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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report was compiled with information on results of UNCT programmes under the 6 Outcomes of the UN Pacific Strategy in 2021. Acknowledging the commitment and great support of the UNCT through the UN joint programmes and agency programmes to improve the lives of the Pacific people in Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau.

FOREWORD



Simona Marinescu (Ph.D.) is the UN Resident Coordinator of the Multi Country Office for the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau. She is one of the new generation of Resident Coordinators within the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System under the UN Reforms. She commenced her role as the Resident Coordinator in 2019, bringing to the Pacific, over 20 years of experience in international development coordination, economic diversification, green growth, humanitarian and sustainable human development



The UN Country Team consists of all agencies dealing with operational activities for development at the country level, regardless of their presence, to deliver as a One UN. The UN Country Team, (UNCT) is the main inter-agency mechanism in-country for inter-agency coordination, coherence and decision-making.



The UN Country Team (UNCT) is guided under strategic coordination provided by the Resident Coordinator.

The UNCT consists of 11 agencies with physical presence in country and 3 non resident agencies.

As well as serving Samoa, the Multi Country Office also provides development assistance for the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau.

The UNCT support to these countries includes, but is not limited to, the national development priorities of the respective nations, with a strong focus on helping them to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.



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KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



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Establishing and maintaining genuine partnerships to invest in addressing urgent global challenges is pivotal across the development spectrum of the United Nations. The UN values its relations with donor governments, international and regional development organisations, national governments, the private sector and the civil society organisations.



Donor Partners supporting the UNCT on joint programmes:

- European Union
 - The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative global programme strengthens existing national efforts to end domestic and intimate partner violence in Samoa.
- Government of India
 - The India - UN Development Partnership Fund - Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative empowers every citizen with knowledge through access to digital learning resources and information
- Government of New Zealand
 - The NZ-UN Pacific Partnership supports women through economic opportunities as agricultural farmers and market vendors and other areas including birth registration and anti-corruption

Government of Australia
The Women in Leadership Programme empowers women leaders towards recognition and meaningful participation in the parliament, church and in the village communities.

Partners working with the UNCT at the agency mandate level

1. Asian Development Bank
2. China
3. Japan
4. Green Climate Fund
5. Global Environment Facility
6. United Kingdom
7. World Bank
8. Republic of Korea



KEY IMPLEMENTING & STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Most UN agencies have a principal development partner within the government to implement activities, for example the ILO has traditionally partnered with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour; UNESCO works closely with the Ministry of Education Sports and Culture; and WHO is paired with the Ministry of Health. However, the evolving nature of the UN's mandate has seen many UN agencies working with an expanding range of local implementing partners in recent years, including NGOs, businesses, and other development stakeholders.



The work of the UNCT is supported by Government Ministries as the leading implementing partner in all UN joint programmes;

Key Government Partners

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Education Sports and Culture
- Ministry of Women Social and Community Development
- Ministry of Justice Courts and Administration
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour
- Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- Ministry of Police and Prisons
- Samoa Bureau of Statistics
- Office of the Ombudsman | National Human Rights Institute
- Samoa Law Reform Commission
- Office of the Clerk of the Legislative

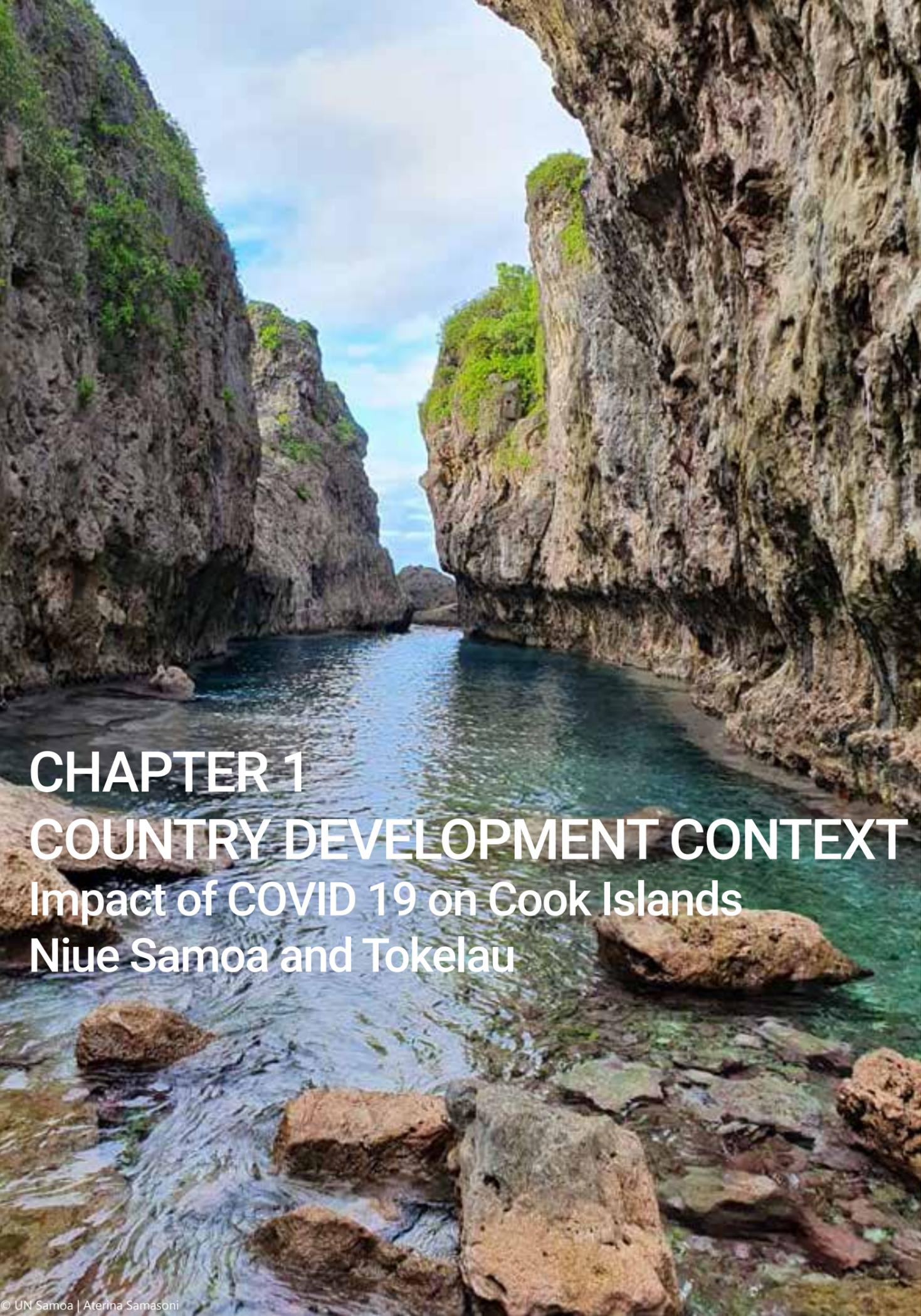
The Civil Society Organisations contributes significantly in the planning and implementation of the UN joint programmes.

