

Pacific Youth Development Framework (2014-2023)



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

Mid-Term Review Report (2021-2022)



Pacific Youth Development Framework (2014–2023)

Mid-Term Review Report 2021-2022



Suva, Fiji, 2023

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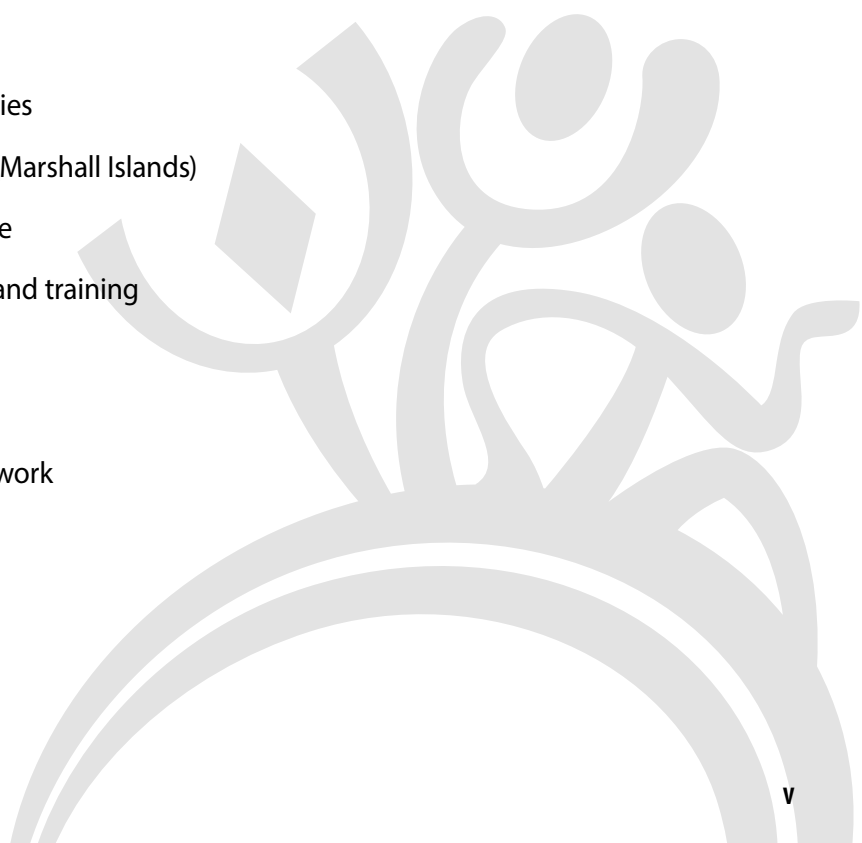
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Acronyms

APTC	Australia Pacific Training Coalition
CBO	community-based organisation
CEO	chief executive officer
CMI	College of the Marshall Islands
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
CSO	civil society organisation
CTEC	Career and Technical Education Center (College of Micronesia, Pohnpei Campus)
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
EPPSO	Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (Marshall Islands)
ESSP	Education Sector Support Programme
FNYC	Fiji National Youth Council
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GEF	Global Environment Facility (UNDP)
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HRSD	Human Rights and Social Development (SPC)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LGBTQI+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), and intersex plus
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MECDM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (Solomon Islands)
MEHA	Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (Fiji)
MEIDECC	Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (Tonga)
MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (Kiribati)
MEPIR	Ministry of Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations (Fiji)

MET	Ministry of Education and Training (Tonga)
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services (Fiji)
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs (Tonga)
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Samoa)
MoH	Ministry of Health (Samoa)
MOHHS	Ministry of Health and Human Services (Marshall Islands)
MORDI	Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community Services and Development (Samoa)
MWYCFCA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (Solomon Islands)
MWYSSA	Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs (Kiribati)
MYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports (Fiji)
MYSD	Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (Vanuatu)
NAA	Nakor Alaam Association
NCD	non-communicable disease
NEC	National Employment Centre (Fiji)
NEET	not in education, employment or training
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NNEFA	Ntalpuk Ning Epang Faum Association (Vanuatu)
NTC	National Training Council (Marshall Islands)
NYC	National Youth Council
NYP	National Youth Policy
PICTs	Pacific Island countries and territories
PII	Pacific International Incorporated (Marshall Islands)
PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
PSET	post-secondary school education and training
PYB	Pacific Youth Bureau
PYC	Pacific Youth Council
PYDF	Pacific Youth Development Framework
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal



SDS	Strategy for the Development of Samoa
SNYC	Samoa National Youth Council
SOGIE	sexual orientation, gender identity and expression
SPC	Pacific Community
SQA	Samoa Qualification Authority
SRHR	sexual and reproductive health and rights
SSA	Single State Agency (Marshall Islands)
STCW	Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
STI	sexually transmitted infection
SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations
TB	tuberculosis
TCDT	Tonga Community Development Trust
TFHA	Tonga Family Health Association
TNYC	Tonga National Youth Council
ToR	terms of reference
TSWA	Tonga Shepherds Women's Association
TSYA	Tomas Savot Youth Association (Vanuatu)
TVET	technical and vocational education and training
TYP	Tonga Youth Parliament
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USP	University of the South Pacific
VNYC	Vanuatu National Youth Council
VSA	Vanuatu Surfer's Association
VSRHP	Village Sexual and Reproductive Health Program
WAM	WAAN AELON IN MAJOL (Marshall Islands)
Y@W	Youth at Work Programme (Solomon Islands)
YCV	Youth Challenge Vanuatu
YEC	Youth Entrepreneurship Council
YEEYEP	Youth Employment, Empowerment and Young Entrepreneurs Programme
YEP	Youth Employment Program

Executive Summary

This report builds on the 2019 mid-term review of the 2014–2023 Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) that was commissioned by the Pacific Community (SPC). PYDF was developed to increase investments in youth across development sectors by strengthening the evidence base and accountability, and by improving development effectiveness through engagement, coordination and strategic communication between all youth stakeholders.

Although youth (aged 15–24 years) represent approximately 20% of the current regional population and Pacific Leaders endorsed the PYDF in 2012, youth development issues have received only limited attention in the region.

The Pacific Youth Council (PYC) worked in close partnership with SPC, with support from United Nations (UN) agencies and the Commonwealth Secretariat, in the development and implementation of the PYDF, and oversaw the engagement of young people, including marginalised groups.

The PYDF sets out to achieve four development outcome areas: (i) more young people secure decent employment; (ii) young people's health status is improved; (iii) governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes; and (iv) more young people participate in environmental action.

The report takes into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and provides updates based on desk reviews and stakeholder consultations. The eight country reviews and national policy documents were used as key source documents, supplemented by a virtual meeting held in November 2021 with youth focal points across the region, who verified information collected in 2019 and updated in 2021.

The report findings validated information reported in the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report. Adolescent and youth development vary widely across the Pacific. While there are efforts to address the specific concerns of the most marginalised youth, specific efforts made by governments are difficult to identify as most services (health, education, etc.) are delivered without distinction by age. Where governments have designated a ministry and/or division to focus on youth development, the ministry or division is often tasked with coordination rather than programming. Such coordination tends to focus on strengthening internal partnerships with line ministries and coordinating support by non-governmental development partners. In all eight countries where services have been mapped, much of the support to marginalised groups is provided by small non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community- and faith-based groups. These services are generally under-resourced and, thus, difficult to sustain.

Country reviews and national policy documents demonstrate that Pacific young people are committed to find solutions to the challenges they face. Much of their time and effort is provided voluntarily at both national and regional levels.

Governments (national, provincial and local) and communities across the region are aware of the importance of addressing the challenges faced by young people. However, resource constraints and competing priorities result in these programmes being deprioritised. In some areas, youth issues are mainstreamed into programmes and budgets and, as a consequence, difficult to disaggregate.

Most attention in the region has focused on reducing youth unemployment (PYDF Outcome 1) through entrepreneurial support for youth to establish small businesses and skills development programmes (technical and vocational education and training [TVET], apprenticeship, etc.), including support to prepare youth for local or overseas employment (seasonal labour schemes in Australia and New Zealand).

The focus with respect to health and well-being (PYDF Outcome 2) has mainly been on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) actively partnering with the ministries of health in some countries. Mental health and nutrition, including efforts to address non-communicable diseases, are also emphasised but are not specific to youth.

Empowering young people (PYDF Outcome 3) appears to be the least supported in the region. Nonetheless, in some countries, national youth councils and NGOs provide training and platforms for youth to raise issues, and youth parliaments and other events are organised to encourage youth engagement in parliament, government and other decision-making structures in their communities.

The involvement of youth in environmental and climate change initiatives (PYDF Outcome 4) offers an opportunity to amplify the voices of youth in an effort to respond to climate change and, in each country, there is evidence of such initiatives. Young people were involved in developing the Framework for Resilient Development and also identified as one of its target groups. Most initiatives focus on building the capacity of youth on food security and resilience.

A range of NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs) implement youth-focused activities. Some receive funding from governments or development partners, while others rely on local fundraising efforts. Many of these initiatives target specific youth groups highlighted in the PYDF.

Development partner funding is typically delivered through governments and/or NGOs and often targets specific population groups. National coordination of development partner funding is the responsibility of governments, usually the Ministry of Planning, Finance or Foreign Affairs. A strong relationship and commitment between the ministry responsible for youth development and the coordinating ministry/department is necessary for funding to be effectively allocated towards youth. The sustainability of initiatives funded by development partners is a challenge, which needs to be addressed in the programme design with a means for the government to assume its responsibility.

National youth policies (NYPs) and action plans must be kept up-to-date, and key priorities for youth must be reflected in national planning and budget processes and systems. It is also important to designate priorities during negotiations with national stakeholders and external development partners.

The PYDF regional coordination mechanism, a partnership between SPC and the PYC, is not operationalised. Changes within SPC (e.g. merging of the Social Development Programme and the Regional Rights Resources Team), revision of the Human Rights and Social Development Business Plan, and the cessation of funding for SPC's PYC coordinator role requires planning to determine how PYDF implementation and regional coordination will be supported at the regional level in the future.

The availability of accurate, reliable data and information on youth development is a major deficiency and an impediment to the design of youth-centred programmes and activities. This has been a recurring issue for many years and was a focus of the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report. The outcomes from the 2017 report were meant to be used as the baseline for the PYDF review, alongside a range of related indicators to be monitored as part of the UN situation analysis on youth (conducted every five years). Although data is available from national censuses or household income and expenditure surveys (HIES), it is not consistently accessed as part of the compilation of related reports.

Based on the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report, the consultations and analysis undertaken in 2019, and the 2021 desk review and analysis, the recommendations below were put forth for SPC member countries and territories.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS:

ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMITMENT

- 1) Strengthen evidence-based NYPs, ensuring they contain costed, time-bound action plans with robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks.
- 2) Ensure national strategic plans and national budgets encompass national youth action plans and budgets.
- 3) Strengthen the capacity of National Youth Councils (NYCs) by supporting their inclusion and meaningful participation in policy-making and programming.
- 4) Strengthen protection systems, eliminate gender-based violence, support marginalised youth (e.g. youth with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer [or questioning], and intersex plus [LGBTQI+] youth), and address emerging issues (drug/alcohol abuse, cyberbullying).
- 5) Develop national institutional capacity to collect disaggregated data and conduct trend analyses.

EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- 6) Review national policy frameworks on employment and ensure they specifically address youth unemployment, using the national category for youth.
- 7) Improve how education prepares youth for work and life, and expand opportunities for young people to learn. Develop multiple pathways to education. Consider the development of regional/national policy frameworks on skills development (life skills, lifelong learning, health and well-being, employability and employment [e.g. core work skills] and active citizenship).
- 8) Develop and assess skills and competencies. Increase investment in: school health and nutrition education, comprehensive sexuality education, technical and vocational skills and entrepreneurship education, citizenship education, and life skills education. In response to climate change, increase the focus on resilience-building, and agriculture and green jobs.
- 9) Increase focus on potential opportunities in creative and cultural industries.
- 10) Support TVET development.
- 11) Invest in improving information and communications technology skills for the labour market, including with TVET programming.
- 12) Ensure education and skills development include training and upskilling youth for employment in regional and international sectors, in response to limited opportunities in small island states.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 13) Utilise inter-sectoral collaboration to respond to youth health needs. Note that some needs may be best addressed via sectors outside health. The education sector (e.g. schools) can be an effective health-promoting environment.
- 14) Strengthen health promotion, knowledge and practices via youth participation.
- 15) Improve access to quality youth-friendly health services (e.g. address barriers to contraceptive services for married and unmarried sexually active youth).
- 16) Strengthen counselling and other services (e.g. related to family violence, mental health, tobacco, drug and alcohol addiction, sexually transmitted infections [STIs], teenage pregnancy and mental health).

VOICE AND INFLUENCE

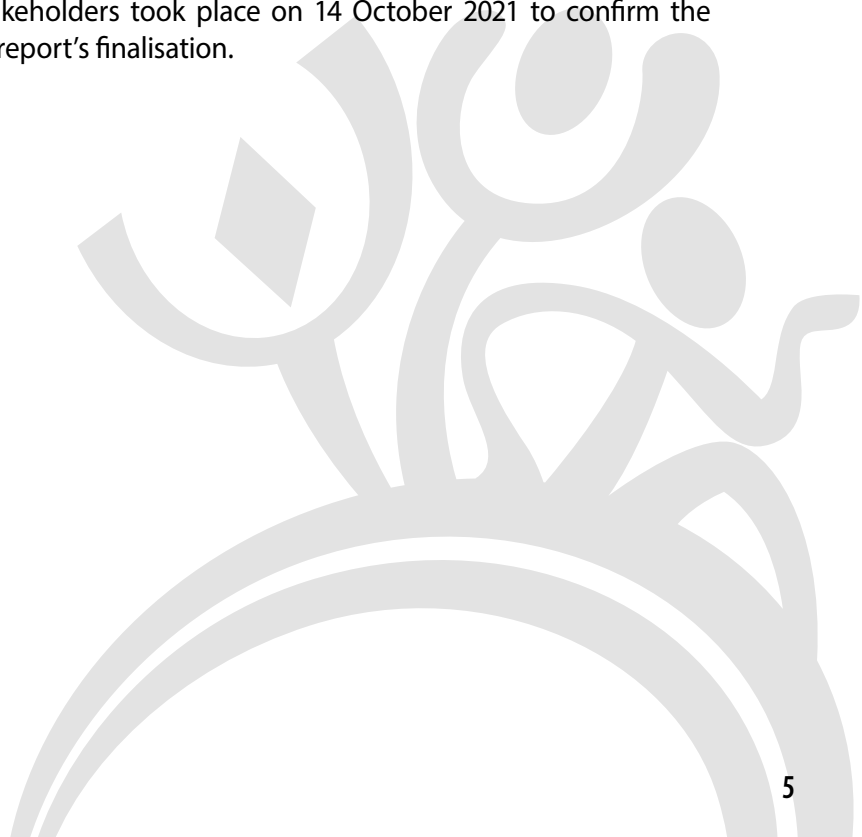
- 17) Build capacity for participation via investment in life skills education and social citizenship education. Support participatory teaching and learning approaches in education. Mainstream active participation in all youth development activities.
- 18) Develop innovative ways for youth to express themselves (e.g. national youth opinion surveys on their development or on specific issues/themes, including gender equality or employability; or investment in street theatre, drama).
- 19) Support maintaining youth representative structures and networks, and ensure marginalised groups of youth or groups in specific sectors are reached.
- 20) Encourage intergenerational discussions at the community level to build understanding across all age groups of youth challenges and opportunities.
- 21) Provide technical and financial support to youth volunteerism opportunities.
- 22) Encourage youth activism on key sustainable development issues. Assist NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) in supporting youth activists and training youth leadership.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY AND PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL

- 1) Strengthen communication and awareness of youth development issues and the PYDF outcome areas (e.g. during development partner consultations).
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of the PYC and their support for the NYCs in partnership with development and donor partners.
- 3) Develop a regional coordination and review process, led by Pacific youth, engaging regular virtual and/or face-to-face meetings of stakeholders across the region and supporting accountability for implementation of the PYDF.
- 4) Adopt core indicators (e.g. linked to the Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report indicators) for the PYDF outcome areas to help monitor, report on, and track progress of youth development across the region.
- 5) Ensure regional support for PYDF implementation in: policy research (e.g. youth-led); research and evaluation of youth priority issues (e.g. employment in decent work, civic participation, skills development, well-being); and the sharing of lessons learned and best practices.
- 6) Strengthen coordination across SPC programmes to better identify the full breadth of regional support that SPC provides for youth development.
- 7) Maintain partnerships with relevant regional development and donor partners to support youth development in the Pacific.

