



UNITED NATIONS  
PACIFIC



# ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023

DRIVING CHANGE AND BUILDING RESILIENCE





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This document is a formal publication of the United Nations System in the Pacific covering the 14 countries and territories of Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ASYPX</b>	Automated Software for Passenger Processing	<b>HFLE</b>	Health and Family Life Education	<b>mVAM</b>	mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>CCRI-DRM</b>	Children's Climate Risk Index-Disaster Risk Mode	<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>CEED</b>	Climate Environment Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>LNOB</b>	Leave No One Behind	<b>NISSAP</b>	National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan	<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>CHIVA</b>	Climate Change and Health Integrated Vulnerability Assessment	<b>M4C</b>	Markets for Change	<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team	<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>CIP</b>	Country Implementation Plan	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>PacREF</b>	Pacific Regional Education Framework	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties	<b>MCO</b>	Multi-Country Office	<b>PCCMHS</b>	Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security	<b>UNCAC</b>	United Nations Convention Against Torture
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development	<b>MCAP</b>	Managing Coastal Aquifers Project	<b>PCRIC</b>	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company	<b>UNCG</b>	UN Communications Group
<b>ECE</b>	Early Childhood Education	<b>mhGAP</b>	Mental Health Gap Action Programme	<b>PICTs</b>	Pacific Island Countries and Territories	<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>FAD</b>	Fish Aggregating Device	<b>MICS</b>	Marshall Islands Conservation Society	<b>PSEA</b>	Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>FSM</b>	Federated States of Micronesia	<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys	<b>ROAM</b>	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>MIDAS</b>	Migration Information Data Analysis System			<b>WUTMI</b>	Women United Together Marshall Islands
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>MISP</b>	Minimum Initial Service Package				





# FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATORS



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We are pleased to present to you the Annual Results Report for the United Nations Pacific, covering the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. This report encapsulates our collective efforts and achievements in addressing the unique challenges and opportunities present in this diverse and dynamic region.

The Pacific region is characterized by its vast geographical expanse, cultural diversity, and environmental fragility. Many challenges exist across our Multi-Country Offices in Fiji, Micronesia, and Samoa, including climate change impacts, natural disasters, economic vulnerabilities, and health disparities. However, amid these challenges lie immense opportunities for sustainable development, resilience-building, and community empowerment.

Central to our approach is the principle of national ownership and alignment with country contexts. We are committed to supporting the development aspirations of Pacific nations by ensuring our initiatives are locally driven and tailored to each country's unique needs and priorities. This report highlights our efforts to align our work with national strategies and frameworks, reinforcing the sovereignty and leadership of Pacific Island nations in their development journey.

The importance of partnerships in addressing these challenges cannot be overstated. The UN system in the Pacific continuously strives to deepen collaboration

and coordination with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific. These partnerships are vital for sustainable results rooted in the "Pacific Way." In 2023, the UN focused on strengthening its engagement with civil society, the private sector, academia, and other stakeholders, amplifying its pivotal role in leveraging resources, expertise, and innovation to drive transformational change and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

As we navigate these uncertainties and complexities, we must strengthen and expand our partnerships to address the emerging challenges. Working together can foster inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development that leaves no one behind. Our collaboration with national stakeholders and regional organizations ensures that our efforts are coherent, contextually relevant, and effectively aligned with the priorities of Pacific Island countries.

We sincerely thank all our partners and colleagues for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the development of the Pacific region. Your contributions are instrumental in shaping the outcomes reflected in this report.

We invite you to delve into the pages of this report, reflect on our collective achievements and join us in our ongoing journey towards a brighter, more prosperous future for the Pacific.



# AGENCY MEMBERS OF THE UN COUNTRY TEAM



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA - Vienna)



International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)



International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



International Labour Organization (ILO)



International Organization for Migration (IOM)



International Telecommunication Union (ITU - Bangkok)



International Trade Centre (ITC)



UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)



United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR - Canberra)



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat - Fukuoka)



United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO - Bangkok)



United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)



United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS - Port Moresby)



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)



United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



United Nations Volunteers (UNV)



World Food Programme (WFP)



World Health Organization (WHO)



World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

# KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

## Multilateral agencies



World Bank



European Union institutions





































Asian Development Bank

## Regional agencies

- Pacific Islands Forum
- The Pacific Community
- Pacific Islands Development Forum
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization
- Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
- Pacific Aviation Safety Office
- Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association
- Pacific Power Association
- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
- Pacific Tourism Organisation
- Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
- Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility



Bilateral donors

• Australia		• Kuwait	
• Austria		• Luxembourg	
• Belgium		• Malta	
• Canada		• New Zealand	
• China		• Norway	
• Czech Republic		• Poland	
• Denmark		• Qatar	
• Finland		• Romania	
• France		• Slovenia	
• Germany		• Spain	
• India		• Sweden	
• Indonesia		• Switzerland	
• Ireland		• Taiwan	
• Israel		• Thailand	
• Italy		• United Arab Emirates	
• Japan		• United Kingdom	
• Korea		• United States	

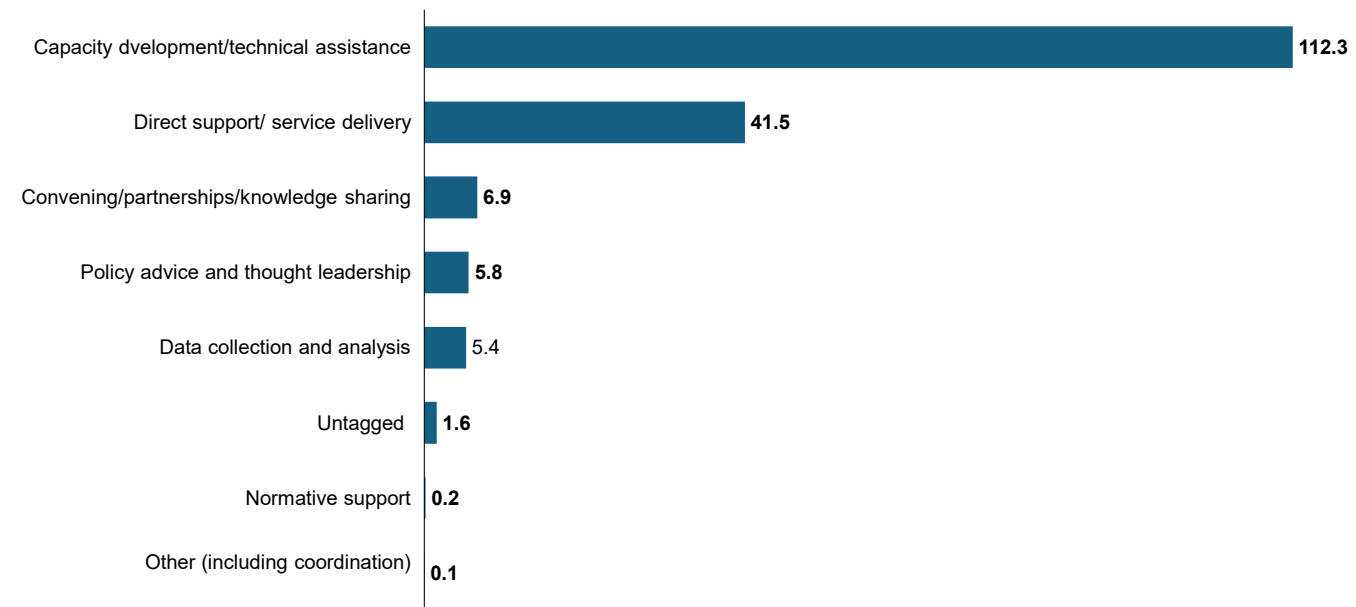
Countries/territories



Total expenditure by funding source (US\$ millions)



Total expenditure by implementation modality (US\$ millions)





# KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT



## Acknowledging unique challenges

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) occupy a significant portion of the world's surface area while representing only a minuscule fraction of the global population. Despite this, the region grapples with many development challenges, including high rates of non-communicable diseases and vulnerable food systems. Geographical remoteness, limited landmass, small populations, and economic vulnerabilities further exacerbate these difficulties. Climate change impacts and external shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and global conflicts have also taken their toll.

PICTs depend heavily on sectors like agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. They face hurdles such as high levels of debt and inflated costs, which hinder private sector growth and perpetuate low productivity and investment. Climate change presents a critical threat. Rising sea levels and extreme weather events jeopardize human security, biodiversity, and economies. Addressing climate risks and preserving marine biodiversity is crucial to achieving the region's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Geopolitical dynamics are shifting, with traditional partners and emerging powers seeking influence in the Pacific. Strengthening governance, partnerships, and institutions becomes paramount for sustainable development amid these changes. Collaborative and tailored interventions are essential for addressing the diverse difficulties PICTs face.

Despite facing formidable challenges, PICTs have demonstrated resilience and are embarking on economic recovery through various social and business measures. However, long-term global price increases, particularly in PICTs that depend

on imported foods, pose significant concerns and could lead to further job losses and increased poverty.

Given current progress rates, achieving the SDGs in the Pacific will take until 2062. To expedite progress, the United Nations Secretary-General proposed six significant transitions at the SDG Summit in September 2023, encompassing food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change action. These transitions will be instrumental in realizing the SDGs in the Pacific and will be further deliberated at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

## Strategic UN engagement

The UN in the Pacific plays a critical role in supporting the development agendas of the PICTs. Enhanced partnership and collaboration with governments, donors, development organizations, and other stakeholders are vital to addressing the countries' complex challenges in achieving the SDGs.

The UN must prioritize support for the PICTs through interventions and capacity-building efforts tailored to each nation's needs and priorities.

Ongoing UN reform efforts strengthening Multi-Country Office (MCO) capacity across the Pacific will facilitate policy advocacy, technical assistance, and effective partner coordination. Continuous research initiatives are also imperative to ensuring progress towards sustainable development in the PICTs.