Key Non Government /CSO Partners

- Samoa Chamber of Commerce
- Samoa Victim Support Group
- Nuanua o le Alofa Inc (Disability Organisation)
- Samoa Waste and Recycling Management Association
- Samoa National Council of Women
- Samoa Faafafine Association
- Samoa National Council of Churches
- Samoa Family Health Association
- Samoa Red Cross
- Apelu Sports
- Soultalk Samoa
- METI
- Samoa National Youth Council
- Journalists Association of Samoa
- Samoa Association Sports and National Olympics
- The Adventist Development and Relief Agency



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CHAPTER 1

COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Impact of COVID 19 on Cook Islands Niue Samoa and Tokelau

CHAPTER 1

Country Development Context

Impact of the Covid -19 Pandemic



Despite achieving high vaccination rates, the Cooks Islands, Niue, Tokelau and Samoa remain cautious and borders remain closed. The full impact of the pandemic on the SDG Agenda for the four countries is uncertain, given the emerging COVID waves. Clearly, national efforts to accelerate achievement of the Agenda 2030 and the SDG, have been hindered and development partners will need to find potential opportunities to sustain progress or rethink development approaches to reverse regressing socio-economic trends. For all countries, the priority remains in ensuring they are fully prepared to open borders through full vaccination of eligible populations and strengthening the health system at all levels.

Cook Islands suffered, as a result of the tourism sector closure, the largest rate of economic decline in the Pacific region, with the real GDP declining by 5.2% in FY 2020 and 23.2% in FY 2021. It is estimated that due to the contraction of the tourism sector and flow-on effects for related services, as well as delays in construction activities, the country was losing (in forgone revenues) NZ\$ 1 million (US\$ 0.7 million) a day. Supportive measures have been introduced to assist the private sector and economically vulnerable population through the Government's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP). An attempt to open borders in May 2021 through a "travel bubble" arrangement with New Zealand was short-lived (borders closed again by mid-August 2021). The implementation of the Cook Islands Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2030 is also affected by the ongoing economic downturn and related deterioration in the Government's fiscal position.

Niue is one of the smallest economies in the Pacific, with an estimated 2019 GDP of NZ\$ 45.2 million (US\$ 31.7 million). With a population of 1,700 people, this translates into NZ\$ 26,600 (US\$ 19,000) per capita income, making Niue a high-income country (HIC) that nevertheless enjoys IBRD lending status. Niue as a member of ADB since 2019, is also eligible for IBRD-equivalent financing terms. Before the pandemic, Niue enjoyed solid economic growth, with GDP expansion by 6.5% in 2019. The tourism sector has been the backbone of the economy in pre-COVID times. However, due to Covid impacts on tourism and the reduction in the export of some traditional local products, it is estimated that the country's GDP in FY 2021 has contracted by as much as 21%. Niue remains highly dependent on official development assistance (ODA) from New Zealand to finance its government budget and trade gaps, guaranteeing public services in and food imports into the country. In the current highly uncertain context of the tourism sector recovery, this reliance on ODA becomes even more important for sustaining progress on (or at least avoiding possible deterioration of) development outcomes. The country's medium-term development is guided by the Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026, which, among other considerations, puts emphasis on financial stability and sufficient financial resources for Niue to be a prosperous nation that meets its obligations to the people.

