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*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# Fostering Resilience in the Pacific



# UNDP in Action

UNDP in the Pacific runs country and regional programmes in 15 countries through four offices: Fiji Multi-Country Office, Samoa Multi-Country Office, Papua New Guinea Country Office and the Pacific Centre. UNDP works with partners at all levels of society to help build resilient nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone.

This brochure illustrates the work of UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office. The Fiji Multi-Country Office covers 10 countries: the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands (sub-office), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

## Our Goals

We work to support countries in the Pacific to achieve their national development goals and human development objectives within the four main focus areas:

- Poverty Reduction
- Democratic Governance
- Energy and Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- Gender Equality.

The Fiji Multi-Country Office's work under the UNDP Sub-Regional Programme Document for the Pacific seeks to strengthen linkages between country, regional and global interventions that will reinforce programme impact in the sub-region. This programme strategy fortifies the 2013-2017 United Nations Development Assistance Framework in the Pacific, which was developed with 14 Pacific Island Governments and other development partners.

## Our Partners

Partnerships form an important pillar of success for UNDP's work in the Pacific region. The UNDP Fiji Multi-Country Office actively promotes a range of development partnerships with stakeholders - local, national, regional and international - working together in all phases of the development cycle, from programme design, through implementation, review and revision, to impact assessment and the formulation of new interventions.

Working in 10 countries, the Fiji Multi-Country Office liaises with various government ministries and departments in the region. UNDP also collaborates with communities, civil society organizations, private sector, academic groups, media, donors and stakeholders in project implementation and/or policy dialogue processes.

# Poverty Reduction

Pacific Island countries face common challenges resulting from their small size, geographic isolation and natural disaster vulnerability. The region is experiencing high levels of poverty and slow economic growth and is in danger of missing critical MDG targets. UNDP assists countries in achieving the MDGs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- With UNDP's assistance, all 10 Pacific Island countries have produced a national MDGs Report. Fiji, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have also integrated the MDGs into national policies. Fiji, Tonga and Tuvalu have also improved and strengthened data systems and Tuvalu has included monitoring of vulnerable groups at the community level. The Solomon Islands has established a Development Assistance Database in 2012 for improved information collection, tracking, analysis and planning services for development funds. Analysis of sex-disaggregated data included in the MDGs Reports provided the basis for the formulation of pro-poor policies in the Pacific, targeting women and children living under the nationally defined poverty line.
- Through UNDP's policy support in Vanuatu, a National Trade Policy was established in 2012 to target the development of rural communities and their integration into regional and global trade. Tuvalu and Kiribati undertook trade diagnostic studies with UNDP's assistance and advice to ensure a sound basis for pro-poor and inclusive trade policy development.

## Increasing local ownership of achieving MDGs in Vanuatu

Vanuatu is on track towards reducing child mortality (MDG 4) and has displayed slightly positive progress in promoting gender equality and empowering women.

UNDP has been supporting the Government of Vanuatu since 2008 through the MDGs Capacity Building Project. Progresses on MDG targets and indicators are included in the Annual Development Reports, resulting in integrating the MDGs in the national development planning and budgeting processes. Vanuatu's MDG Acceleration Framework Action Plan started in 2013 focusing on improving reproductive health (MDG 5.B) with emphasis on reducing the adolescent birth rate (MDG 5.4), especially in rural areas, and reducing the unmet need for family planning (MDG 5.6).

Youth in Vanuatu, who consists one third of its population, increased their understanding on and interests in various political and social issues affecting them through a training programme and the country's first-ever National Youth Parliament supported by UNDP in 2013. The Youth Parliament was attended by 52 young women and men representing six provinces. It was broadcasted nationally generating wider discussions on reproductive health (MDG 5.B).



*Vanuatu targets improving reproductive health.*

## New farming method developed in North Malaita to improve food security

Farmers from four communities in North Malaita, Solomon Islands, now know the best method to plant on hillsides, prevent soil erosion and improve their yields. This has been made possible by the establishment of demonstration plots through a national project aimed at enhancing the resilience of local communities to adapt to climate change and ensure food security.

Strogem Woaka Lo Community Fo Kaikai Project, financed by the Adaptation Fund, introduced the terracing method, setting up plant and legume barriers between the terraces, where green manures from cleared trees will be left to rot giving more nutrients to the plants in Malaita Province. "We are very optimistic that this method of farming will eventually meet our food security needs," said Fred Maelliau of Fa'alu, a member of the Fa'alu Strogem Woaka Lo Community Fo Kaikai committee.



*A demonstration plot in Malaita Province, Solomon Islands.*

The project also supported a range of other adaptation measures in agriculture, such as climate-resilient land-use planning, germplasm and agriculture food banks, national assessment of soil types and their vulnerability to degradation, enhanced food processing and storage techniques, amongst others.