A. Introduction

1. This report builds on the 2019 mid-term review of the 2014–2023 Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF), commissioned by the former Social Development Programme of the Pacific Community (SPC) and undertaken by consultant, Mata’afa Dr Desmond U. Amosa. The primary purpose of the mid-term review was “to assess how Pacific Island Countries and Territories are progressing as a region in line with the directions established in the PYDF”.
2. Four objectives were identified in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the 2019 mid-term review: (i) conduct a stocktake of PYDF implementation since its launch in 2015; (ii) map activities undertaken across the region against the four outcome areas; (iii) identify gaps and challenges in implementing youth development initiatives; and (iv) document good practices and lessons learned since the PYDF launch.
3. The mid-term review was expected to provide analysis on how the PYDF has guided youth development work in the region and how it could be used to further strengthen partnerships and increase investments in youth development, as well as how the region could strengthen collaboration and responses to the findings and recommendations of the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report, and how partnerships between governments, civil society and other development actors could be strengthened to further youth development and social inclusion.
4. The consultant prepared a mid-term review draft report and submitted it to SPC at the same time in which the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact the region.
5. The report was finalised prior to the 2021 meeting of the Council of Regional Governments and Administrations, taking into account the impact of the pandemic and providing updates through additional desk reviews, stakeholder consultations and a virtual meeting of youth leaders across the region. A fifth output included in the original ToRs referred to the facilitation of a regional workshop to share the findings of the mid-term review; however, the workshop was not held. Under the new consultant’s ToRs, a virtual meeting of stakeholders took place on 14 October 2021 to confirm the findings and recommendations before the report’s finalisation.



B. Background

6. This section outlines the history of regional steps taken to promote youth issues in: development planning and implementation; establishment and functions of the Pacific Youth Council (PYC); development of the PYDF; the role of SPC and the PYC in regional coordination with respect to the PYDF; and PYDF monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

B.1 CONTEXT

7. The Pacific Youth Strategy 2005–2010, which preceded the PYDF, was designed around seven components and envisaged outcomes that address youth access to integrated education, nurture sustainable livelihoods, promote healthy lifestyles, and research information and data on youth. The 2010 SPC-led Review of the Pacific Youth Strategy and the joint United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and SPC 2011 State of Pacific Youth Report revealed low uptake by SPC members with few national youth policies (NYPs) referencing the strategy. Where NYPs were in place, implementation remained slow and under-resourced. The 2011 report recommended greater focus on:
 - **improving governance for youth** – coordinating regional strategies to enhance youth programmes targeted at key populations;
 - **improving data collection and analysis of youth** – monitoring existing youth measures; and
 - **mobilising resources for youth** – making resources available to support youth programming.

B.2 PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL

8. SPC’s former Pacific Youth Bureau (PYB) established the PYC in 1997 to facilitate youth engagement in Pacific Island development, and to institutionalise a regional and democratic structure to support this. The PYC was registered as a regional non-governmental organisation (NGO) located at SPC in Noumea, New Caledonia. Its primary aim is to strengthen its member National Youth Councils (NYCs) to increase youth leadership in national development. At the regional level, the PYC was designed to be a regional constituency for Pacific youth, acting as the “major channel for regional youth voice” and “sounding board to the PYB”¹. Governed by eight elected executive officers who manage development decisions, the PYC builds the capacity of young people to be better informed and able to influence development processes that impact young people’s lives.
9. With the loss of SPC’s Secretariat support in 2004, the PYC began to fold. However, in 2004, SPC’s review of the PYB recommended that SPC support a full-time PYC chief executive officer (CEO). In 2008, in partnership with the Australian Government-funded Pacific Leadership Program, SPC provided administrative and supervisory support to the PYC Coordinator, who was appointed by the PYC Executive, the Pacific Leadership Program and SPC to engage with regional stakeholders and act as an intermediary with all NYCs and associated youth networks. The partnership enabled PYC to become a key stakeholder in the youth sector and NYCs to become formalised and strengthened via capacity-building efforts. In 2017, SPC funding for the coordinator post ended and the PYC Secretariat moved to a virtual model with a voluntary Technical Advisory Group of PYC representatives, based in Suva, representing PYC in regional forums and supporting the board at the decision-making level.

1 Faribairn-Dunlop, P. & S. Hewlett, 2004. Review of the Pacific Youth Bureau. Undertaken as part of a multi-year programme of reviews for SPC.

10. SPC and PYC have been closely linked since PYC's inception. Established to achieve democratic youth representation and provide Pacific youth with a consultative and participative structure to engage, influence and improve development outcomes in favour of youth, the relationship between SPC and PYC is similar to that of a statutory body – set up as a good governance measure of transparency, accountability, participation and autonomy. The partnership presented an opportunity to strengthen SPC's capacity to engage with and support Pacific youth to improve outcomes in their favour. The PYC served as a key partner, facilitating the engagement of youth, including marginalised groups, in implementation of the PYDF.
11. During the 2019 meeting of finance ministers in the region, a proposal was endorsed for youth stakeholders to conduct research into youth unemployment and entrepreneurship, examining how the ecosystem could help address youth unemployment in the region. Since 2015, PYC has advocated for a Youth Entrepreneurship Council (YEC) to leverage youth entrepreneurship as a potential remedy to youth unemployment. Some countries (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) have established YECs linked to the respective Chamber of Commerce, giving it the necessary power to act.
12. The lack of sustained funding for programmes directly linked to PYDF implementation has led to reduced awareness of the PYDF among youth development advocates and minimal integration of PYDF concepts into their efforts in the region. The lack of funding has also raised questions as to PYDF ownership and oversight, with many viewing it as a SPC initiative, despite PYDF endorsement by Pacific leaders and encouragement for governments and youth stakeholders in the region to own it.

B.3 THE PACIFIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (2014–2023)

13. Given the shortcomings of the Pacific Youth Strategy cited in the 2010 review, a regional coordination mechanism was deemed necessary to strengthen commitment to youth development. Under SPC leadership and following regional consultations, the 10-year PYDF was launched in 2014, supporting development of national policies rather than aligning national policies to a regional model, as the strategy had done.
14. This PYDF offers a coordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific and: (i) provides guidance to measure and monitor the situation of youth; (ii) encourages engagement and commitment from development partners, governments and administrations; (iii) reaches youth missing out on mainstream development efforts; and (iv) is informed by the voices of youth. The PYDF emphasises engagement of all youth, targeting: young people not in education, employment and training; young women; rural youth; young people with disabilities; and youth discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.
15. The 2011 State of Pacific Youth Report and the 2011 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Urban Youth Report were instrumental to development of the PYDF.
16. The PYDF envisions a “sustainable Pacific where all young people are safe, respected, empowered and resilient” and includes the priority outcome areas outlined below.
 - **More young people secure decent employment** via increased access to relevant education and training in formal and vocational sectors; increased engagement in entrepreneurship; and youth-friendly employment services to connect young people to employment opportunities.
 - **Young people's health status is improved** when their mental health and well-being, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and nutrition and physical activity are improved.

- **Governance structures empower young people** to influence decision-making processes where: representative structures for youth are strengthened and inclusive of diverse groups; governments increase their investments in youth; and governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in development processes.
 - **More young people participate in environmental action** when engaged in: innovative initiatives that address food and water security; youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes; and the promotion of sustainable environmental practices.
17. The PYDF recognises that countries and territories, notably NYPs, can benefit from youth participation through: (i) improved evidence and understanding of the youth situation; (ii) more favourable environments for securing financial and technical resources; (iii) positive engagement of youth citizens; and (iv) greater inclusion of key populations of youth. The PYDF also notes that participation reduces reporting, although data collection on youth participation is necessary.
 18. Leading up to and during PYDF preparations, youth stakeholders worked in solidarity to promote a regional commitment to youth and development of a regional framework.
 19. The need to prioritise youth employment was raised at the 2011 Pacific Islands Forum, as a result of youth advocacy and support from the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and UNDP. Leaders acknowledged the need to: mainstream youth issues nationally and regionally; increase employment and other meaningful opportunities for youth; engage youth and integrate their perspectives into decision-making; develop annual labour and employment statistics disaggregated by gender and age; and ensure the government, private sector and technical and vocational training institutions take measures to address youth unemployment. Leaders also noted the need for a regional framework on youth employment, with measures to promote labour mobility as well as sports and physical activity to help young people stay healthy, contribute to society and develop skills to become effective leaders in their communities and beyond.²
 20. In 2012, Forum Leaders welcomed efforts by Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies, United Nations (UN) agencies, and other partners to develop a Framework for Youth Development in the Pacific, cited progress made with respect to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat-UNDP Youth Initiative, and noted work underway on youth employment and its role in preventing social discord.³

B.4 REGIONAL COORDINATION

21. The PYDF does not prescribe formal implementation procedures or coordination mechanisms at the national level. However, it includes a small grant scheme to support national-level interventions and promotes coordination at the regional level. SPC worked in partnership with the PYC, in adherence with an annual work plan developed under the PYDF Steering Committee and in collaboration with partners (governments, administrations, regional development partners, national youth councils, other youth networks), and the regional coordination mechanism included a Pacific Regional Youth Think Tank or advisory body to support decision-making related to regional coordination.

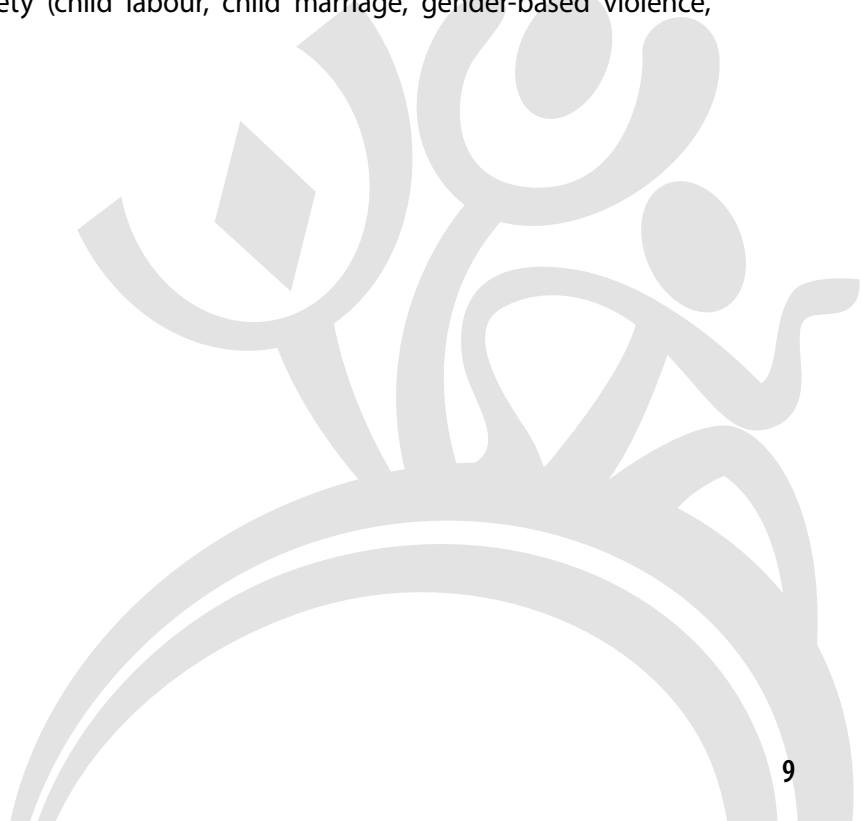
² 42nd Forum Communique, 2011 where leaders welcomed the 2011 Urban Youth in the Pacific: Increasing Resilience and Reducing Risk for Involvement in Crime and Violence report prepared by the Forum Secretariat and UNDP.

³ 43rd Forum Communique, 2011.

22. Tasks for the SPC/PYC partnership included: (i) support Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to institutionalise youth indicators into national surveillance; (ii) map the distribution of service delivery and development assistance (government, NGOs, etc.) to PYDF outcome areas in participating PICTs; (iii) compile regional mapping service delivery and development assistance (government, NGOs and others); (iv) use regional forums to highlight gaps and advocate for regional investment in PYDF priority areas; (v) strengthen networks and facilitate linkages between key populations of youth, youth stakeholders, governments and administrations; (vi) support youth-led initiatives in PICTs through a small grants scheme; and (vii) develop strategic guidance for investment in PYDF priority areas.
23. These tasks were expected to: improve the collection and analysis of data relating to the status of youth in the Pacific; help identify the populations of youth benefiting from development assistance under the four outcome areas of the PYDF; identify and assess gaps; and reveal best practices for possible south-south cooperation. The tasks were also anticipated to assist in identifying mechanisms to improve the delivery and effectiveness of technical support and other assistance, increase participatory decision-making involving youth, and provide young people with funding to build capacity and active citizenship among youth in the region.

B.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

24. The PYDF also included tools to monitor progress periodically: youth indicators aligned with international standards; annual monitoring of lower-level indicators; and situation analyses (2016, 2021). A sample mapping tool was also developed and has been used by SPC to record existing programmes and donor/development support; identify gaps in the need and reach of key populations supported by existing programmes, funding, and partnerships with external development partners.
25. A State of Pacific Youth Report was produced in 2017 under a partnership between SPC, the UN, the Commonwealth and the PYC. Similar to the 2011 exercise, the 2017 report encompassed an in-depth study of critical issues: (i) the need for an indicator framework for adolescents and youth; (ii) priority measures to ensure the health and well-being of Pacific young people; (iii) investment in education and learning; (iv) access to decent work for youth (employability and employment); (v) civic and political participation; and (vi) protection and safety (child labour, child marriage, gender-based violence, homicide and violence).



C. Methodology

26. The methodology adopted in the consultancy conducted by Mata'afa Dr Desmond U. Amosa included personal interviews, a questionnaire, group meetings/dialogue, desk research and literature review, and a stakeholders' workshop. The review gathered quantitative and qualitative data from both primary and secondary sources and involved Youth Focal Ministries and youth development stakeholders from SPC member countries and territories. Discussions with SPC's Social Development Programme led to the decision to use a questionnaire as the main data collection tool in the countries and territories not selected to be visited.
27. Field research was conducted in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, and Solomon Islands. Case studies undertaken in these four countries, together with a desk review and questionnaire conducted on the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Tonga provided insight into the progress made towards the four strategic outcomes in the PYDF, challenges experienced, lessons learned and the way forward, and led to the recommendations. The questionnaire was linked directly to the objectives of the mid-term review: progress made by each country and territory towards the PYDF outcomes; initiatives implemented; gaps and challenges encountered; and lessons and good practices learned. A stakeholders' workshop was planned to test the conclusions and recommendations following the mid-term review; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not held.
28. To validate the report's findings and conclusions following the pandemic, a desk review and stakeholder consultations were conducted, engaging youth leaders and other key stakeholders, to ensure the revised report provided an accurate assessment of the current state of PYDF implementation and issues facing youth in 2021. Given the internal changes within SPC and the closure of the programme which had supported the PYC coordinator post, the revisions to the mid-term review report also highlighted how oversight of the PYDF would be maintained in the future.