Samoa remains in a State of Emergency since it was declared in March 2020. It maintains strict border control and other emergency measures and for two years the country, successfully avoided the spread of the virus. However the border control strategy resulted in the near complete shutdown of its tourism sector. The loss on foreign income and employment was significant. Reports for the country's FY 2019/2020 records how the real GDP dropped by 2.6%, and by 9.2% in FY 2020/2021. A weaker domestic economy is pushing Samoans to find opportunities abroad, where the minimum wage is higher than the local minimum wage of WST \$3.00 per hour (US\$1.13). In 2021 alone, around 13,000 Samoans – (to 56% of the total number of people employed in the national formal sector in the first quarter of 2021), registered for the Australian Seasonal Worker Program (SWP). Remittances continue to play a critical role in providing some form of economic resilience to the Samoan population. The levels of remittances in 2020 was recorded at around ST600 million or US\$227.1 million a welcoming boost to the country's contracting economy. The levels of remittances further increased to ST\$661.5 million or US\$265 million representing a 10 percent increase compared to the previous year. The country will have to continue to rely heavily on international partnerships and cooperation initiatives to weather this period of extreme vulnerability.

Tokelau is a small country with a total land area of only 10 square kilometres, population of 1,600 people, and GDP of NZ\$ 17.7 (US\$ 12.7) million. It remains a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand. Tokelau is even more isolated than other Pacific countries as it does not have an air service, and all goods have to be shipped by ocean through Samoa via a boat service that takes 2-3 days. However, as a result of this extra isolation, the country is not dependent on tourism, and hence also has not experienced the tourism-related economic shocks observed in other Pacific countries. Tokelau's remoteness has also helped to keep the country Covid-free as of March 2022. The country has also achieved almost universal Covid vaccination coverage of adult population as of November 2021. Tokelau's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers 300,000 sq. km, which is 30,000 times of its land mass. Tokelau enjoys extensive overseas development assistance (ODA) from New Zealand that surpasses its GDP. New Zealand's aid allocation to Tokelau was nearly NZ\$38M in 2018/19 and NZ\$16.4M in 2019/20, averaging at NZ\$27.2M per year. Another major source of revenue is tuna fishing access fees that have averaged around US\$ 13.4 million annually (which is about 85% of the total Government revenue outside ODA). This share is considered to be the highest contribution from the fisheries sector to the national economy of any country in the world. Tokelau's medium-term development vision is articulated in the Integrated National Strategy for Enhancing the Resilience, 2017-2030 and Tokelau National Strategic Plan (TNSP) 2021-2026 "Thriving communities with equal opportunities for all".

Country Development Context

MVI | Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index



The Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) is a new tool that shows the impact of structural impediments to development, and highlights in particular the obstacles that affect small island developing states (SIDS).

The coordination of the development of the MVI led by the Resident Coordinator (RC) Samoa brought together UN RC's and RC Offices from SIDS in the Pacific, the Caribbean, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS), in a partnership with Prof. Jeffrey Sachs and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. In July 2021, they published a study titled "The Decade of Action and Small Island Developing States – Measuring and Addressing SIDS Vulnerabilities to Accelerate SDG Progress."

The MVI presents a framework for tracking SIDS' economic, structural and environmental vulnerabilities.

The MVI established 18 indicators to measure vulnerabilities across the following categories:
Economic vulnerabilities: Seven indicators measuring exposure to unforeseen exogenous shocks arising from economic openness as well as dependency on a narrow range of exports and strategic imports such as food and fuel. A country's exposure to drops in economic resources from abroad is measured through the dependency on remittances, tourism receipts and official development assistance (ODA).

Structural development: Limitations include five proxies for geophysical vulnerability as follows: size of population as a measure for the physical size of a country, percentage of arable land, total internal renewable freshwater resources per capita, maritime connectivity, and transport costs. The more remote a country is and the less connected it is to global shipping networks, the higher the transport and trade costs.

Environmental vulnerability: Six factors defining vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. Both the frequency and severity of disasters are considered. A distinction is made between hydrometeorological disasters (drought, flood, storm, and extreme temperature) and seismic disasters (earthquakes and volcanic activity). As a proxy of vulnerability to sea-level rise, the percentage of land areas where elevation is below 5 meters is included.

Applied across SIDS the preliminary results outlined that SIDS are particularly vulnerable compared with other world regions. In addition, the type of vulnerability faced by Atlantic/Indian SIDS, Caribbean SIDS and Pacific SIDS tend to vary and require different types of financing mechanisms. The MVI offers the opportunity for SIDS to access concessional financing using a measure of vulnerabilities that is unique to their realities and different from conventional measures of vulnerabilities.

CCA | Common Country Analysis



The ongoing reform of the UN development system has promoted significant changes to the development analysis, planning, and implementation processes.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a UN development system that is relevant and responsive to country development priorities and people's needs. It requires a rights-based approach to programming for the agenda 2030 that is underpinned by robust national analysis, a renewed push for collective action and partnerships, and a committed focus on helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with an emphasis on leaving no one behind.

UN development planning requires continuous analysis of the national development landscape and SDG priorities. This analysis has shifted from a one-off event to a "real-time" core analytical function, where the UN Country Team conducts Common Country Analysis (CCA) to guide the Cooperation Framework. The CCA allows the UN to better understand and address the development challenges that emerge through evolving country contexts.

The UNCT, with leadership of the RCO, collectively developed CCARports for Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. An extensive round of consultations were held in Samoa face to face, whilst the other three countries were conducted virtually due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. These sessions allowed the UNCT to consult with communities and beneficiaries of UN development programmes and funds for their feedback through their lived experiences and to validate how their lives have changed or how their communities' welfare can be improved through the support of the UN system. The sessions with government stakeholders, private sector, civil society and NGOs provided the UNCT with feedback on each of these groups' interactions with the UN system. Additionally, this also provided an opportunity for the UNCT to identify gaps in the UN system's response to address the challenges and meet the needs of these communities. The CCAs will inform the new Cooperation Framework for the Pacific region, currently under development, that will guide UN programs from 2023.