### Snapshot of SDG progress in the Pacific 2023



#### Legend key



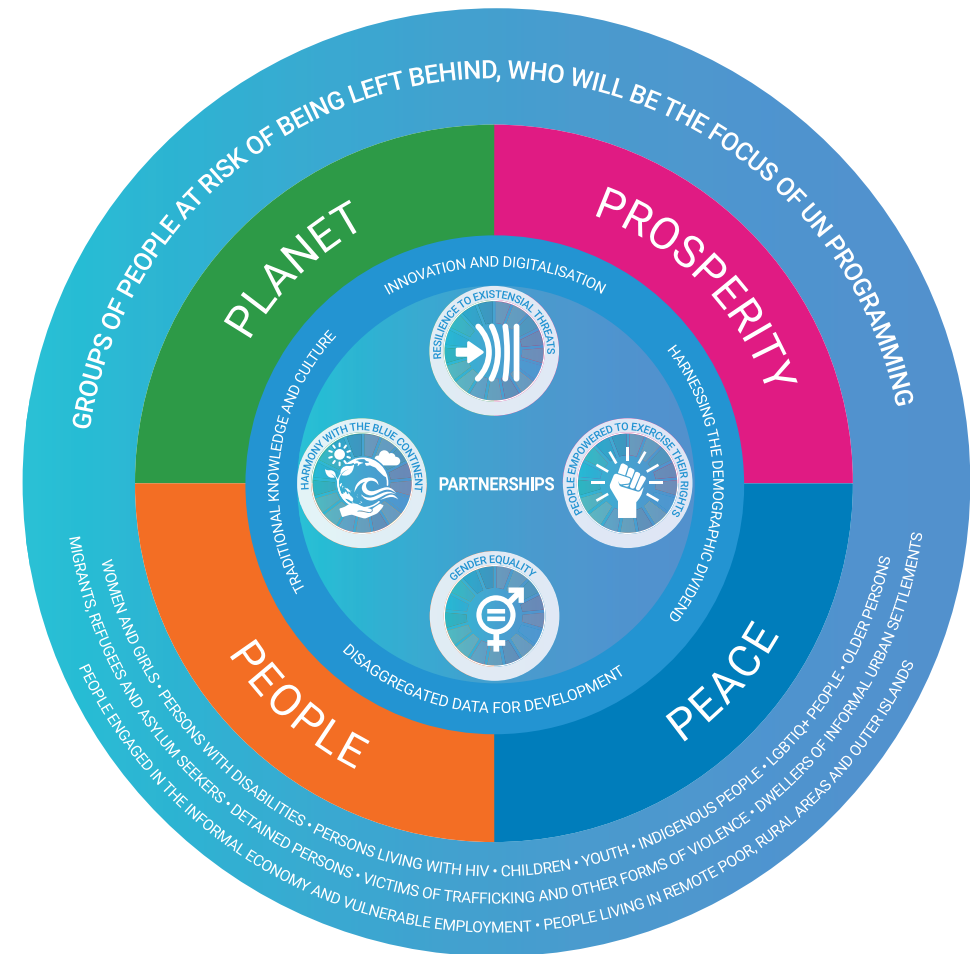
Source: <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-progress#>

### Population, Economic and Social Development Trends

Regional Indicators	2022 Average	2023 Average
Population size	Approx. 2.5 million	Approx. 2.6 million
Debt	70% of GDP	72% of GDP
Economic growth	3.4%	2.8%
Poverty	24%	23%
Inflation	4.4%	3.6%
Public debt	70% of GDP	72% of GDP
Official development assistance	15% of GDP	14% of GDP
Remittances	8% of GDP	9% of GDP
Access to education	85%	86%
Access to health	70%	72%
Internet penetration	45%	48%



# UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK



The UN development system plays a crucial role in supporting national development priorities in the Pacific region through the UNSDCF. With a commitment to advancing the SDGs, fostering inclusive growth and addressing pressing challenges, the UN leverages its collective expertise, resources and partnerships to assist the PICTs in achieving their development aspirations. Through the UNSDCF, the UN collaborates

closely with governments, civil society and other stakeholders to identify priorities, design interventions and implement strategies tailored to the unique needs and contexts of each country. By aligning its efforts with national development plans and strategies, the UN contributes to building resilient, prosperous and equitable societies in the Pacific, ultimately improving the well-being of all people in the region.





## Overview of UNSDCF results

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 - PLANET



**Outcome 1.** By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and stresses, especially related to climate variability impacts, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.



The achievements across Outcome 1 of the UNSDCF reflect a solid commitment to environmental sustainability and resilience in the Pacific region. Under the sub-outcome of better protected, managed, and restored biodiversity, efforts included safeguarding water resources through the Managing Coastal Aquifers Project (MCAP), benefiting 4,627 households in the Marshall Islands with community conservation plans, and launching the National Invasive Species Strategy in Vanuatu. The Tide Turners programme and the Mercury Free Pacific Campaign engaged youth in Samoa and Tonga, while Fiji and Vanuatu integrated gender-inclusive climate strategies.

Enhanced climate change adaptation and resilience efforts included upgrading 50 health facilities in Fiji to be climate-resilient and launching the Pacific's Climate, Environment, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction (CEED) strategy. The Climate Change and Health Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (CHIVA) tool was implemented in the Marshall Islands to strengthen health system resilience. In contrast, Kiribati implemented coastal protection solutions through the Australia Kiribati Climate Security Initiative. Community infrastructure solutions were also implemented in the Solomon Islands under the Climate Resilient Honiara Project. In academia, the University of the South Pacific was supported in integrating gender and social inclusion in seven postgraduate courses related to climate change and disaster risk reduction.





Policy-level climate change adaptation support was significantly advanced by developing and endorsing the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility. This was supported by the UN Joint Programme on Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. Additionally, UN agencies collaborated to launch the first-ever Climate Security Risk Assessment for the Marshall Islands. Collaboration was held with Melbourne University and civil society organizations (Women United Together Marshall Islands—WUTMI, Jo-Jikum, Marshall Islands Conservation Society—MICS) to finalize the Marshall Islands Community Consultation Report.

Our commitment to supporting communities affected by natural disasters was evident in our direct assistance. In FSM and the Marshall Islands, we provided aid for recovery. The UN spearheaded the reconstruction of climate-resilient homes and public infrastructure in 24 remote outer islands of Chuuk state and supported the Marshall Islands' response to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle emergency. In Vanuatu, the UN stepped in with emergency support following the aftermath of cyclones Judy, Kevin and Lola, demonstrating our dedication to immediate and effective disaster response. Effective disaster risk management made significant strides through UN support in reviewing and updating National/State Disaster Management Plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for emergency response through consultation workshops at national and state levels in FSM, covering 10 locations.

Effective disaster risk management saw the exploration of market-based financing solutions with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC), improved emergency logistics across the Pacific Islands, and the transportation of critical supplies to Vanuatu. Risk reduction strategies were integrated into governance

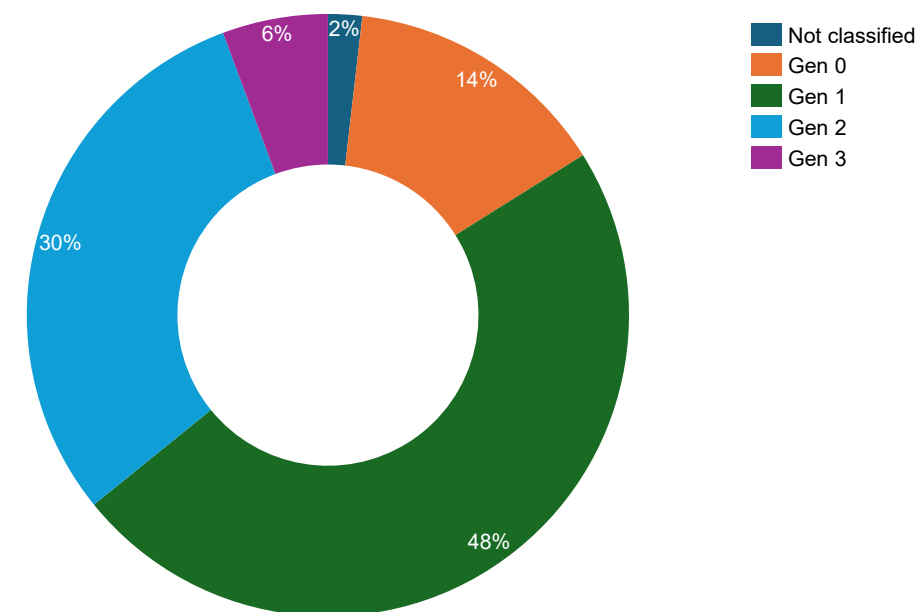
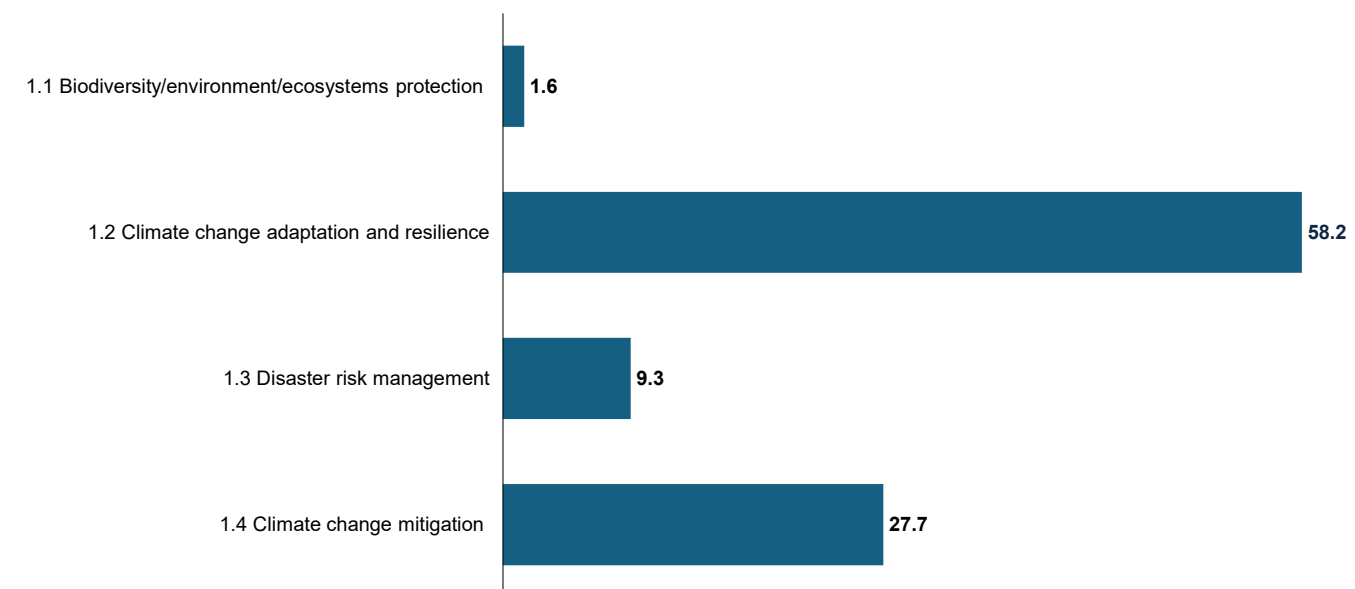
systems in Tuvalu, and a National Emergency Telecommunications Plan was developed for Kiribati. Small grants and capacity-building mentorship supported disaster risk management projects in FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Kiribati. The National Disaster Management Offices in Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were supported in undertaking gender-responsive policy reviews.

Scaled-up climate change mitigation included promoting gender-responsive climate actions in Fiji, developing climate vulnerability analyses in Vanuatu, and enhancing water security in the Marshall Islands through MCAP. Palau's Maritime Operations Centre was equipped for strategic development, leading to Marine Spatial Plans. These achievements underscore a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability and resilience in the Pacific region.



### Implementation of interventions under the Planet Pillar

	Ex penditure	Interventions
<b>Planet Pillar total</b>	US\$96.8 million	547







Outcome 2 of the UNSDCF demonstrates significant progress in social protection, public health, food security, WASH services, education, housing, and violence prevention. In social protection, UN agencies established a joint programme in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, enhancing shock-responsive systems. Critical efforts included child-sensitive social protection training in Niue, Kiribati's Women and Children Support Centre support, and expanding community-based gender-based violence (GBV) services in Tonga. Additionally, the UN partnered with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection in Fiji to implement an Anticipatory Action pilot project to deliver multipurpose cash assistance to 15,000 social welfare households ahead of tropical cyclones based on pre-agreed forecast triggers.

Various initiatives strengthened public health systems. In Samoa, 49 rural Midwives trained in basic ultrasonography and 12 multidisciplinary health professionals enhanced skills through the fellowship programme. While Vanuatu saw the launch of a new oxygen plant and the rollout of the Minimal Initial Service Package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The Healthy Island initiative promoted health in the Cook Islands, and Vanuatu developed a nutrition surveillance system post-cyclone. HPV vaccination programmes in Kiribati and Vanuatu reached 4,700 girls, and in Niue, non-health practitioners received training on the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) Toolkit.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 - PEOPLE



**Outcome 2.** By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems.





Efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition included strengthening monitoring systems using the mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping tool in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Nutrition advocacy packages were developed, and nutrition screening and surveillance capacity-building sessions were conducted in Vanuatu. Tuvalu water rehabilitation projects, resilient Tonga infrastructure, and scaled-up WASH programming in Vanuatu's schools improved access to WASH services. Minimum standards for WASH facilities in healthcare settings were also developed in Vanuatu.