D. Findings

This section provides key findings from the mid-term review conducted in 2019 together with additional issues uncovered with the inclusion of two more countries.

D.1 OVERVIEW

29. Youth or young people aged 15–24 years make up approximately 20% of the population and, for many years, the region has been described as having a “youth bulge” which impacts national development and must be taken into consideration when countries and territories prepare national plans and budgets. The following table shows the population projections for the region in 2021.

Sex	Male	Male	Female	Female	Total	Total
Age	15–24	% aged 15–24	15–24	% aged 15–24	15–24	% aged 15–24
Pacific region	1,196,900	18.6%	1,091,800	17.9%	2,288,000	18.2%
Melanesia	1,088,000	18.7%	989,800	18.0%	2,077,700	18.4%
Fiji	74,717	16.4%	70,862	16.0%	145,580	16.2%
New Caledonia	21,241	15.5%	20,491	15.0%	41,734	15.2%
Papua New Guinea	888,841	18.9%	799,329	18.1%	1,688,169	18.5%
Solomon Islands	74,783	20.3%	72,475	20.1%	147,257	20.2%
Vanuatu	28,402	18.7%	26,684	17.8%	55,088	18.3%
Micronesia	49,130	17.7%	46,420	17.3%	95,540	17.5%
Guam	14,309	15.8%	13,473	15.4%	27,783	15.6%
Kiribati	10,980	18.4%	10,799	17.6%	21,779	18.0%
Marshall Islands	6,394	23.1%	5,810	21.7%	12,204	22.4%
FSM	10,359	19.1%	9,607	18.6%	19,965	18.9%
Nauru	1,091	18.2%	1,054	18.1%	2,145	18.1%
Northern Mariana Islands	4,815	16.4%	4,554	16.6%	9,369	16.5%
Palau	1,177	12.4%	1,122	13.2%	2,296	12.8%
Polynesia	59,800	17.4%	55,530	16.7%	115,330	17.0%
American Samoa	6,011	20.7%	5,369	19.2%	11,379	20.0%
Cook Islands	1,245	16.6%	1,203	15.4%	2,448	16.0%
French Polynesia	21,624	15.2%	20,585	14.9%	42,212	15.1%
Niue	95	13.0%	121	14.9%	217	14.0%
Samoa	19,133	18.6%	17,380	17.9%	36,513	18.3%
Tokelau	141	18.7%	129	17.1%	267	17.8%
Tonga	9,738	19.6%	9,049	18.1%	18,788	18.9%
Tuvalu	919	16.7%	837	16.2%	1,758	16.5%
Wallis and Futuna	891	16.3%	859	14.5%	1,749	15.4%

Source: SPC

30. The following table highlights initiatives across all four PYDF priority outcome areas that are being pursued by government agencies, NGOs, CSOs and faith-based organisations. This information has been extracted from the country briefs included in Annex 2.
31. While the level of action varies between countries, there is evidence of government partnerships with other stakeholders. In some cases, funding has been provided through the national budget while, in others, funding and technical support has been provided by external development partners. Despite the alignment between the national programmes and the PYDF, there appears to be a general lack of awareness of the regional PYDF in the broader community in all countries.

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas
Fiji
<p>1. Decent employment Free education provided at the secondary level with a free bus fare policy help address the problem of low attendance in schools around the country.</p> <p>Scholarship and loan schemes assist youth who have completed secondary studies to encourage post-secondary and vocational training. The schemes are now implemented by the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board, which was established in 2014.</p> <p>To address youth entrepreneurship, the Government introduced a capacity-building and empowerment programme and a youth grant scheme. Five training centres have been established across the country to build the skills of youth, particularly those who are unemployed and outside the education system, to contribute to their communities and to find employment. Training is central to capacity-building, targeting agriculture, carpentry, massage, cookery, customer service, engine repair, and music.</p> <p>The youth grant scheme assists individual youth and youth clubs in areas including youth empowerment, entrepreneurship development, and livelihood opportunities. The scheme has two key objectives: (i) strengthen networking and partnership between CSOs and the ministry; and (ii) elevate and strengthen youth development work in Fiji.</p> <p>The National Employment Centre (NEC) seeks to match unemployed youth to job opportunities in the country. It has seven outlets across the country where unemployed youth can register and receive training to become more marketable in the job market.</p>
<p>2. Health and well-being Universal mental health and well-being services are provided by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) and by NGOs, which generally focus on suicide.</p> <p>MHMS introduced policies and guidelines to improve SRHR, including for young people. These include: the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV Policy (2013–2016); tuberculosis (TB)/HIV Collaborative Policy; HIV Testing Strategy in Fiji; HIV Care and Antiretroviral Therapy Guidelines; and HIV Testing and Counselling Policy.</p> <p>The Rural Sport Facilities Development Programme, introduced by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), aims to improve young people's nutrition and physical activity. Through this initiative, young people are encouraged to stay in rural areas or return from urban areas to their villages and to stay physically active in sports.</p>
<p>3. Governance and empowerment The Fiji National Youth Council (FNVC), established in 2013, is considered a primary mechanism for young people to influence decision-making in government and other institutions. The MYS Youth Division provides a formal channel for youth to be heard by the government.</p> <p>Through its annual budget, the Government allocates funds to youth development. While the allocation may be considered inadequate, other sectors (e.g. education, health) also have funding that encompasses youth services within universal coverage.</p> <p>MYS works with youth groups around the country on development projects.</p>
<p>4. Environmental action There are no specific initiatives directly engaging youth in addressing food and water security. However, support for youth entrepreneurship indirectly ensures food security by generating income for youth and their families.</p> <p>MYS, in partnership with a Japanese NGO, the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, works with youth clubs on a project, the Youth Coastal Care Clubs, supporting youth to replant mangroves and to develop climate resilience.</p> <p>MYS is seeking accreditation for its curriculum on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (Certificate 1) from the Fiji Board of Education. If successful, the curriculum will be offered to youth via the five youth training centres of MYS.</p>

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas
FSM
<p>1. Decent employment The College of Micronesia, Pohnpei Campus, Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) specialises in agriculture, construction and mechanics. The school admits students from throughout Micronesia. The CTEC offers degrees and certificates in vocational, hospitality and tourism management. In 2019, the CTEC opened a new Center for Entrepreneurship to support the Pohnpei business community and grow the island's economy through business startups, expansion, job creation and retention, and youth, women, and veteran entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Government youth programmes generally entail training for young people in research and development of innovative youth programmes, capacity-building and institutional strengthening initiatives, networks and collaboration among youth organisations, seminars and conferences on youth issues, and special counselling services.</p>
<p>2. Health and well-being The United States Work Force Investment Act provides funding for job corps, vocational education and apprenticeship programmes for both adults and youth.</p> <p>In the 1990s, the FSM Government established a post in the Department of Health and Social Affairs to address youth issues, coordinate programmes, and provide funding and technical assistance.</p> <p>Each year, USD 297,492 is provided to implement comprehensive sexuality education including healthy lifestyles, parent-child communication, and healthy relationships in all of the states.</p>
<p>3. Governance and empowerment Churches and both Boy and Girl Scouts play a significant role in organising youth programmes.</p> <p>Micronesia Bound Inc. is based on the Outward-Bound School concept to instill trust, self-confidence and self-esteem in young people.</p> <p>The Micronesian Red Cross Society has a Youth and Community Development Program which emphasises family and community, small business development, and citizenship.</p> <p>The Micronesia Youth Development Association, founded in 1996, advanced youth development and has conducted youth conferences (now known as the FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference) in each of the FSM states.</p> <p>Since 2012, each State has hired a full-time youth coordinator within the Office of Social or Community Affairs. The coordinator oversees and implements activities under the FSM Youth Policy. In 2017, President Christian endorsed the NYP, which was launched in 2019.</p>
<p>4. Environmental action Between 2010 and 2020, the FSM Government and UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme invested over USD 3 million to address climate change issues.</p>

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas
Kiribati
<p>1. Decent employment The Government targets four policy areas: education and skills-building; economic empowerment; health and safety; and social cohesion and civic participation.</p> <p>The church is involved in youth development, with an emphasis on spirituality. Some communities also form youth groups to help improve household conditions and other basic needs.</p> <p>Access to secondary school is free for young people. A student loan scheme targets eligible youth willing to study at the University of the South Pacific (USP); students are only required to repay the loan if they do not complete the programme successfully.</p> <p>Since 2017, the Development Bank of Kiribati has facilitated a loan scheme to help redress youth unemployment. Youth can apply for AUD 500 to start a small business, at an interest rate of 3%. Several training programmes are also available to improve youth skills and knowledge and, in turn, their employability. Life-skills training prepares youth for life challenges and empowers them to make strategic decisions. Agricultural skills training is also offered, with support from the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) and the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>
<p>2. Health and well-being The Kiribati Ministry of Health is the authority responsible for youth mental health in the country. The national hospital in Tarawa has a mental health ward for youth and others experiencing mental health challenges. A toll-free helpline is also available.</p> <p>At the time of review, MWYSSA, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was implementing a SRHR programme.</p> <p>Although schools and communities advocate for youth – and all – to engage regularly in sports and physical activities, a specific programme does not target this outcome.</p>
<p>3. Governance and empowerment Young people's involvement and influence in decision-making processes are facilitated via: the Youth Parliament and a special seat for a youth representative in the 23 national councils.</p> <p>The MWYSSA Division of Youth is the only government investment specifically targeting youth. Other sectors provide universal services, but it is not clear how funding is allocated for youth.</p>
<p>4. Environmental action The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) has developed capacity-building plans and provided training for youth clubs, with topics on food and water security and climate change and adaptation.</p> <p>Young Kiribatians are actively involved in capacity-building programmes on sustainable environmental practices.</p>

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas
Marshall Islands
<p>1. Decent employment Youth Corps, a carpentry project at the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), conducts employment preparedness training programmes for youth. In collaboration with the local construction company, Pacific International Incorporated (PII), Youth Corps trained youth in carpentry and all 30 trainees who completed the course were certified and secured employment with PII.</p> <p>CMI, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Ministry of Transportation, has trained future engineers among crews on fleets for sustainable sea transport with the aim to help meet the country's global climate goal. One training programme was on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW), a basic safety at sea training. Other training programmes have included: canoe-building; solar PV; handicraft-making; and net-making. Some training is conducted in coordination with the National Training Council (NTC).</p> <p>The Regional Education Lab has offered a mathematics transition programme whereby CMI instructors mentor public high school teachers.</p> <p>The Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) hired 200 youth to conduct the 2021 census. EPPSO also offers internship programmes in Majuro and Ebeye.</p> <p>The NTC offers several youth training programmes and oversaw development of the National Action Plan on Youth Employment (2017–2019), with guidance by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Steering Committee and technical support by the International Labour Organization (ILO).</p> <p>WAM (WAAN AELON IN MAJOL) offers training programmes and internships for youth on traditional canoe-making.</p> <p>In 2019, USP data indicated that, of its 182 graduates in senior and middle management service roles in the national workforce, 120 are in the public sector or serving in embassies and 62 are in the private sector, including family businesses.</p>
<p>2. Health and well-being The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) is the sole health provider in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Equally accessible to all youth, it promotes human services and offers substance abuse prevention awareness programmes at schools and local communities, as well as mental health counselling, reproductive health information, counselling and support, sexually transmitted infection (STI)/HIV prevention programmes, immunisation campaigns, and COVID-19 awareness, preparedness, and vaccine administration.</p> <p>RMI maintains the highest rates of teenage pregnancy, STIs, and high school dropout. Although emphasis is needed on prevention, particularly at home and in youth communities, some schools do not allow MOHHS to discuss sex education with students due to cultural taboos and religious teachings.</p> <p>CMI offers a well-developed nursing programme, a small gym, health and wellness committee, and a healthy lifestyle programme (Taekwondo classes, nutrition classes/workshops, gym, nursing programme-practicum, sports, New Year, New Me programme).</p> <p>Single State Agency (SSA) focuses on substance abuse prevention via awareness-raising programmes, and partners with local churches on substance abuse prevention.</p> <p>Youth to Youth in Health employs youth in health awareness activities (STI/HIV/AIDS counselling, psychological first aid, substance abuse prevention, treatment and counselling and school intervention).</p> <p>The Red Cross Society of the Marshall Islands conducts First Aid and CPR training, and implements health interventions during outbreaks or pandemics (e.g. TB and dengue fever response, COVID-19 Moderna vaccine administration). The Red Cross Society hires youth volunteers, and most training graduates successfully enter the workforce.</p> <p>USP promotes healthy lifestyles and provides a non-smoking campus. On Fridays, students engage in sports activities (volleyball, tennis, canoe paddling).</p>
<p>3. Governance and empowerment CMI has a student body association, with its own elected leaders and a representative in the President's Executive Council, which meets monthly with the CMI President.</p> <p>SSA supports neglected youth via life skills-building programmes which empower youth and build their skills to advocate effectively and pursue education at a higher level.</p> <p>Youth to Youth in Health offers social activities, community engagement, leadership training, and community outreach and advocacy support.</p> <p>The Red Cross Society of the Marshall Islands has a seat reserved for youth on its national board.</p> <p>USP engages student representatives through its student council.</p>
<p>4. Environmental action CMI has an Environment Club and a Nuclear Club, which undertake community service clean-ups, in collaboration with EPPSO. To play volleyball, club members need to pick up five pieces of trash. The Reimaanlok – Looking into the Future project aims to strengthen natural resource management in the RMI. The RMI R2R project aims to sustain atoll biodiversity and livelihoods by building community and ecosystem resilience to threats via the integrated management of terrestrial and coastal resources in priority atolls/islands.</p> <p>SSA teaches about caring for the environment and conducts community clean-ups.</p> <p>Jo-Jikum offers youth development programmes. (i) The six-month youth empowerment programme, Earth Champions (2018), transforms local youth leaders into community changemakers via capacity-building training and small grants. (ii) The one-week Climate Change Arts Camp provides education on climate change, waste, coral bleaching, and weaving to 30 high school students from Majuro. (iii) The Digital Storytellers Collective provides training for youth aged 18–25 years, after which they collect stories related to climate change from the local people of their villages using cameras and phones. (iv) The Jo-Jikum Internship, funded by the National Training Council and CMI, provides youth aged 18–25 years who have completed high school with year-long practical experience.</p> <p>Participants in Youth to Youth in Health and the Red Cross Society engage in community clean-up campaigns.</p> <p>USP organises a TVET climate change programme, with a certificate in resilience, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. USP also has a bachelor's and master's degree programme on climate change, and its Pacific Youth Leaders of Today programme organises beach and park clean-ups.</p>

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas

Samoa

1. Decent employment

The Scholarship Committee and the Samoa Qualification Authority offer free secondary schooling with scholarships for post-secondary studies. The scholarships target young people from low-income families who are accepted to vocational programmes at the National University of Samoa and other post-secondary education and training (PSET) providers in Samoa.

