



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji

DFAT-funded UNDP Regional Programme Activities

**Mid-Year Report
January–June 2016**

23 September 2016

1. Executive Summary

Following on the Annual Report for 2015, this Mid-Year Report for the period January–June 2016 provides updates on activities implemented under DFAT-supported regional programme in the following areas: 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. 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 and 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.

2. Overview of DFAT Funding to UNDP PO

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

Institution Building and System Strengthening (Parliament)

DFAT's support to UNDP Regional Programme has enabled UNDP to continue to be the lead implementer of parliamentary strengthening activities in the Pacific. 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.

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 is developing a knowledge product on case studies of TSM in the Pacific. The knowledge product will be launched in the second half of 2017.

In addition, the UNDP PO facilitated two '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.

Economic Growth (Private Sector, Livelihoods, Inclusive Growth and SDGs)

Under the Inclusive Growth stream of work, UNDP PO support to the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) continued in analyzing Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), private sector development and engagement in inclusive businesses with a focus on the informal economy, youth entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment. HIES are collaborative efforts between UNDP PO, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Bureau of Statistics of each participating country in the Pacific. Following the PO analysis of the HIES for Nauru, Samoa and Palau in 2015, the HIES reports from Samoa and Nauru were published in the first half of 2016¹, and the Palau report will be published in the last quarter of 2016. The HIES will help countries to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), establish up-to-date baselines for several SDG targets, and ascertain their priority areas.

In 2016, The PO supported the Government of Tuvalu in updating its Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS)² and formulating the country's first Trade Policy Framework (TPF). The main objective of the DTIS update and the TPF is to support the country's capacity to develop and export local goods and services and better participate in the global economy that will lead to sustainable and inclusive growth and poverty reduction. In addition, the PO is providing technical support to the Government of Kiribati in undertaking an update of their DTIS, formulation of the country's first TPF and review of the country's investment policy to promote and develop pro-poor and sustainable economic growth.

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. During the first half of 2016, the PO's technical support included: (a) organizing the design and operationalization of Small Business

¹ Samoa Hardship and Poverty Report - Analysis of the 2013/14 Household Income and Expenditure Survey: http://www.ws.undp.org/content/dam/samoa/docs/UNDP_WS_SamoaHardshipAndPovertyReportFINALreduced.pdf?download; Nauru Hardship and Poverty Report - Analysis of the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey: <http://nauru.prism.spc.int/nauru-documents?view=download&format=raw&fileId=92>

² Tuvalu Diagnostic Trade Integration Study: <http://www.enhancedif.org/en/file/526/download?token=4alyyXMv>

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.

Incubator, and (b) facilitating training of youth in creative industries with a focus on traditional skills and cultural heritage. The training was jointly organized in collaboration with the Samoa Cultural Centre.

In 2016, the implementation of the “Engaging Youth in Organic Farming: Farm to Table” Project continues in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu funded by the two-year SDGs fund of US\$ 1.5 million that UNDP secured in 2015.

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 venue will be either Noumea (New Caledonia) or Fiji, and the event will take place in the last quarter of 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).

With the PO’s support, Tuvalu’s Trade Sector Plan under Tier 1 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.

In the area of Women’s economic empowerment, in 2016 UNDP PO, as part of the broader Markets for Change (M4C) Programme, strengthened the economic security of low-income women by training 457 women market vendors in Fiji and 216 women market vendors in Solomon Islands on financial literacy and basic business management practices as well as supported them to access financial services such as saving accounts. In 2016, the PO has also 37 trained smallholder farmers (21 female and 16 male) in Solomon Islands and 563 small holder farmers (296 female and 267 male) in Fiji on basic Agriculture Business and Sustainable Farm Management practices. UNDP has been actively engaged with Fiji and Samoa on empowering the informal economy to address inequalities, legal and decent work deficits, including gender blindness in the sector.

Since the adoption of 2030 Agenda by PICs, there has been overwhelming response from member countries seeking support from UNDP on Localization of SDGs, including the introduction of tools related to coordination, planning and budgeting, and data and monitoring. UNDP supported national consultations on the SDGs in Tonga, Palau, RMI and Fiji. It has supported Tonga, Palau and RMI in SDGs awareness and the mapping and tailoring of SDGs to the national development plans, budgets and data systems. Another 5 PICs are keen to access different types of UNDP support on SDGs localization.