© Tokelau - National Statistics Office



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The UNCT has heard it, and from the perspectives and experiences of the people across all sectors of Samoa's national development.

From political uncertainties, deteriorating health conditions, adverse climate change impacts on the ocean and environment, increased unemployment, education system gaps, gender-based violence, socio-economic challenges amplified by the Covid 19 restrictions, most importantly are the challenges that the UN has not yet captured and addressed through its development support.

Just a few, from a long list of challenges that were voiced by the government, the private sector and the civil societies during the consultations on the preliminary report of the first CCA for Samoa.

"To recognize the voice of the civil societies, especially our members in Savaii, in the planning process for UN development support is unprecedented and we are quite happy for this opportunity" Mataafa Faatino Utumapu, an advocate and a strong leader of persons with disabilities.

"Village women asked the UN to provide more economic empowerment opportunities and strengthen gender-based violence prevention and response services at the village level."

"The Youth asked the UN to address cyberbullying, unemployed university graduates teenage pregnancy and drug and alcohol use."

The success of development projects at the village level lies within their authority to enforce village by-laws, discipline and protect youth and young women, respect the rights and contributions of women, persons with disabilities, fa'afafine and fa'atama (transgender) in village decision making and development affairs. | Traditional Leaders

Workers and employers particularly in the tourism industry suffered greatly the impacts of the Covid 19 restrictions. Reintegration of these workers into the labourforce needs to be prioritised. The President of Samoa Workers Congress calls on the UN that Workers Union must be included in all consultations and decision making level.



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CHAPTER 2

UNCT Support to National Development Priorities



The UNCT continues to work collaboratively with the governments of the four countries across key priority areas guided by the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022. The UNCT committed **US\$36.4 million** to help Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau achieve the **6 Outcomes** of the UN Pacific Strategy for 2021.

Outcome 1: Climate Change, Resilience and Environmental Protection. **Outcome 2:** Gender Equality. **Outcome 3:** Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Empowerment. **Outcome 4:** Equitable Basic Services. **Outcome 5:** Governance and Community Engagement. **Outcome 6:** Human Rights



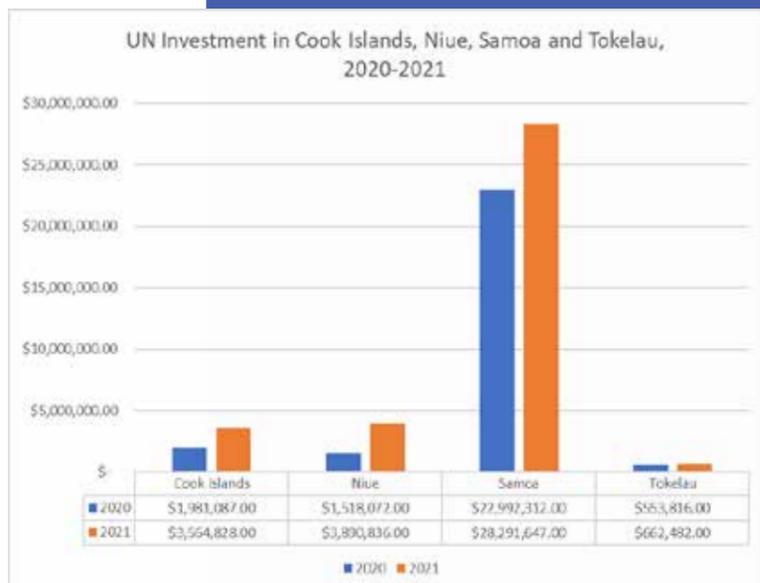
UNCT Investment by Country 2021

In 2021 the UNCT support to Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau increased by 35%, from **US\$27 million - US\$36.4 million**.

The allocations of UN funding to the four countries are based on country capacity to implement programmes and population size amongst other factors.



The UN commitment to Niue more than doubled from US\$1.5 million to US\$3.8 million. The commitment to Cook Islands reflects an 80% increase from US\$1.98 million (2020) to US\$3.6 million (2021). The commitments to Samoa and Tokelau both increased by 23% and 20% respectively.



