instead diverted into the hands of criminals or dishonest officials. Corruption exacerbates violence and insecurity. It can lead to dissatisfaction with public institutions, disillusion with government in general, and spirals of anger and unrest.”

Ban Ki Moon (2015 International Anti-Corruption Day Message)

Pacific Island States Parties to UNCAC

Country	Date of ratification/ accession
Papua New Guinea	16 July 2007
Fiji	14 May 2008
Palau	24 March 2009
Vanuatu	12 July 2011
Cook Islands	17 October 2011
Marshall Islands	17 November 2011
Solomon Islands	6 January 2012
Federated States of Micronesia	21 March 2012
Nauru	12 July 2012
Kiribati	27 September 2013
Tuvalu	4 September 2015
Niue	3 October 2017
Samoa	18 April 2018



Regional participants at the Pacific Youth Anti-Corruption Innovation Lab, 2017.

“Kiribati is very proud to be a member of this UNCAC family... In our Kiribati Vision for 20 years (KV-20 plan), one of its key pillars aspires to create Kiribati as a corrupt free society by the year 2036. Our National Anti-Corruption Strategy and KV-20 will serve as our Government’s blueprints to set Kiribati, as a small and vulnerable country to any global economic and environmental catastrophes, on a clear and concrete pathway toward realizing the benefits of preventing and fighting corruption.”

President of Republic of Kiribati His Excellency, Taneti Maamau.
(Source: Kiribati Independent)

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