As part of its support to work on SDGs, the UNDP PO is supporting Fiji in undertaking an in-depth study on Development Finance Assessments (DFAs). UNDP is also working with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) based in UN Headquarters on multiple tracks to better enhance the prospects of finance for development in delivering on the Agenda 2030. To help strengthen a regional understanding of the Financing for Development Challenges in Pacific, UNDP in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and PIFS, and with the financial support of Australia and New Zealand, is also carrying out a study which aims to support Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) to identify new and innovative financing instruments and strategies that can help them achieve the SDGs. An important element of this study is collection of primary information through the survey of Pacific SIDS’ current strategies and plans for innovative financing mechanisms.

Resilience and Healthy Communities (HIV & NCDs)

With the support of DFAT, UNDP PO contributed to regional efforts aimed at strengthening multisectoral 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 Heads of Health Meeting and the NCD Summit; facilitation and resourcing of capacity development projects such as the regional training on NCD and the Law, as well as responding to direct country requests.

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, TB and Malaria in 11 eligible PICs. 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 rating), despite a challenging programming and implementation environment.

Climate Change

The UNDP PO has provided a suite of technical assistance to the PICs which, for the first half of 2016, can be characterized as reflecting on and progressing from the global agreements made in 2015 including the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework. Key results include finalization and launching of the Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment (CFRGA) in Tonga, rollout of a Regional UNDP Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS Project, supporting coordination through the Development Partners for Climate Change, development of the “Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP)”⁴ and support for UNFCCC Climate Change negotiations.

Sustainable Energy

Key results in the area of sustainable energy include: the production of the final draft of “UNDP Sustainable Energy Strategy Note 2016-2021”, “Enhancing Energy Access in Asia and the Pacific: Key Challenges and G20 Voluntary Collaboration Action Plan”; completion of the planning for an urban household energy survey in Kiribati while the preparatory work for the South Tarawa component is well underway, and the finalization and submission of a proposal for Supporting the Electrification of Rural Communities in Fiji (SERF) – a China-UNDP-Fiji Approach to Community-based Solar Generation project – to the Government of China.

2.2. Provision of Technical Advisory Services to UNDP Offices in the Pacific

Effective Governance

⁴ <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Annex%201%20-%20Framework%20for%20Resilient%20Development%20in%20the%20Pacific.pdf>

The UNDP PO has continued to provide technical advisory services to both the UNDP Samoa MCO and the PNG 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. 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.

Inclusive Growth

In the area of inclusive growth and economic development, technical support was provided to Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat on empowering the informal economy in Melanesian countries, assisting in the development of the strategy "Private Sector Development for Higher, Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Melanesia". Technical support was also provided to the University of South Pacific in the design and introduction of Entrepreneurship as a course and the establishment of an Innovation Centre within the USP School of Business. Additionally, technical assistance was provided to PIPSO and national private sector organizations in institutional strengthening and programming for SME competitiveness. Technical assistance was provided to the Market for Change (M4C) Programme which, along with UNWOMEN, provides financial and economic support, among others, to empowering women market vendors in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. UNDP provides financial literacy and education training as well linking markets to farms through value chain and supply chain.

Sustainable Energy

Technical assistance was provided to the UNDP-funded Solomon Islands Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Capacity Development Project (SIMCAP). Key outputs include the preparation of Terms of References for several consultancies supported by the project and a review of project progress. Furthermore, UNDP PO supported the preparation of a final proposal for Supporting the Electrification of Rural Communities in Fiji (SERF) under a China-UNDP-Fiji Approach to Community-based Solar Generation project.

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

Synergies with CROP Agencies on SDGs and Regional Frameworks

SDGs

UNDP has supported an exercise called the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) that maps development priorities from national plans to the SDG targets in order to identify gaps and launch discussions on whether missing targets are meaningful in the local context. UNDP is one of the two UN agencies (together with UNESCAP), who are active members of the SDGs Working Group and SDGs Task Force established under the auspices of PIFS with the purpose of ensuring an open, inclusive and country-driven process to develop a systematic, coordinated and integrated approach to implementing, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

UNDP provides technical support to PIFS in the SDG Roadmap design process and its implementation with a focus on: (i) Integrating regional reporting and coordination mechanisms; (ii) Assisting member states requesting support to embed the SDGs in their national planning; and (iii) Identifying key elements for the successful implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific.

UNDP is also working with the PIFS and PSIDS based in UN Headquarters on multiple tracks to better enhance the prospects of finance for development in delivering on the Agenda 2030.

Support to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) support

UNDP PO, through the Regional Programme and the Pacific Risk Reduction Programme (PRRP, funded by DFAT separately), provided technical assistance to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) process since 2013. In the first half of 2016, much of the effort was on re-drafting the FRDP to incorporate the outcomes of the Paris Agreement as well as discussions around the implementation arrangements. The FRDP was endorsed at the 47th Pacific Islands Forum on 8-10 September 2016 with an agreement it will be fully elaborated and operationalized upon the entry into force of the Paris Agreement. New partners in countries, with the support from the PRRP, 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.