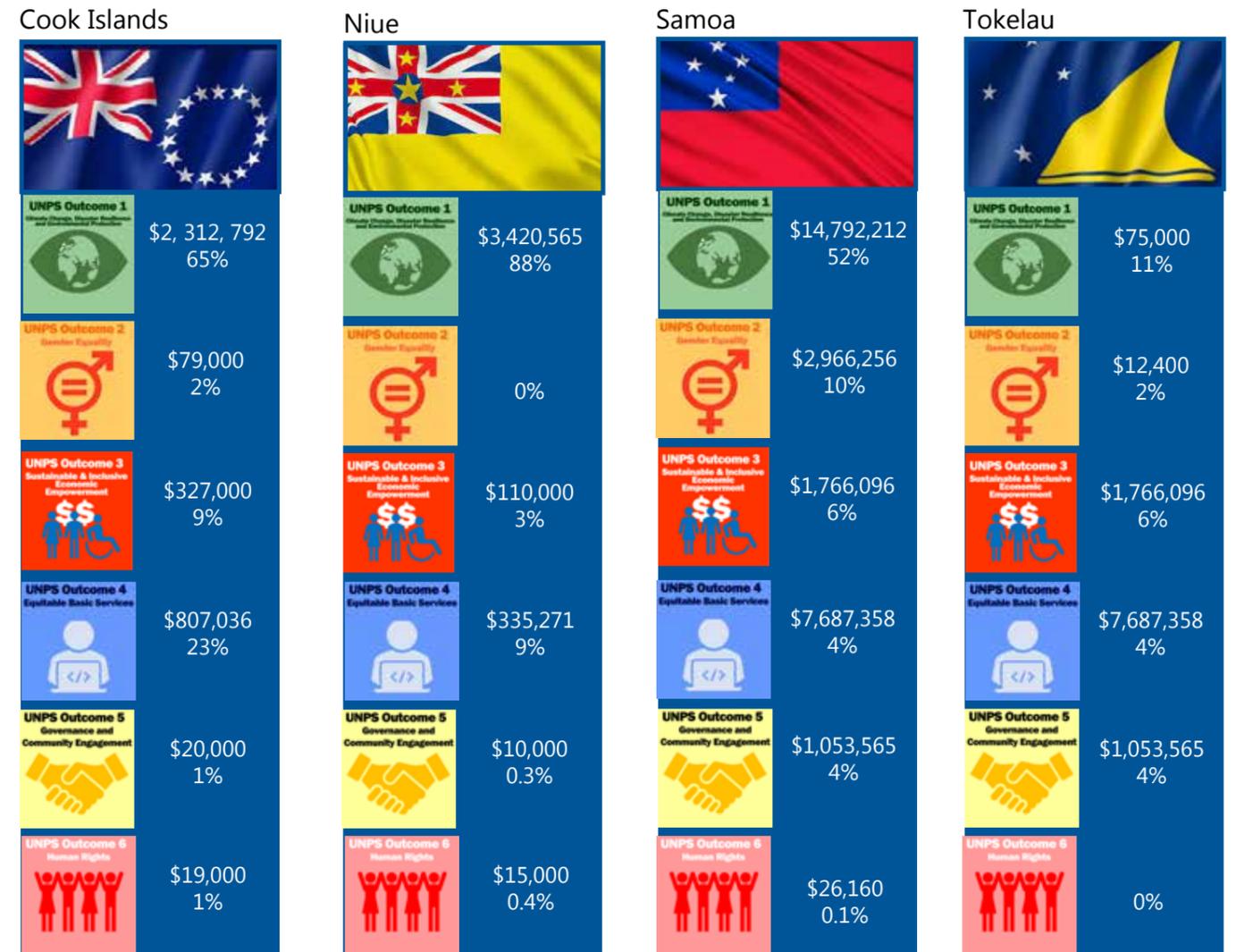
The 2021 UN Joint Country Action Plans provides a breakdown of the UN investment across the 6 Outcome Areas of the UN Pacific Strategy for each of the four countries. Around 57% of the total UN support targeted Outcome 1 - Climate Change, Resilience and Environmental Protection for all four countries. Investment in Outcome 1, is highest for Cook Islands (65%), Niue (88%) and Samoa (52%) with the exception of Tokelau (11%). Interventions under the Climate Change pillar includes, building government capacities to collect, analyse and provide climate information and knowledge services, accelerating renewable energy applications, enhancing hydro-meteorological services including warning systems, strengthen capacities to reduce impact of invasive species on biodiversity, protect natural heritage in line with the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and work carried under the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage and improving performance of renewable energy powered systems.

The second highest area of investment targeted Outcome 4: Equitable Basic Services including health and education representing around 26% of the total UN support. The majority of the support provided to Tokelau falls under the basic services pillar with a significant portion dedicated to

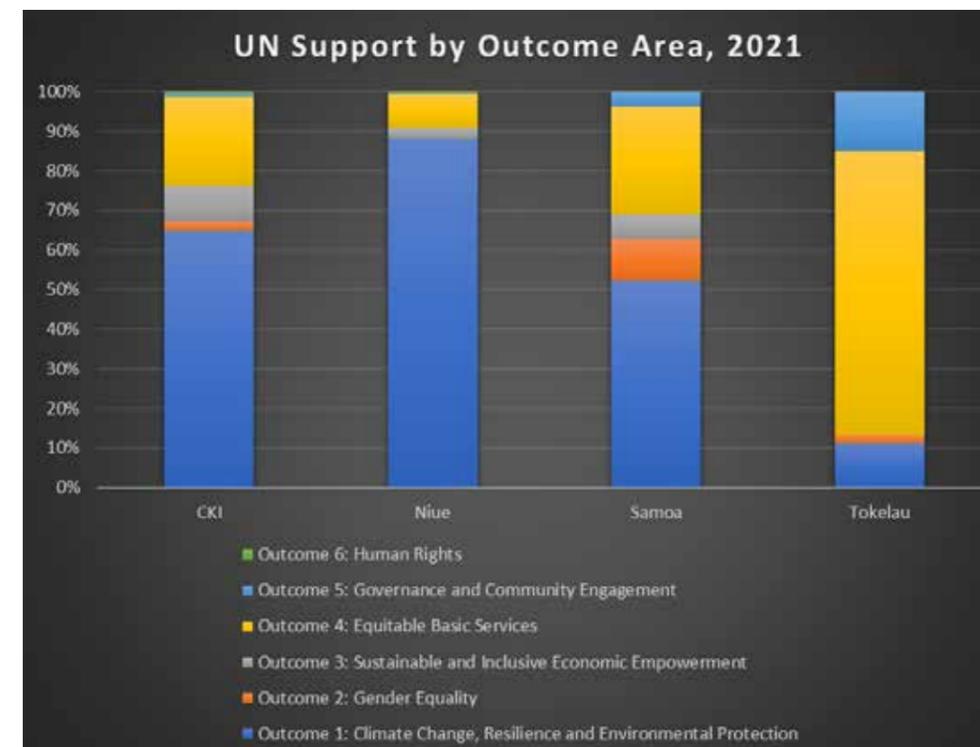
health systems strengthening. Across the four countries support under this category supported enhancing health systems' capacities to prepare and respond to the pandemic.

