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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji

DFAT-funded UNDP Regional Programme Activities

**Annual Report
January– December 2016**

30 March 2017

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1. Executive Summary

Following on the Mid-Year Report for the period January–June 2016, this Annual Report covering the period January–December 2017 provides progress towards achievement of the outcomes and updates on activities implemented under DFAT-supported regional programme in the following areas covered under the 4 Outcomes: Institution building and system strengthening (Parliaments); Women empowerment (Women in politics); Economic growth (Private sector, livelihoods, inclusive growth, and SDGs); Resilience and healthy communities (HIV and NCDs); Climate change and inclusive and sustainable energy. It provides details on UNDP Pacific Office (PO) work in support of Agenda 2030, both what was implemented in 2016 and the future. Activities are carried out in support of Pacific regionalism to promote regional public goods based on strengthened regional cooperation and integration, and aim at the management of cross-border externalities which are best addressed collaboratively. They enhance the generation and sharing of knowledge and experience among the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) as well as ensuring that knowledge generated in the Pacific region, reflecting its realities and challenges, influences global strategies.

The report covers the provision of technical advisory services in the above-mentioned areas to UNDP Offices in the Pacific, the Governments of the PICs, as well as regional organizations. It provides information on the cooperation with the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies on the SDGs, resilient development and other areas. The report explains how DFAT funding has enabled UNDP to work on sensitive issues such as political instability and on global mandates such as recovery. Flexible and catalytic DFAT funding has enhanced UNDP's responsiveness to emerging needs and enabled it to mobilize additional resources for the Pacific region, e.g. for SDGs-related work and for climate change action and for HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Overall, the report shows that progress in achieving the project outputs is contributing towards the achievement of the outcomes in all areas¹. The Regional Programme Outcomes are high level results to which UNDP PO, together with other partners, is contributing. UNDP PO's work continue to be relevant to the Pacific Region and to needs of the specific countries served by the Office. The support provided by UNDP PO, both programmatic as well as policy advisory services, in areas as diverse as SDG implementation, resilience, climate change and disaster risk reduction, parliamentary support, women's economic and political empowerment, HIV and NCDs is demand driven and complements the regional and country capacities in addressing important issues of significant impact on the development of the Region.

Some of the challenges faced during the reporting period are as follows: 1. very high demand for PO's services and limited capacity to provide the services, in particular in the area of SDGs; 2. political instability, which in some cases, delayed programme implementation; 3. the incongruence between technical and political levels in some areas where policy advisory support provided. The main lessons learned during this period are: 1. the importance of flexibility in programming to accommodate unforeseen changes and emerging needs; 2. working closely with national governments to strengthen their capacity simultaneously with project implementation; 3. continue playing a convening and coordinating role among UN agencies and regional organizations and strengthen UNDP positioning in the Pacific in the context of Agenda 2030; 4. Continue the thought-leadership role in the region and the

¹ Please see attached progress report against indicators, which covers the Umbrella Regional Programme – funded by DFAT, other bilateral and multilateral donors and UNDP own resources.

production of knowledge management products, based on the Pacific context, which proved to have a strong influence in policy debates and discussions.

2. Overview of DFAT Funding to UNDP PO:

2.1. Progress of DFAT Funding to the Regional Programme in support of Pacific regionalism

2.1.1. Institution building and system strengthening (Parliament)

During 2016, the PO has made significant contributions to increasing citizens voice in decision making and strengthening governance institutions in the form of Parliaments. DFAT's support to UNDP Regional Programme has enabled UNDP to continue to be the lead implementer of parliamentary strengthening activities in the Pacific with Parliaments better capacitated to fulfil their core functions. This stream of work falls under Output 2.1: Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, including for peaceful transitions, which contributes to Outcome 2: Citizen expectations for voice, effective development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance.

In addition to specific ongoing work with the Fiji Parliament that has included numerous activities with MPs and staff, during the first half of 2016, the Pacific Office (PO) provided support to the Parliaments of PNG, Bougainville (local legislature), Niue and Vanuatu.

Responding to direct requests from the Parliaments of PNG and Bougainville, through the UNDP PNG Country Office (CO), the PO facilitated ICT assessments of both legislatures to examine current capacity and provided recommendations on ways in which ICT could improve the effectiveness of the institutions. Additionally, the PO provided technical and organizational input into a training session for selected Bougainville and PNG MPs and Parliament staff in Fiji that focussed on the role of MPs in their work in the legislature and in their wider community roles. In Niue, the PO responded to a request for training for the Parliament and Public Accounts Committee on financial oversight, through a joint intervention by the Regional Programme and the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project (UN-PRAC).

In June, the PO organized a three-day Induction Programme for Members of the National Parliament of Vanuatu to provide participants with an overview of Vanuatu's constitutional and organisational structures and systems, as they relate to the role of Parliament and, in particular, their responsibilities as MPs. The induction programme was well attended with the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of the House and Leader of the Opposition all participating in the workshop.

The UNDP PO, in conjunction with UN Women and Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), also organised a training for MPs in Nauru on the SDGs and key development issues. The focus of the induction training was to sensitise the MPs on key development issues including climate change, health, human rights and gender.

UNDP PO provided a key note speaker to the Association of Pacific Legislatures Conference held in Chuuk, FSM in December 2016. This provided an opportunity for UNDP to outline its work on parliamentary development and mechanisms for mainstreaming the SDGs and key development issues in the work of the Parliament.

In keeping with the SDG theme, UNDP PO leveraged DFAT funding along with funding from The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Fiji support to Parliament project and the UNDP Pacific Parliamentary

Effectiveness Initiative to support a 3-day seminar for MPs on Implementing Sustainable Development Goals through a human rights perspective. The members of the Parliaments of Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu attended the seminar.

Another key area of work in which UNDP PO was involved through DFAT regional programme funding was with regards to potential political reform in Vanuatu. UNDP provided key experts and Technical Assistance (TA) to the electoral Commission to outline preparations required for the conduct of a potential referendum on political reform. The experts provided a step by step guide of the issues that required consideration and challenges in terms of conducting successful referendum. UNDP is subsequently developing a project proposal to respond to some of the issues highlighted in the report with regards strengthening the Electoral Commission.

Despite the limited budget of the regional programme compared to UNDP's larger governance programming in the Pacific region, the implemented activities under this output have contributed to a strengthened of governance systems in the Pacific and increased voice for citizens in decision making.

2.1.2. Women Empowerment (Women in Politics)

The PO has continued to provide leadership on the issue of women's political participation in the Pacific. Following on from the highly successful Regional Conference on Women in Politics and Temporary Special Measures (TSM) held in PNG at the end of 2015, UNDP developed a knowledge product on case studies of TSM in the Pacific². The knowledge product was launched during 2016 and is now an important tool for countries looking at legal options for ensuring increased women's political participation at national or sub-national levels. This work falls under Output 2.6: Measures in place to increase women's participation in decision-making.

In addition, during the year, the UNDP PO facilitated three 'mock' or 'practice' Parliaments for women through the provision of input and assistance to the Samoa Practice Parliament for women, held in January 2016. The PO also organized and implemented a 'mock' Parliament for women in Nauru in February 2016. The third and final Practice Parliament for women was held in Tuvalu in September 2016. It should be noted that a prominent participant from the Nauru mock parliament was subsequently elected to parliament in Nauru in a by-election in January 2017. During the year, the PO also developed a knowledge product on how to organize a mock or practice parliament. The product will be launched in Quarter 1 of 2017.

In September 2016, UNDP supported UN Women in organizing a regional conference "Innovating for Impact: A Pacific Regional Consultation on Women's Political Empowerment and Leadership". This consultation was an opportunity to consider mechanisms currently being utilized to increase women's political participation and discuss options for improved collaboration in this field.