Support for UNDP Global Energy Strategy

UNDP has been working on a corporate Sustainable Energy Strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to articulate – for the first time – UNDP’s role, approach and focus related to sustainable energy for the period 2016-2021. The aim is to foster internal programming coherence and clear communication to UNDP partners. It also provides an overview of UNDP’s key partners and a monitoring and evaluation framework for reporting on results. UNDP PO has contributed to several successive drafts of the Strategy Note. During the reporting period, inputs and comments from the Pacific perspective were provided and included in the final draft version. Once endorsed, all future UNDP programming in sustainable energy at the global, regional, country and community levels will be in line with the Strategy Note.

Support to Health

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 PICs. 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 multisectoral 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.

Support to Women in Politics

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 has continued to work with PIFS in the development of the joint knowledge products emanating from the event.

UNDP's technical engagement in sector working groups and coordination to reduce duplication and enhance complementarities with other aid programmes

Support for the Development Partners for Climate Change meeting (DPCC)

During the first half of 2016, the UNDP-chaired Development Partners for Climate Change (DPCC) met twice. 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 programmes.

Demand-driven policy advice and technical services to countries

Post Disaster Needs Assessment

Through the Regional Programme supported by DFAT, the UNDP PO was able to respond to a number of requests for technical support and policy advice from the PICs. The PO supported the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for Tropical Cyclone Winston. Joint input was provided to the Employment, Livelihoods and Social Protection (ELSP) Cluster, including questionnaires for focus group discussion, field visits to three villages and the chapter on ELSP⁵.

Kiribati Household Energy Surveys

Technical assistance was provided to the Government of Kiribati for a survey on urban household electrical appliances and lights. Key outputs include: project proposal and Letter of Agreement with the Ministry of Public Works and Utilities; survey questionnaire; and interviewer protocol.

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

⁵ The PDNA report is available here:

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Post%20Disaster%20Needs%20Assessments%20CYCLONE%20WINSTON%20Fiji%202016%20%28Online%20Version%29.pdf>

Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment

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 be not only 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 will be vital for other countries in the Pacific and abroad to look at gender and social inclusion issues in relation to climate finance. 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.

Non-Communicable Diseases

During 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.

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.

UNDP work on sensitive issues and global mandates

DFAT funding enabled UNDP to work on a number of global mandates including energy, recovery, health, and sensitive issues such as political instability and governance issues.

Sustainable Energy

As part of the G20 Energy Ministerial Meeting held in China in June 2016, an action plan, developed in the context of the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group (ESWG), to increase access to modern energy services in the Asia-Pacific region was endorsed.⁶ Input towards the preparation of the action plan was

⁶ The endorsed version of the action plan is available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/Enhancing%20Energy%20Access%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific%20Key%20Challenges%20and%20G20%20Voluntary%20Collaboration%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

coordinated by the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative. During the first half of 2016, the PO provided input to several draft versions of the “Enhancing Energy Access in Asia and the Pacific: Key Challenges and G20 Voluntary Collaboration Action Plan”.

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\$7.5m Resilience in Pacific SIDS Project (RESCAP) which addresses issues associated with Early Warning Systems and Recovery in the Pacific.

Non-Communicable Diseases

In partnership with Cancer Council Victoria/McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, UNDP PO is developing a Handbook for Parliamentarians, that is, both a call for action and a reference book on key aspects of NCD and the Law (including trade and investment law). The handbook will contribute to develop capacities, commitment and action by Parliamentarians for developing, enacting, publicizing and enforcing laws and policies that help address NCDs and their risk factors. The planned completion date is early 2017.

Governance

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 Catalyse 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 ongoing in some of these countries on political reform.

3.2. Flexible and catalytic services to enhance UNDP’s responsiveness and mobilize additional resources in the Pacific region

Support for Green Climate Fund work

Since mid-2015, the UNDP PO has received requests from 6 PIC Governments (Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Palau, RMI, Tonga and Kiribati) to support the development of GCF proposals with an estimated total budget envelope of USD 184 million. The DFAT funded Regional Programme has supported this work technically, but is also positioned to support it strategically.

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.