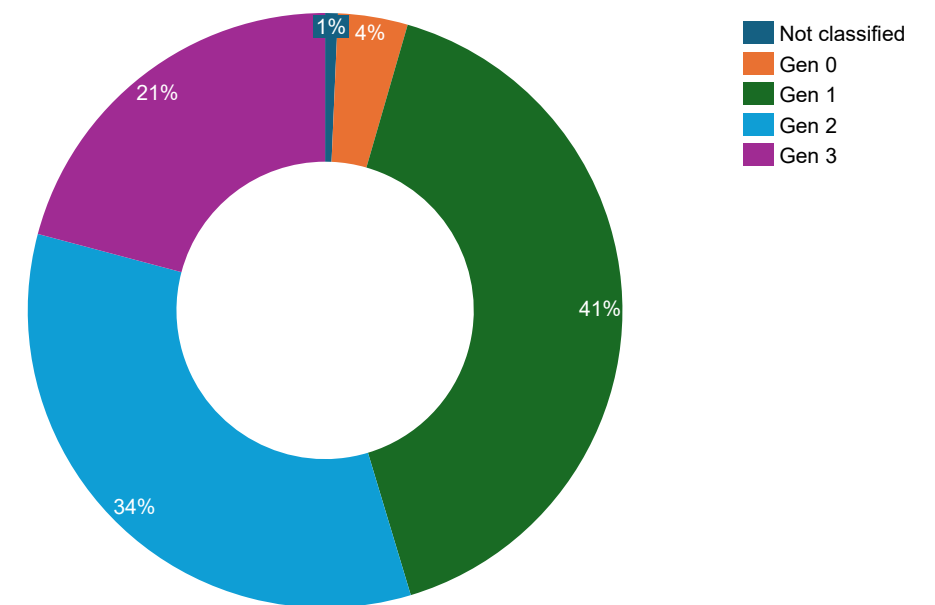
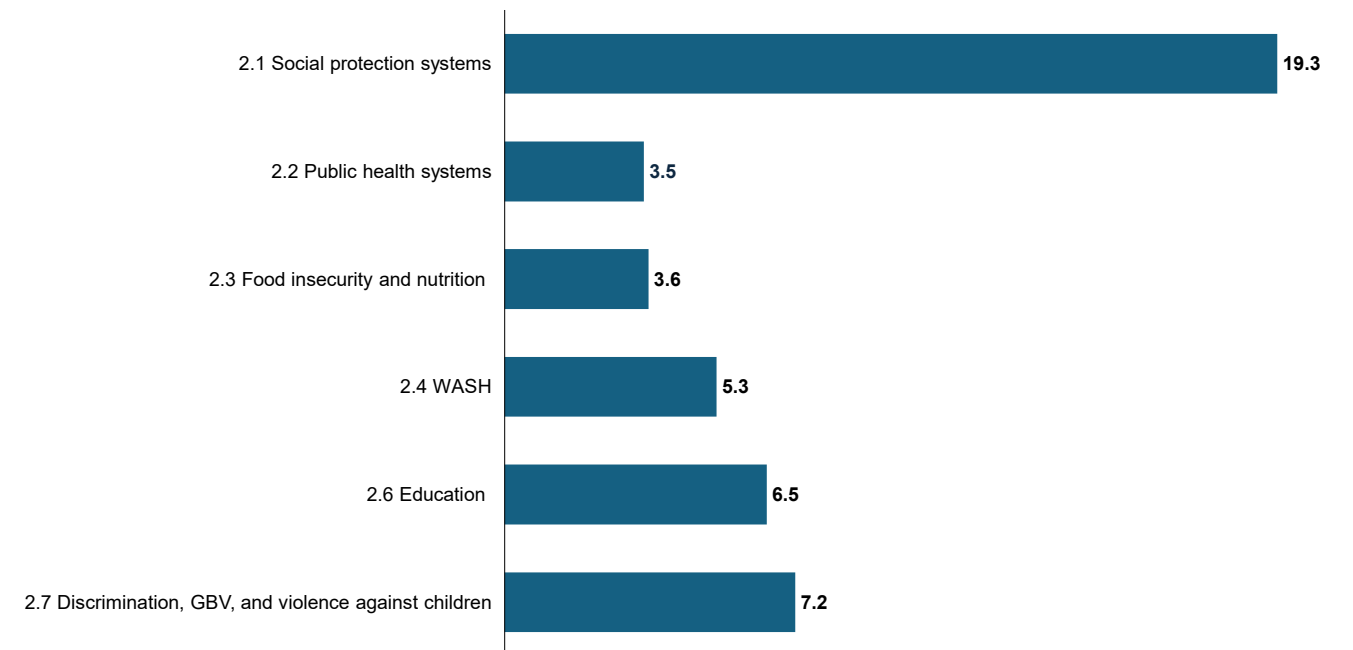
A regional Pacific All-life Skills Framework was supported in education, and early childhood education (ECE) programmes in Vanuatu were extended. Digital literacy studies in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu contributed to education resilience. The Inclusive Education Policy was finalized in Vanuatu, and school-based disaster risk reduction programmes were reviewed. The 2023 Early Childhood Development (ECD) Forum saw 15 Pacific Island countries recommit to ECD investments. Housing initiatives included developing a policy framework for urban resilience at the Pacific Urban Forum 6 in Fiji, strengthening informal settlement resilience in Fiji, and providing emergency shelter support in Vanuatu post-cyclones.

Efforts to prevent and respond to discrimination, GBV, and violence against children were also notable. Fiji has taken a significant step with the initiation of its National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls for 2023–2028. This initiative establishes Fiji as a leader in the Pacific and one of the few globally to implement a holistic national prevention strategy against violence towards women and girls.

A Safehouse Feasibility Study in Vanuatu evaluated support for violence survivors, and child protection policies in Palau reduced violence incidents. The GBV policy framework in Kiribati was enhanced, and the “Break the Silence Sunday Campaign” mobilized faith-based communities in Vanuatu. Child Protection and Child Justice Bills were finalized in Vanuatu, strengthening the legal framework for child protection.

Implementation of interventions under the People Pillar

	Ex penditure	Interventions
<b>People Pillar total</b>	US\$45.3 million	580







The achievements across Outcome 3 of the UNSDCF highlight significant advancements in low-carbon development, the blue and green economy, agri-food systems, job opportunities, fiscal management, and bridging the digital divide.

Tonga implemented infrastructure-sharing policies in low-carbon development, Fiji launched energy efficiency initiatives, and Samoa developed wind energy projects, reducing fossil fuel reliance. Technical assistance in Tonga led to a 10% increase in renewable energy adoption.

The blue and green economy saw Fiji launch its National E-commerce Strategy. Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu markets implemented sanitation and hygiene measures promoting sustainable environmental practices and public health outcomes. Tonga developed a blue economy initiative with policy frameworks and financing mechanisms. Vanuatu also promoted sustainable fish aggregating devices and completed a sub-regional study on cultural policies. In Fiji, more than 100 farmers embraced new technical knowledge and skills in organic agriculture, marking a significant shift towards sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 - PROSPERITY



**Outcome 3.** By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive, and human-centred socioeconomic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity.

<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 
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In agri-food systems, Vanuatu conducted a national agricultural census and post-disaster needs assessment, and FSM developed a Coconut National Export Strategy. Community-led food gardens were established in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, promoting nutritional diversity and food sovereignty.

Efforts to promote decent jobs included capacity-building in Tuvalu, training for rural entrepreneurs in Vanuatu, and a pilot apprenticeship scheme in Tonga. Macroeconomic stability initiatives involved customs clearance improvements in Vanuatu, public expenditure tracking in Tuvalu, and fiscal reforms in the Marshall Islands.

Addressing the challenges of informality is enhancing economic stability for market vendors in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. This empowers vendors—especially women—to fully participate in the economy and secure

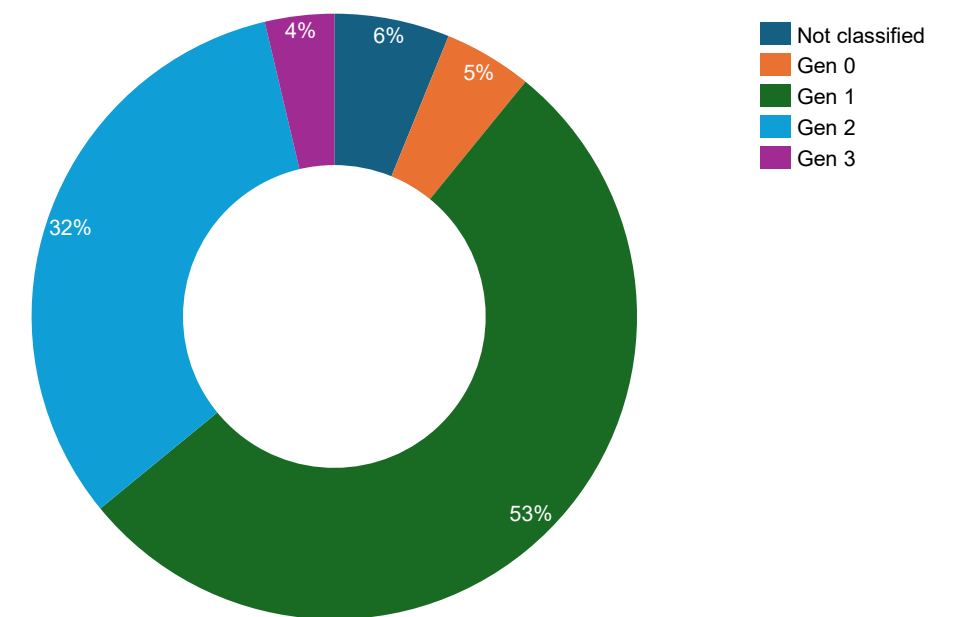
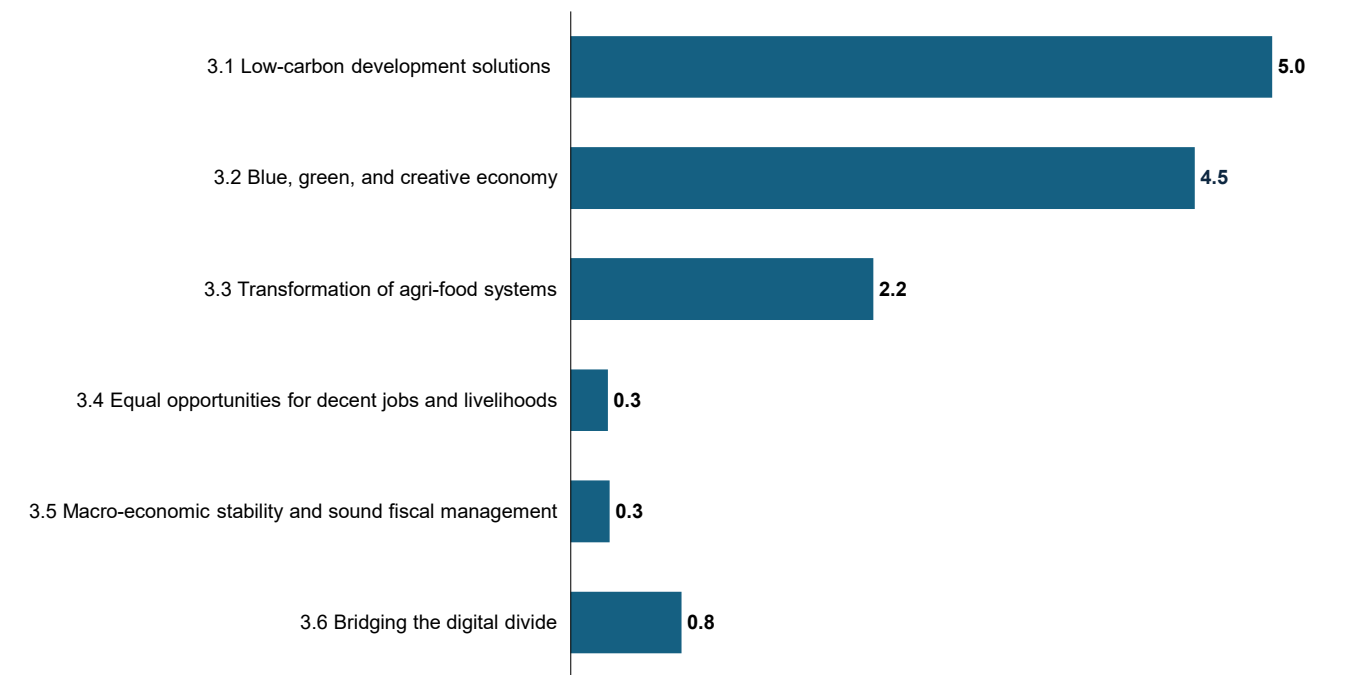
financial independence. Banking services and credit access are facilitated, promoting financial inclusion and long-term security. By organizing vendors into associations and cooperatives, these measures strengthen their collective voice, ensuring better working conditions and equitable market practices.