In December 2016, the UNDP PO organized an event in Vanuatu on engaging young women in politics and public spaces. The 3-day event focused on motivating young women to understand why it is important

² Temporary Special Measures to Increase Women's Political Participation in the Pacific: Case Studies of Implementation in the Region. <http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/library/DG/women-s-political-participation-in-the-pacific.html>

to engage in political and decision making spaces and to create awareness on the importance of women in leadership.

Overall, despite the small budget allocated to this work under this programme, the work on women's political participation during 2016 has contributed to increasing the pool of women candidates to run for election in the Pacific in the future. The Practice Parliaments received significant publicity, thus ensuring that the issue women's political participation remain a high priority in the region with the number of women candidates slowly increasing. While impact is difficult to quantify, the knowledge products developed assist in broader programming in this field and a direct project beneficiary is the Nauru Parliament that saw an additional woman MP elected to parliament following activity interventions under the DFAT regional programme.

2.1.3. Economic growth (Private Sector & Livelihoods & Inclusive Growth & SDGs)

Building on the success of UNDP-supported MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) and the data generated from the Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) and poverty reports, governments identified SDG mainstreaming and integration in local and national development plans, as well as evidence based monitoring of the SDGs at the national level as priorities for future programming. UNDP is considered to have a comparative advantage in SDG mainstreaming and in establishing systematic ways of working with government to ensure that programmes respond to and are integrated in national planning frameworks and accountability structures. UNDP is also well positioned to develop a common framework for multi-country programming focused on cross- sectoral areas using the HIES and Poverty reports. The support to SDG localization falls under Output 4.1: National development plans to address poverty and inequality are sustainable and risk resilient

During 2016, UNDP focused its support to the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) on putting in place the building blocks of SDG localization, including the introduction of tools for coordination, planning and budgeting, and data and monitoring, as well reporting of community level development results at the national level. Specifically, UNDP supported national consultations including mapping national development strategies and data systems with SDG targets and indicators in Palau, RMI, Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and PNG. In the PICs, most community engagement is driven by ad-hoc national or sector based processes and consultations are mainly information sharing by Government on already identified programmes, while interdepartmental coordination on public consultation planning and outcomes is poor -with relevant information not properly shared between actors. To address these issues, UNDP adopted an inclusive consultation processes wherein Government takes the lead with technical support provided by UN and CROP agencies. The approach helped in national ownership with various Ministries presenting their respective prioritized development needs (with linkages to SDGs) and key challenges to a cross section of stakeholders and communities. To maintain an on-going discussion, UNDP supported countries to establish national level SDG taskforce which will keep stakeholders informed on monitoring and outcome reporting.

To support countries in aligning SDGs with their national plans and strategies, UNDP has started providing technical assistance and capacity building of national planning and budget ministries to ensure that both official and administrative data is appropriately disaggregated and available in a timely manner. While support has been given to Tonga and Palau, three countries (RMI, Nauru and Solomon Islands) are in the pipeline for similar support. UNDP is also providing technical assistance to RMI, Solomon Islands and Nauru in strengthening horizontal and vertical policy coherence.

To strengthen monitoring, reporting and accountability, UNDP PO, utilizing funds provided by UNDP HQ, fund, supported Government of Samoa to review its M&E framework including issues of capacities with a need for training on M&E tools and processes with linkages to various sectors. Requests for similar support were received from RMI, Nauru, Vanuatu. UNDP is supporting Government of Fiji to meet the demands for greater accountability and results with enhanced results-based monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects. Technical assistance is being provided to establish an SDG Database using Fiji information platform, establish indicator baselines through research and extensive stakeholder consultations, generate annual SDG Scorecard and train staff of Ministry of Economy in the usage and maintenance of the SDG database.

UNDP provided technical assistance to Fiji on conducting Development Finance Assessments to capture internal and external resource flows. The Assessment has been completed and awaiting endorsement by the Government. UNDP PO has initiated a similar study in RMI, while Tonga and few more countries have shown keen interest in DFAs. At the regional level, UNDP supported regional organizations in the design and implementation of the SDG Roadmap, the selection of regional SDG indicators and means of implementation of SDGs in the Pacific. As stated in the review of the UNDP Sub-Regional Programme Document (SRPD) 2013-2017, UNDP's support brought about increased ownership of plans, stronger links to budgets, and strengthened processes to ensure coordinated data collection across ministries with increased horizontal and vertical policy coherence.

UNDP PO utilized its Pipeline Fund, provided by UNDP HQ, to undertake a comprehensive study in the Pacific on the SDG Localization to understand the countries engagement on SDGs and their linkages to the unfinished business of MDGs, the process of raising SDG awareness, applying multi-stakeholder approach and mainstreaming SDGs with national plans and budgets including availability of baselines and means of ensuring regular monitoring and reporting. The study also examines the linkages of SDGs with the regional frameworks and S.A.M.O.A. Pathways. Apart from the extensive desk research, consultations were held in six countries (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Palau), UN and CROP agencies, civil society and private sector. The draft report will be submitted during the first quarter of 2017.

UNDP Pacific Office is supporting youth and women's economic empowerment as part of its work towards the achievement of Output 1.1.: National Systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment- and livelihood-intensive. Responding to the needs and recovery efforts of post TC Winston in Fiji and TC Pam in Vanuatu, the PO shifted the focus of the youth employment and livelihoods initiative "Farm to Table" to the most affected rural youth by engaging them into sustainable organic farming with linkages to markets. Similarly, under "Market for Change" initiative the focus of training for small holder farmers was "Climate Smart Farming" to ensure sustainable farm management practices.

In 2016, PO continued its support to UNDP Samoa MCO in the implementation of the One-UN (Samoa) Youth Employment Programme (1UN-YEP) in collaboration with the Government of Samoa, to assist in its ongoing efforts to address youth unemployment, and to 'deliver as One UN'³. The PO's technical support

³ UN agencies include: International Labor Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), AND United Nations Volunteer (UNV). National Partners: Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development (MWCSD), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC); Women in Business Development Inc. (WIBDI); Small Business Enterprise Centre (SBEC); Samoa Hotel Association (SHA); and SPREP.

included: (a) organizing the design and operationalization of Small Business Incubator, (b) facilitating training of youth in creative industries with a focus on traditional skills and cultural heritage.; and (c) in collaboration with the Culinary Association of Samoa, training youth as Chefs and other restaurant related skills under a new initiative “Chefs for Development-C4D). This is a pilot initiative launched at the end of 2016 within the broader 1UN-YEP and it aims to train a total of 60 youths in batches.

In 2016, the PO’s approach to women’s economic empowerment has been to support (a) the empowerment of women in the informal sector through their enhancing their economic security and rights; and (b) engaging women in formal businesses to become technically savvy to use using social media in their respective businesses. To achieve these two objectives, PO focused on two initiatives: (1) develop ecommerce and emarketing capacities of women in business in the Pacific. In collaboration with PIPSO and Pacific Cooperation Foundation, New Zealand, a pilot 10 week “Grow Pacific Ecommerce programme” was launched with training on digital platforms to grow online sales, building market data base and managing digital traffic and social media to maximize profitability and customer satisfaction. 12 women entrepreneurs from 5 countries (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu) completed the training and are currently being supported in digitizing their businesses; (2)the PO under the Market for Change programme in collaboration with UN Women has been supporting women in the informal sector as market vendors, to (a) develop financial literacy and business skills; (b) manage money and book-keeping; and (c) access to financial services including usage of digital financial products like “Mpaia”. Results from internal evaluation have shown significant increase in women market vendors’ skills in managing their personal and business funds but awareness on other financial products like micro insurance and micro savings is still tacking. The PO is working closely with the DFAT-funded Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) on the feasibility of such products and customizing them to suit the needs of market vendors.