UNDP SDG Funds

Building on the earlier work supported by the Regional Programme, UNDP allocated USD 500,000 from its core resources (UNDP Regional Pipeline Fund) 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. Building on lessons learned from MDG implementation, emphasis will be given to supporting 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. Working from a regional platform will also allow specific support to be given to a number of SDGs (e.g. Oceans, Climate Change) that are trans-boundary in nature and where region-wide targets and indicators could be applied. Focused support will be both at the regional level through CROP agencies and to five selected pilot PICs (PNG, RMI, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Samoa).

Parliaments and Women in Politics

Due to the success of UNDP's work with Pacific Parliaments and Women in Politics through the 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.

4. UNDP realignment in the Pacific and its impact on results delivery under DFAT partnership

In the first half of 2016, the UNDP Multi-Country Office in Fiji and the Pacific Center merged together to form the new entity, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji. The Office provides country and regional support to 10 countries: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands (sub office), Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, and regional policy and programme support to additional 5 countries: Cook Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tokelau.

The integration of the two Offices aims at making UNDP in the Pacific more effective and efficient and better suited to serve the people of the PICs through a consolidated leadership and management structure and an integrated policy and programme team providing policy and technical advisory services as well as programme management services. This integration amplifies the synergies between the country programming and regional programming and ensures that the provision of policy and technical advisory services is informed by ongoing programme implementation and partnerships.

As a highlight of strategic leverage, the newly integrated Resilience and Sustainable Development team in the UNDP PO 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).

5. Challenges

Most of planned activities for the period January – June 2016 were implemented in spite of the fact that the Office was going through the realignment process and staff were settling into the new structure and their new roles. Some of the challenges faced, as listed below, are beyond the control of UNDP Pacific Office such as changes in the operating environment, while other relate to the limited human and finance resources.

With regards to **work on SDGs**, one main challenge is **limited capacity** to meet the overwhelming demand from PICs on support with SDGs localization. The PO is currently supporting a number of countries but the demand is larger than the current capacity of the Office to meet it. After SDG localization work took place in some countries, the lessons learned helped in approaching the topic with better understanding. Another challenge which the Office faced earlier in the year is the synchronization of the former Multi-Country Office and former Pacific Office work plans. This challenge has largely been addressed now as the new teams are working more efficiently and effectively together.

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 a number of 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.

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 toward strengthening these institutions and capacities, yet 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 assessment 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).

In relation to supporting the “**Regional Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP)**”, the key challenge was advocating with the FRDP Technical Working Group for institutional arrangements under the new Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP). UNDP Pacific Office supported advancement of these discussions, which

were well received at the technical level, but were unable to progress at the CROP Heads of Agency level. The Pacific Office will continue to support these advocacy efforts.

In relation to UNDP's convening of the **Development Partners for Climate Change**, there is strong attendance showing the appetite for such normative discussions on Climate Change. However, there is only limited engagement with the membership in setting a strategic agenda. The Pacific Office will be surveying the DPCC to see how it can strengthen these discussions moving forward as well as to link them to the PRP under the FRDP.

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 has decided not to support due to budgetary constraints.

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. 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. 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. 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.

7. Financial Report

Refer to the attachment (in PDF file).

8. Priorities for the period July–December 2016

During the second half of 2016, the Pacific Office will continue implementation of the agreed 2016 Annual Work Plan.

Under **Output 1.2**, "National Systems and institutions enabled to achieve structural transformation of productive capacities that are sustainable and employment- and livelihood-intensive", work will continue in providing technical support to localization of SDGs in the Pacific.

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”, the UNDP PO will continue, through the DFAT-Funding Regional Programme, to provide technical assistance to the ongoing UNDP parliament related projects upon request. In particular, the Fiji Parliament Project, with its focus on MPs capacity building, strengthening parliament committees and parliamentary outreach, will remain a priority as will the ongoing technical assistance being provided to the Bougainville Legislature as part of the Peacebuilding Fund Project that is being implemented by the UNDP PNG CO. In addition, the UNDP PO in Fiji will lead on providing technical advice to the UNDP Samoa MCO as they work with women parliamentarians and establish a women’s caucus in Parliament.

The Pacific Office will utilise the regional programme to provide support to the induction of new Members of Parliament in Nauru. This two-day induction programme for MPs will focus on procedural matters and the legislative and oversight role of MPs. A follow up training programme for MPs on the SDGs and key development issues in Nauru as well as technical assistance to revise the Standing Orders and Procedures of Parliament is planned for Quarter 4 of 2016.

Following on from the Regional Conference on SDG 16 and Political Stability in Melanesia, and as a continuation of support to the Pacific region on matters of political reform, the PO, through the Regional Programme, will provide technical support to the Government of Vanuatu to prepare for a potential referendum on political reform issues. The PO will mobilise electoral experts to provide technical assistance to the Electoral Management Body in Vanuatu on operational issues linked to a potential referendum and provide options on public awareness strategies.