The Smart Islands Initiatives have enhanced digital skills and access in remote Pacific communities, a crucial step towards future growth and development. With digital skills training in Samoa, telecom guidelines in Tonga, and digital services in Vanuatu, we are laying the foundation for a more connected and resilient Pacific region. The successful implementation of automated software for passenger processing and streamlined customs operations in Niue demonstrates the potential for innovation and progress.



Implementation of interventions under the Prosperity Pillar

	Ex penditure	Interventions
<b>Prosperity Pillar total</b>	US\$13 million	487







The achievements across Outcome 4 of the UNSDCF reflect a comprehensive approach to improving justice, governance, human rights, resource management, and leadership roles for women and youth.

Tuvalu benefited from drafting its National Anti-Corruption Strategy and training magistrates on judicial integrity. Vanuatu received support in drafting its National Action Plan and enhancing border management. Tuvalu also improved its anti-corruption measures through the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAC) Implementation Review Mechanism. Fiji hosted the International Youth Day event focusing on green skills and human rights, and the Pacific Girls in ICT Day Programme trained over 1,000 girls in ICT skills across multiple countries. Samoa promoted gender equality through capacity-building initiatives, and Tonga integrated women's empowerment policies into national planning. The Solomon Islands conducted inclusive consultations for the Family Protection Act.

Efforts included combating human trafficking and maritime crime in the Pacific, enhancing anti-corruption capacities in Kiribati, and developing roadmaps for implementing UNCAC. Vanuatu's governance capacities were strengthened, resulting in more reserved seats for women, and Tonga integrated gender

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 - PEACE



**Outcome 4.** By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient, and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice, and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights.





equality policies into national planning. Nauru improved local governance frameworks, and Kiribati enhanced coordination between national and local governments.

The Cook Islands and Nauru improved their human rights and anti-money laundering frameworks. Fiji conducted human rights training for civil society and government entities, and Samoa received tools and guidance for gender-responsive programming. The Pacific Learning Exchange on UNCAC included participation from 12 countries, promoting ratification and implementation.

The Solomon Islands received assistance in managing seized assets and improving public expenditure management. Vanuatu improved budget transparency, while Nauru enhanced anti-corruption and financial investigation capabilities.

Vanuatu upgraded border management with the Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS), and FSM improved its capacity to respond to public health crises.

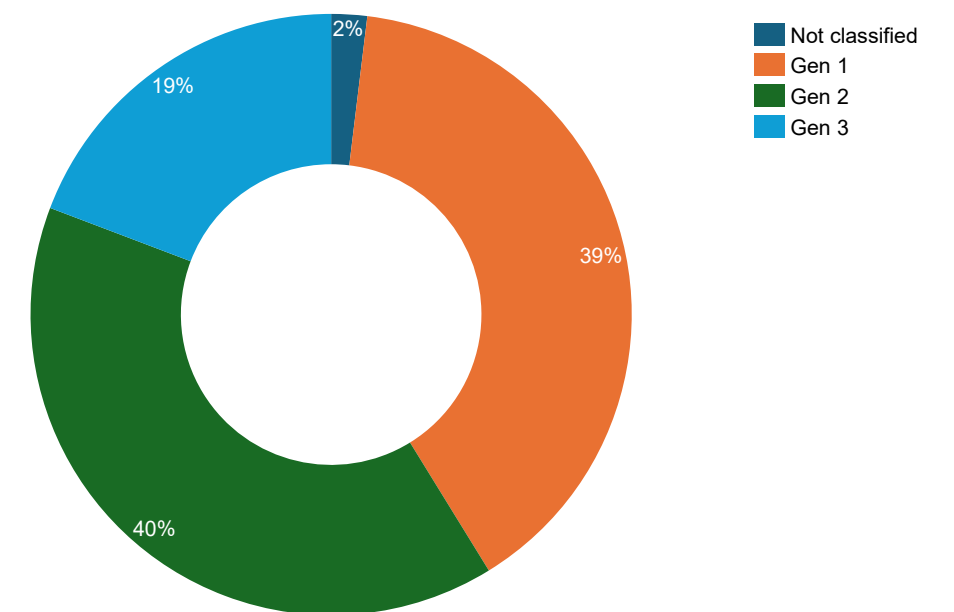
The Solomon Islands reviewed the Family Protection Act, empowering women. Youth leadership and climate activism were promoted in Fiji, and youth representation in decision-making increased in Tuvalu. Pacific delegations participated in global gender equality forums and financial literacy workshops in Vanuatu, which enhanced the business operations of 300 women entrepreneurs.

These achievements demonstrate a multifaceted approach to strengthening governance, promoting human rights, and fostering inclusive leadership across the Pacific region.



### Implementation of interventions under the Peace Pillar

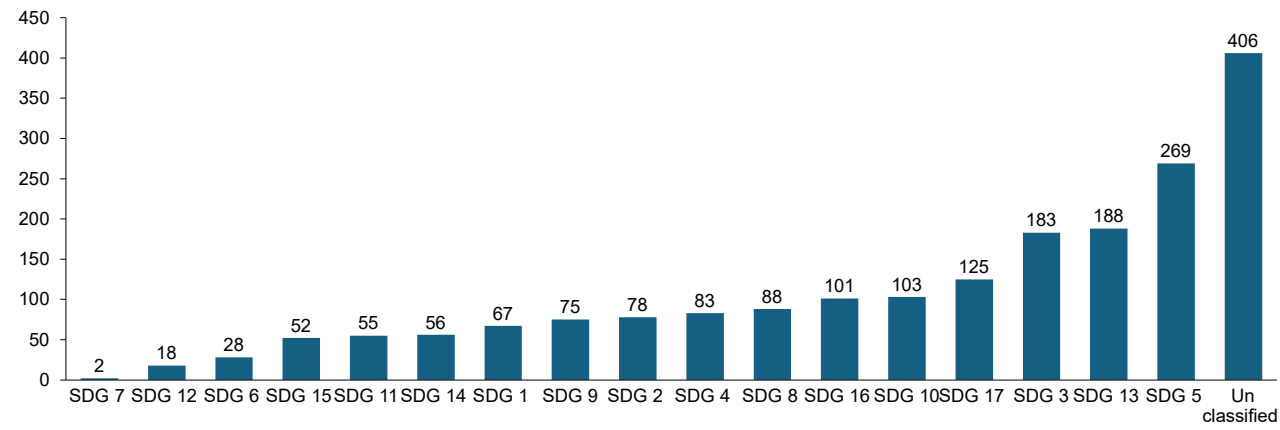
	Ex penditure	Interventions
<b>Pillar total</b>	US\$18.5 million	364



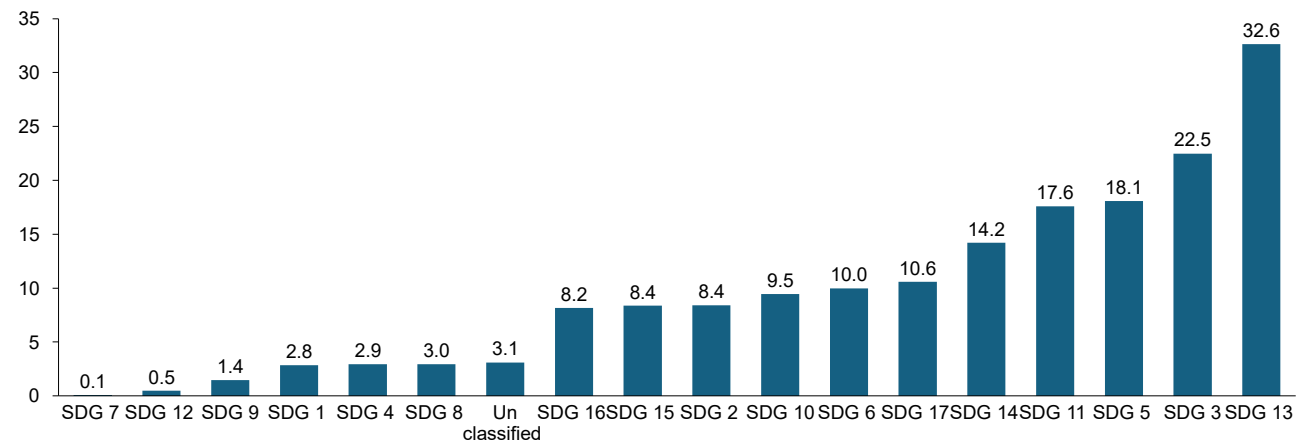


### Contribution of interventions to the SDGs

Total number of interventions/activities, by SDG



Total investment, by SDG (US \$)







## UNSDCF priorities, outcomes, and outputs

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 - PLANET



<p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p><b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p><b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p>
--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------

### Highlights

#### 1.1. Better Protected, Managed, and Restored Biodiversity/Environment/Ecosystems:

1. Safeguarded water resources in the Marshall Islands through MCAP, ensuring sustainable access to clean water and implementing grant writing workshops to enhance NGO capacities.
2. Strengthened community and ecosystem-based integrated natural resource management in Vanuatu by launching 4 Management Plans for Community Conservation areas, benefiting 4,627 households.
3. Conducted 15 Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) assessments in Vanuatu, identifying 45 sites (500 hectares) for landscape restoration and 10 sites (250 hectares) for coral and seagrass rehabilitation.
4. Launched the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP) 2023–2030 in Vanuatu, supported by the Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management project.
5. Conducted feasibility studies and engaged youth in Samoa and Tonga through the Tide Turners programme and Mercury Free Pacific Campaign.
6. Installed non-burning clinical waste management technology in Nauru to enhance capacity for environmental degradation resulting from increased health waste.
7. Integrated gender considerations into climate strategies in Fiji and Vanuatu, creating more effective and inclusive climate solutions that enhance resilience and sustainable development outcomes.
8. Supported the launch of the Mercury Free Pacific Campaign at the 31st meeting of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.