During 2016 apart from targeted initiatives for small and micro-enterprises (SMEs), the focus of the PO was on “Engaging the private sector in SDGs”. During the MDG era, Pacific private sector involvement was minimal. Hence opportunities were taken by PO to create awareness on SDGs and the role of private sector both at the regional level with PIPSO and the national level with local Chambers of Commerce and other national private sector organizations. One of the key outcomes emerging from this engagement is the focus on Green/Blue businesses and jobs. The PO in collaboration with PIPSO and PIDF is in the process of establishing a “Green Business Centre” which will help in creating awareness of green growth with potential business opportunities, green factory/office certification, and develop tools to support businesses on their SDG contributions as well as encourage dialogue with Pacific leaders to support with incentives and tax breaks for Green/Blue businesses.

PO’s private sector initiatives during 2016 are as follows:

- (1) As founding member of *Trade Pasifika (TP)*, the PO collaborates with PIPSO and provides support in organizing TP trade shows. Originally, TP 2016 was planned to be held in Port Moresby, but due to various factors including high cost of organizing the event as well as law and order situation, the TP was held in Noumea (New Caledonia) in November 2016. TP is a biennial trade show of Pacific businesses and provides an opportunity for businesses to establish contacts and develop business leads, collect market related information, and meet and network with Pacific Island businesses, and business enablers (investors, government representatives, etc). Ten businesses from 5 countries (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, PNG and Vanuatu) showcased their products and

the initial reports have been quite encouraging as these businesses were able to seek enquiries and orders from wider Pacific and Europe.⁴

- (2) Supported Tuvalu's Trade Sector Plan under Tier 1 which was completed and the report was launched in the first half of 2016. On-going support is provided for Tier 2 proposals. Currently, support is provided to Kiribati for its Trade Sector Plan and undertaking an update of their Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS), formulation of the country's first Trade Policy Framework TPF and review of the country's investment policy to promote and develop pro-poor and sustainable economic growth.
- (3) Supporting Government of Fiji MSME Policy framework by (a) diagnostic review of MSME landscape of regulatory functions, role of various ministries and support of financial institutions, (b) MSME legislation, (c) establishment of MSME central coordinating agency, and (d) developing MSME data base including capturing the size of informal economy.
- (4) Currently supporting RMI in Data Harmonization Feasibility Study in collaboration with UNCTAD for trade facilitation and ensure trade data is effectively collected and analyzed for policy decisions and trade negotiations (currently in RMI all trade data is maintained by manual records).

2.1.4. Resilience and Healthy Communities (HIV & NCDs)

UNDP PO made significant progress towards Output 2.4: National institutions, systems, laws and policies strengthened for equitable, accountable and effective delivery of basic services to excluded groups, with a particular focus on health and HIV. UNDP's comparative advantage as a significant player in the health sector is based on its experience in multi-sectoral approach to HIV/AIDs and its Intellectual capital on the analysis of NCDs and other health issues from as a socio-economic/development angle rather than through a narrow bio-medical scope, which leads to greater focus on the diseases' underlying causes/ socio-economic determinants. In addition, as the Principal Recipient (PR) of the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in the Pacific (and globally in about 25 countries), UNDP leveraged GF grants for health systems strengthening beyond HIV, TB and malaria and played a role in strengthening the normative agenda for example, implementing people centered policies and human-rights based approaches.

With the support of DFAT, UNDP PO contributed to regional efforts aimed at strengthening multi-sectoral action on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). More specifically, UNDP pooled resources with WHO, SPC and other partners, to develop capacities for legislative and regulatory approaches to NCDs and promote greater policy coherence between health and trade. This included a mix of high-level advocacy through knowledge products development and communication in key decision-making fora, such as the Fourth Heads of Health Meeting⁵ and the NCD Summit⁶; facilitation and resourcing of capacity development projects such as the regional training on NCD and the Law, as well as responding to direct country

⁴ Hard copy of the Conference Report available.

⁵ The "Fourth Heads of Health Meeting" was held in Suva, Fiji 27-28 April 2016. This meeting brought together the Directors of Health from 22 countries and territories and is jointly organized by WHO and SPC. This is the meeting where key progress and development are discussed and where commitments are made.

⁶ The NCD Summit was held in Tonga on 20-22 June 2016. <https://ncdalliance.org/news-events/blog/pacific-islands-take-the-bull-by-the-horns-to-combat-the-ncds-crisis>

requests^{7,8}. As a result of these efforts, there is an increasing uptake of policy approaches towards NCDs, which include taxation, coordination between different sectors, and integration of NCD in development agenda/ plans.

UNDP played a broker role between health and other sectors such as trade and the law, which is a role not played by any other agency. Through UNDP's efforts, NCDs are now being analyzed as a socio-economic/ development issue rather than a bio-medical health issue only. Collaboration in this area has been strengthened through the establishment of the Pacific Inter-Agency Thematic Group, which includes SPC and the World Bank and is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. In addition, UNDP leverages external partnerships with Australian expertise in this domain, for example McCabe Centre for tobacco control and Deakin University for economic cost analysis. This collaboration goes beyond the Pacific region as it contributes towards promoting Australian expertise to the rest of the world through triangular cooperation.

A more effective regional health response is a joint DFAT-UNDP priority. DFAT's support to the regional programme adds value to programmes implemented by UNDP and funded by other donors such as the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF), which supports the development of country-level systems and services for HIV and TB in 11 eligible PICs and Malaria in Vanuatu. Cooperation with DFAT was critical, particularly in the early stages of the establishment of the new GF programme in Vanuatu. A temporary arrangement between DFAT and UNDP to cover essential malaria programme functions allowed to completely avoid any interruption in the implementation at a critical juncture. This cooperation has contributed to the achieved highest level of performance (A1 rating⁹), despite a challenging programming and implementation environment. DFAT is represented in the Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Coordination Mechanism (PIRMCCM) by the Health and Education Funds Section, Global Development Branch of its Multilateral Development and Finance Division. The Global Fund Project reports quarterly and annually to the PIRMCCM.

2.1.5. Climate Change

The Climate Change activities come under Outcome 4: "Development debates and actions at all levels prioritize poverty, inequality and exclusion, consistent with our engagement principles". UNDP has continued work with regional organizations (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)) and UN agencies (UN Women) in supporting the development of climate finance assessments¹⁰ which provide the analytical basis for countries to be able to track climate finance. However, the ability of countries to track climate finance is still in the nascent stages and more effort is needed to support this work. Another

⁷ The Law, NCD, Trade and Sustainable Development Workshop (Lautoka, Fiji 4 August 2016) brought together 10 Pacific Island country representatives to support one another in using the law to turn their commitments to address the Pacific NCD crisis into action. <http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/08/04/addressing-ncds-through-law-trade-and-sustainable-development.html>

⁸ Hard copy of the workshop report available

⁹ http://dailypost.vu/news/a-award-for-vanuatu-malaria-control-work/article_d991966f-c5ef-5410-b177-f2389110ad56.html

¹⁰ UNDP has been a thought leader in the climate finance assessment globally and in the Pacific region. UNDP has built capacity specifically at PIFS to be able to lead on climate finance assessments which they have been doing, for example in Palau and Solomon Islands in 2016. UNDP is now playing more of a quality assurance role in reviewing the documents as they are produced.

way in which the UNDP PO is addressing this issue is through working closely with partners to ensure successful mainstreaming of climate change issues, through a 'development-first' approach.¹¹

Climate change comes under Output 4.2: "countries enabled to gain equitable access to, and manage, ODA and other sources of global development finance". Key activities aimed at achieving this output include: supporting finalization and launching of the Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment (CFRGA) in Tonga¹², rollout of a regional "UNDP Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS" Project, supporting coordination through the Development Partners for Climate Change meeting, Pacific Leaders' endorsement of the "Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP)" and support for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Climate Change negotiations. UNDP is a key provider and catalyst for climate finance in the region, both at the programmatic and policy levels.