A TVET Support Fund, established under the Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA), assists young people from economically vulnerable families.

In partnership with UNDP and other UN agencies, the Ministry of Women, Community Services and Development (MWCSO) implemented the Samoa One-UN Youth Employment Program (YEP). Since 2015, the YEP (i) internship for youth seeking employment has engaged approximately 150 youth, of whom 110 have been employed after completion of the programme. Its (ii) Small Business Incubator promotes entrepreneurship, targeting youth and sometimes engaging other family members outside the youth age range; with 90 families assisted, around 60% has had viable businesses. The (iii) skill-matching initiative sponsors youth to enrol in programmes of their choice offered by PSET programmes in the country. Once completed, participants are placed in the internship programme in order to increase their employability.

The Development Bank of Samoa introduced a grant scheme in 2017, which was discontinued in 2018. A Youth Co:Lab, which is being developed, aims to link youth already in business with other youth beyond the region (e.g. in Asia) to develop a trading network.

An E-Youth Hub, facilitated by the Samoa National Youth Council (SNYC) and funded by UNDP, was introduced in 2015 and offers a youth-friendly employment service to young Samoans by linking registered youth with employment opportunities in the country. In 2019, the project was on hold and the findings of a project review suggested transferring the project to MWCSO.

2. Health and well-being

The Ministry of Health (MoH) provides universal mental health services, while NGOs provide toll-free counselling services to young people.

MoH focuses on preventing STIs as part of its routine services, which are made available by hospitals around the country. MWCSO, in partnership with the Samoa Family Health Association and Samoa AIDS Foundation, provides clinics that target youth under the Village Sexual and Reproductive Health Program (VSRHP). UNFPA supports this programme with STD 127,000 annual contributions.

The MoH provides services that include one-to-one counselling sessions, awareness-raising workshops and promotional awareness-raising materials. While not targeting youth specifically, the majority of people using the services are young people.

3. Governance and empowerment

The youth development model in Samoa brings together the Government, village and church: The Government focuses on youth employment, health and education; the village sets cultural targets; and the church supports individual and community spirituality.

The *Tua-i-le-Vao-Ola* National Community Economic Development Strategy 2019–2024, which replaced the 2015–2019 NYP, represents the main policy for the Government and its stakeholders to promote youth development in Samoa; the strategy aims to improve the economic status of communities by increasing youth employment.

Village governance offers a place for youth. Each village includes three distinctive bodies – the village council (*pulega a ali'i ma faipule*), women's committee (*auluma*) and untitled men (*taulele'a or aumaga*). The village council is the main authority supported by the women's committee and untitled men. Male youth are primarily represented in the untitled men's group, while young women are in the women's committee. Some youth are also in the village council, which offers them an opportunity to learn their culture and traditions. Almost every church in each village has an "autalavou" or youth group, which aims to nurture the spiritual life of youth.

Established in 2011, the SNYC aims to influence government, development partners and other stakeholders' decision-making processes on issues pertaining to youth development. The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO) also advocates for the rights of youth and helps influence government decision-making on matters concerning youth development.

The Government and development partners have provided financial assistance to MWCSO for youth development, although it is difficult to calculate government investment specifically targeting youth development due to the restructuring of MWCSO in 2015. Other sectors (agriculture, education, health, justice, policing, prisons) all offer services that benefit young people; as these services also target others outside the youth age group, however, it is difficult to determine the precise allotment of resources directed to youth.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) previously was the only government authority working with youth on national development. In 2019, a project was launched to work with youth groups around the country on climate resilience. A second project, led by the Samoa Conservation Society, a NGO specialised in the conservation of Samoa's biological diversity and natural heritage, also engaged youth in national development programmes.

4. Environmental action

The Farm to Table project, funded by UNDP, in partnership with Women in Business Development Incorporated, is perhaps the most relevant initiative under this outcome. The focus of the programme is to give youth the opportunity to engage in organic farming and sell their produce to hotels, restaurants and other businesses, while securing food for their families and communities.

Most programmes of the MNRE that target the environment and climate change are universal. However, there is a Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) that aims to build the capacity of youth throughout the country to support the resilience of the marine sector. This includes establishing and protecting fisheries reserves and mangrove conservation. The project is for two years and MNRE is the main implementing agency working in partnership with the Youth Climate Action Network.

The Samoa Conservation Society engages youth from three villages in southern Upolu. The Samoa Climate Smart Rainforest Restoration employs 30 youth to plant native trees in the national park, with the aim to restore rainforest and increase forest resilience to climate change.

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas

Solomon Islands

1. Decent employment

The Solomon Islands free education policy, introduced under the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, is limited to the primary level. However, many young people, particularly young girls, are not able to complete secondary school. The Government and donor countries offer scholarships to study at USP and universities in Australia and New Zealand. However, the limited number of scholarships means many young people are unable to access post-secondary education and vocational training.

The NYP 2017–2030 sets the direction for the Government and development partners for youth employment and entrepreneurship.

The National Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Strategy provides career pathways and entrepreneurship opportunities through internships for local, regional and international jobs and through entrepreneurship capacity-building programmes for youth in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, tourism and trade.

The Youth employment, empowerment and young entrepreneurs programme (YEEYEP) supports youth entrepreneurship by providing start-up financial support and capacity-building activities to improve the knowledge and skills of young potential entrepreneurs in basic business management and administrative skills.

The Youth@Work Programme (Y@W), launched in 2012 with SPC support, assists young people to gain skills and improve their long-term economic prospects through internship placements for employment or entrepreneurship. Funded by the Government with SPC support, in collaboration with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Queen's Young Leaders Funding, UNDP and Plan International, the programme was redesigned in 2017 to prepare its handover to the Government. A 2015 independent evaluation resulted in upscaling its resources and geographic coverage.

Both the YEEYEP and the Y@W programmes provide capacity-building and internship support that link young people to employment opportunities.

2. Health and well-being

The NYP 2017–2030, a commitment of the Government to address mental and psycho-social health issues (including drug abuse and suicide), emphasises the mental health of young people in the country. Services, which are centralised and offered primarily to those with acute mental health challenges, are provided by the National Hospital's Psychiatric Unit.

SRHR and teenage pregnancy are emerging challenges facing young people in the country. MHMS provides universal SRHR services in partnership with the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association, which has been in operation since 2008 providing SRHR services to young people at four Youth Health and Social Centers in Honiara and three provinces.

The MHMS focus on nutrition targets newborns and children. While youth can access nutrition services, related MHMS programmes in the provinces mainly target mothers and children rather than young people.

3. Governance and empowerment

Initiatives that aim to strengthen representative structures for young people include the leadership and empowerment component of the Y@W project. Youth empowerment programmes for young people living in Honiara, provided by the Honiara City Council, include youth volunteer attachments, workshops and training, and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Solomon Islands National Youth Congress and Provincial Youth Councils have other initiatives in place to support representative structures for young people.

The universal nature of services provided by all sectors of government makes it difficult to determine how much government investment supports youth development. The only government investment specifically targeting youth appears to be for the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MYCFA).

4. Environmental action

In early 2019, SPC and the Government formally agreed to implement a three-year programme to address food security. While the programme does not specifically target youth, a significant number of young people were expected to participate in it.

The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) engages youth in Honiara to take a lead role in cleaning up the Mataniko River and reducing contamination through effective waste management practices. Local youth are targeted to take a lead role in applying waste management practices learned in training and to advocate for such practices in the community.

The Y@W builds the capacity of youth to take a lead role in addressing climate change. MECDM also engages youth in projects in Honiara and other provinces to develop the skills needed to lead climate change adaptation in their communities.

MECDM oversees over 50 donor- and government-funded projects, most of which are directly linked to sustainable environmental practices. While there is no specific mention of the involvement of young people in many of these projects, the authorities are confident that young people are involved in some stages of these projects.

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas

Tonga

1. Decent employment

Youth unemployment in Tonga is four times higher than adult unemployment and particularly affects young women. To counter this, Tonga joined New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme and Australia's Pacific Seasonal Worker scheme.

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET) reinforced Education Act 2013 (effective 2020), which sets the compulsory age for education in Tonga at 4–18 years, ensuring young people are better equipped for a future career and increasing their chances of employment. MET also partners with Tonga Skills, an investment of the Australian Government, to provide entrepreneurial and enterprise development support to all ages, including young people.

In the last decade, the Tonga National Youth Council (TNYC), with funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) MFAT, OXFAM and New Zealand, has led the young farmers' programme in virgin oil and vanilla exports to help combat youth unemployment and school dropout and to support entrepreneurship.

The Talitha Project provides economic empowerment programmes to young adolescent girls. Naunau 'o e 'Alamaite Tonga Association works with persons with disabilities, developing their craft and sewing skills to improve their job prospects.

Takiama Ma'a Tonga, established in 2013 to provide coaching, research, and mentoring programmes, seeks to address school dropout rates. By the end of 2016, they had profiled over 3,000 school dropouts but lacked the funding to implement programmes.

In 2014, Tonga Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship was established with a mandate to address youth unemployment. It provides employment services, entrepreneurship initiatives and work readiness training alongside mentorship.

On the Spot, Seleka International, Nuku'alofa and ICON Creative Summit provide community art trainings for hundreds of young people throughout Tonga.

All churches have youth branches where young people are encouraged in entrepreneurship with bazaars, market days, self-reliance trainings, and formal education.

Some communities are also supported through youth councils, and some villages have established themselves as NGOs in order to be able to seek funding.

2. Health and well-being

The 2019 *Tonga Youth Thematic Report* noted that youth in adolescence "also mark the first manifestations of issues which can have lifelong effects on health and well-being, such as unsafe sexual behaviour, early childbearing and substance misuse".

In its *Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability Report*, the Ministry of Health noted that "only two facilities within Tonga can be said to provide adolescent and youth-friendly services according to global standards".

Health interventions are implemented by government and community-based organisations (CBOs) to ensure good health and well-being among youth. A recent increase in drug-related crimes have gained attention and commitment from the Government to tackle illicit drugs through its Ministry of Police and stakeholders.

The Government has put in place taskforces and cluster groups to help with water and sanitation projects throughout Tonga.

Leading in the community efforts for health are the Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA), Talitha Project, Tonga Leitis Association, the Salvation Army, Breakthrough Nation Tonga, Tonga Red Cross, Tonga Community Development Trust (TCDT) and Tonga Health Promotion Foundation (Tonga Health). TFHA provides clinical health services, counselling, and far-reaching awareness programmes through its youth drama group, Fili Tonu, informing young people of SRHR. Tonga Red Cross offers first aid training and health promotion to all ages, particularly persons with disabilities. TCDT promotes family gardens, organic fertilisers, farming, and non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention via healthy eating and living in rural communities. The Talitha Project oversees the My Body My Rights programme for young girls addressing gender-based violence and SRHR issues for over a decade. Tonga Leitis Association raises awareness of STIs, HIV/AIDS, and other SRHR issues and conducts regular check-ups for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), and intersex plus (LGBTQI+) community. Tonga Health programmes address NCD problems with healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco control and the reduction of harm from alcohol misuse. The Salvation Army is the only body in Tonga providing alcohol and drug counselling and rehabilitation programmes. Breakthrough Nation offers free Zumba classes throughout Tonga, promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles.

There remains a lack of mental health awareness programmes and related clinical services. Not only is there a lack of data, cultural stigma discourages young people from discussing mental health challenges until it is too late. There is only one expert medical doctor in the psychiatric unit at the hospital; due to limited capacity and professional staff, people with severe cases are prioritised. Suicide remains an issue among youth.

3. Governance and empowerment

Efforts to support young people in governance include increased engagement in parliament discussions and processes, development of the NYP, and increased consultations and engagement between government and civil society partners.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga hosted two Youth Parliaments (2018, 2020). Tonga Youth Parliament (TYP) empowered youth representatives to present issues directly impacting the youth they represent.

The youth-led NGO, GOSHCRY, was established in 2015 to train young people to understand, avoid becoming victims of, and stand up against corruption. Its members partnered with donors, media, and members of Parliament to lobby and discuss the Anti-corruption Standing Committee within Parliament, although GOSHCRY discontinued its activities in 2017.

In 2018, a new NGO, Tonga Youth Leaders, was established and led by all young people, who partnered with donor agencies and Parliament to publish the first ever Youth Voter Education Handbook, run the Girls Take Over Parliament, She Leads programme, and train young women on budget and political processes. As part of their mentorship programmes, young people have been mentored by prominent leaders in Tonga, including the Speaker of Parliament, CEOs, and educators. Together with TNYC, the Talitha Project engages in voter and civic education as part of its political and leadership participation programmes. Of the two youth-led organisations focused on governance, one is no longer in place and the other changed its name and area of focus to include more people in the diaspora and expand its reach beyond the youth population.

4. Environmental action

Through 350.org Tonga, which seeks to reduce carbon emissions from 400 to 350, youth have led national climate strikes, an annual "no car day", and beach and waterfront clean-ups.

The No Pelesitiki (No Plastic) Campaign advocates for plastics to be banned in Tonga, plastic trash to be picked up regularly along the waterfront, and youth champions to help in caring for the environment.

The Tonga Red Cross has led disaster risk management and climate change efforts among civil society for many years.

TCDT raises awareness and promotes solar energy throughout Tonga.

CARITAS Tonga has led climate change adaptation, resilience, and rehabilitation programmes, successfully securing water tanks for communities, building houses after natural disasters, and engaging youth in climate change initiatives.

PYDF Priority Outcome Areas

Vanuatu

1. Decent employment

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (MYSD) promotes youth leadership in the workplace by supporting youth with internships. For example, youth volunteers were involved in research on child protection circulated by the Ministry of Justice and Community Services.

The NYC conducts a variety of programmes, including International Youth Day where youth representatives from each province attend a week-long awareness programme offered by different organisations, ministries and private businesses. The NYC Youth Economic Empowerment Forum empowers youth and links them to networks to further their business careers. NYC also provides internships to youth.

Ntalpuk Ning Epang Faum Association (NNEFA) uses its networks to find opportunities for its target groups in environmental, economic, spiritual or social areas. It equips youth with skills that can help secure employment. NNEFA also started a mentorship programme, coaching youth and building their skills for future opportunities.

Nakor Alaam Association (NAA) runs short programmes to raise awareness and share relevant information with the community. NAA offers peace and security and behaviour change awareness to ensure positive well-being and a happier, healthier community.

Tongoa Shepherd's Women's Association (TSWA) advocacy campaigns target women and youth and include women in leadership and good governance. Women showcase their skills (to weave mats, bags, and dishes) while promoting their cultural identity and earning income to support their families and communities.

The Sowers Club Association encourages and supports youth to promote their talents and skills by setting up small businesses (painted pillowcases, bedsheets, calico/dresses, sewing/tailoring).

Those chosen to participate in the V/Lab programme undergo business trainings (coaching, skills training). V/Lab also conducts networking events for entrepreneurship, linking and building relationships between clients.

Vpride offers employment services and training to youth seeking experience to find employment, providing the space for them to feel safe and build their confidence in the workplace.

The Wan Smol Bag Centre provides youth with skills and experience to secure employment. Art classes promote individual skills and enable individuals to make a living with these skills by starting small businesses to support themselves and gain independence.

Through partnerships, Youth Challenge Vanuatu (YCV) has provided youth with skill-building trainings. Youth entrepreneurship is promoted through the YCV Ready For Business programmes, providing support and mentorships to business students who attend business management coaching and mentoring and receive a start-up fund to start their respective businesses. Ready For Work provides youth employment services, allowing selected youth to partake in two- to three-month internships and, subsequently, to be considered for available jobs.