**1.2. Enhanced Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience:**

1. Strengthened emergency preparedness and response capacity in logistics, supply chains, and emergency telecommunications, benefiting governments and regional stakeholders in the Pacific to support integrated risk management.
2. Strengthened systems and capacity for understanding, anticipating, mitigating, and preparing for climate change impacts on food security and nutrition for governments and regional stakeholders in the Pacific.
3. Supported the development and endorsement of the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility by PICT leaders through the PCCMHS,

led by UN agencies, PICTs, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement.

4. Completed the first-ever Climate Security Risk Assessment for the Marshall Islands.
5. Increased water security in Enewetak Atoll by installing a reverse osmosis unit and building capacity in disaster risk management and water security of residents.
6. Improved food security in Mejatt by establishing aquaponic towers and developing community gardens in Ebadon and Namu. Capacity-building support also benefited over 600 community members.
7. In collaboration with the government of the Marshall Islands (via the second phase of the Pacific Resilience Project) and the Peacebuilding Fund, finalized the comprehensive Community Consultation Report with the UN, Melbourne University, WUTMI, Jo-Jikum, and MICS. This report was essential to the elaboration of the National Adaptation Plan.
8. Published the Limits to Adaptation Report through the Peacebuilding Fund project.
9. Upgraded 50 health facilities in Fiji to be climate-resilient, ensuring uninterrupted services during extreme weather events.
10. Developed training packages for health workers and communities in Fiji to carry out climate vulnerability assessments, enabling local interventions to build climate resilience into daily lives.
11. Launched the Pacific's first CEED strategy in 2023 to ensure Pacific children live in healthy, sustainable environments and are resilient to climate-related shocks.

12. Launched an online toolkit for Pacific climate advocates ahead of COP28, providing resources for health leaders, workers, and the public to advocate for climate action, influencing speeches delivered by Pacific delegations at the conference.
13. Enhanced the resilience of health systems to climate change and emerging pandemics in the Marshall Islands through a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Human Services in implementing the CHIVA tool.
14. Enhanced Kiribati's resilience to climate change impacts through the Australia Kiribati Climate Security Initiative, implementing coastal protection solutions in Tarawa and conducting feasibility and condition assessments.
15. Implemented community infrastructure and nature-based solutions in 5 informal settlements in Honiara, the Solomon Islands, under the Climate Resilient Honiara Project, despite challenges with changing implementing partners.
16. Supported FSM in preparing its Third National Communications and Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
17. Supported the University of the South Pacific to integrate gender and social inclusion in seven postgraduate climate change and disaster risk reduction courses.

**1.3. Effective Disaster Risk Management:**

1. Reviewed and updated National/State Disaster Management Plans and SOPs for emergency and disaster response through consultation workshops at national and state levels in FSM.

2. Conducted tabletop exercises to test FSM and Marshall Island disaster response plans and SOPs.
3. Enhanced emergency communications in Majuro by installing essential emergency communications equipment at the National Disaster Management Office, increasing HF/VHF station capacities.
4. Conducted shelter manager training with 14 principals from five communities in the Marshall Islands and staff from the shelter cluster in Ebeye. Additionally, shelter preparedness kits were distributed to schools and centres.
5. Explored market-based disaster risk financing solutions with PCRIC, enabling faster and more cost-effective responses.





6. Improved emergency preparedness and response logistics across the Pacific Islands through coordination meetings and logistics capacity assessments.
7. Transported critical medical and food supplies to Vanuatu in response to Category 4 tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin and established emergency telecommunications connectivity.
8. Integrated risk reduction strategies into governance systems in Tuvalu to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
9. Developed a National Emergency Telecommunications Plan for Kiribati with the support of ITU and the government of Japan, enhancing resilience and reducing carbon emissions through efficient communication strategies.
10. Strengthened early warning systems in Fiji and the disaster management capacity of the multisectoral Fiji National Emergency Response Team.
11. Awarded small grants to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Marshall Islands, FSM, and Kiribati, providing capacity-building mentorship to support project implementation focused on disaster risk management.
12. Implemented canoe building and repair training programmes in the Marshall Islands, Ailuk Atoll, to support traditional livelihoods and reduce reliance on gas-powered boats.

#### 1.4. Scaled-up Climate Change Mitigation:

1. Promoted inclusive and effective gender-responsive climate actions in Fiji, integrating gender considerations into climate strategies to enhance climate resilience and sustainable development.
2. Developed localized climate vulnerability analyses in Vanuatu through the Children's Climate Risk Index Disaster Risk Model (CCRI-DRM).
3. Continued progressive support to enhance water security in the Marshall Islands through MCAP, safeguarding water resources for sustainable access to clean water.
4. Equipped Palau's Maritime Operations Centre with the needed capacity for strategic development, leading to the creation of Marine Spatial Plans covering terrestrial, nearshore, and offshore habitats.





**Policy indicator targets**

**15<sup>1</sup>** 

Guideline policies/strategies developed/drafted with UN support

**4** 

Number of countries provided with technical support/assistance

**Persons reached/trained**

**1,200+** 

women and girls trained in disaster risk reduction and resilience

Almost **300** 

government officials trained in essential humanitarian assistance

**100+** 

individuals from various organizations trained to incorporate gender, protection and social inclusion in humanitarian actions

**70+** 

people trained in water resource management

**60+** 

people trained in WASH practices

**60+** 

residents trained in emergency preparedness

**Reached with humanitarian support**

**40,000** 

Vanuatu residents affected by the cyclone received WASH services

**3,000** 

Tonga residents affected by the volcanic eruption and tsunami received support services

**20,000** 

hygiene kits distributed to vulnerable populations

**15,000** 

children and caregivers supported with child protection education and services

**8,000** 

women and girls reached sensitive health services

**17.6** 

metric tonnes of cargo transported to beneficiaries

<sup>1</sup>List of guidelines, policies, and strategies developed/drafted with UN support

- National Action plan for Antimicrobial Resistance; Samoa Medicines Policy; National Health Laboratory Policy and Strategic Plan (Samoa)
- SOPs for KukiMAT (the Cook Islands)
- Solid Waste Management Plan for Tafea province; management plans for community conservation areas, NISSAP 2023–2030 (Vanuatu)
- Climate-Resilient Informal Settlements Strategies for Lami town; policy framework for engagement within the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent at the Pacific Urban Forum (Fiji)
- Humanitarian Policy (Fiji)
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (Fiji)
- Adaptive Social Protection Strategy (Fiji)
- National Gender Action Plan to Support Sendai GAP (Fiji)
- National/State Disaster Management Plans, SOPs for Emergency and Disaster Response (FSM)





### Highlights

#### 2.1. Stronger, More Inclusive, Gender- and Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems:

1. Established a joint programme and partnership for social protection between UN agencies to strengthen shock-responsive social protection systems in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.
2. Strengthened the inclusive social protection system for children in Niue through the first-ever child-sensitive social protection training attended by key government ministries, NGOs, and community members.
3. Supported Kiribati's Women and Children Support Centre and Ministry of Women, Youth, Sport, and Social Affairs to improve access to GBV service providers' skills, standardize operating procedures, and enhance collaboration for GBV response.
4. Expanded community-based GBV services, including disability-inclusive screening, to rural areas through the Tonga Women and Children Crisis Centre. Services were provided to 198 women and 44 children.
5. Collaborated with the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Protection to implement an Anticipatory Action pilot project, delivering multi-purpose cash assistance to 15,000 beneficiaries through the social protection system ahead of tropical cyclones.
6. Strengthened the capacity of GBV service providers in Kiribati by enhancing their skills, standardizing operating procedures, and improving policy and data frameworks, resulting in better support for survivors.
7. Enhanced the social protection system in the Cook Islands by delivering the first-ever child-sensitive social protection training to key stakeholders, including government policymakers and civil society organizations.



## UNSDCF priorities, outcomes, and outputs

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 - PEOPLE



<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 
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**2.2. Stronger, Inclusive, Resilient, and High-Quality Public Health Systems:**

1. Supported Samoa with midwifery training, fellowships for specialized roles, and various short courses, enhancing skills across the health sector.
2. Provided technical support to eight PICTs, including Vanuatu, to review and update national immunization/cold chain policies, ensuring the introduction of new vaccines and standardizing reporting.
3. Increased access to life-saving medicinal oxygen in Vanuatu by launching a new oxygen plant at Vila Central Hospital, producing over 500,000 litres of oxygen within 24 hours.
4. Supported the rollout of the MISP for SRH in crises in Vanuatu, integrating it into national policies and action plans.

5. Provided technical and financial support for the continuation of the Healthy Island initiative in the Cook Islands, focusing on health promotion in schools, villages, and primary healthcare facilities.
6. Launched the Food Safety Security and Nutrition Policy 2022–2030 in Vanuatu and developed a nutrition surveillance system in Vanuatu as part of post-cyclone recovery efforts to strengthen health system resilience.
7. Supported the rollout of the HPV vaccine in Kiribati and Vanuatu, reaching 4,700 girls, and introduced the second dose of the MCV in Vanuatu’s routine system.
8. Implemented mhGAP in Niue, training non-health professionals.

**2.3. Addressed Drivers of Food Insecurity and All Forms of Malnutrition:**

1. Collaborated with national counterparts in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu using the mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) tool, strengthening national food security and nutrition monitoring systems.
2. Developed advocacy packages for promoting nutrition advocacy across the 14 PICTs during the Pacific ECD Forum, creating urgency to address malnutrition.
3. Conducted training and capacity-building sessions on nutrition screening and surveillance in Vanuatu, enhancing community and facility-level capacities.

**2.4. Increased Access to Safe and Affordable WASH Services in Communities and Institutions:**

1. Initiated water rehabilitation projects for Motofoua High School in Tuvalu, constructing two water cisterns to increase water security for students and staff by mid-2024.
2. Expanded WASH infrastructure in Tonga by building resilient water and sanitation systems in schools and health centres.
3. Scaled up the WASH programming in schools across Vanuatu, including transitioning the WinS programme from a pilot phase to a national scale in Vanuatu, covering all 340 primary and secondary schools across five provinces.
4. Developed minimum standards and a technical manual for WASH facilities in healthcare settings in Vanuatu.

**2.5. Increased Quality and Equitable Accessibility of Education and Skills Development:**

1. Supported the development of a regional Pacific All-Life Skills Framework and Guidance for Curricula Assessment and Teaching with Ministry of Education staff in 15 Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) countries.
2. Extended ECE programmes in Vanuatu, training additional trainers and revising the Inclusive Education Policy.
3. Conducted regional studies on teachers’ digital literacy skills in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, contributing to planning and enhancing education resilience.
4. Finalized the Inclusive Education Policy in Vanuatu following consultations and reviewed school-based disaster risk reduction programmes in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.







5. Convened the 2023 ECD Forum by the Pacific Regional Council for ECD, where 15 Pacific Island countries recommitted to investments in ECD and climate change resilience.

**2.6. Adequate and Equitable Housing Conditions and Accessibility:**

1. Developed a policy framework for engagement within the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent at the Pacific Urban Forum 6 in Suva, Fiji, discussing urban climate change resilience, COVID-19 recovery strategies, and SDG localization.
2. Strengthened the resilience of informal settlements in Fiji by developing Climate Resilient Informal Settlements Strategies to be implemented in 2024.
3. Provided emergency response support in Vanuatu post-cyclones, distributing tents and shelter kits to affected families.