2.1.6. Inclusive and Sustainable Energy

Under Output is 1.2 "Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted to achieve increased energy efficiency and universal modern energy access (especially off-grid sources of renewable energy)", the planned 2016 work-streams were: 1) demand driven technical assistance including policy advice to the preparation and implementation of UNDP supported national, Asia-Pacific regional and global energy initiatives; 2) demand driven technical assistance including policy advice to PIC governments and CROP agencies; 3) an household electrical appliances, lights and end-use survey in Kiribati; and 4) a Fiji Solar Home Systems Triangular Cooperation Piolet Project.

Key results achieved include the following: provision of policy advice towards the preparation of UNDP's *Strategy Note on Sustainable Energy 2017-2021*¹³ and the *G20 Enhancing Energy Access in Asia and the Pacific: Key Challenges and G20 Voluntary Collaboration Action Plan*;¹⁴ and the provision of technical assistance to the implementation of the UNDP-funded Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Capacity Development Project (SIMCAP) including the preparation of TORs for several consultancies supported by the project, an internal review of project progress and input to a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Ministry (to be operationalized beginning of 2017). Policy advice was also provided in developing the detailed design of a Global Environment Fund (GEF) funded renewable energy climate change mitigation project in Samoa and the preparation for a planned Green Climate Fund (GCF) supported renewable energy rural electrification project in Vanuatu including development of a draft Concept Note. A Project Document was prepared for the EU/GIZ supported *Enabling the Implementation of the Nauru Energy Road Map* project. The Samoa and Nauru projects are expected to begin implementation during 2017 and it is planned to submit a detailed Vanuatu GCF funding proposal at the beginning of 2018. At the regional level, policy advice was provided on the Pacific Islands Development Forum Secretariat's draft document *Thinking Globally, Acting Regionally: The Case for a Pacific Climate Treaty* and in context of the Commonwealth Secretariat Building

¹¹ "Risk governance: Building blocks for resilient development in the Pacific,"

<http://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/50833>

¹² <http://www.finance.gov.to/sites/default/files/UNDP%20Tonga%20-%20Climate%20Financing%20and%20Risk%20Governance%20Assessment%20AUG%20LRv7%20web.pdf>

¹³ Available here:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Climate%20and%20Disaster%20Resilience/UNDP%20Energy%20Strategy%202017-2021.pdf?download>

¹⁴ Available here: <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/enhancing-energy-access-in-asia-and-pacific.pdf>

the Resilience of Small States: A Strategic Vision for 2050 comments were provided on the draft report *2050 Pacific Vision – Energy*. With regards to the household electrical appliances, lights and end-use survey in Kiribati, 819 households were surveyed in South Tarawa¹⁵ and 164 households surveyed in Kiritimati Island.¹⁶ This is the first time a comprehensive statistically representative urban household energy survey has been undertaken in Kiribati. Finally, in collaboration with the Government of Fiji and UNDP China a proposal for Supporting the Electrification of Rural Communities in Fiji (SERF) – a China-UNDP-Fiji Approach to Community-based Solar Generation project was finalized and submitted to the Government of China.

2.2. Provision of Technical Advisory services to UNDP offices in the Pacific

The PO continues to provide technical advisory services to UNDP Offices in the UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office (MCO) and the PNG Country Office (CO). Two specific examples of this support in the areas of SDGs Localization and Effective Governance are covered below.

2.2.1 SDG Localization

SDG Localization is one area where the UN PO has been providing support to PICs. Based on a desk review, the Table below is a simple scorecard of the status of SDG localization in the Pacific. In terms of the eight UN guidance areas for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda¹⁷, several the countries (Samoa, Fiji and Cook Islands, in particular) have followed the process of raising awareness, applying a multi-stakeholder approach and tailoring SDGs at least at national levels. The next stage is for all countries to confirm the national targets and indicators and verify the availability of baselines and means for ensuring regular monitoring and review of sustainable development performance

¹⁵ The South Tarawa quality checked and tabulated dataset is available here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0Bw-5ajzuswuWDBZQjBfRHE1cFE> Report with survey results will be available during first quarter 2017.

¹⁶ The Kiritimati Island quality checked and tabulated dataset is available here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0Bw-5ajzuswucWd0VGUyWEffSU0> Report with survey results will be available during first quarter 2017.

¹⁷ Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Interim Reference Guide to UN Country Teams. United Nations Development Group. 7 October 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9478undguidancenote.pdf>

Table 1: Mainstreaming 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Pacific – Scorecard – As at October 2016
(Green = Good progress, Yellow = Some progress, Pink = No significant progress)

Mainstreaming Guidance Areas	CI	FSM	Fiji	Kiribati	PNG	RMI	Nauru	Niue	Palau	PNG	Samoa	Solomon Islands	Tonga	Tuvalu	Vanuatu
Raising Awareness															
- Within Govt.	Green	Pink	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Pink	Pink	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
- Sub-nationally	Green	Pink	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Pink	Pink	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Pink
Multi-stakeholder approaches	Green	Pink	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Tailoring SDGs	Green	Pink	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Pink	Yellow
- Setting Targets	Green	Pink	Green	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Green	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow
- Identifying indicators	Yellow	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow
- Establishing Baselines	Yellow	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow
Horizontal Policy Coherence	Yellow	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow
Vertical Policy Coherence	Yellow	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow
Budgeting for Future	Yellow	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow
Monitoring Reporting & Accountability	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Yellow	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink
- Nationally	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink
- Regionally	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink
- Globally	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Green	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink
Assessing Risk & Fostering adaptability	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink

2.2.2. Governance

The UNDP PO has continued to provide technical advisory services to both the UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office (MCO) and the PNG Country Office (CO) in Effective Governance. For Samoa MCO, the PO continues to be the main provider of technical advisory services to the project on increasing Women’s Political Participation in Samoa (IPPWS) assisting in designing project activities and conducting workshops and trainings. At the request of the UNDP Samoa MCO and the Women MPs in Samoa, the PO provided technical advisory services on how to create a women’s caucus in the Samoa Parliament. The PO provided technical experts who advised the women MPs and subsequently a women’s caucus was established and a draft action plan for the caucus developed and agreed. For the PNG CO, the UNDP PO has provided technical assistance to the Bougainville Peacebuilding Fund Project through implementing activities with Bougainville MPs both in-country and regionally.

2.3 Highlights of progress

2.3.1 Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

2016 was marked by the adoption of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) at the 47th Pacific Islands Forum on 8-10 September 2016, the first-ever regional approach to integrate climate change and disaster risk management. UNDP PO helped shape this framework through its role in the Technical Working Group as well as through country-level experiences from Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Fiji, demonstrating a ‘development-first’ approach to managing risks, as opposed to traditional ‘hazard-first’ approaches. The FRDP will provide the basis for a shift in thinking from climate change and disaster risk management as a technical issue to be solved by technical agencies such as

climate change divisions and national disaster management offices to embedding it in sustainable development and bringing in the finance ministries to effectively mainstream climate change.

2.3.2 Addressing Political Instability in Melanesia

In June 2016, through its Regional Programme, UNDP PO held a conference on “Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 in Melanesia: Creating Political and Parliamentary Stability to Catalyze Development”. Around 100 representatives from governments, Parliaments and civil society from Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu came together to discuss the link between development and political stability. Participants included the Deputy Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Ministers from Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji, MPs and Parliament Speakers. Sessions addressed various factors impacting on stability such as electoral systems, political parties, the role of traditional governance systems and other political and cultural dynamics. The conference highlighted the key role that UNDP can play in bringing together key stakeholders from various countries on highly politically sensitive issues. Political instability has a significant impact on development in the Pacific, and in particular, in Melanesia. Addressing this issue from a regional perspective allowed for robust discussions that would have been challenging to hold at national level. The regional discussions held during this conference are now directly feeding into national discussions on political reform ongoing in some of the participating countries.