While there was limited investment in Outcome 6 Human Rights, there were concerted efforts to support the member countries efforts. The human rights situation in Samoa was reviewed by UN Member States for the third time in November 2021 through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a unique mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council aimed at improving the human rights situation on the ground by enabling all stakeholders to assess the impact of actions taken by States to fulfil their human rights obligations and to make recommendations. Samoa's UPR was informed by reports submitted by the government, UNCT, Samoa Ombudsman's Office as well as 17 civil society organizations in Samoa. The UNCT will continue to support efforts to ensure the implementation of UPR recommendations towards the realization of all human rights for all.

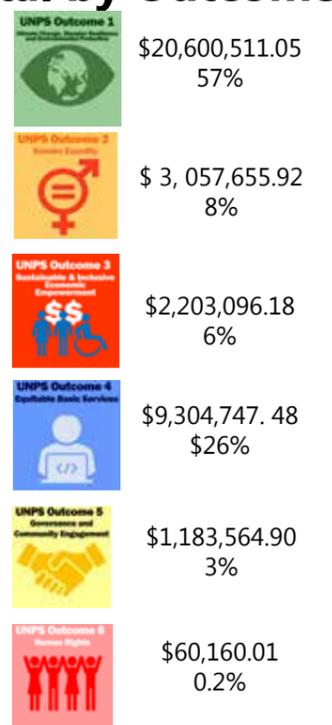
UNCT Investment by Outcome Area, 2021 | (USD \$ 36,409,793.00)



Total Investment - USD \$ 36,409,793.00



Total by Outcome





UN Joint Programmes

Results of the UN working more and better together:
UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

UNCT support Samoa Covid 19 vaccination campaign



Samoa remains in a State of Emergency since it was declared on the 22nd of March 2020. The country managed to stay Covid 19 free for two years due to strict border controls and other prevention measures. By April 2020, the UNCT mobilised its support and offered technical expertise and resources to;

- facilitate the procurement of COVID- 19 vaccines from COVAX
- training of vaccinators
- procurement of vaccine cold chain for storage and distribution, risk communication, community outreach and media campaigns.

WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Women Community and Social Development on COVID 19 advocacy and vaccination campaigns.

April - December 2021
215,500
vaccines received

Critical role of village leaders in mass vaccination campaign

Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Health Leusa Dr Take Naseri at the close of the first day of the Samoa COVID 19 Mass Vaccination Campaign particularly commended the support from the village leaders in ensuring smooth operations of the process out in the field.



"By the time the teams arrive in the villages, the eligible residents that did not receive their first dose and those who were due for their second dose of the vaccine were ready and waiting", he added.

Trained 300 health workers in
12 health facilities to
maintain immunisation
services

"To conduct a door to door vaccination campaign in over fifty villages is not easy as the Teams are not very familiar with the village settings, but we had the village mayors (pulenuu) or the women's representative who did a great job in coordinating their villages either in a central location or leads them to the homes of those who were more comfortable to receive the vaccine in their homes."

By December 2021
81% of eligible population
vaccinated

Matauaina Togamau is the representative for women, that played a huge role in the vaccination process for her village of Salelesi. Salelesi has a little over 300 residents and is located about 16km east of Apia, the capital city of Samoa. Matauaina is in her mid-30's, a very active and committed woman, that represents all the women of her village in the village governance system under the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development.



"When the Ministry of Women called to inform me about the vaccination campaign and what I needed to do, I didn't wait anymore," she said.

"I walked from one house to another." "Some of the residents were grateful for this opportunity, some were hesitant."



Spotlight Initiative

EU and UN Spotlight Initiative



The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative is a global investment to complement existing national efforts towards ending violence against women and girls.

Samoa is one of the Pacific countries that received a funding of US\$3.4 million to strengthen interventions focusing on Intimate Partner Violence and Domestic Violence.

With mandates on Gender Equality, Women Empowerment, Child Protection, Sexual and Reproductive Health, there are five UN agencies delivering the Spotlight Initiative which are, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA and UNESCO.

They work across 6 key pillars of the programme with the aim to establish laws and policies that promote gender equality, institutional strengthening, prevention of violence, strengthening services for survivors, strengthening of gender data collection and analysis, and promotion of women's movements at the community level.

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Spotlight Initiative key milestones in 2021.

Pillar 1 : Gender Responsive Laws and Policies

The Spotlight Initiative with the communities and the Law and Justice Sector developed and finalized key strategic policies and plans to guide their work on strengthening village governance mechanisms around promotion of gender equality and protection of women's rights.