**2.7. Effective Systems to Prevent, Mitigate, and Respond to Discrimination, Gender-Based Violence, and Violence Against Children:**

1. Conducted a Safehouse Feasibility Study in Vanuatu to evaluate establishing a permanent safehouse facility in Port Vila, ensuring support for violence survivors.
2. Mitigated violence against children in Palau by implementing child protection policies and awareness campaigns, reducing incidents of violence in schools and communities.
3. Promoted non-violence through sports and life skills training in Fiji and Samoa, leading to a significant increase in knowledge among boys and girls regarding identifying, reducing, and reporting harassment and violence.
4. Supported the establishment of the Solomon Islands SAFENET GBV Data Management Protocol and the Solomon Islands Domestic Violence Counselling Guidelines, underscoring a commitment to ethical and responsible data handling, promoting privacy, trust, and coordination among service providers.
5. Enhanced the GBV policy framework by supporting the implementation of comprehensive GBV policies in Kiribati, enhancing the capacity of state and non-state actors to develop and review relevant policies, laws, and strategies.
6. Continued implementation of the “Break the Silence Sunday Campaign” in Vanuatu, mobilizing faith-based communities to address and prevent GBV.
7. Supported Vanuatu in finalizing the Child Protection and Child Justice Bills, strengthening the legal framework for child protection.





**Policy indicator targets**

7<sup>2</sup> 

Guideline policies/strategies developed/drafted with UN support

6 

Number of countries provided with technical support/assistance

4,700 

girls received HPV vaccines

3,000 

people reached via mass media on positive change

3,000 

women and girls received dignity Kits

600 

teachers/facilitators trained on the Comprehensive Sexuality Education

**Persons reached/trained**

Over 15,000 

beneficiaries received cash transfers

22 

government ministries/departments and 5 NGOs trained in GBV

500 

youths received BCC/IEC related to SRH services

17 

master trainers trained in ECE

10,500 

children and adolescents and 4,500 adults reached with child safety and PSEA awareness

22 

volunteers trained in GBV in emergencies

200 

in-school youths reached with Health and Family Life Education (HFLE)

60 

healthcare providers trained to provide sensitive services to women, adolescents, and youths

340 

primary and secondary schools provided with WASH services

Over 600 

children and 70 sports officials trained in life skills to foster anti-violence attitudes

<sup>2</sup>List of guidelines, policies, and strategies developed/drafted with UN support

- National Tobacco and Cancer Policies (the Cook Islands)
- Tobacco Control Act Amendment (Nauru)
- Access to Information Bill (FSM)
- Health Systems Strengthening Strategy (M&E) (Vanuatu)
- National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls (Fiji)
- SAFENET GBV Data Management Protocol (the Solomon Islands)
- Domestic Violence Counselling Guidelines (the Solomon Islands)





### Highlights

#### 3.1. Expansion of Low-Carbon Development Solutions:

1. Supported the development of infrastructure-sharing and universal service obligation policies in Tonga, promoting efficient resource use and low-carbon infrastructure development.
2. Launched energy efficiency initiatives within the Fiji public sector, reducing electricity consumption in government buildings.
3. Supported capacity-building in Samoa around renewable energy by developing wind energy projects, reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels.
4. Provided technical assistance to Tonga in drafting clean energy policies, leading to a 10% increase in the adoption of renewable energy technologies.



## UNSDCF priorities, outcomes, and outputs

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 - PROSPERITY



<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>
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**3.2. Expansion of the Blue, Green, and Creative Economy:**

1. Launched the first-ever National E-Commerce Strategy in Fiji, enhancing the digital economy and promoting sustainable economic growth.
2. Implemented sanitation and hygiene measures across 20 public markets in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, creating safe and clean vendor facilities, enhancing waste management practices, and contributing to improved public health outcomes.
3. Organized Market Business Fairs in Fiji and Vanuatu, connecting service providers to

market vendors and promoting green and sustainable business practices such as eco-friendly packaging, waste reduction initiatives, sustainable supply chains, and local and organic produce.

4. Launched a blue economy initiative in Tonga, focusing on policy frameworks and innovative financing mechanisms to leverage the potential of the blue and green economy.
5. Promoted the development of sustainable fish aggregating devices (FADs) in Vanuatu, leading to the establishment of FAD management and development plans.
6. Supported the completion of sub-regional study on cultural policies of small island developing states in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**3.3. Transformation of Agri-Food Systems:**

1. Completed the Vanuatu National Agricultural Census 2022 and a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment 2023 for the productive sector after dual cyclones Judy and Kevin, contributing to evidence-based decision-making for agricultural productivity.
2. Developed the FSM Coconut National Export Strategy 2023–2028, promoting sustainable coconut industry growth in the country.
3. Conducted a workshop on agri-food systems statistics compilation, supporting sustainable food production systems in multiple Pacific Island countries.
4. Implemented community-led food gardens in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, promoting nutritional diversity and food sovereignty among vulnerable populations.

**3.4. Equal Opportunities for Decent Jobs and Livelihoods:**

1. Strengthened employer and worker organizations in Tuvalu through capacity-building trainings, promoting decent work and sustainable livelihoods.
2. Supported the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industries with training for rural entrepreneurs, empowering 30 female entrepreneurs.
3. Initiated the development of a pilot apprenticeship scheme in Tonga, addressing youth unemployment and skills shortages in the cookery sector.



4. Strengthened equal opportunities for decent job conditions and livelihoods in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Island and Vanuatu markets through capacity-building, financial inclusion, vendor association organizational support, market infrastructure improvements, and policy advocacy.
5. Supported the construction of a new market and refurbished another in Fiji. These are centrally located and serve as central hubs for surrounding islands. These developments provide modern facilities that enhance working conditions, ensure accessibility, promote safety and hygiene, and empower women vendors, fostering an inclusive environment that benefits all market participants.

**3.5. Macroeconomic Stability and Sound Fiscal Management:**

1. Supported Vanuatu with integrating the Concession module for customs clearance, improving revenue collection and economic stability.
2. Assisted the government of Tuvalu in public expenditure tracking for ECD, contributing to informed policy planning and macroeconomic stability.
3. Supported the Implemented fiscal reforms in the Marshall Islands, enhancing government transparency and financial accountability.

**3.6. Bridging the Digital Divide:**

1. Launched Smart Islands Initiatives across the Pacific, improving digital skills and access to online resources for remote communities and promoting economic stability through digital transformation.



2. Facilitated the launch of the Smart Islands pilot in Nauru, promoting sustainable and low-installed biogas digesters in community centres across the Solomon Islands, which provide a renewable energy source and minimized waste.
3. Conducted digital skills training in Manono-Tai, Samoa, enhancing community awareness and skills in digital technology.
4. Provided technical assistance to Tonga for developing their national telecom Quality of Service/Quality of Experience Guidelines, enhancing digital inclusion.
5. Launched digital services in South Malekula, Vanuatu, including remote learning platforms and mobile wallet services, significantly improving digital access for isolated communities.
6. Launched the Automated Software for Passenger Processing (ASYPX) automated software for passenger processing at Hanan International Airport in Niue.
7. Supported the integration of the Concession module into ASYCUDAWorld, linking key government departments involved in the customs clearance process and enhancing the efficiency of customs operations in Niue.

**Policy indicator targets**



Guideline policies/strategies developed/drafted with UN support



Number of countries provided with technical support/assistance

**Persons reached/trained**



Over 200 stakeholders from various sectors engaged in policy development



market vendors **(85% women)** in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu trained in essential business and financial knowledge



- <sup>3</sup>List of guidelines, policies, and strategies developed/drafted with UN support
- National Telecom Quality of Service/Quality of Experience Guidelines (Tonga)
  - National E-Commerce Strategy (the Solomon Islands, Fiji)
  - National Employment Policy (Vanuatu)
  - National Digital Transformation Strategy
  - Access to Information Legislation (Kiribati, FSM)
  - National Emergency Telecommunications Plan (Kiribati)
  - National Employment Policy (Kiribati)





### Highlights

#### 4.1. Improved Access to Justice, Rule of Law, and Human Rights:

1. Supported Tuvalu in drafting the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and reviewing the Draft Guidance Note on Judicial Conduct and Judicial Code of Ethics.
2. Conducted training for magistrates and court registrars in Tuvalu, focusing on judicial integrity principles based on the Bangalore Principles.
3. Provided technical support in Vanuatu for drafting the National Action Plan and enhancing legal and regulatory frameworks for border management and immigration.
4. Conducted Tuvalu's UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism, contributing to better judicial integrity and anti-corruption measures.

## UNSDCF priorities, outcomes, and outputs

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 - PEACE







**4.2. Inclusive Political Structures and Processes for Human Security, Social Cohesion, and Dialogue:**

1. Organized the International Youth Day hybrid event in Fiji, which focused on green skills for youth and promoted human rights awareness.
2. Launched the Pacific Girls in ICT Day Programme, raising awareness and skills among over 1,000 girls and young women across Fiji, Tonga, Federated states of Micronesia, Nauru, and Kiribati.
3. Promoted gender equality and women’s empowerment in Samoa through various

initiatives, resulting in increased capacity, knowledge, and skills within the UN system to advance gender equality.

4. Supported Tonga in integrating the Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality Policy into national corporate planning processes, fostering gender-inclusive actions and policies.
5. Supported the Solomon Islands in conducting inclusive consultations for the Family Protection Act, engaging 216 participants from diverse communities.

**4.3. Strengthened Multi-Level Governance, Institutions, and Processes:**

1. Provided technical support to strengthen the Pacific region’s law enforcement and border efforts, particularly in combating human trafficking and maritime crime under the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.
2. Enhanced the capacity of agencies in Kiribati to combat corruption and supported the implementation of the second national Anti-Corruption Strategy.
3. Developed roadmaps for ratifying, reporting, and implementing UNCAC across 12 Pacific Island countries.
4. Strengthened governance capacities in Vanuatu by supporting national and provincial parliaments, resulting in higher allocations of reserved seats for women.
5. Assisted Tonga in integrating the Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality Policy into national planning, setting the stage for a more inclusive governance framework.
6. Revised local governance frameworks In Nauru, improving coordination and service delivery at the local level.

7. Established mechanisms for better coordination between national and local governments in Kiribati, resulting in more effective policy implementation.
8. Conducted training for government officials in the Marshall Islands, enhancing institutional capacity and governance practices.

**4.4. Stronger Human Rights Protection, Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability Systems:**

1. Supported the Cook Islands in advocating for establishing a National Human Rights Institution, promoting accountability mechanisms.



2. Assisted Nauru in improving compliance with Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing obligations through technical support and new legislation.
3. Conducted human rights training for civil society organizations and government entities in Fiji, enhancing knowledge and skills on international human rights mechanisms.
4. Promoted gender equality in Samoa by providing tools, knowledge products, and guidance for gender-responsive programming in government ministries.
5. Provided technical support to the Cook Islands Ombudsman’s Office in advocating for establishing a National Human Rights Institution during the Pacific Island Forum Leaders’ Meeting.
6. Facilitated the Pacific Learning Exchange on UNCAC with participation from 12 Pacific Island country governments, including Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu, developing roadmaps for ratification and implementation.

**4.5. Effective Public Resources Management:**

1. Provided technical assistance to the Solomon Islands in managing seized assets and guiding the Leadership Code Commission on asset declaration.
2. Supported Vanuatu in improving public expenditure management, leading to more efficient use of government resources and budget transparency.
3. Enhanced the capabilities of public officials in Nauru through training on anti-corruption and financial investigations.