3. DFAT support to a more coherent and efficient UN presence in the Pacific:

3.1. Joint Programming between UN agencies and other regional organizations

3.1.1. Supports work with CROP Agencies on SDGs, Regional Framework

How UNDP PO’s support is in line with the PIF SDG Roadmap and complementary to the work of other actors so as not to burden national systems?

UNDP’s current work on SDGs has been in line with PIF SDG Roadmap, which UNDP supported its preparation as a member of Pacific Regional SDG Task Force. In implementing the Agenda 2020, UNDP is working in partnership with national governments, regional organizations, the UN system and other development partners to ensure complementarities and avoid additional burdens on national systems. UNDP’s proposed Regional SDG Localization programme is designed to support countries from a regional platform and to develop the capacities of national systems to implement the SDGs. UNDP’s support will: (1) assist countries put in place policies, processes and systems to promote more equal influence over prioritization of needs, allocation of resources and monitoring of outcomes at national, sub-national and sector levels; (2) encourage countries to adopt evidence-based planning and budgeting and policy formulation, where national and sector plans and budgets are more closely aligned under multi-year frameworks; (3) strengthen accountability and demand for improved services by strengthening public and stakeholder consultation, engagement and information (4) promote the use of innovation and ICT to deliver national development objectives; and (5) link national SDG outcomes to the implementation of the Forum Island Leaders SDG Roadmap and the Sustainable Development Working Group that encourages south-south cooperation and peer learning. The proposed PO regional programme will pay specific attention to the importance of localizing the SDGs through a country-driven and inclusive consultation process that tailors the global indicators to the national and Pacific context. These targets and indicators will then be used to simultaneously monitor progress towards the SDGs, as well as the high-level objectives of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR), the goals of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and other regional and international commitments and hence avoid duplication and straining national systems.

A list of support mechanisms UNDP PO proposes to offer for the SDGs implementation and reporting, taking into account the support provided by other partners

The UNDP PO will work closely with CROP/UN agencies and other development partners to ensure a consistency in advice at all levels and avoidance of duplication while drawing on opportunities for south-south cooperation where other countries may offer opportunities for peer-to-peer learning in these areas. The Pacific regional SDG localization programme will include the following interventions:

- Support National Statistics Offices (NSOs) with capacity planning and development of data roadmaps to communicate needs.
- Mapping of national defined SDG targets and indicators against National Planning objectives/goals. Technical assistance and capacity building will be provided for the identification of better defined targets and associated indicators for more effective measurement of performance as well to aid in decision-making with regards to annual budget prioritization.
- Capacity building/ support for mainstreaming of risk into planning and budgeting processes. There is a need to expand existing work around the mainstreaming risk into planning and budgeting in all spheres of governance. This also applies to the integration of gender, oceans/ fisheries, and NCD to ensure they are adequately considered in legislative reform, policy formulation and programme design initiatives.
- Improved monitoring and reporting of national plans and strategies. Technical assistance and capacity building that draws on the experience of other countries both in the region and globally will be provided as and when requested.
- Strengthening the links between national planning and budgeting through multi-year budget frameworks: Collaboration between planning, budgeting *and* line ministries may be enhanced through more creative approaches to planning that incorporate, for example, multi-year forecasting and game-based simulations/ prioritisation of needs and budgets.
- Maximizing access to finance in a range of ways: Building on the Development Finance Assessments (DFAs) undertaken in Fiji and RMI, technical support and capacity building will be provided for assessing both total financial needs to support implementation of national strategies as well as for identifying available resources through domestic resource mobilization strategies and through ODA and other sources of external finance.
- Strengthening coordination between recurrent and development budgets and the alignment with funding and technical support provided by development partners, private sector and non-government organisations.
- Increasing opportunities for evidence-based legislative reform and policy and programme formulation. Technical assistance and capacity building to promote the indivisibility of the SDGs, improved communication and to ensure increased consideration of monitoring and reporting at national level on regional and global commitments will be promoted as part of UNDP PO support for the implementation of the Forum Leaders' SDG Roadmap.

how the UN system responds to SDG implementation priorities taking into account the policy context at the regional level (e.g. Framework for Regionalism), and responding to national plans?

UNDP PO's support to SDG implementation will provide on-demand support from a regional platform to individual countries, recognizing the critical importance of maintaining effective partnerships with the full range of country stakeholders and external development partners, who are actively supporting initiatives in response to the national strategies and/or sector plans. UNDP initiatives will be coordinated with the

work of other UN agencies as well the work already underway in response to the call from the Pacific Island Forum Leaders and the implementation of the Pacific SDGs Taskforce.

Another key element of UNDP's PO approach will be the development of a partnership with PIFS and SPC to promote and further extend support through the Sustainable Development Working Group and the Regional SDG Taskforce and to strengthen the regional south-south cooperation and peer-to-peer learning. This will include consideration of a proposed Pacific SDG Surge roster through which Pacific planners and statisticians would be recruited and be available for ad hoc missions or support activities in other Pacific island countries. Specific elements include:

- Development of a database of short-term advisers both within the region and broader development partner agencies who can be called upon to provide technical advice and mentoring.
- Development and distribution of tool-kit, template, guidance-note and case study resources to support in-country advisory work, and create a consistency of approach where applicable
- Differentiated response to the specific country needs within an overall regional approach.
- UNDP PO will coordinate with other UN agencies a more comprehensive response by the UN to country requests for support with mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda.
- UN agency and CROP coordination and cooperation will be critical to the success of implementing the SDGs agenda. Partnership with PIFS and SPC to promote and further extend regional south-south cooperation and peer-to-peer learning will be strengthened.
- Establishing effective coordination and implementation mechanisms with existing national and regional programmes on-going in UNDP to maximize synergies and assurances that support provided in areas of governance, disaster risk management and resilience, environmental sustainability and financial inclusion are all compatible with and strengthen the support available to countries committed to the effective implementation of the SDGs.
- Support for targeted capacity building of planners and statisticians at regional level to promote shared learning and an exchange of experiences across the region as well as with other SIDS in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.
- Design activities that strengthen links between local and national governments to promote more effective implementation at the local level combined with increased community capacity so that citizens are better able to hold elected officials accountable for the delivery of services.

Funding: Are internal resources being re-prioritized to support UNDP PO's work on the SDGs?

Building on the earlier work on MAF, UNDP accessed regional pipeline fund of USD 500,000 from its core resources primarily to develop approaches, tools, and knowledge products related to SDG localization and implementation of activities designed to ensure achievement and/or progress across the SDGs with linkages to the unfinished business of MDGs. Based on lessons learned from MDG implementation, these core funds were provided to support country-led interventions from a regional platform to maximize learning from each other, through support for south-south exchanges, and to allow greater flexibility in when and how support is provided. In October 2016, UNDP sponsored 7 PICs to attend the Regional Asia Pacific Knowledge Exchange Workshop on implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The core funds were utilized for national level consultations and mapping SDGs with national development plans.

How does UNDP intend to act as a point of coordination and leadership for UN system support for SDGs implementation in the Pacific and the SAMOA Pathway? How does UNDP ensure that implementation of both these agendas is country-led and regionally supported; that support strengthens existing processes, and is not duplicative, and minimize the reporting burden for PICs.

The key element of UNDP PO's support to SDG implementation is to sustain an effective partnership with regional organizations, UN agencies and development partners at national and regional levels to encourage a coordinated approach when delivering assistance at the national level as well in being able to effectively support, where required, the implementation of the Pacific SDGs Roadmap. At the regional level, this will be achieved through active membership on the UN SDG Taskforce and participation in both the Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) Sustainable Development Working Group and the associated Pacific SDGs Taskforce. UNDP is a member of the CROP Sustainable Development Working Group that plays a key role in ensuring that information is shared among development partners in relation to requests for technical assistance in the areas of planning and budgeting. The Working Group or an alternative mechanism may also be used for countries to provide feedback on services provided by regional entities; capacity building for countries to identify regional issues and lead in regional for a; and assisting regional organizations capture clear value proposition and successful models of cooperation/ service delivery.