The Vanuatu Surfer's Association (VSA) Solwota Sista programme is a women-led initiative, which promotes girls/women in leadership, provides training, and encourages girls to play sports. Youth members have gone to Tanna and benefited from a unique learning and teaching opportunity.

2. Health and well-being

UNFPA funds support youth well-being activities. MYSD is the main channel that guides youth organisations, like the Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNYC), to better support and promote youth well-being. Programmes include: media advocacy in promoting youth SRHR (family planning, family life education); development of the first Youth Development Index; establishment of a youth data registration system to improve access for youth stakeholders/sector on youth information and data; and the organisation of a SRHR Policy Climate Forum.

NNEFA provides participatory hygiene and sanitation training, encouraging community resilience and ensuring improved livelihoods to help communities understand how keeping clean and healthy shapes positive development.

The NAA coordinator specialises in psycho-social support and mental health, including through behaviour change advocacy.

The Tomas Savot Youth Association (TSYA) raises community awareness on HIV and STIs, teenage pregnancy, and family planning, improving SRHR knowledge. Similarly, the Sowers Club Association advocates for SRHR. Vpride raises health awareness, including on STIs and HIV/AIDS, and provides rapid tests for the LGBTQI+ community, helping ensure community members are protected and aware of risks. Other activities promote self-care and well-being, while physical activities (Zumba, volleyball) offer social and networking opportunities. The Kam Pusum Head Clinic, operated by the Wan Smol Bag Centre, provides a health clinic and raises awareness on STIs, HIV/AIDS, and family planning.

The Healthy Kakai programme promotes nutritious food, including through a canteen, and a healthy lifestyle through sports activities offered at the Wan Smol Bag Youth Centre. Discussions on mental health and well-being, SRHR and nutrition and physical activity are all encouraged at the YCV. Through YCV trainings, networks and partnerships, including the Ministry of Health, Wan Smol Bag and other organisations, youth gain knowledge and skills on a healthy lifestyle.

3. Governance and empowerment

Through partnerships, such as with VNYC, MYSD programmes are rolled out directly involving youth across all sectors nationally. Programmes include the Inter-Secondary School Games with potential for involvement in the National Games and the Melanesian Athletics Championship.

The NYC ensures that its Youth Councils effectively engage youth around Vanuatu. Cultural programmes (Ship For World Youth, in partnership with Japan) engage youth regionally and internationally. The Youth Parliament, also organised by the NYC, directly empowers youth as parliamentarians, building their skills and experience as leaders.

NNEFA ensures its target groups participate in networks that influence change, including the Vanuatu Civil Society Influencing Network which promotes women in leadership in platforms, such as political spaces and environmental platforms. Small clubs and youth groups are also encouraged to actively engage in development.

NAA supports its target groups to contribute positively to development through networking. These include NAA's involvement in climate change action via the Vanuatu Climate Action Network and the Vanuatu Youth Livelihood Network, which support CSOs to engage in regional and global forums.

An affiliate network of TSWA, the Kokoreko Youth Association, is youth-led. Youth groups are engaged and supported via TSWA advocacy campaigns and actively engaged in development through small-scale businesses, climate action or related campaigns.

The Sowers Club Association also collaborates with other networks to support youth.

Vpride members participate actively in platforms or spaces that promote development, as well as influential networks in the region. Vpride was part of a Climate Flash Mob, organised by the Vanuatu Climate Action Network in collaboration with the Pacific Climate Action Network, advocating for leaders to act now on behalf of small islands.

Youth at the Wan Smol Bag Centre are encouraged to participate in spaces that foster their understanding and build their skills, empowering them to make a positive difference, including by influencing policy.

YCV is open to anyone who helps empower and support those in need of training, employment or information on services. As the only youth centre, organisations invite youth from the centre to represent youth at high-level events. YCV youth also serve as volunteers at Oxfam Vanuatu and Save the Children and within government ministries.

4. Environmental action

The MYSD supports youth leading environmental action in food and water security, climate change adaptation and management, and sustainable environment. The NYC is involved in Climate Change Networks and promotes youth engagement and leadership in developing climate change solutions. NNEFA supports climate change awareness and environmental campaigns, including youth-led coastal beach clean-ups, tree-planting and community clean-up activities. NAA engages in climate action (roadside clean-up, tree-planting) and climate awareness programmes via networking and direct implementation, empowering youth as agents of change who can make a difference. The Kokoreko Youth Association, in affiliation with TSWA, engages in waste management practices, encouraging youth to take positive steps and demonstrate leadership in climate action.

TSYA members live in a peri-urban area, including an over-crowded settlement, and see firsthand the consequence of pollution. As land and sea pollution are major issues, the TSYA youth regularly participate in clean-up campaigns to keep their environment clean and to engage and educate their peers on the importance of taking a lead and making a change. The Eraniao Youth Council engages in environmental activities in which youth groups can participate to promote the well-being of their natural environment. The Sowers Club Association organises regular road clean-ups with youth engagement, promoting youth environmental leadership and showing the community the need to work as a team to create the environment desired.

Innovation through, for example, sustainable business ideas and support is encouraged in the V/Lab entrepreneurship programme, promoting environmentally friendly business ventures and recognising that a solution can both make money and protect the environment.

Vpride is involved in initiatives that conserve and protect our environment. The sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (SOGIE) community is continuously striving to become better leaders by engaging in small climate action events to contribute positively to change. The Wan Smol Bag Centre utilises awareness-raising and drama, encouraging the public to reflect on global climate change issues. YCV networks with youth in climate change workshops, awareness-raising events and parades/marches in Port Vila, informing them of environmental issues and empowering them as leaders.

The VSA Solwota Sista programme is actively engaged in activities that help protect the environment. As part of Mama's Laef Organization, the programme encourages safe environmental products and engages daily in mangrove planting along the coasts and coral planting to protect the sea habitat and build more reefs.

32. The country briefs in Annex 2 highlight similar challenges to those identified in the 2011 review of the former Pacific Youth Policy. Ten years on, there remains a need to: (i) identify **appropriate, sustainable regional coordinating strategies** to scale up programmes targeting key youth populations; (ii) implement country-specific systems and processes to improve data collection and analysis as well as the design, planning and budgeting of programmes for youth development; and (iii) strengthen partnerships and coordination between governments and internal and external stakeholders to increase national and regional funding for youth development.
33. Despite the challenges that remain, progress is evident in the consultations in 2019 and the follow-up review of relevant documents. There has been an increased focus on education, training and expanded efforts to ensure young people have the tools to better meet the needs of employers and the skills to start their own business as entrepreneurs. It is apparent that the region's youth are passionate about key issues impacting the region, including environmental protection, climate change and sea level rise, and disaster response. This has increased youth commitment to volunteerism.
34. The **social and economic impacts of the COVID-19** pandemic were experienced across the region throughout 2020–2021, notably in New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and French Polynesia where infection rates were difficult to control, restrictions and lockdown measures led to significant losses in employment, and interrupted education stifled progress among adolescents and young people. While efforts were made to minimise education disruptions, poverty-stricken students and those living in the outer islands, and rural and remote communities were severely disadvantaged due to the lack of access to the Internet, computers, and other communication devices and the home environment often was not conducive to learning, thus impacting their ability to learn from home. As the economies return to normal, competition for jobs was anticipated to increase, making it even more difficult for recent school leavers to join the job market. For younger students, the disruption in education in locations where school closures were in place for most of 2021 caused them to fall further behind, reducing their opportunities for further studies and making their future participation in training for employment or entrepreneurship more difficult.
35. The pandemic has further strained socio-economic stresses on families and young people. Evidence and feedback from government agencies and NGOs highlight an uptick in mental health concerns, suicide, drug and alcohol use.

36. **Youth issues are generally invisible** and those who are **marginalised are further marginalised** by a lack of targeted programming. As noted in the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report, the patterns of adolescent and youth development vary widely across the Pacific. The country briefs show that, while efforts are being made to address the specific concerns of the most marginalised in the youth population, it is difficult to identify programmes targeting the marginalised as most health, education and other services are delivered universally. Where governments have established a ministry/division to focus on youth development, the role is often reduced to a coordinating function with limited programming role/resources. Youth ministries/divisions tend to focus on strengthening internal partnerships with line ministries and coordinating the support of development partners. In all eight countries where services have been mapped, attention on the marginalised is often provided by small NGOs, CBOs and faith-based organisations. Most services provided by non-governmental bodies are under-resourced and/or difficult to sustain due to a lack of certainty over funding.
37. **Youth development requires leadership, ownership and commitment.** Although around 20% of the regional population is 15 – 24 years of age and although Pacific leaders endorsed the PYDF in 2012, youth development issues have received limited attention from the region’s political leadership.
38. There is a lack of indicators and quantitative data. There seems to be improvement in PYDF outcome areas but, without baseline data, it is difficult to measure and monitor progress. At the national level, variations in the age range used to identify and classify youth make it difficult to measure progress, and many of the programmes and services provided are offered to all in the population. As a consequence, most data collected is not disaggregated by age. Even when it is possible to disaggregate data in census reports, data is still not disaggregated.
39. **Sustainable funding is vital.** All of the country profiles point to a lack of sustained funding for non-government and government-led services. Information on the delivery and funding of government services/assistance as well as some programmes by non-government entities is difficult to quantify as most are universal or directed to additional target populations beyond those specified in the PYDF.
40. The cessation of Australian Government funding for the PYC coordinator post at SPC, along with the restructuring of SPC and merging of the Regional Rights Resources Team with the Social Development Programme, created a perception that youth development is not a priority at the regional level. Nonetheless, SPC remains committed to youth integration across its programming, and this PYDF review includes consideration of the partnerships formed for PYDF implementation and related measures going forward.

D.2 PYDF ROLE IN GUIDING WORK ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

41. The PYDF outcome areas were derived from a review of all national policies, engagement of national youth stakeholders in the PYDF design, and efforts to ensure complementarity between regional and national policies. The country briefs and mapping undertaken as part of this review show that the four PYDF outcome areas remain relevant and align closely to existing NYPs and to the services offered by governments and NGOs at the national level. The 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report shows that the four outcome areas, together with issues impacting safety and protection, remain a high priority for young people and for policy-makers supporting youth well-being in the Pacific.

The following summarises key findings from the country briefs annexed to this report:

o Outcome 1: More young people have secured decent employment

- Several countries in the region have developed youth employment policies and/or strategies (in line with Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] 8.b.1: Existence of a developed and operationalised national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy).
- Many countries have initiatives to support young people's access to formal and vocational education. Example: Fiji, Kiribati, and Samoa provide free access to secondary education.
- The majority of the countries in the region offer scholarships and loan schemes to assist young people in accessing tertiary and vocational education.
- Most countries are implementing initiatives to promote entrepreneurship for young people, which include capacity-building and loan schemes.
- Stakeholders, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), Oxfam and UNDP, have launched regional initiatives that promote entrepreneurship with young people.
- There is evidence of employment services in the region. Fiji has the most developed mechanism, while others have adopted an apprenticeship approach.

Actual unemployment data is limited. Using SDG indicator 8.5.2, the table below shows the youth unemployment rate (15–24 age group), with time series data only available for the Cook Islands and Kiribati

	Time	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PICTs	Sex					
Cook Islands	Male		2.05			4.66
Cook Islands	Female		2.76			1.65
Cook Islands	Total		2.36			3.45
Fiji	Male		11.86			
Fiji	Female		22.35			
Fiji	Total		15.4			
French Polynesia	Total			49.1		
Kiribati	Male	22.2				21.18
Kiribati	Female	7.45				24.62
Kiribati	Total	17.12				22.48
Marshall Islands	Male					31.01
Marshall Islands	Female					14.17
Marshall Islands	Total					26.03
Papua New Guinea	Total			5.5		
Samoa	Male			24.56		
Samoa	Female			43.42		
Samoa	Total			31.92		
Solomon Islands	Male					
Solomon Islands	Female					
Solomon Islands	Total			47.6		
Tonga	Male				5.73	
Tonga	Female				13.05	
Tonga	Total			10.9	8.93	
Tuvalu	Male		9.83			
Tuvalu	Female		45.85			
Tuvalu	Total		20.64			
Vanuatu	Male					16.07
Vanuatu	Female					20.13
Vanuatu	Total			1.2		18.04

Source: SPC

- o **Outcome 2: Young people's health and well-being status is improved**
 - Official data on the health status of youth in the Pacific is limited, as evidenced in regional attempts to report against relevant SDG indicators.
 - Mental health services are provided in all eight countries by government authorities and some NGOs. However, there does not appear to be specific mental health services targeting young people.
 - UNFPA is a significant supporter of SRHR services for young people and communities in the region. SRHR services are provided through national hospitals and public clinic networks.
 - Initiatives to promote improved nutrition in young people are mainly led by the ministries of health.
 - There is a lack of reliable data on the number of young people engaged in physical activity initiatives.

- o **Outcome 3: Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes**
 - National Youth Councils are the main governance mechanism through which young people are empowered to influence decision-making processes. Kiribati youth have advocated and successfully attained youth seats in three Provincial Councils.
 - Government commitment and budget allocations for National Youth Councils varies between countries. Where this funding is provided, the size of the annual allocation is generally not consistent or in line with inflation.
 - Government investment in youth development at the sector level is difficult to determine as programmes and services are generally either applied universally across the country or targeted at specific population groups, a community, urban area or village, with no specific allocation for youth.
 - The engagement of young people alongside government authorities to determine national development policies and participate in the design and implementation of programmes appears to be limited.

- o **Outcome 4: Environmental action is increasingly led and influenced by young people**
 - There is evidence of the region's youth influencing areas, such as food and water security, with innovative ideas. UNDP, in partnership with USP and other stakeholders, established an Innovation Hub for young people to share and promote their ideas.
 - Young people play a key advocacy role on issues, such as climate change. However, there is a need to find other means to encourage young people to participate more fully, including in follow-up activities.
 - Securing decent employment for young people is the most relevant outcome nationally and the most pressing concern for governments. In the aftermath of the pandemic, it has become an even greater concern.
 - Although youth activism around environmental issues is encouraged, their participation and advocacy in other development areas is less apparent. Evidence suggests that little has changed since 2015 in promoting youth voices in government decision-making processes.

- 42. Youth health, in particular SRHR, appears to be most addressed under UNFPA-supported programmes, while other youth health issues are treated as general health.

D.3 PYDF ROLE IN STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- 43. Commitment to PYDF implementation is limited, with respect to the funding of youth activities that contribute to the four strategic outcomes, thus undermining the capacity of partners to use the PYDF as a tool to influence change. The perception among youth focal points and stakeholders interviewed in 2019 is that SPC, as the custodian of the PYDF, should have taken a greater leading role in seeking

financial assistance from development partners to fund activities that directly contribute to the four PYDF outcomes. In the absence of such financial assistance, countries and territories in the region only engage in youth development initiatives that their national budgets and capacity allow.