## RIGHT NOW | Tuvalu eyes trade to promote development

Tuvalu is looking to trade to achieve some of its key development objectives, including alleviating poverty. The Trade Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening Project aims to strengthen capacities of institutions and stakeholders to formulate and implement trade policies that support national development objectives such as poverty alleviation, inclusive economic growth and equitable sustainable development.

# Democratic Governance

UNDP brings people together within nations and around the world, building partnerships and sharing ways to promote participation, accountability and effectiveness at all levels. We partner with the 10 Pacific Island countries covered by the Fiji Multi-Country Office to assist countries in achieving long-term economic and social sustainable growth for its people through strengthening its governance mechanisms. By doing so, we aim to achieve a more equitable distribution of public resources to grassroots communities and the marginalized.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The national Parliaments of Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu have been supported by UNDP since 2003. The provision of targeted trainings and resources has enabled Parliamentarians to effectively perform their financial accountability, parliamentary oversight, law-making and representation roles.
- Young women and men in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are more aware of their important role in political processes through organizing themselves and participating in debates. In Solomon Islands, their concerns on the impact of climate change on low-lying island states were heard by policy and law makers during the Youth Parliament in 2013. The National Youth Council in Fiji, resurrected with UNDP assistance after a lapse of two decades, has planned to become autonomous after the 2014 elections.
- UNDP has engaged in extensive capacity building of sub-national authorities in the Pacific. In the Solomon Islands, people have better access to education and health services when provincial governments constructed classrooms and health infrastructures with increased funding from the national Government in 2012. This was made possible through the Provincial Capacity Development Fund which was set up with UNDP support.

## More Palauans can now participate in national policy, budget formulation and oversight processes

For the first time since achieving independence in 1994, citizens of Palau can formally participate in the national Government budgeting process. The formal process for citizens' participation in the review of how public funds are used during the national budget formulation, was agreed in a joint resolution by the Palau Senate and House of Delegates in March 2012. The Joint Resolution, also known as joint rules, that govern all aspects of inter-chamber relationships between the Palau Senate and House of Delegates, was adopted after a series of dialogue facilitated by UNDP and the Palau Congress.

Palau currently has a woman Minister for Community and Cultural Affairs, who was one of the participants in the first-ever Practice Congress for Women organized in Palau in 2011. The Ministry and the Olbiil Era Kelulau (National Congress) spearheaded the second Practice Congress for Women in 2013. The Support to Palau Congress Project started in 2010 through a partnership between the Olbiil Era Kelulau, National Government of Palau and UNDP.

### Kiribati Parliamentarians curbing corruption in the public sector

Parliamentarians in Kiribati are set to seek amendments to increase powers for an important committee that scrutinizes public spending. This development stemmed from a workshop for Parliamentarians to familiarize them with the Public Accounts Committee's powers and functions under the Kiribati Parliament Support Project which started in 2009.

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“It is a way forward for women in Kiribati to do better in looking after something very important for our country.”

#### **Honourable Tangariki Reete**

Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (former), Kiribati

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“The workshop made Members of Parliament, managers of state-owned enterprises and relevant ministries and bodies aware of how to address the corrupt practices that we begin to see in all areas of the public service,” said the Speaker of Parliament, Honourable Thomas Iuta.

As one of the Kiribati Parliament’s oversight mechanisms, the Public Accounts Committee can become an effective tool for ensuring the accountability of public funds and curbing corruption in the public sector. Up-scaled support programme to the Kiribati Parliament is being implemented in 2013-2014.



*Participants talked about collaboration between the Government, civil society organizations, youth, churches and communities in achieving the MDG targets in Tonga.*

## RIGHT NOW | Advancing democratic governance in Tonga

The Tonga Governance Strengthening Programme focuses on strengthening Tonga’s governance institutions, the functions of the electoral commission and the role civil society organizations play in promoting good governance. The programme also

supports an improved understanding of governance concepts in the community. This three-year programme will support accountable and transparent elections in 2014, and contribute to promoting democratic governance in Tonga.

# Environment and Energy

UNDP works with Pacific Island countries to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable development and addressing gaps in environmental legislation. UNDP also helps in climate change adaptation and mitigation, conservation of biodiversity, minimizing land degradation, ensuring efficient and equitable water resources management and water supply and sanitation service delivery, replicating best practices for solid waste management programmes and increasing efforts towards enabling access to electricity, environmentally sustainable transportation and cleaner and affordable fuels at both national and community levels.



*Expanding farm after the successful cash-for-work programme in Nadi, Fiji.*



*Youths planted mangroves to protect the coast of Tuvalu.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

- UNDP supported the National Disaster Management Office in the Solomon Islands to better coordinate early recovery efforts and donor response to extensive floods in 2009 and the 2010 tsunami. After flooding and cyclones in Fiji during 2009, 2010 and 2012, and the tsunami and typhoon that hit Tonga in 2009 and 2013, UNDP identified essential capacity development priorities for building back better and pioneered the cash-for-work programme for the affected communities in Tonga and Fiji.
- With UNDP's support, Pacific Island countries are making strong progress in improving effective and sustainable management of environmental and natural resources. In 2011, Palau established a Renewable Energy Fund Window in the National Development Bank of Palau, enabling greater access to renewable energy technologies and power.
- National climate change policy frameworks have been incorporated into disaster risk management in Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu. Through UNDP supported adaptation initiatives in Tuvalu, an extra 800 litres of water storage capacity has been made available for communities benefitting 35 percent of Tuvalu's population residing in four out of the nine islands.