Under the same output, the PO will also attend and contribute to the organization of the Pacific Parliamentary Practitioners meeting which will be held in Canberra in November 2016. The meeting is an annual event that was started by UNDP in 2014 in conjunction with the Australian Parliament based Pacific Parliamentary Partnerships (PPP) programme. The meeting provides an opportunity for parliamentary development practitioners, including Commonwealth Parliamentary Association branches from Australia State Parliaments, PPP, Australian Parliament, New Zealand Parliament, Centre for Democratic Institutions and UNDP, to discuss and plan development work in order to maximise opportunities for cooperation and avoid duplication.

Under **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”, for the period July – December 2016, the PO will finalise the NCD investment case for Fiji in support of its National NCD Strategic Plan. More specifically, the results of the costing exercise will be finalised and communicated. The NCD costing tool will also be developed and training on the tool will be delivered. The team will also finalise the Handbook for Parliamentarians on NCDs and the Law. Remote technical support will be provided on a request basis to the country priority projects developed as a results of the August training on Workshop on Law, NCD, Trade and Sustainable Development. Time will also be allocated to identify and develop a project on engagement with media and youth sectors on different aspects of communication for behaviour change. Issue briefs on *‘What Government Ministries Need to Know About Non-Communicable Diseases’* will also be developed/ adapted to the Pacific Context, particularly for the following sectors: Education, Labour, Finance, local government, Trade and Industry, Executive and Communication.

For the UNDP work on Women's Political Participation under the Regional Programme, the UNDP PO will continue to provide input into relevant regional events including the development of the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Roadmap. In addition, the PO will continue its programme of Practice or Mock Parliaments for women with an event scheduled for Tuvalu in September.

In addition, under **Output 2.6**, "Measures in place to increase women's participation in decision-making", the PO will focus on developing key knowledge products in this field including the finalisation and publication of a knowledge product on Temporary Special Measures to promote women's political participation in the Pacific as well as a guide for Parliaments and other stakeholders in the Pacific and beyond to utilise on how to organise a Practice Parliament for Women.

Under **output 4.2**, "Countries enabled to gain equitable access to, and manage, ODA and other sources of global development financing", The PO will continue to support access to vertical funding (GCF, GEF and Adaptation Fund) through technical assistance as requested. With the realignment of the PO in Fiji, there is opportunity to link the technical support with the ongoing GEF, AF and upcoming GEF and GCF portfolios. Further, the PO will engage and provide strategic support to the UNDP team at the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop and GEF Regional Ridge to Reef Inception Workshop in October.

In line with the agreed 2016 Annual Work Plan, the PO will continue its strategic support to climate finance work in the Pacific. The PO will support the development of the Solomon Islands Climate Finance report. It will continue to support Tuvalu for climate finance requests and will support them on the climate finance assessment as requested. For Fiji, the PO will continue support with climate finance work (e.g. GCF Readiness Project) and other requests. Along these lines, the PO will foster new partnerships with the new regional climate finance project coming online in the Pacific, in particular, SPC USAID Institutional Strengthening in Pacific Island Countries to Adapt to Climate Change (ISACC) and DFAT/GIZ climate finance project, so that the learning from the PO's experience in this area of work since 2011 can be brought to the table. Finally, UNDP will continue to support PICs' engagement in the UNFCCC process.

In terms of climate change policy, UNDP will support the launch of the FRDP at the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and the UN systems engagement with operationalizing the FRDP in continuity with UNDP's role on the FRDP Technical Working Group. The PO will be contributing to the development of UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022, together with support to other emerging policy issues (e.g. migration).

For enhancing cooperation around climate change, two DPCC meetings are scheduled for the second half of 2016. The topics to be discussed will include climate finance, FRDP and other relevant topics decided by the membership.

For knowledge management, the PO will be promoting the Tonga Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment (CFRGA) in the context of national action and international fora (UNFCC COP22) along with support to PRRP for launch of the Risk Governance analytic piece on building blocks for risk governance.

Regarding **sustainable energy work**, one priority area will be to provide technical assistance for project development/design including a planned Green Climate Fund (GCF) solar photovoltaic (PV) based rural electrification project in Vanuatu and an EU/GIZ funded energy sector strengthening project in Nauru focusing on institutional, legislative and regulatory aspects. The urban household electrical appliances, lights and end-use survey in Kiribati is another priority. Specifically, key planned work for both the South Tarawa and Christmas Island component include training of surveyors and supervisors, undertaking initial survey supervision, validation and tabulation of datasets and preparation a survey report.