In the area of resilience, UNDP worked closely with PIFS, SPREP, SPC, the University of the South Pacific (USP) and UNISDR in providing technical assistance to the formulation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). In 2016, UNDP PO supported the re-drafting the FRDP to incorporate the outcomes of the Paris Agreement as well as discussions around the implementation arrangements.

With the support from the Pacific Risk Reduction Programme, new partners in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga, are now integrating climate change and disaster risk management into development activities, through finance and planning, local government, women and social welfare, key development sectors and the private sector. This approach is being acknowledged by CROP agencies as a genuine approach to implementing the FRDP. This work has also helped foster joint programming approaches between UNDP and UNWOMEN, FAO and WFP. For instance, UNDP is working jointly with FAO and WFP on assisting the Ministries of Agriculture in Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands to be better prepared for disasters and to risk-inform agriculture sector development. UNDP, with technical advisory support from UNWOMEN, has helped establish an informal network consisting of representatives from Ministries of Women in the Pacific - known as the Protection in the Pacific (ProPa) network. This network helps identify and address gender and protection issues relating to disasters and climate change in the region.

Another area of collaboration among UN agencies has been with the joint UNDP/OCHA/ISDR Connecting Business Initiative which has helped to establish the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDRC). The FBDRC provides a coordinating mechanism for private sector to access government and humanitarian actors from within the existing governance architecture in country. The FBDRC has approximately 60 private sector members, and membership from UN agencies, CSOs, NGOs and the National Disaster Management Organizations. The Council meet monthly to undertake trainings, and is currently developing a response and preparedness toolkit. The success of the business council model tested in Fiji has a lot of scope for regional replication.

In the area of health, the PO, pooling its resources with WHO, SPC and Cancer Council Victoria (McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer Programme, also funded by DFAT), supported the training of 20 government officials from the legal, trade and health departments of 10 PICs¹⁸. The training addressed capacities on using the law in preventing and controlling NCDs, particularly in the context of developing coherence between health, trade and investment laws, policies and sectors. Participants to the training have since developed over 15 priority country projects ranging from legal reform to the creation of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms to better address NCDs for which ongoing support is being provided. Approaching issues jointly and pooling resources, including with DFAT funded partners such as the McCabe Programme of Victoria Council, allows for greater synergies, coherence and impact in typically underserved areas such as upskilling of government officials.

Following on from the conference on women in politics and Temporary Special Measures held in PNG at the end of 2015 that was implemented in partnership with PIFS and UNWOMEN, the UNDP PO developed and launched a new knowledge product jointly with PIFS and UN Women – ‘Temporary Special measures to Increase Women’s Political Participation in the Pacific: Case Studies of Implementation in the Region. UNDP PO also started work on a second knowledge product with PIFs – A Practice Parliament for Women Training Manual’ that will be finalized and launched in early 2017.

3.1.2. Supports the participation of UNDP’s technical advisors in different sector working groups, coordination, and reduction of duplication.

Support for the Development Partners for Climate Change meeting (DPCC): During 2016, the UNDP-chaired Development Partners for Climate Change (DPCC) met four times. This is a key development partner forum that is attended by over 24 partner agencies involved in climate change. In 2016, it provided a platform for strategic discussion and information sharing in relation to post-Paris implementation as well as data sharing for climate change projects and programme.

Utilizing DFAT support to the Regional Programme, UNDP technical advisors have joined various groups to support coordinated efforts and reduce duplication in the region. This includes *inter-alia*: membership of the FRDP Technical Working Group since its inception in 2013, collaboration with SPREP and “CROP+” in support of PICs engagement with UNFCCC and joining the Green Climate Fund Pacific regional meeting held at PIFS in 2016.

3.1.3. Enables UNDP to respond for requests for technical support and policy advice from the Pacific Countries.

UNFCC Negotiations and Participation in the World Humanitarian Summit: The UNDP PO was requested by the Government of Tonga to support their UNFCCC negotiations teams in relation to climate finance at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in May 2016 which included sessions of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA1), Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI44) and Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 44). This provided an opportunity for the PO to support Tonga and the region more broadly on climate finance issues in the follow-up from Paris. The PO also provided support to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) held in May in Istanbul as a member of the Pacific

¹⁸ The training was held in Lautoka, Fiji August 1-5 2016.

<http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/08/04/addressing-ncds-through-law-trade-and-sustainable-development.html>. Detailed training and evaluation reports are available in draft and will be widely circulated when finalized. The list of country priority projects is a living document and is available upon request to programme partners.

Regional Steering Group. This also included support for country participation (Tonga and Solomon Islands), via the DFAT-funded Pacific Risk Reduction Programme (PRRP), to help bring the country voice to global discussions around bridging the humanitarian-development divide, gender and social inclusion aspects of humanitarian work in the Pacific (via a Pacific side event).

Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessments: The Tonga Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment (CFRGA) outlines, in a holistic manner how the international climate and disaster risk finance landscape interacts with the policy and institutional landscape in Tonga at both national and sub-national levels. The outcome of the CFRGA should not only lead to better access, but also better management of climate finance. A key result has been the inclusion of two key ministries, the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Internal Affairs into the climate change discussions. The CFRGA was the first Climate Finance Assessment in the region and possibly the world that explicitly looked at gender and social inclusion. This experience has been shared with the PIFS and they have incorporated this into their Pacific Climate Change Finance Assessment undertaken in Solomon Islands at the end of 2016. The CFRGA also integrated the concept of risk governance into the finance assessment. This was also a unique approach, building on previous experiences of the PRRP in Vanuatu, and allowed for the full appreciation of both the risk profile and the governance arrangements at national and sub-national levels in the context of climate finance. This allowed for governance issues, which are central to effective management of CCDRM finance, to come to the forefront. Currently, the Ministry of Finance in Tonga is tracking implementation.

3.1.4. Enables UNDP to work on sensitive issues and global mandates

Disaster (early) recovery: One of UNDP's global mandates is Recovery and the UNDP PO is a key member of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). Leveraging on the support provided by DFAT, the PO developed a USD\$7.5 million Resilience in Pacific SIDS Project (RESPAC) which addresses issues associated with Early Warning Systems, Recovery and Disaster Risk Finance in the Pacific. As part of this project, UNDP entered into an agreement with SPREP to support the Pacific Island Climate Outlook Forum (PICOF) for 3 years starting in 2016. Further, this project is supporting Tuvalu in convening a Pacific regional dialogue on financial management of climate risks with a particular focus on insurance products. Considering the insurance angle, the PO will work closely with the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) to foster complementarities.

3.2. Flexible and Catalytic Aid: Enhances UNDP's responsiveness to emerging needs and ability to mobilize additional resources in the Pacific Region.

3.2.1. Parliamentary Reforms and Referendum Preparation

Following a request from the Vanuatu Government, the PO, under the umbrella of the Regional Programme, provided targeted technical advice to the Government of Vanuatu during the political reform process that the country is undertaking. The Technical Assistance provided on parliamentary reforms and referendum preparation has complemented the support being provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat on constitutional reform. Following on from this technical assistance, the UNDP PO is in the process of developing a project of support for the Vanuatu Electoral Commission to strengthen their capacity to effectively undertake elections and referendums.

3.2.2. Parliaments and Women in Politics

Due to the success of UNDP's work with Pacific Parliaments and Women in Politics through the DFAT funded Regional Programme, in April 2016 the Government of New Zealand committed to provide additional financial support in this area. During the period 2016-2019, the New Zealand Government will provide NZD 3 million to the UNDP PO to undertake work on parliamentary strengthening and women in politics in PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Cook Islands. This funding was leveraged due to the DFAT funding to UNDP's Regional Programme and is an example of how the Regional Programme enhances the capacity of the UNDP PO to respond to emerging needs and to mobilize additional resources in priority areas.