- 4. Tuvalu organized stakeholder consultation meetings to discuss immigration and border management operations among border agencies for the first time.
- 5. Enhanced immigration and border management infrastructure in FSM, improving capacity to respond to public health crises.

**4.6. Expanded Women's and Youth's Leadership and Role in Decision-Making:**

- 1. Supported the Solomon Islands in reviewing the Family Protection Act with inclusive consultations, empowering rural women and promoting gender equality.
- 2. Fostered youth leadership and climate activism through events such as the International Youth Day hybrid event in Fiji, showcasing green skills and promoting awareness of human rights.
- 3. Supported youth leadership initiatives, leading to enhanced youth representation in community decision-making processes in Tuvalu.
- 4. Facilitated the participation of Pacific Island delegations, including Tonga and Tuvalu, in global inter-governmental processes on gender equality and women's empowerment, such as the 67th Commission on the Status of Women and the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders.
- 5. Conducted financial literacy and business management workshops for 300 women entrepreneurs in Vanuatu, enhancing their business operations.

**Persons reached/trained**

Over **1,000**   
girls and young women participated in Girls in ICT

Over **600**   
women trained in financial literacy and record-keeping

Almost **300**   
women and men capacitated on local justice pathways

**16**   
women engaged in consultations on peace and security

**12**   
women executives trained in leadership development





# UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLE OF LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



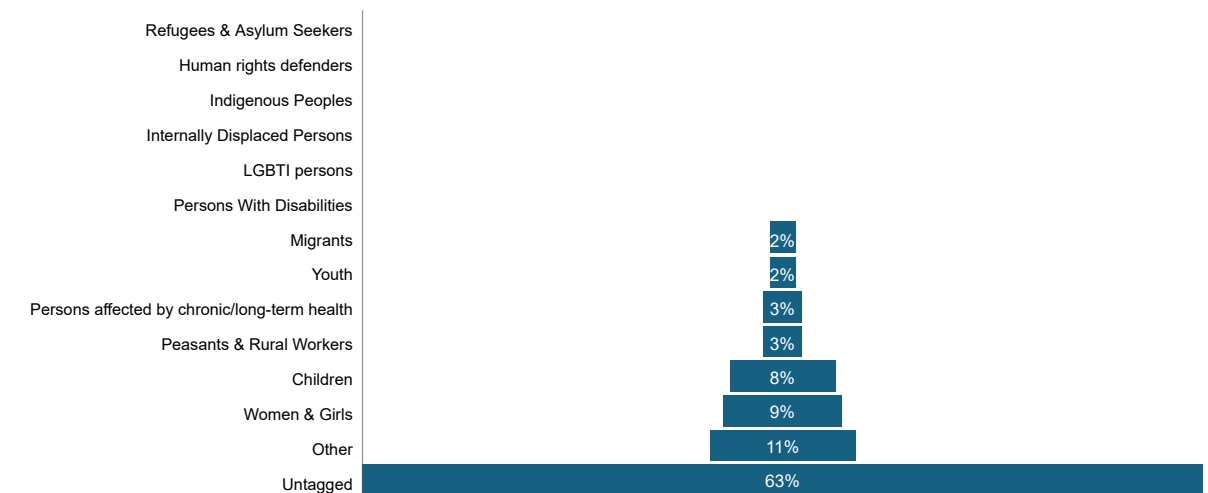
Throughout the Pacific, the UN has consistently upheld the principle of “leave no one behind” (LNOB) by aligning its interventions with national frameworks and strategies. Despite resource constraints, progress has been made in gender equality and women’s empowerment. Efforts have also focused on empowering youth through national policies and advocacy campaigns, resulting in greater youth involvement in sustainable action. However, challenges in reaching marginalized populations highlight the need for ongoing collaboration and innovative approaches.

The UN’s regional and national efforts have consistently promoted gender equality and women’s empowerment. These efforts have included gender-responsive policies, addressing GBV, revising curricula, and collecting gender-disaggregated data through Labour Force Surveys. The UNCT hosted refresher training on Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for approximately 346 UN staff, reinforcing the UN’s commitment to a safe working environment.

Disability inclusion has also been a critical focus, promoted through collaborative national projects assessing the situation of persons with disabilities.

UN agencies have built capacity and systems for better data availability, enabling FSM, Palau, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu to present their voluntary national reviews at the UN High-Level Political Forum 2024. The UN has advocated for PICTs to accede to the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the Statelessness Conventions to enhance protection for refugees and stateless persons. Legal analysis and feedback on draft immigration bills have aligned legislation with international commitments. Training for officials and awareness efforts have improved understanding of refugee rights, fostered social inclusion, and facilitated access to essential services. Addressing the legacy of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, the UN has conducted consultations and needs assessments, providing technical assistance and capacity-building support to the National Nuclear Commission on the national strategy for nuclear justice.

## Expenditure by beneficiaries





**Empowerment blooms in Samoa's markets**

Vaiema Lealiiee loves tending to her flowers and vegetables at the Salelologa, Savaii marketplace. However, her joy was overshadowed by worries about vandalism and theft, which are common challenges faced by market vendors like her.



These challenges have been addressed since Vaiema and other women vendors became part of the Markets for Change (M4C) project. With the installation of CCTV cameras and other upgrades like first aid kits and solar-powered lights, Vaiema felt a newfound sense of security. "Now those thieves won't get away anymore," she remarked with a smile.

The project's impact wasn't just about physical improvements. Ulufafo Suniula, another vendor, shared how the project's training programmes had empowered her to grow her business.

Across Samoa's bustling marketplaces, the transformation is evident. The project's holistic approach addresses economic empowerment and health and safety concerns. Women vendors now have access to essential services like health check-ups and family planning consultations, making a significant difference in their lives. Women vendors are not just sellers but the driving force behind progress and inspiration for future generations.

M4C promotes gender equality by economically empowering women market vendors in Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. It brings together governments, market vendors and associations, civil society organizations, and UN agencies. M4C is implemented by UN Women in partnership with UNDP and the governments of Australia and New Zealand.

Photo Credit: Myka Stanley @ UN Women

**Coordination highlights**

**Promoting gender equality and combating corruption through media collaboration:** The UN's collaboration with media organizations has significantly advanced gender equality across the Pacific. Partnering with the Journalists Association in Samoa, the UN drafted a glossary of Samoan gender terms and a media manual for gender-responsive reporting. These initiatives will substantially strengthen the media's capacity to raise awareness and amplify advocacy on gender issues among the public.

**Amplified regional advocacy for gender equality:** The UN Communications Group (UNCG) Pacific spearheaded focused collaboration on gender equality advocacy across 14 countries. This initiative underscored the collective commitment to strengthening advocacy for gender equality, human rights, inclusion, and environmental conservation. UNCG's social media campaigns for COP28 highlighted the power of localized content in conveying global messages, significantly amplifying regional advocacy efforts.

**Increased accountability on gender and human rights through comprehensive assessments:** The Gender and Human Rights Thematic Group (TGs) conducted thorough assessments across all 14 Country Implementation Plans (CIPs), identifying significant over-coding in agency-level interventions focused on Gender Equality and

Women's Empowerment (GEWE) and Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBA). The TGs will provide guidance and additional capacity building across all agencies to address these deficiencies. Combined with the operationalization of marker narratives and justifications in the next CIP cycle, this will enhance UN system coherence on gender equality and human rights initiatives and lead to more impactful regional programming.

**Capacity-building for effective monitoring:** The Human Rights and Gender Theme Groups conducted training on the UNCT Human Rights Marker and the Gender Equality Marker. This initiative has enabled agencies to assess agency-level intervention contributions to UN normative and operational priorities, thereby enhancing UNCT compliance and monitoring efforts.





# SUPPORT FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA



## Joint programming implementation

### Micronesia MCO

Total resources

**\$7.9 M**

Number of interventions

**4**

SDGs covered

**4**



Participating agencies

**6**

(UNESCO, UNODC, ITU, UNOPS, ILO, FAO, UNDP, IOM, OHCHR, UNICEF, WFP)

### Samoa MCO

Total resources

**\$6.6 M**

Number of interventions

**6**

SDGs covered

**13**



Participating agencies

**6**

(UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, IOM)

### Fiji MCO

Total resources

**\$47.8 M**

Number of interventions

**28**

SDGs covered

**11**



Participating agencies

**18**

(UN Women, UN RCO, ILO, OHCHR, UNESCAP, WFP, UNAIDS, IAEA, FAO, IFAD, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, IOM, UNCDF, UNU, UNHCR, WHO, UNODC)



# RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER:

COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS, AND EFFICIENCY



## Delivering the UN Reform agenda across the Pacific

**1** Regional Cooperation Framework

**14** country implementation plans for PICTs

**unINFO**  
Launched UNINFO

The UN jointly collaborated with the governments of 14 PICTs to develop a new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework aligned with the Pacific Islands Forum 2050 Strategy. The UNSDCF 2023–2027 ensures policy coherence and promotes effective collaboration across UN agencies in the Pacific. Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) for all 14 PICTs were developed and provided tailored interventions to the country-specific context.

The UN's presence in the North Pacific was bolstered, with the number of agencies increasing almost threefold (from five to 13). Establishing a One UN House with expertise relevant to SDG acceleration is a pivotal commitment to providing cohesive, coordinated, and comprehensive assistance to the sub-region. The Pacific Joint Work Programme is live on UN INFO for the first time, enhancing UN transparency and accountability to national stakeholders. It has also enabled more streamlined and efficient system-level reporting.

The UN markers for gender, human rights, and peace have also been operationalized. They provide valuable insights to aid more evidence-based planning and monitoring results related to mainstreaming UN normative priorities. Capacity-building on the markers was also conducted to ensure compliance and accuracy of use.





## Enhancing coordination and cost efficiency

**2** UN common premises established

The Operations Management Teams (OMTs) across the Pacific MCOs have emerged as catalysts for efficiency and effectiveness. Key priorities included administration, finance, ICT, human resources, procurement and logistics, shared premises, and local staff salaries, and they developed joint work plans to address operational challenges. Utilizing joint approaches for planning coordination and shared services, several gains were realized through cost avoidance. Achievements included long-term agreements, local salary surveys, and safety and emergency preparedness training.

Efforts to construct One UN House Micronesia in Pohnpei, FSM, with a zero-carbon footprint, also progressed significantly in 2023. Design briefs were meticulously developed and approved by state and federal governments, and land allocation for the new UN complex was officially sanctioned in December 2023. Efforts are expected to shift toward resource mobilization in the new year.



Over  
**US\$744,000**  
in cost avoidance savings

## Strengthening coordination communication and advocacy

UNCG Pacific significantly enhanced regional outreach and promotional activities through a unified communications strategy aligned with the UNSDCF. Successful campaigns, including World Environment Day and COP27, highlighted the strategy's impact.

The launch of the UN Micronesia and UN Information Centre Canberra Pacific websites expanded the UN's digital footprint, providing Pacific stakeholders with comprehensive access to resources and enhancing transparency and accessibility. The UNCG Pacific Secretariat's targeted training programmes improved members' communication skills, especially in risk communication.

Collaboration on gender equality advocacy across 14 countries demonstrated UNCG Pacific's commitment to gender equality, human rights, inclusion, and environmental conservation. Social media campaigns for COP28 showcased the effectiveness of localized content in effective messaging.