- Law and Justice Sector Plan 2021 – 202
- National Policy on Gender Equality and Rights of Women and Girls 2021-2031
- National Policy on Inclusive Governance 2021 – 2031.
- 6 Village Bylaws developed and launched

Pillar 2: Institutional Strengthening

- MESG completed and consulted with partners the research on the impacts of domestic violence and intimate partner violence on the education sector and identified institutional solutions and provided capacity building.

Pillar 3: Prevention Services

The Spotlight Initiative trained, informed, initiated dialogues and created mechanisms in place to improve GBV services throughout the year:

- Trained 40 staff from 12 Civil Society Organisations on Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support.
- Trained 326 villagers from 10 villages on Lifeskills. 159 of these participants are village chiefs. The training impacted indirectly on 11,600 villagers.
- Trained over 300 women and girls in Transformational Leadership Trainings
- Talanoa/Let's Talk Forum directly reached 56 vulnerable rural women and girls from 28 villages.
- The CSO-NRG (Civil Society- National Reference Group) led Community Conversations on Prevention reached over 600 people directly including women, youth, people with disabilities and village chiefs and leaders.
- Launched GBV Health Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for clinical management of rape, sexual violence and GBV. The SOPs provides a to guide health professionals when interacting with survivors and victims of violence in healthcare settings.
- Developed the National Prevention Framework for EVAWG. The process involved 7 communities, private and public sector consultations. Over 400 people were consulted and their collective views have informed the draft National Prevention Framework.
- Launched the My Village, My Pride advocacy programme to enhance village engagement and awareness on DV/IPV through the use of culture, arts, song and dance.
- Toll Free Helpline - supported more than 1033 callers through the assistance of service providers and local NGOs, Faataua Le Ola and Samoa Victim Support Group (SVSG). The callers

required varying support services including evacuation support services provided for 139 GBV survivors, 115 cases required direct police assistance and 49 awarded court protection orders. The only shelter for survivors of GBV, Sakura House managed by the SVSG developed a Domestic Violence Policy which will directly protect the welfare of all its clients and beneficiaries. Sakura House served 1587 survivors comprised of 49 percent of women over 18 years, 17 percent of girls below 17 years and 11 percent of boys below 17 years.

Through the only local NGO dealing with the rights and protection of persons with albinism, support was provided to the Clarence Sebastian Foundation (CSF) reaching 106 people including almost 40 percent of boys and girls below the age of 17 years. The CSF have produced for the first time in Samoa a promotional 'guideline which helps organisations deal appropriately and sensitively with females with albinism in communities and schools.

Pillar 6: CSO and Women Movements

- Trained 250 Youth Social Animators to boost messaging on the #Samoa WithHer campaign targeting young people on various social media platforms.

A demonstration of One UN Delivery, the Orange Samoa – Spotlight Torch of Hope campaign reached more than 300 villages through joint efforts of the participating UN Agencies in partnership with government ministries, NGOs, civil society and village communities. Over 300 villagers were directly involved in 7 village community discussions as the Spotlight torch made its way around the country over the 16 days of Activism period, 25 Nov – 10 Dec



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United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disability



United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disability joint programme in Cook Islands is implemented by three UN agencies, UNDP, UNICEF and UNESCO. The programme is currently in inception phase with a dedicated budget of \$100,000USD towards developing the full \$400,000USD programme.

As part of the project development inception phase community consultations have proceeded and completed capturing 10% of the Cook Islands population and direct consultation with a majority of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

At the completion of the inception mid-January 2022 a full project document will be ready to start implementation, contributing to bettering lives of persons with disability.

© National Disability Council of Cook Islands

Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative



The Samoa Knowledge Society Initiatives is creating access to open and lifelong learning informatin, providing the physical resources and relevant policies to enhance equitable learning in Samoa.

In preparing Samoa to transition into a full-fledged knowledge society, the SKSI has provided ICT tools, equipments, software, and internet connectivity, to support the National University of Samoa, as one of the key delivering agencies to produce digital platforms where people can access information.

The SKSI programme delivered trainings on access to information and promoting government policy on open access to information. SKSI supported the development of mobile apps such as the Agritouch App which will benefit farmers to access information on pests and diseases, chemical, market prices, projects and more.

Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative is a rights-based access to knowledge programme implemented by UNDP and UNESCO.

Social Protection



The social protection systems of the four countries came under the microscope through comprehensive stock takes and reviews to identify challenges and opportunities to inform the social protection team and the governments in addressing social protection development agenda for the countries.

The Social Protection key activities and achievements included;

1. Stocktakes and reviews which resulted in the
 - development of the Samoa National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) which is now before the Government for review and endorsement.
 - drafting of the Tokelau National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) to address the social protection development agenda for Tokelau. The validation of the review report and draft policy is planned for quarter 1 of 2022.
2. Capacity development on poverty and exclusion;
 - delivered multidimensional poverty index (MPI) training to statisticians from Samoa, Cook Islands and Tokelau. The MPI helps to measure national poverty needs and address life-cycle vulnerabilities. The development of the MPI for Samoa has commenced in January 2022.