3.2.3. Non-Communicable Diseases

Starting in the first half of 2016 and still ongoing, the UNDP PO provided technical support to Fiji Ministry of Health to substantiate a national investment case for Non-communicable diseases response. This support includes a comprehensive costing (both direct and indirect) of the economic impact of the four leading NCDs using a bottom-up approach, the development of a costing tool adapted to the Pacific and accompanying capacity development, an institutional context assessment and the formulation of strategic recommendations for a more effective and robust whole of government and whole of society approach to NCDs in Fiji. This work is undertaken in partnership with Deakin University Health Economics. The costing exercise has been completed and the report handed to the government. Training on the costing tool is scheduled for mid-2017.

3.2.4. Green Climate Funds Proposals

In 2016, the PO received USD\$300,000 from UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub to support the development of 5 Green Climate Fund (GCF) proposals for Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau, RMI and Tonga. The estimated budget envelope for these projects is approximately USD\$200 million. The DFAT funded Regional Programme has supported this work both strategically and technically. On the technical side, the PO Energy Advisor provided support to initial discussions and planning related to the "Accelerating Rural Electricity Access through Solar Energy in Vanuatu" Project. The PO Climate Change Advisor supported the roll-out of the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project and the design of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Water Security project. On the strategic side, the Resilience and Sustainable Development Team Leader provided strategic oversight to ensure coherence with ongoing programming both within UNDP and with other regional partners. Finally, UNDP, through the new re-aligned PO, is building on UNDP's global success in accessing the Green Climate Fund by bringing the regional and global expertise to the Pacific to support Pacific proposals.

UNDP is preparing an innovative initiative for youth in the field of Social Entrepreneurship with a focus on waste management. A concept note has been prepared and submitted to various partners. Meanwhile, UNDP, using its own core funding, is planning to implement as a pilot, an initiative on Youth Social Entrepreneurship in Waste Management in one of the Town Councils in Fiji in 2017.

4. Reforms UNDP has successfully implemented and lessons learnt

4.1 How successful is the integration of the two Offices? What are the key challenges?

The UNDP PO is responsible for the integrated functions for country programming in the ten countries, which were previously covered by the former Fiji Multi-Country Office, and regional programming and

provision of technical advisory services previously covered by the former-Pacific Centre to the 15 Pacific countries, including those covered by the Samoa MCO and the PNG CO. The Joint Operations Centre provides operational business support not only to UNDP but also to some resident and non-resident UN agencies, accelerating effectiveness and efficiency of services by maximizing the economies of scale.

Success of the integration of the two office has been visible through timely mobilization of technical expertise and policy leadership on emerging and high priority issues in the Pacific. Scaling up of investments in research, knowledge products, convening of development dialogues and debates, as well as increased opportunities for South-South and Triangular Cooperation have shown much progress since the integration of the two business units. This has been supported greatly through the expanded technical capacities and resources, which are now sourced from within the Pacific Office as well as from the UNDP Asia-Pacific Hub in Bangkok and UNDP expertise worldwide. It has allowed more space for innovative partnerships and collaboration with regional institutions, private sector partners and other UN agencies, both at country and regional levels and can contributed in a major way to strengthened partnerships with Governments and partners in working towards the effective delivery of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and the Agenda 2030 in the Pacific.

One of the challenges faced by the office is addressing is how to strengthen its programme impact in such a geographically dispersed environment, where strong linkages between country, regional and global levels is critical. UNDP is working towards closer alignment and strengthened sub- regional and national level interventions and ways for more inclusive results targeting exercises which demand the need for adaptation of modalities and results to suit the two levels. Appropriate implementation modalities will also address the common challenge of slow pace of procurement affecting programme rollout and delays in implementation, affecting budget allocations for subsequence stages of programmes.

The challenge of coordination across UNDP offices in the Pacific has been improved through joint planning and knowledge sharing, however, there is still room for improvement in ensuring projects and partners are better coordinated with communication at both national and sub-regional levels. Efforts are underway to strengthen communication through further support by UNDP Regional Centre and Headquarters.

4.2 How does the regional programme enables the Pacific Office to achieve results in country and multi-country programmes as PFIP, PRRP?

Country office programmes and regional programmes now have stronger linkages and integration of programmes. For example, PFIP has been working with 6 countries and now, interest has been shown to work with 14 countries. Regional Programme now brings high-quality expertise and most advisers are knowledgeable about country-relevant best practices and seek to bring greater innovativeness in programme work. Regional Programme advisers have a solid understanding of the local context and are sensitive to socio-cultural-political differences. They are committed to share lessons and bring greater potential for south-south collaboration and paving pathways for innovative partnerships, as has been possible with the PRRP project. (these are our observations, - suggest you get more from PFIP and PRRP)

4.3 What is the M&E capacity of the PO? And how did UNDP prioritize its resources to fit the new office structure given there are challenges with limited capacity?

Following the integration of the two offices, an Integrated Results Management Unit (IRMU) was established to ensure improved programme and project coherence and to strengthen results-based results monitoring and reporting. Two monitoring & evaluation officers dedicated to strengthening programme monitoring and quality assurance, programme financial support and compliance as well as improved knowledge management and communication, were recruited as part of the new office structures. In addition, the IRMU team includes communication and finance staff.

With the newly established IRM team, UNDP now can look forward to respond to demands for an inclusive results planning process that involves all partners and incorporates common design principles as well as increased communication with all partners. Since its establishment, the IRM team has developed clear standard operating procedures for programme design, implementation and quality assurance, programme finance processes and compliance, and more harmonized communications with programming teams. Furthermore, results-tracking tools are being developed to better integrate and capture programming impact.

4.4. How efficiency has improved within the organization because of the new structures?

In general, efficiency has improved because of the new structure. The integrated programme teams, which include both policy advisors and programme staff, are now able to respond more effectively to requests of support from PICs. Having each of the three teams under a unified leadership ensured that the diverse skills of the teams and their complementarities can be pooled together to improve the quality of programming and the response to requests from other UNDP Offices in the Pacific as well as partners. A specific example, highlighting the strategic leverage resulting from the new structure, is the newly integrated Resilience and Sustainable Development Team, which allowed the Regional Programme to support the Green Climate Fund (GCF) formulation through key strategic guidance to the overall GCF portfolio including the approved Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP).

In addition to efficiencies in programming and policy advisory support services, progress has also been made with regards to results-based monitoring and reporting. The IRMU, working closely with the Programme Teams, is playing an important role in the quality assurance of UNDP projects and programmes in monitoring progress against milestones and targets and ensuring effective financial management of programme resources and tracking of pipeline (potential resources).

5. Challenges to UNDP PO achieving its key roles and lessons learned.

5.1. Operational Challenges

The demand from PICs for assistance in SDG awareness, mainstreaming Agenda 2030 within national development plans and support to implementation has been overwhelming. On the positive side, it reflects PICs interests in starting early implementation of SDGs compared to the late start with MDGs. The challenge is that the demand is much higher than UNDP PO's current capacity and resources. To address this, the PO is in the process of designing a regional programme, both to have a structured SDG implementation strategy for the region and countries with key entry points for UNDP while identifying potential partners for joint programming; as well as for resource mobilization.

5.2. Programmatic Challenges

In the areas of Climate Change, the landscape for access and management to climate finance in the Pacific is challenged by weak institutional structures and low capacities. Whereas the PO's work in this area aims at strengthening institutions and capacities, it is these very weaknesses that are the key challenge for the implementation of the activities aimed at enabling countries to gain equitable access to, and manage, ODA and other sources of global development financing.