44. Several countries and territories have well developed NYPs with some supported by national youth strategic plans. In most cases, these national policies and action plans have been developed with technical support from the NYC.
45. An issue commonly raised by focal points and stakeholders is the absence of concerted and sustained efforts to raise awareness of the PYDF. While it gained endorsement of leaders in 2012 and follow-up meetings and regional workshops engaged officials in 2015, they were not enough to ensure sustained PYDF implementation. Regular, consistent communication on the PYDF as well as country visits are necessary. In the absence of awareness and understanding of the PYDF, focal points and stakeholders will continue to miss opportunities to draw the attention of potential partners to the PYDF priorities. This is critical to ensure the PYDF is reflected in national policies and targeted funding is secured in national budgets.
46. The delayed responses and/or lack of feedback by countries and territories to the questionnaire and mapping requests made by SPC as part of the mid-term review may reflect a breakdown in SPC's relationship with government focal points on the PYDF. This may be due to staff commitments or personnel changes inevitable in small administrations or could signal a lack of interest or commitment to regional mechanisms at the country level. Without this commitment, opportunities to build new partnerships in support of youth development issues are likely to be missed.
47. A government-endorsed national policy targeting youth development provides the opportunity to present a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing youth in the country and recommend priority actions to address these challenges. As such, it helps ensure that those responsible in government for national and sector planning and budget allocations are aware of the issues to be considered in the developing sector or national programmes that support youth development. NYPs provide strategic direction for all stakeholders, both in and outside government, fostering youth development and forming the basis for negotiations on the structure, proposed outcomes and budgets for initiatives in this area.
48. YECs and Youth@Work in Samoa and Solomon Islands provide useful feedback for consideration. Both projects have comprehensive plans that are closely aligned with national goals. The project documents clearly outline the pathway or theory of change on the activities to be implemented and the expected outcomes, providing a convincing argument to secure funding.
49. The minimal progress made in youth development in the region can be attributed to the lack of targeted funding by governments. This gap can be filled by development partners if government authorities and stakeholders involved in youth development have effective strategies in place. Stakeholders are encouraged to use official and especially unofficial communication channels with development partners, in order to cultivate a strong relationship with development partners and include government youth focal points in high-level discussions with bilateral donor and development partners.
50. Working with the community and youth is critical for the effective design and implementation of youth development initiatives. This requires early and consistent engagement with both to reflect the views of all young people in an open, transparent manner. Progress made by countries highlighted in the mid-term review was linked to the support and commitment of communities and youth groups. This

included permission to carry out youth activities in their communities and villages and encouraging youth to participate in programmes designed for their benefit. It is also important to ensure a close working relationship is built and sustained between the government, community and stakeholders involved in programme implementation.

51. The mid-term review shows that development initiatives generating positive results are supported with strong management practices. YEC and Youth@Work initiatives demonstrate effective planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Committed officials and stakeholder representatives help support the strong management practices driving youth development initiatives in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and the Solomon Islands. Youth@Work in Solomon Islands, initiated by SPC and other development partners in partnership with the Solomon Islands Government, was managed by SPC until its official handover to the Solomon Islands Government in late 2019. The Youth@Work project generated substantial positive results. In comparison, however, there is no data on the outcomes of youth project initiatives managed by provincial council officials with government funding.
52. Feedback provided by countries stressed the need to start small. Initiatives should first target youth in a particular community before extending to other communities in the country, as with Youth@Work in the Solomon Islands. This is a useful approach given limited resources allocated to youth development and because it allows implementers to learn from the initial experience and make amendments.
53. The PYDF includes a M&E strategy designed to encourage partnership and effective implementation. Despite this, there is little evidence of financial commitment by members of the PYDF partnership or member countries to meet the M&E requirements. Since the PYDF launch, SPC appears to have focused its support for youth development in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Niue through the Youth@Work Programme. Vanuatu and Niue benefited from a 12-month partnership, while Solomon Islands received support for eight years, primarily through funding from the Queens Young Leader's Programme and Australian Government following a request from the Solomon Island Government.

D.4 STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AND RESPONSES TO 2017 STATE OF PACIFIC YOUTH REPORT

54. Annex 3 provides a summary of stakeholders contacted during the initial work of the mid-term review in 2019. While not a complete overview of the partnerships in place to promote youth development initiatives, it demonstrates the steps required to encourage and maintain partnerships.
55. The 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report provides recommendations in all four PYDF outcome areas, many of which have been confirmed in this mid-term review. The report also provides recommendations to strengthen the protection and safety of young people, including evidence and insights into how youth issues can be addressed and used as a reference document to frame proposals for funding.
56. While the State of Pacific Youth Report provides an additional outcome area on protection and safety, the formulators of the PYDF considered all four outcomes to be interrelated. Progress in access to quality education and training is intended to lead to decent work or entrepreneurship which, in turn, would help address social and economic issues faced by young people. An expanded role for youth in national and regional governance and decision-making processes would provide youth with a space to speak directly with decision-makers about their perspectives on issues, such as cybercrime, gender equality, suicide and domestic violence.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

57. The following builds on the conclusions and recommendations of the 2019 mid-term review and takes into account the recommendations made in the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report and, where appropriate, restates the recommendations.
58. The country reviews and national policy documents show that Pacific young people are committed to find solutions to their challenges and devote their time and effort voluntarily to these causes at both national and regional levels.
59. Governments (national, provincial and local) and communities across the region are well aware of the importance of addressing the challenges faced by young people (aged 15–24 years) who currently comprise around 20% of the population. Over the last several years, many governments in the region have introduced specific initiatives to address PYDF Outcome 1, to increase access to education and training while strengthening opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. Progress in other PYDF outcome areas is more difficult to quantify: Data in the health sector is not systematically disaggregated by age; youth are often invited to contribute to decision-making processes but their voices are often overlooked in programme implementation; and, while youth are effective advocates for environmental action, their advocacy is often not matched by follow-up action.
60. NGOs and CSOs implement youth-focused activities, some of which development partners support while others rely on local fundraising efforts. Many of these initiatives target specific youth groups highlighted in the PYDF.
61. Development partner funding is typically delivered through governments and/or NGOs and targeted at specific population groups. The government, usually the ministry of planning, finance or foreign affairs is responsible for national coordination of development partner funding. Effective allocation of funds for youth requires a strong relationship between the ministry for youth development and the coordinating ministry/department. The sustainability of initiatives funded by development partners is a challenge to be addressed at the time of programme design with a clear pathway for the government to assume funding responsibility by a set date.
62. Up-to-date NYPs and action plans are important but key priorities for youth must also be reflected in the national planning and budget processes and systems, as these latter documents are agreed by cabinet and approved by Parliament. They are also an important tool in negotiations with national stakeholders and external development partners.
63. The PYDF regional coordination mechanism between SPC and the PYC has not been operationalised. Internal changes at SPC coupled with the cessation of funding for the PYC coordinator post at SPC have resulted in the need to identify a way to implement and support the PYDF at the regional level in the future.

Based on the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report, consultations and analysis undertaken in 2019, and the desk review and analysis conducted in 2021, the following recommendations have been identified for SPC member countries and territories:

RECOMMENDATION FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS:

ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMITMENT

- 1) Strengthen evidence-based national youth policies (NYPs), ensuring all NYPs have costed and time-bound action plans with robust M&E frameworks.
- 2) Ensure national youth action plans and budgets are captured in the national strategic plans and national budgets.
- 3) Strengthen the capacity of NYCs by supporting opportunities for the inclusive, meaningful participation of NYCs in policy-making and programming.
- 4) Strengthen protection systems, eliminate gender-based violence, support youth with disabilities and LGBTIQI+ youth, addressing emerging issues (drug and alcohol abuse, cyberbullying).
- 5) Develop national institutional capacity to obtain disaggregated data and conduct trend analysis.

EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- 6) PICs: Review national policy frameworks on employment and ensure they specifically address youth unemployment, using the national age categorisation for youth.
- 7) Improve the relevance of education to preparation for work and life, and expand opportunities for young people to learn. Develop multiple pathways to education. Consider the development of regional/national policy frameworks on skills development relating to life skills, lifelong learning, health and well-being, employability and employment (e.g. core work skills) and active citizenship.
- 8) Focus more on developing and assessing skills and competencies. Areas for increased investment include: school health and nutrition education; comprehensive sexuality education; technical and vocational skills and entrepreneurship education; citizenship education; and life skills education. In the context of climate change and the growing need for resilience, increase focus on agriculture and green jobs.
- 9) Increase focus on potential opportunities in creative and cultural industries.
- 10) Continue to support TVET development across the region.
- 11) Invest in improving information and communications technology skills for the labour market, including with TVET programming.
- 12) Given the limited employment opportunities available in small island states, ensure the approach to education and skills development recognises the need to train and upskill youth for regional and international employment.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- 13) Respond to youth health needs through inter-sectoral collaboration. Many of the health needs of youth are best addressed through sectors other than health. Inter-sectoral action must include the education sector since schools can be effective health-promoting environments.
- 14) Strengthen health education and promotion with the active and meaningful participation of youth to build knowledge and healthy practices.
- 15) Continue to improve access to quality youth-friendly health services (e.g. addressing barriers to contraceptive services for married and unmarried sexually active youth).
- 16) By adopting a holistic approach to health, strengthen counselling and other services to deal with issues (e.g. family violence, mental health and youth mental health, tobacco, drugs and alcohol addiction, STIs, teenage pregnancy).

VOICE AND INFLUENCE

- 17) Build capacity for participation through investment in life skills education and social citizenship education. Support participatory teaching and learning approaches in education. Mainstream active participation in all youth development activities.
- 18) Develop new ways for youth to express their voices (e.g. national youth opinion surveys on their development in general or on specific issues/themes, such as gender equality or employability, or investment in street theatre, drama).
- 19) Provide greater support to maintain representative structures and networks for youth and reach marginalised groups of youth or groups in specific sectors.
- 20) Encourage inter-generational discussions at the community level to build an understanding across all age groups of the challenges and opportunities of youth development.
- 21) Provide technical and financial support to create youth volunteerism opportunities.
- 22) Continue to encourage youth activism on key issues that affect sustainable development and provide support to NGOs and CBOs to support youth activists and train youth leadership.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY AND THE PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL

- 1) Strengthen communication and awareness of youth development issues in the region and the PYDF key outcome areas, including in development partner consultations at the regional level.
- 2) Continue to strengthen the capacity of the PYC and their support for the NYCs in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and UN agencies.
- 3) Develop a regional coordination and review process led by Pacific youth that entails regular virtual and/or face-to-face meetings of stakeholders across the region to ensure accountability for PYDF implementation.
- 4) Adopt core indicators (including SDG indicators and the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report) for PYDF outcome areas on monitoring, reporting, and tracking progress of youth development across the Pacific region.
- 5) Ensure regional support to the implementation of the PYDF in areas such as: policy-relevant research (including youth-led research and evaluation) regarding youth priority issues, such as employment in decent work, civic participation, skills development, and well-being; and the sharing of lessons learned and best practices.
- 6) Strengthen coordination across SPC programme areas to better identify the full breadth of regional support provided for youth development by the organisation.
- 7) Maintain partnerships with relevant UN agencies, Commonwealth Secretariat and the region's development partners to maximise opportunities to support youth development in the Pacific.

Annex 1: Consultant terms of reference

Finalise the mid-term review report of the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023

BACKGROUND

Pacific Community

The Pacific Community (SPC) *is an international development organisation owned and governed by its 26 country and territory members. It is the principal scientific and technical organisation in the Pacific region working for the well-being of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge, guided by a deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures.*

Human Rights and Social Development division

The Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division leads SPC's support to members in the areas of human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, youth and culture. HRSD is the result of a merger of the Regional Rights Resource Team and the Social Development Programme, which took place 1 September 2020.

HRSD implements its work under its Business Plan 2021–2025, addressing the development context through the following measures:

- strengthen institutional capacities to uphold human rights and social development commitments;
- enhance participation, inclusion, capabilities, leadership, and access to opportunities for civil society, especially women and young people;
- ensure culturally and contextually responsive practice, and cultural protection;
- generate and apply data, knowledge, and innovation; and
- lead SPC to bring “people to the centre” across the work of its scientific and technical divisions.

The Pacific Youth Development Framework 2014–2023

The PYDF 2014–2023⁴ is a coordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific. It is the result of a collaborative effort by youth stakeholders, regional and national development agencies, youth networks, governments and administrations. It responds to the calls of young people, development partners and governments for greater support for the implementation of NYPs and to address barriers to progress. The PYDF aims to be a catalyst for investment in youth, rather than a regional youth programme. It aims to facilitate shared decision-making based on evidence and contributions from relevant communities of practice and to support PICTs in implementing their youth development objectives. The PYDF and its responsibilities for regional coordination are shared by SPC and the PYC.⁵ While SPC has led the process of development thus far, the PYC is the regional body representing 10 national youth council bodies in the Pacific, which, in turn, represent provincial youth councils in member countries. The PYDF provides a unique opportunity for development agencies and governments to engage young people in development and to create a space for young people to exercise leadership by contributing to the PYDF.

For statistical purposes, the UN defines youth as those between the ages of 18 and 25 years. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as those who are 18 years old and younger.

4 [Pacific_Youth_Development_Framework_2014-2023.pdf](https://www.spc.int/Pacific_Youth_Development_Framework_2014-2023.pdf) (spc.int).

5 http://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/035.Regional_Initiative_Youth.pdf.

The predecessor to the PYDF was the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005–2010.⁶ The review⁷ of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005 – 2010 revealed a low uptake by countries and territories; few youth policies had made any reference to the regional strategy. NYP implementation was generally slow and under-resourced. National stakeholders have not effectively reflected alignment to the regional strategy in their youth policies and need to represent local issues and responses. The State of Pacific Youth 2011 – Opportunities and Obstacles,⁸ revealed little change in the situation of youth since 2005. Greater focus is recommended in three areas to:

- improve governance for youth, coordinating regional strategies to scale up youth programmes targeted at key populations;
- improve data collection and analysis of youth, monitoring established youth measures; and
- mobilise resources for youth, making resources available to support youth programming.

The PYDF 2014 – 2023 envisions a “sustainable Pacific where all young people are safe, respected, empowered and resilient” and is comprised of four priority outcome areas:

- More young people secure decent employment.
- Young people’s health status is improved.
- Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes.
- More young people participate in environmental action.

In 2019, a mid-term review⁹ of the PYDF 2014–2023 was initiated and the first round of country consultations were concluded in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic subsequently impacted national priorities and travel.

The purpose of the Mid-Term Review 2019 was “to assess how Pacific Island Countries and Territories are progressing as a region in line with the directions established in the PYDF. ... The findings of the review facilitate a dialogue focused on commitments made to youth and how these could be strengthened to enhance outcomes for young people in the Pacific”. A draft review report has been submitted.

In preparation for the 2021 Council of Regional Governments and Administrations meeting, SPC requires the services of a short-term consultant to work closely with SPC and PYC to finalise the draft report.

SCOPE OF WORK

The PYDF 2014–2023 Review Finalisation Consultant will undertake the following:

- review and, where appropriate, refine the findings in the draft report and, where necessary, include additional datasets against the implementation mechanisms provided in the PYDF;
- undertake a desk-based assessment and analysis of national, regional and international datasets and reports to further inform the review, identify gaps and make recommendations as to how the Secretariat may work with partners to address the gaps along with a proposed timeframe; and
- facilitate a regional, virtual validation workshop whereby the updated data, findings and gaps are presented and the feedback from the workshop is utilised to inform the report and work going forward.

TIME FRAME

The consultant will be expected to undertake the desk work over a period of 10–15 maximum working days.

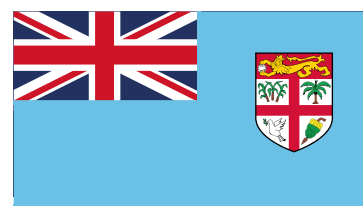
6 [Review of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2005-2010.pdf \(spc.int\)](#)

7 [ibid](#)

8 https://www.youthpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/library/2011_State_Pacific_Youth_Report_Eng.pdf.

9 [PYDF MTR TOR.pdf \(spc.int\)](#).