© UN Samoa | Louisa Apelu

The Social Protection key activities and achievements included;

3. Assessment of the Gender responsiveness system
 - The assessment recognised gender issues that directly affect gender inequalities with the view to improve gender outcomes and avoid gender biases or discrimination in social protection.
4. Review of the labour market component of Social Protection resulted in the
 - development of the Samoa National Employment Policy 2021/2025, based on the comprehensive review of the Samoa National Employment Policy 2016/2020.
 - validation of the report on the Legal review in association with ILO Convention C190..
 - The Rapid Assessment Report on the Impact of Covid-19 on the employment and enterprises" as situational analysis for Tripartite partners and ILO Country reprogramming purpose.
5. Effective and efficient implementation of inclusive and sustainable social protection strengthened through improved evidence-based knowledge building; integrated and innovative data and information management systems; coordinated policy, legislative reforms, programming and administrative capacities; and regular monitoring and evaluation for ongoing improvements and feedback learnings.
 - Studies and analyses on the contribution to social protection of remittances and the contribution of informal and traditional systems in Samoa were conducted and have contributed towards building the evidence-based analysis and knowledge to inform ongoing social protection developmental work.
 - Research on Social Protection fiscal space and analysis for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) completed for all four countries (Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau) with Options Paper prepared for all 4 countries. The research findings were presented to all four countries providing a deeper analysis for social protection requirements for persons with disability given they are amongst some of the most vulnerable persons requiring social protection priority consideration.
 - Employment Pathway programs – Cook Islands completed and launched its certified program. Niue progressing towards completion.
 - Policy – Cook Islands Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2020-2024 produced in Braille and Audio formats. Tokelau Policy in progress. Niue's review of its Disability Policy also in progress.
 - National survey on Disability – Tokelau completed its first survey with 90% participation rate. Findings 12% with a disability or 'some degree' of disability. Data used for intervention pathways for services and education. Detailed assessment in progress.
 - Disability Benefit Scheme – Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau have a welfare system in place. Samoa in progress of confirming a national system for this Scheme. Government endorsed this benefit in the current financial year FY2021-2022.
 - The delivery of the first MPI for 3 Countries, as a capacity-building initiative, and a prerequisite for the establishment of Multidimensional Poverty Index for some of the Countries. The Training covered both theoretical learning on the main axiomatic properties of Alkire Foster based indices, as well as Stata analysis and applications. 21 Participants (14 Female & 7 Males) from 3 Countries (Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau) attended and completed the MPI Training.
 - Capacity building of the persons with disabilities understanding digital data systems is to support mainstreaming of disability inclusion. This activity is contingent on UNDP's work on developing mobile platforms.
 - Strengthening integrated and innovative data and information systems

- Analysis on Samoa Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system completed and being finalized. Similar analysis on Niue CRVS system completed.
- The development of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which commences in January 2022 will identify multidimensionally poor individuals as a complement to income poverty measures. Furthermore, enable policymakers, implementers, and advocates to evaluate the effectiveness of existing public policy efforts and programmes, and whether they are addressing the needs of different people who are living in the most vulnerable conditions in Samoa.
- As part of strengthening active labour market employment support system services in Samoa, work has commenced on the Upgraded Job Seekers Registry and Occupational Safety and Health Registry with incorporated requirements to comply with international labour standards.
- ILO Rapid Assessment Report on the Impact of Covid-19 on employment and enterprises results to the following:
 - Internship Programme - two (2) Internship Programme on the dismantle and assembling of E-Waste products in partners with HP products New Zealand and their local counterpart SSAB company for 2 months. Twenty (20) laid off youth workers per Internship Programme under Green Jobs for Green Works supported by ILO and UNRC.
 - Career Counselling - ILO with Samoa Workers Congress conducted five (5) Career Counselling for identified laid off workers from the Rapid Assessment Report, targeting the youth that would like to continue work and remain in Labour Force.
 - SYB Trainings - conducted 2 Start Your Business (SYB) Module Training for the identified laid off workers from the report, mainly those who wants to become entrepreneurship.
 - Re-integration Programme & PDO - continue with Re-integration programmes for the returnee seasonal workers, and seafarers. Support and provide assistance to the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour on localizing sessions for the Pre-Departure Orientations for the recruited soft skill workers under the RSE and SWP scheme.
 - Formalizing the Informal Economy - Introducing of Formal Economy aspects and benefits to the Informal and subsistence workers mainly on the traditional activities, and understanding the health and safety of tools used in the tattooing industry (traditional tattooists)
- 6. Strengthening Social Protection data and information. The development of SP Information Management Systems for the four countries have progressed well with training and demo to take place in quarter 1 of 2022. The IMS aims to go live and available by quarter 2 of 2022.
 - Tokelau: The development of the SP registry is ongoing and will be complimented by Census 2022 data. The Census data collection will take place in quarter 1 of 2022 and the most updated SP registry will be available in quarter 2 of 2022.
 - Samoa: The development of SP IMS has limited progress. Policy, legislative reforms, programming and administrative capacities.
 - The development of a National Social Protection Policy for Samoa is completed following stakeholder consultations and a TC validation workshop. The Policy has been translated into Samoan to allow a better understanding of what social protection is about so they can make better decisions.
 - Ongoing support work for building disability-inclusive in the four PICTs included progress made with improving the profiling of persons with disabilities and providing capacity development and training programmes for persons with disabilities.
 - Regular monitoring and evaluation for ongoing improvements and feedback learnings.
 - A Samoa Social Protection Indicators Matrix (SPIM), covering SDG indicators and other relevant indicators data gaps identified, and strategy developed to address data gaps had been developed by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics with support provided under the JP. The SPIM will be used as the M&E framework and a policy tool for determining and measuring Samoa social protection development performances.

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