## Federated States of Micronesia continues working towards sustainable land management

The Sustainable Land Management Project assisted the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia's policy in the development and reform for the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. It also facilitated knowledge sharing and awareness raising on sustainable land management among local communities, non-governmental organizations and Government counterparts.

Each state in the Federated States of Micronesia has extensive forest cover. Agroforestry was also a major component of the project. Savannah reforestation sites in Yap State took a mixed species approach, where

the Government nursery produced 6,000 trees for replanting at three sites.

Agroforestry demonstration sites in Pohnpei State developed nurseries and composts and promoted organic agricultural production. The message of the project was well received by the local people, communities and non-governmental organizations, who showed dedication to the continuation and replication of the practices with assistance from the College of Micronesia and Department of Agriculture and Forestry. The agroforestry component is now run by a local non-governmental organization, Island Food Community of Pohnpei, famous for its promotion of local food produce in the country.

## Action for the Development of Marshall Islands Renewable Energies

Five hundred and twenty-five (525) solar home systems have been installed in six atolls in the outer islands of the Marshall Islands as a result of the Action for the Development of Marshall Islands Renewable Energies Project. Communities experiencing this technology for the first time are enjoying the benefits of these systems with better cooking facilities, more hours to produce handicrafts for women, and time for studies and socialization for children. People in the Marshall Islands are becoming more and more aware of the technology and the changes it brings to their

families and communities. The project assisted with funds to produce the end-user guide and materials and also charter the vessels needed to deliver and install the solar systems.

The goal of the project is to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from unsustainable uses of fossil fuels (primarily diesel fuel) in the Marshall Islands through the utilization of the country's renewable energy resources.

# Gender Equality

UNDP facilitates regional and national efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and sustainable development. We work to ensure that women have a real voice in all national, local, community institutions, from the judiciary to the civil service, as well as in the private sector and civil society, so they can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision-making and influence the decisions that will determine the future of their families and countries.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The importance of equal participation of women in decision-making in crisis prevention and recovery, and the gender sensitive responses to differentiated needs of people during and after disasters has been recognized both at policy level and in communities through disaster recovery projects implemented in 2009-2010 in Tonga and Solomon Islands, and 2011-2014 in Fiji.
- In the aftermath of the tsunami in Tonga, women in Niuaotupapu contributed to the recovery of the local economy through the production and sales of traditional mats. UNDP supported 60 percent of the women through its cash-for-work programme in partnership with the Tonga National Council of Women.
- Data showed increase in household income, among other benefits generated by the on-going Fiji Renewable Energy Power Project, which introduced biofuel production in Nacamaki village in Koro in 2010. A key finding in the gender analysis of the data showed that employment opportunities at the biofuel mill have benefitted primarily men while lighting generated by the mill enabled women at night to make traditional mats and handicrafts for sale.

## New jobs bring hope to the people of Nauru

More than 260 Nauruans have been able to increase their income and improve the livelihoods of their families after knocking on the doors of the Enterprise Resource Centre.

The Centre has assisted many Nauruans with its services including financial literacy trainings and access to a microcredit fund that provided loans of up to AU\$2,000. Around 82 percent of the total number of micro-enterprise start-ups was accessed by women and 65 percent by youth. It provided alternative livelihoods to communities which relied completely on phosphate. Families are now able to meet food, education and health bills, resulting in increasing children's participation and attendance at school.

The Centre was set up in 2010 as part of the Nauru Entrepreneurship Development Project, a joint initiative between the Government of Nauru and UNDP.

"The training really helped me assess myself and taught me how to save and spend responsibly in order to run my business well. With the assistance from the project I plan to extend my workshop to cater for more customers," said Frauline Limen, a tailor.

## Bridging recovery to sustainability

Farmers, market vendors, retailers and people in disadvantaged settlements in Fiji's Western Division were able to address their immediate and basic family needs in their struggles to recover from the devastating effects of the twin floods in early 2012.

UNDP launched a first-ever cash-for-work programme in Fiji and assisted the financial recovery of flood affected women and men. The programme provided a temporary source of cash income in exchange for work related to their livelihoods and improving preparedness for future floods. A total of 1,208 individuals benefitted from the programme in Rakiraki and Nadi, of which 893 were women.

The programme focused on strengthening women and youth entrepreneurship and leading to establishment of small businesses by flood affected households.

The cash-for-work programme also facilitated their accessing the Income Generation Programme run by a non-governmental organization, Empower Pacific, which provided the small loans. Twenty-six cash-for-work participants, of whom 24 were women, ventured into small-scale enterprises.





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