Annex 2: Country briefs



FIJI

1. INTRODUCTION

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics latest release of Key Statistics¹⁰ indicates that youth (aged 15–35 years) account for 35% of the total population. Fiji's youth face high levels of formal unemployment. In 2017, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that the youth unemployment rate was 18.9% of Fiji's total unemployment (ILO 2017). In 2016, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) reported that teenage pregnancies were 25 per 1,000 births and the country recorded the highest number (70) of reported cases of HIV since 2000, in 2015.

Under the current Fiji Government, there is a Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports, two assistant ministers with the responsibility to assist the Minister of Youth and Sports through the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS). The Government has prepared its fourth national policy to guide its youth development effort, through which the MYS continues to invest in programmes to address key problems facing young people in the country.

The Government remains committed to focus on young people who are vulnerable to: unemployment; street frequenting; drug and substance abuse; sexually transmitted infections (STIs); teenage pregnancy; school dropout; incarceration; human trafficking; special homes; and special needs. The main areas of youth development prioritised in the 2011 National Youth Policy (NYP) were: youth empowerment and livelihood opportunities; leadership and good governance; sports and recreation; youth health; life skills; vulnerable youth; cultural and religious values and virtues; and environmental sustainability.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

2.1.1 Access to relevant education in formal and vocational sectors

The Fiji Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MEHA) has policies aimed at promoting youth access to formal and vocational education:

- free education at the secondary level with the free bus fare policy, which came into effect after the 2014 general election and addresses low attendance in schools nationally; and
- scholarship and loan schemes, implemented by the Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board, established in 2014, to assist youth who have completed secondary studies and encourage post-secondary and vocational training.

¹⁰ Fiji Bureau of Statistics 2019.

2.1.2 Young people involved in entrepreneurship

To address youth entrepreneurship, the Government introduced a capacity-building and empowerment programme and a youth grant scheme. Under this initiative, five training centres were established across the country to build the skills of youth, in particular those who are unemployed and outside the education system, in order to empower them to contribute to their respective communities and to find employment. Training is the main form of capacity-building used by the ministry focused on agriculture, carpentry, massage, cookery, customer service, engine repair, and music. The youth grant scheme assists individual youth and youth clubs in several areas, including youth empowerment, entrepreneurship development and livelihood opportunities. The scheme has two main objectives: (i) strengthen networking and partnership between CSOs and the ministry; and (ii) elevate and strengthen youth development work in Fiji.

2.1.3 Youth-friendly employment services

The most recognised employment service for youth in the country is provided by the NEC. Housed under the Ministry of Employment, Productivity, and Industrial Relations (MEPIR), the NEC was established before 2015 and seeks to match unemployed youth to job opportunities in the country. It has seven outlets nationally where unemployed youth can register, receive training to build their capacity and become more marketable in the job market. MYS also provides similar assistance to NEC.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 1

The table below outlines key achievements since 2015 under PYDF Outcome Area 1: Securing decent employment for more of Fiji’s young people. A total of 2,972 youth have attended trainings to strengthen their skills for employment and entrepreneurship. Young Farmers, Young Entrepreneurs and Young Family Gardens groups have been established to drive entrepreneurship among youth in the country.



Fijian women at a welcome ceremony for delegates. © SPC 2023

Outcome 1: More young people have secured decent employment			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.1.1)
Free education provided at secondary schools	MEHA	Information not available	Young people have increased access to relevant education in formal and vocational sectors
Free bus fare policy in place	MEHA, bus operators	Information not available	
Tertiary scholarship and loan schemes available	Tertiary Scholarship and Loans Board	Information not available	
			Contributing outcome (2.1.2)
Young Farmers group established	MYS, youth groups	• 2016: 10 registered	More young people are involved in entrepreneurship
Empowerment training provided	MYS, youth groups	• 2016: 641 attended • 2017: 1,429 attended	
Leadership training provided	MYS, iTaukei Board	• 2016: 79 attended • 2017: 140 attended	
Youth Family Gardens established	MYS, youth groups	• 2016: 79 gardens • 2017: 112 gardens	
Mobile skills training provided	MYS, youth groups	• 2016: 290 attended • 2017: 393 attended	
DEIAP participants registered	MYS, youth groups	• 2016: 668 registered 2017: 1,108 registered	
Youth grant provided	MYS, NGOs, youth groups	• 2016: 52 recipients 2017: 65 recipients	
Young Entrepreneurs established	MYS, youth groups	• 2017: 41 registered	
			Contributing outcome (2.1.3)
Youth groups registered and supported	MYS, youth groups	2016: 119 registered 2017: 502 registered	Youth-friendly employment services are established to connect young people to employment opportunities
National Employment Centre in place	Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations	Information not available	

Source: Data provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Key issues hampering progress under this PYDF outcome include: resource limitations to deliver services to widely scattered outer island and rural youth; increasing need for services in urban areas to help combat rising crime among young people, some of whom have migrated from rural areas to urban centres in search of employment; and the tendency for government agencies, development partners and stakeholders to work independently or in silos.

2.2 Young people's health status

2.2.1 Young people's mental health and well-being

Young people's mental health and well-being is looked after by the MHMS alongside NGOs that target the issue of suicide. These services were established before 2015 and are universal.

2.2.2 Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights

MHMS oversees SRHR in Fiji; there is not a related programme that specifically targets young people. In recent years, policies and guidelines have been introduced to improve the SRHR of the population under which young people benefit. These include the Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV Policy (2013–2016); TB/HIV Collaborative Policy; HIV Testing Strategy in Fiji; HIV Care and Antiretroviral Therapy Guidelines; and HIV Testing and Counselling Policy.

2.2.3 Young people's nutrition and physical activity improved

The Rural Sport Facilities Development Programme, introduced by MYS, aims to improve young people's nutrition and physical activity. Through the initiative, young people are encouraged to stay in rural areas or to return from urban areas to their villages and to stay physically active in sports.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 2

Evidence presented in the table below confirms that, since 2015, government youth health programming has focused on the distribution of sports equipment and the renovation of youth training with the aim to engage youth in physical activities. Initiatives to address other health issues concerning youth (mental, SRHR) had already been put in place prior to 2015.

Outcome 2: Young people's health and well-being status improved			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.2.1)
Mental health services provided by MHMS	MHMS, communities	Information not available	Young people's mental health and well-being is improved
Mental health services provided by NGOs	NGOs, communities	Information not available	Contributing outcome (2.2.2)
Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission of HIV Policy 2013–2016 TB/HIV Collaborative Policy HIV Testing Strategy in Fiji HIV Care and Antiretroviral Therapy Guidelines HIV Testing and Counselling Policy	NGOs, communities	Information not available	Young people's sexual and reproductive health is improved
			Contributing outcome (2.2.3)
Sports fields	MYS, rural communities	2016: 1 field completed	Young people's nutrition and physical activity are improved
Sports equipment	MYS, youth groups	2016: 100 youth groups assisted 2017: 102 youth groups assisted	
Youth training centres	MYS, rural communities, youth groups	2016: 5 training centres renovated 2017: Renovations completed for the 5 training centres	

Source: Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Reports 2016; 2017

The main challenge in making progress under PYDF Outcome 2 is the lack of resources. More support is needed to improve the health of youth.

2.3 Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

2.3.1 Representative structures for youth are strengthened and inclusive of diverse groups

The Fiji National Youth Council (FNYC), established in 2023, is considered by young people as the main mechanism to influence decision-making in Government and other institutions in Fiji. The MYS Youth Division provides a formal channel for youth to make their intentions known to the Government.

2.3.2 Governments increase investments in youth development across sectors

The Government, through its annual budget process, allocates funds to youth development in the country. While funds may be considered inadequate, other sectors (education, health) also have funding that covers youth services under universal coverage.

2.3.3 Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in development processes

MYS works with youth groups around the country on various development projects.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 3

Evidence collected for the review suggests that more work is needed to achieve PYDF Outcome 3 to strengthen representative structures for youth and for government and youth representative structures to share responsibilities in youth development. In 2015–2019, the Government spent an average of FJD 6.6 million on youth development. The financial years 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 recorded the highest spending by government with FJD 8.5 million and FJD 7.8 million allocated for the two consecutive years. Spending fell to the 2015 level of FJD 5.5 million for the financial year 2019–2020.

Outcome 3: Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making							
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019				Contributing outcome (2.3.1)	
FNYC MYS	Youth clubs, communities	Information not available				Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups	
Contributing outcome (2.3.2)							
Government budget allocation to MYS	MYS, Ministry of Economy	2015	2016	2017/2018		2019/2020	Government increases investment in youth development in all sectors
		FJD 5.5 million	FJD 5.5 million	FJD 8.5 million	FJD 7.8 million	FJD 5.6 million	
Contributing outcome (2.3.3)							
Youth Coastal Care Clubs	MYS, youth clubs					Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in development processes	

Source: Republic of Fiji Budget Estimates 2015; 2016; 2017/18; 2018/19; 2019/20

The review revealed that young people lack awareness of the correct processes to raise concerns with the ministry as well as a lack of trust among some to engage with the ministry. MYS is aware of the need to strengthen its effort to work with youth clubs and FNYC in order to build a trusting relationship with proper communication channels for young people to formally and informally discuss and voice their concerns and for the government to consider and respond.

Any increase in government investments in youth development is largely dependent on the performance of the country's economy and political preference. This remains unpredictable and therefore is difficult for future planning.

2.4 Young people participate in environmental actions

2.4.1 More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives addressing food and water security

There are no specific initiatives involving youth to address food and water security. However, support for youth entrepreneurship is considered an indirect initiative to ensure food security by generating income for youth and their families.

2.4.2 More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes

MYS, in partnership with a Japanese NGO, the Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement, work with youth clubs around the country on Youth Coastal Care Clubs, supporting

youth to replant mangroves and develop climate resilience. MYS aims to accredit its curriculum for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management at the Certificate 1 level with the Fiji Board of Education. If successful, the curriculum will be offered to youth via the five MYS youth training centres.

2.4.3 More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices

Both programmes referred to under 2.4.2 also promote sustainable environmental practices.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 4

Outcome 4: More young people participate in environmental action			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.4.1)
Youth entrepreneurship programmes			More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives that address food and water security
			Contributing outcome (2.4.2)
Youth Coastal Care Clubs	MYS, JICA	• Information not available	More young people are involved in youth-led climate change adaptation programmes
Certificate 1 in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management		• Information not available	
			Contributing outcome (2.4.3)
Youth Coastal Care Clubs	MYS, JICA	• Information not available	More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices
Certificate 1 in Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk management		• Information not available	

Outcome of consultations with Fiji National Youth Council

A dialogue with representatives of the FNYC and other youth stakeholders in Fiji provided further insights on the relevance of youth activities and programmes delivered by the Government and other stakeholders.

With respect to Outcome 1, all representatives agreed that initiatives are in place to assist youth in finding employment. Government and development partners provide these initiatives, with some available to the whole country and others targeting specific communities. While the services are helpful, youth have faced challenges when using them: inaccessibility of services, particularly for youth with disabilities; lack of awareness of programmes; and inadequate follow-up by those responsible.

The table below summarises initiatives in place to support PYDF Outcome 1.

Initiatives	Stakeholders	Target
SCEFI Grant	UNDP	National
Tailevu Youth Entrepreneurship	DFAT (Australia)	Regional
Youth Employment Research Skills Training	Information not available	Regional
Regional Young Entrepreneurs Forum	Information not available	Regional
National Employment Centre	Ministry of Labour	National
Fiji Vocational Training Centre (youth with disabilities)	Information not available	National
National Youth Training Centre	Ministry of Youth and Sports	National
FARMCARE	Ministry of Agriculture	National

The following table highlights initiatives linked to PYDF Outcome 2. Accessibility for youth with disabilities was raised as a key challenge facing youth using services listed in the table. Confidentiality of patients' records and abuse of patients with psychological disabilities by mental health officials during periods of sickness are also key concerns. To improve services that support well-being and mental health, suggestions include: Provide further training to officials responsible for handling youth with mental disabilities; increase awareness of services; and upgrade facilities to allow easy access for youth with disabilities.

Initiatives	Stakeholders	Target
National Awareness Centre and Post-natal Clinics	Information not available	National
Lifeline	Information not available	National
Fiji Women's Crisis Centre	Information not available	National
Youth Hub	Information not available	National
Youth-friendly Phone Service	Information not available	National
USP Counselling Centre	Information not available	National
Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee Stop Champs	Information not available	National
AFG Adolescent Health Drive – Lautoka	Information not available	Regional
Living: Walk for Life and Good Mental Health	Information not available	Regional
Community Recovery Outreach Program	Information not available	Regional

Not many initiatives, except the FNYC, PYC and MYS have been implemented in support of PYDF Outcome 3 to improve governance structures in order to empower young people to increase influence in the decision-making process. There is, thus, a need to improve this aspect of youth development in Fiji.

Actions under PYDF Outcome 4 are outlined in the following table. Each of the three groups consulted expressed appreciation for the initiatives in place given the effects of climate change on the environment and lives of Fijian communities. Youth representatives found some initiatives (e.g. mangrove-planting) to be educational and enjoyable.

Initiatives	Stakeholders	Target
350 Fiji	Information not available	National
Wash and Rise	USAID	National
Alliance for Future Generations	Information not available	National
WWF	WWF	Regional
PICAN	Information not available	National
Youth and Oceans	Information not available	National
Young Pacific Leaders Program – Sustainable Livelihood	DFAT (Australia)	National
Four-million Trees	MYS, Ministry of Environment	National
UTO Ni Alo Trust	Information not available	Regional

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



1. INTRODUCTION

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) population is estimated at over 130,000 people, of whom more than 45% are young men and women under 35 years of age. The majority of FSM youth face unemployment, underemployment, lack of adequate skills and access to education, and unmet needs for health-related information and services, including SRHR. This is compounded for youth in the outer islands, especially young women. As a result, most youth in FSM do not have the opportunity to fully develop their potential and contribute effectively to the realisation of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful FSM.

Achievements over the past 10 Years:

Since 2010, churches have played a major role in organising youth programmes in the villages (e.g. singing contests, Sunday school, Bible studies, drama sessions, youth rallies).

Since the late 1970s, the Boy Scouts (linked to the Aloha Council of Hawaii) and Girl Scouts (FSM-based programme) have organised youth development activities.

In 1976, the Aramas Kapw programme was started in Pohnpei and has since become a non-profit organisation called Micronesia Bound Inc., based on the international Outward-Bound Schools, which aim to instill trust, self-confidence and self-esteem in young people. In the late 1970s, youth offices were developed under the Justice Improvement Commission throughout the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which comprised the Marshalls, Pohnpei, Truk (Chuuk), Saipan, Yap and Belau (Palau). The programmes became the basis of youth development programmes in these islands in the 1980s.

The Micronesian Red Cross Society in FSM also has a youth and community development programme, which emphasises family and community, small business development and citizenship. With respect to family life, health and wellness, family life skills training, peer education training, and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, alcohol and substance abuse and teenage parenting are each emphasised. Small business development is also a focus, including entrepreneurial, employability, and literacy and numeracy skills.

The United States Work Force Investment Act provides funding for job corps, vocational education and apprenticeship programmes for adults and youth.

In the 1990s, the FSM Government established a position in the Department of Health and Social Affairs to address youth issues, coordinate programmes, and provide funding and technical assistance.

In 1996, the Micronesia Youth Development Association was established, boosting youth development. Guided by its by-laws, it has held numerous state youth conferences, now known as the FSM Annual Youth Leadership Conference and held in each FSM state. The Association has maintained a strong working relationship with the State Youth Offices and the departments within each FSM state.