As the OMTs embark on the journey into 2024, they are poised to enhance operational efficiency further. Initiatives such as retreats serve as opportunities for team members to refine administrative functions and formulate strategic plans for the year ahead. By fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, the OMTs aim to streamline processes, enhance service delivery, and contribute significantly to the overarching goals of the Efficiency Agenda.





# EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED



While significant progress was made in developing the UNSDCF and CIPs in 2023, including enhanced stakeholder engagement and ownership, key areas still need improvement, including technical oversight and monitoring robustness. Feedback from both formal and informal monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reviews in 2023 suggests improvements can be realized through the following strategic actions:

## 1. Strengthening Coordination Systems

- **Enhanced Coordination Mechanisms:** Establish and reinforce coordination mechanisms at regional and national levels, including regular inter-agency meetings and joint planning with national stakeholders.
- **Increasing Stakeholder Engagement:** Facilitate systematic engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector, in coordination and oversight.
- **Revising terms of reference:** Develop and disseminate clear terms of reference for more participatory M&E roles and responsibilities within existing structures.

## 2. Building In-Country M&E Capacity

- **Strengthening M&E Systems:** Develop and implement robust M&E systems at the country level, with clear baselines, targets, and indicators to measure progress effectively.
- **Increasing Technical Capacities:** Conduct tailored capacity-building sessions for more inclusive approaches to M&E.

## 3. Promoting Enhanced Use of UN INFO Planning, Monitoring, and Reporting

- **Leveraging UN INFO:** Incentivize the use of UN INFO to facilitate real-time data-sharing among stakeholders and guide evidence-based reviews and management at the UNCT and country levels.
- **Increasing Awareness of UN INFO:** Train critical stakeholders, including line ministries, to understand and utilize the data available via the UN INFO public dashboard for more participatory monitoring.

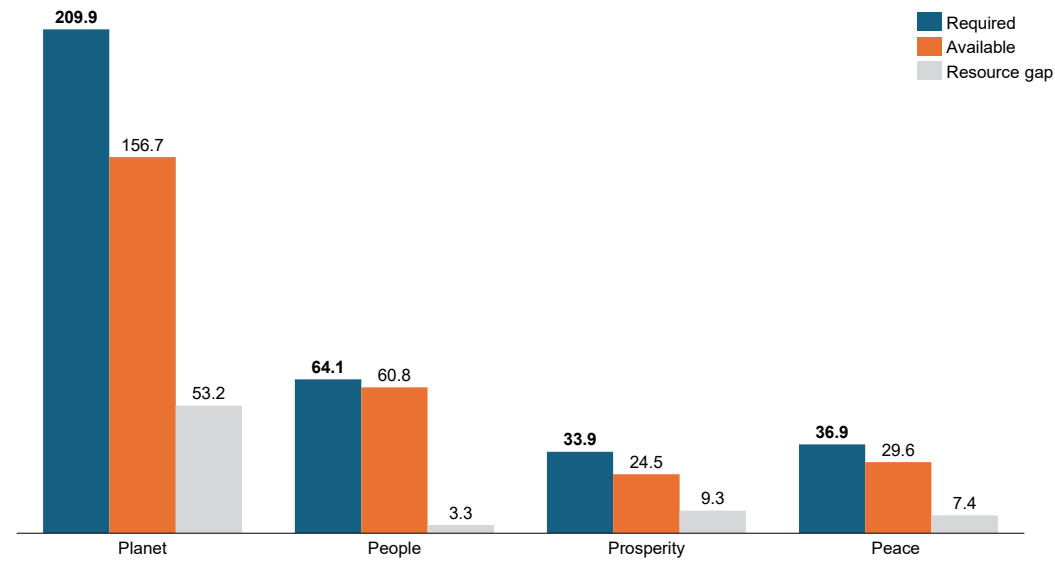
Implementing these recommendations will strengthen internal and regional coordination and improve monitoring and oversight, enhancing the relevance and impact of UN programming and policy initiatives in the Pacific region.





### Financial overview and resource mobilization

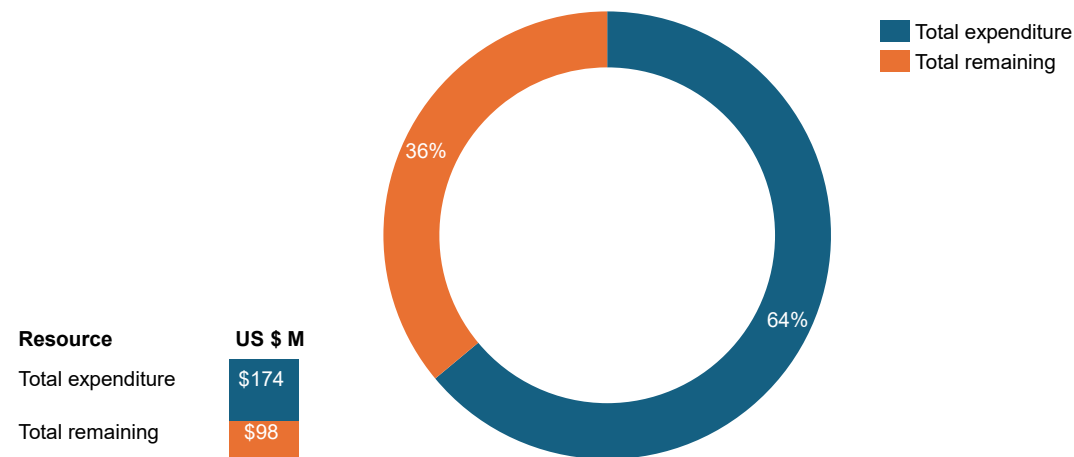
Resource mobilization and utilization, by UNSDCF Pillar



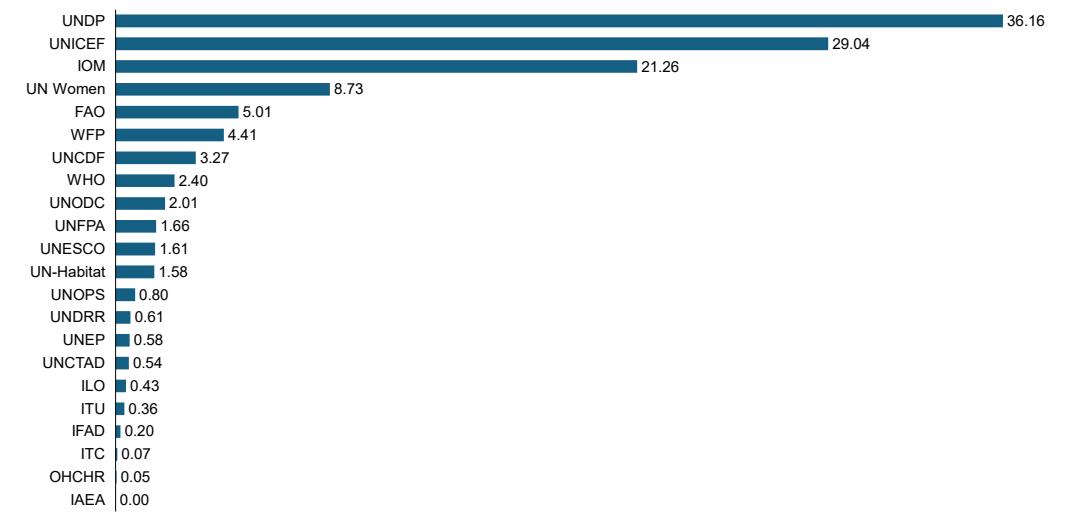
Delivery rate, by UNSDCF Pillar



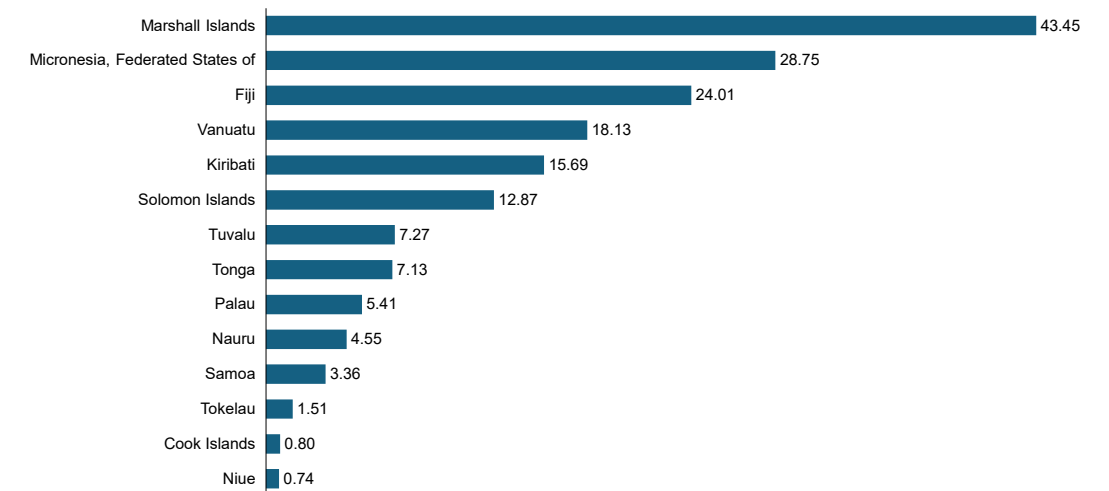
Delivery rate, overall UNSDCF



Expenditure, by agency (US\$ millions)



Expenditure, by country (US\$ millions)





# KEY FOCUS OF THE UNCT FOR 2024

Since the Pacific region lags far behind other areas globally in SDG progress, the UNCT Pacific prioritizes building innovative partnerships for SDG acceleration across six catalytic areas: energy, biodiversity, environment, and climate change adaptation; transforming education; social protection; healthcare and jobs; food systems; and digitalization.

To accelerate the SDGs across those six areas, the UNCT will:

#### 1. Strengthen accountability and transparency:

- Strengthen dialogue with governments and national partners through Joint government–UN Steering Committees across the 14 countries and territories.
- Improve country-level planning and reporting processes by reviewing and updating CIPs under the Pacific UNSDCF 2023–2027.

#### 2. Enhance integrated policy support and advice:

- Address data and statistics gaps to provide an evidence base for impactful socioeconomic policies.
- Support national and regional development planning, surveys and reports, including Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and voluntary SDG reports.

#### 3. Focus on youth empowerment:

- Respond to factors driving out-migration and incentivizing young people to stay.
- Provide social services and employment access for even the most remote populations.
- Promote innovative climate change adaptation solutions.

#### 4. Strengthen resilience to climate change:

- Explore innovative solutions for living with sea-level rise and adapting to climate change impacts across all sectors.
- Consolidate gains and expand the Peacebuilding Fund-financed joint UN Climate Security Programme implemented in Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu.

#### 5. Broaden partnerships:

- Engage with all development partners beyond government, including academia, private sector, think tanks, civil society, and foundations.
- Deepen support for bolstering national capacity in aid/donor coordination and accessing climate and development financing opportunities.
- Launch the UN Pacific SDG Multi-Donor Trust Fund to promote coherent UN action.

#### 6. Collaborate with regional organizations:

- Strengthen collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat/Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific agencies.
- Support Pacific small island developing states (SIDS) in leveraging potential multilateral dialogues on socioeconomic development, including SIDS4, the Summit of the Future, COP29, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting hosted by Samoa.

#### 7. Strengthen operational efficiencies:

- Establish One UN House in Fiji and Micronesia.
- Expand collaboration in administration and operations across the region.
- Develop and roll out FSM's first Business Operations strategy to enhance operational efficiency.





CREDITS

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