In relation to climate finance assessments and direct access for PICs, some of the challenges for implementation include, coordination with other development partners and changes in national institutional arrangements for climate change (Tuvalu and Fiji). The UNDP PO is providing technical assistance to bridge some of these capacity gaps and is working with relevant institutions to develop national capacities as part of project implementation.

With regards to overall policy support, one of the challenges is the incongruence between the technical and political levels. One example is in the support UNDP PO provided to the FRDP. UNDP PO, through discussions with the FRDP Technical Working Group, advocated for institutional arrangements under the new Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP). The messages were well received at the technical level, but were unable to progress at the political level. Another example related to UNDP PO's convening of the Development Partners for Climate Change meeting, where there is strong attendance showing the appetite for such discussions on Climate Change. However, there is only limited engagement with the membership in setting a strategic agenda. The PO will be surveying the DPCC to see how it can strengthen these discussions moving forward.

Funding was the main challenge with regards to establishing South-South and Triangular Cooperation partnerships for development solution. One example is in the area of climate change and disaster management, where a full proposal was developed on South-South Cooperation between Caribbean and the Pacific Regions with a focus on Climate services and regional Climate Change policy, but the donor who indicated interest in funding this initiative initially, subsequently decided not to support due to budgetary constraints.

In the area of **Institution Building and System Strengthening**, the issues of **political instability** in some Pacific Island Countries continue to pose a challenge to programme and project implementation. At a practical level, attempts to organise activities with Parliaments are impacted by ongoing political issues. For political reasons, the majority of Pacific Parliaments do not have sitting calendars which makes planning and implementation challenging. This challenge is not specific to the Regional Programme and cuts across all development work in many PICs. This is the reason why UNDP organised the conference "Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 in Melanesia: Creating Political and Parliamentary Stability to Catalyse Development" to discuss options for addressing political instability.

A second challenge in the same areas of work is the **low capacity in Pacific Parliament Secretariats**, which continues to impact programme delivery. Attempts to organise activities are impacted due to poor response and communication from Parliaments and difficulties in undertaking logistical arrangements. One example was the challenge in organising induction training for Vanuatu MPs with dates for the activity being changed several times before the activity was finally implemented. This has been addressed by the UNDP Pacific Office through closer cooperation between the Regional Programme and UNDP staff on the ground in-country to provide coordination and ensure follow up.

6. Conclusion

DFAT funding to the Regional Programme has enabled UNDP Pacific Office to respond to urgent needs and emerging priorities in the Pacific Countries. It allowed for the provision of timely and valuable technical support and advisory services across the 15 PICs in key areas of UNDP's work and enhanced UNDP's flexibility and effectiveness in responding to such needs and priorities. It has facilitated UNDP's contribution to regional and global dialogues on priority issues such as Climate Change, Sustainable Energy and Resilient Development. These contributions meant that the realities and challenges of the Pacific Island Countries are taken into consideration in global strategies and action plans which will influence programming in the Region.

DFAT funding facilitated work on the SDG agenda and enabled UNDP to mobilize additional funds to support this work across the region. Thanks to DFAT's support and funds mobilized internally from UNDP, the PO has carried out some initial SDG-related work in several Pacific countries and is developing, in close consultation with Regional Organizations and national partners, a Regional SDG support programme. The support provided to policy advisors enabled them, not only to provide technical advisory services and policy support, but also to contribute to regional and global debates and to mobilize additional funds for programming addressing urgent needs in the Pacific, such as the funds mobilized from the Green Climate Fund and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It also enabled policy advisors to make significant contributions to the design of new proposals and projects including Green Climate Fund projects. The flexible nature of the funding enhanced UNDP's response capacity and helped position it as a strategic player and a partner of choice in the region, both with the Government of the PICs as well as with the regional organizations. It has also enabled it to play, an important convening and coordinating role among UN agencies and Regional Organizations.

7. Financial Report

7.1 UNDP Pacific Office Overall Programme Delivery

The UNDP Pacific Office total delivery target in 2016 was US\$ \$33.2 consisting of UNDP core funding and donor contributions from Australia's DFAT, New Zealand's MFAT, the European Union, Russia, the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Global Environmental Facility as well as from other donors. Total expenditures by the regional, multi-country and country programmes and projects was US\$ 32.1 million of which US\$ 3.3 million from UNDP Core and \$ 28.8 million from Non-Core (donor contributions). The delivery ratio was 96.7%.

Target	Core expenditure	Non-core expenditure	Total expenditure	Expenditure/Target Ratio
\$33.2 mil	\$3.3 mil	\$28.8 mil	\$32.1 mil	96.7%

7.1 Statement of Income and Expenditures for the Period ending 31st December 2016

Please see attached PDF file.

8. 2017 Annual Work Plan

In 2017, the UNDP Pacific Office will continue with activities contributing to the same outcomes as outlined in the 2016 Annual Work Plan.

Outcome 1: Inclusive Growth and Development

Work under Outcome 1 will focus on three main areas: SDG localization; green/blue businesses and jobs and youth and women economic empowerment. In partnership with PIFP, SPC, UN agencies and PIC Governments, the PO will support PICs to conduct SDG public awareness campaigns; to enhance policy coherence promoting more equal influence over the allocation of resources and the monitoring of outcomes at the national, sub-national and sectoral levels; and to integrate relevant SDG targets and indicators into their national and sub-national planning and budgeting processes. With regards to the second and third areas of work, in partnership with PIPSO and PIDF, UNISDR and PIC Governments, the PO will support awareness campaigns for PIC businesses to seize upon the SDGs as economic opportunities and will develop a series of tools to support business sustainability reporting and increase accountability on their contributions to SDGs. The Office will also support the identification and development of pro-poor sustainable businesses for women and youth and strengthen linkages to agro-tourism value chain. The PO will continue supporting women and youth in the informal economy with financial literacy, legal and economic empowerment through training, strengthening associations, and strengthening local government and town councils' institutional capacities. Implementation of the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme will continue. The PO will continue providing demand-driven technical assistance including policy advice to PIC governments and CROP agencies; and to the preparation and implementation of UNDP-supported national, Asia-Pacific regional and global energy initiatives.

Outcome 2: Effective Governance

Through the ongoing Parliamentary support in a number of PICS, the PO will continue its effort to build Parliament capacity to effectively undertake its legislative, oversight and representation functions. Technical support will be provided in the induction of new MPs, secretariat support on procedural issues, facilitation of thematic briefings to MPs through a regional or sub-regional platform on current and emerging regional development issues in partnership with regional/International partners. This will allow for increased parliamentary engagement with development issues. South-South information exchange will also be promoted to develop the capacity of MPs. In addition, support will be provided to the work of the committees to promote their effectiveness. The implementation of the Global Fund Programme will continue as well as work on integrating NCDs in development planning and strengthening coherence across sectors and the policy dialogue and advocacy with MPs and senior government officials on the intersection of NCDs and other policy areas with a focus on legislative approaches. In addition, the implementation of the second phase of the UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project, which started in 2016, will continue.

Outcome 3: Crisis Reduction

The Pacific Office will continue its implementation of PRRP in order to help establish effective institutional, legislative and policy frameworks to enhance the implementation of disaster and climate risk management measures at national and sub-national levels. Geo-physical and climate related hazards and other crises will be addressed through the continued implementation of the Russia-funded project to help strengthen preparedness systems.

Outcome 4: Development Debates

The Pacific Office will focus on ongoing work to support country access to climate finance, existing climate change programming and climate policy, as well as preparation of access to GCF (RMI, Vanuatu, Nauru and Palau). The Office will also support the Government of Fiji's on their role of Presidency of COP 23 and the Pacific SIDS in global and regional climate policy discussions. The PO will also support the Development Finance Assessments at the country level and the Regional mapping of financial flows towards means of implementation of SDGs.