In 2011, the FSM Youth programme benefited from an annual USD 297,492.00 over the course of 10 years to provide comprehensive sexuality education (healthy lifestyle, parent-child communication, healthy relationships) in all states. Since 2012, each state has hired a full-time youth coordinator in the Office of Social or Community Affairs to coordinate and implement FSM Youth Policy activities.

In 2010–2020, the FSM Government and UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme invested over USD 3,000,000 to address climate change issues.

In 2017, President Christian endorsed the NYP, which was launched in 2019.

The College of Micronesia, Pohnpei Campus, Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) specializes in agriculture, construction and mechanics and admits students from all over Micronesia. The CTEC offers various degrees and certificates in vocational, hospitality and tourism management. In 2019, the College of Micronesia-FSM opened a Center for Entrepreneurship to help the Pohnpei business community and grow the island's economy via business startups, expansion, job creation and retention, and youth, women, and veteran entrepreneurship.

In recent years, government youth programmes have focused on training programmes (e.g. research and development of innovative youth programmes, capacity-building, institutional strengthening, promotion of networks and collaboration across youth organisations, seminars and conferences on youth issues, and special counselling services for youth in need of special assistance).

There are several challenges affecting the youth in the country:

- There is a lack of adequate institutional mechanisms to foster youth participation in decision-making processes and a need for greater support of youth-led organisations and initiatives to enhance their contribution to society; the existing coordinating structures for youth development in FSM are weak politically and in resources.
- There is a need for effective implementation of inclusive and gender-sensitive NYPs.

In light of this challenge, during the 11th Youth Summit in 2017, state governments adopted the FSM Youth Policy, a political and legal document which serves as the strategic framework giving direction for youth empowerment and development at state and national levels across the country. The FSM Youth Policy aims to strengthen, reinforce and consolidate national and state partnerships and relations. Further, it gives priority to youth development on the FSM development agenda.

Some progress has been made, including through the establishment of a national youth council and an increasing number of appointments of youth in the Government.

FSM Youth Council

In August 2012, FSM youth met during the 10th FSM Youth and Governance Conference in Kolonia, Pohnpei, under the theme “Investing in FSM’s human capital for peace and development”, to further consolidate their concerns and positions on pressing matters and be heard on matters that affect their lives. With the ongoing negotiations on the post-2020 development agenda and the forthcoming FSM Agenda 2023, it is important that the positions of the FSM youth are heard. Notable areas of concern included the need for: improved health services and sexual reproductive health; youth empowerment and employment; equitable access to quality education and enhanced access to technology; climate change measures, environmental sustainability and food security; good governance, peace and security; and access to social justice and the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups.

Way forward

- Encourage FSM governments to adopt and domesticate the UN Generation Unlimited in line with national priorities.
- Create effective platforms at national and state levels to help transform young people’s ideas into concrete actions for positive change.

- Strengthen networks and partnerships among governments, youth-led organisations, academic institutions, civil society, the private sector and media and enhance commitment and support for holistic youth development activities.
- Enhance the participation of young men and women in governance and political processes, and increase awareness, commitment and investment in youth.
- Foster discussion, information-sharing and knowledge-building among youth to better support implementation of youth policies and programmes, focusing on behaviour change and concepts in favour of positive social norms.
- Promote greater understanding of inequalities, including gender inequality, among youth, and effectively address the needs of the most disadvantaged youth to preserve national unity, particularly in conflict-affected and post-conflict states.
- Address the skills mismatch between the demand and supply in the labour market through an education system that equips young people to become job creators and not job seekers. Increase intercultural exchanges and understanding among youth.
- Promote youth interactions, networking and partnerships across cultures at local, national, and state levels.
- Empower and support youth, especially young women, as agents of political, cultural and social inclusion to support climate change mitigation, disaster preparedness, water sanitation and hygiene (including menstrual hygiene management).
- Address gender disparities in the context of youth unemployment and decent work.
- Create decent work opportunities for all youth and improve the quality of jobs and rights at work.
- Address young people's exclusion from climate change mitigation processes, by creating opportunities for their meaningful participation.
- Support young people's climate change mitigation initiatives, and involve hard-to-reach young people, including those disproportionately affected by conflict (e.g. young people from minority and indigenous groups).
- Involve young women proactively in all climate change resilience initiatives.
- Institutionalise young people's participation and representation in local and national governance processes.

The FSM Government always observes International Youth Day by producing a Proclamation to all states. While the proclamation is an important step in outlining the Government's commitment to youth empowerment, the commitment must be acted upon. With support (USD 16 million) from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other partners, the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs will implement activities focusing on promoting youth empowerment and ending violence against women and girls. These activities include expanding digital access with a gender lens and ensuring, for example, that cyber safety and associated risks for women and youth are addressed and mitigated within the programme. Recognising the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on youth and other vulnerable groups, the Government aims to advance social protection through:

- small grants for COVID-19 preparedness or prevention, accessible to NGOs operating across the nation;
- a utilities subsidisation scheme for low-income households, ensuring recognition of female-headed homes; and
- a medical waiver initiative aimed at supporting, in particular, women who have experienced gender-based violence.

The FSM National Government and partners are committed to prioritise services, support and programmes focused on youth and other vulnerable groups.

KIRIBATI



1. INTRODUCTION

The Kiribati 2015 census showed a total population of 110,136,¹¹ with youth accounting for 29.4%. In line with the Kiribati NYP 2018–2022, youth are defined as those aged 10–24 years, replacing a previous definition of 15–30 years.

The Government's Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs (MWYSSA) is the leading government authority on youth development in the country. While the Kiribati Development Plan 2016–2019 does not recognise youth development as a national priority, it is a high priority in education and health. The Kiribati National Youth Policy Framework 2018–2022 is the main document guiding national youth development and outlines the Government's vision for youth: "Within equal rights, access and opportunities, all youth empowered for spiritual, physical, social and cultural development promoting their contribution to the nation's economic development".¹² Despite the commitment in its NYP, government funding for the division responsible for youth development is limited. In 2016–2018, the Government allocated USD 1 0.6 million to MWYSSA while USD 0.6 million was allocated to the youth division, equivalent to 5% of the ministry's total budget for the three years.

Youth unemployment remains Kiribati's main concern. For those aged 15–24 years, about 64% was unemployed in 2015. The youth literacy rate is also a concern, especially for women, with the latest national development plan reporting that 9.1% of women aged 15–24 years was literate compared to 82.8% of men. Youth pregnancy is a key health concern, especially for girls aged 10–19 years. The MHMS 2017 annual report noted a 47% pregnancy rate per 1,000 for this age group, equivalent to four of every 100 young women in this age group being pregnant. Alcohol consumption and smoking affect youth health in Kiribati. The 2015 census confirmed that 20% of youth aged 15–19 years, 60% aged 20–24 years, and 65% aged 25–29 years are regular smokers. As a result, an unprecedented number of youth were admitted to the hospital in 2015–2017. A total of 329 young people were admitted and treated for alcohol and smoking-related illnesses.¹³

In pursuing its vision, the Government targeted four main policy areas for the four-year period: **education and skills-building**, stressing the need to create opportunities for youth to develop vocational and life skills to become responsible, self-reliant and contributing members of the community; **economic empowerment**, generating opportunities and means to provide decent employment and livelihoods for young entrepreneurs; **health and safety**, prioritising healthy lifestyles among youth by assisting them to be aware of the risks of alcohol and substance abuse, unwanted pregnancy, STIs and violence; and **social cohesion and civic participation**, building a youth-friendly environment at the community and national levels in order to secure a commitment to youth needs.

The church is involved in youth development through youth groups. Some communities also play a role in youth development by forming youth groups that support improving household conditions and other basic needs.

¹¹ KNYP 2018–2022.

¹² Kiribati National Youth Policy Framework 2018: 20.

¹³ MHMS 2017.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

2.1.1 Access to relevant education in formal and vocational sectors

Access to secondary school is free for young people on the island. This practice has been in place since before 2015 to ensure every young Kiribatian is able to benefit from education. The Ministry of Education is the main authority in charge of education at the secondary level. A student loan scheme, established before the introduction of the Kiribati National Youth Policy Framework 2018–2022, targets youth who are eligible and willing to study at the USP only. It is a generous scheme with students only required to repay the loan if they do not complete their programmes successfully.

2.1.2 More young people are involved in entrepreneurship

Since 2015, initiatives have addressed youth unemployment. As the government authority on youth development, MWYSSA introduced two major initiatives.

- **A loan scheme** was introduced in 2017 and facilitated by the Development Bank of Kiribati to help redress youth unemployment. Youth can apply for AUD 500 to start a small business, at an interest rate of 3%. It started off with a capital of AUD 10,000 but it has steadily increased due to a large demand from the outer islands.
- **Youth capacity-building** is used by MWYSSA to counter youth unemployment. Since 2015, youth have benefited from training programmes to improve their skills and knowledge and, in turn, their employability. Life-skills training prepares youth for life challenges and empowers them to make strategic decisions. The MWYSSA, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, provides training to youth on agricultural skills, enabling them to use family land and prepare for employment via the Recognised Seasonal Labour scheme.



Progress under PYDF Outcome 1

The table below documents progress made on the initiatives implemented. However, there is no clear feedback from the country regarding initiatives that contribute to youth-friendly employment services and connect youth to employment opportunities. USP provides both formal education at the degree level and vocational training. Since 2015, 650 students have been granted assistance under the loan scheme. However, data is not available on students who have successfully completed their programmes under the scheme. Although 942 youth (460 women, 482 men) have attended capacity-building trainings, there is no follow-up to record the number of youth who have gained employment following completion of the training.

Kiribati has made progress with respect to Outcome 1 in terms of initiatives implemented since the PYDF 2014–2023 was launched. The loan scheme and capacity-building training were initiatives implemented post-2015.

Outcome 1: More young people have secured decent employment			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.1.1)
Free access to secondary school	Ministry of Education	• Information not available	Young people have increased access to relevant education and training in formal and vocational sectors
Student loan scheme	Ministry of Education	• 2016: 182 students • 2017: 173 students • 2018: 139 students • 2019: 156 students	
			Contributing outcome (2.1.2)
Loan scheme	MWYSSA, DBK	2017: 18 borrowers (10 female, 8 male), 6 have set up small business 2018: 21 borrowers (18 female, 3 male), no success story 2019: 39 borrowers (20 female, 19 male), no success story	More young people are involved in entrepreneurship
Capacity-building training: (Agricultural skills training)	MWYSSA, Ministry of Agriculture	2015: 54 attended (30 female, 24 male) 2016: 46 attended (19 female, 27 male) 2017: 38 attended (17 female, 21 male) 2018: 176 attended (69 female, 107 male)	
Capacity-building training (Life skills-building training)	MWYSSA, communities	2016: 300 attended (150 female, 150 male) 2017: 142 attended (72 female, 70 male) 2018: 40 attended (20 female, 20 male) 2019: 70 attended (35 female, 35 male)	
Capacity-building training (Start your business training)	MWYSSA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry	2017: 18 attended (10 female, 8 male) 2018: 21 attended (18 female, 3 male) 2019: 37 attended (20 female, 17 male)	

Source: Data provided by MWYSS

Limited job opportunities are a key challenge. Kiribati has a small private sector and the Government does not have the resources to offer employment to all youth in the country. Jobs abroad through New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme are also limited. Funding is a longstanding problem and will remain a hurdle for national youth development. The expansive geography of the islands coupled with limited financial resources hinder development efforts.

2.2 Young people's health status

2.2.1 Young people's mental health and well-being

The Kiribati Ministry of Health is the main authority responsible for the mental health of youth in the country. The national hospital in Tarawa includes a mental health ward which provides services to youth and those experiencing mental health challenges. A toll-free helpline is also in place for youth and others to use to seek help from the clinic.

2.2.2 Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights are improved.

Since 2015, MWYSSA, in partnership with UNFPA, has implemented a SRHR programme, with USD 300,000 in funding from UNFPA since its inception.

2.2.3 Young people's nutrition and physical activity are improved

Schools and communities are advocating for sports and physical activities for youth and all community members. However, there is not a specific programme that targets this.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 2

The table below summarises key results of the SRHR programme, including the number of youth who attended and were supported. In 2015–2019, 458 youth were supported, of which 47% were young women. Information is not available on the other outcomes on young people's mental health and nutrition and physical activity.

Outcome 2: Young people's health and well-being status improved			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.2.2)
Youth sexual and reproductive health programme	MWYSSA, UNFPA, Communities	2015: 114 attended (49 female, 65 male) 2016: 95 attended (42 females, 53 male) 2017: 121 attended (54 female, 67 male) 2018: 30 attended (15 female, 15 male) 2019: 118 attended (56 female, 62 male)	Young people's sexual and reproductive health is improved

Source: Data provided by MWYSSA

Funding is a major constraint for this outcome. Without UNFPA's financial support, the MWYSSA and the MHMS and partners could not deliver this programme. Low youth attendance at the clinics and workshops has also been a challenge.

2.3 Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

2.3.1 Representative structures for youth are strengthened and inclusive of diverse groups

Two initiatives are in place to promote young people's involvement and influence in decision-making processes. The first initiative is the Youth Parliament and a special seat for a youth representative on national councils. The Youth Parliament is an annual initiative that aims to build the skills of youth in decision-making at the political level, providing participants the opportunity to identify key challenges facing the country and learn how to make decisions to address the challenges. The second, more recent initiative, promoted by MWYSSA, includes a youth representative on each of the 23 national councils to influence decision-making processes. According to MWYSSA, three national councils have established a special seat for a youth representative.

2.3.2 Governments increase investments in youth development across sectors

Information is unavailable to confirm an estimate of government investment in youth across all sectors. According to government officials engaged in the review, government investment in all sectors lacks a specific allocation for youth development. Young people are included alongside everyone else in any investment governments make. The only government investment that has a youth tag is the allocation given to the Division of Youth under MWYSSA.

2.3.3 Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in the development process

The environment is the only sector where there is visible partnership between the Government and youth for development. Outcome 4 outlines projects in which youth are involved in partnership with the Government.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 3

The table below outlines progress made with respect to Outcome 3. A total of 139 youth took part in the Youth Parliament initiative in 2017–2019 while three national councils established a special seat for youth representation. In terms of investment, it is difficult to compile a total estimate of government expenditure on youth development as most efforts are universal with few exceptions (pensioners, persons with disabilities, early childhood education).

Direct government expenditure on youth development to the designated ministry responsible for this area remains limited, despite an increase from 2.2% in the ministry's total budget in 2016 to 8% in 2018. One lesson learned in this space is that both traditional and modern governance structures lack special consideration for youth representation in the decision-making process.

Outcome 3: Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes					
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (a)		
Youth Parliament	House of Parliament, Communities	2017: 59 2018: (15 female, 17 male) 2019: (25 female, 29 male)	Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups		
National Councils with a special youth seat	MWYSSA, National Councils	2019: 3 Councils established a special youth seat			
					Contributing outcome (b)
Government budget allocations to MYSSA MWYSSA, Ministry of Finance	FY	Ministry Budget (USD)	Youth Budget (USD)	% Ministry Budget	Governments increase their investments in youth
	2016	4.5m	0.1m	2.2%	
	2017	4.3m	0.12m	2.5%	
	2018	1.8m	0.14m	8%	

Source: Data provided by MWYSSA; Government of Kiribati Budget Estimates 2017 – 2018

2.4 Young people participate in environmental actions

2.4.1 More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives addressing food and water security

Environmental protection, which is directly linked to food and water security, is currently a key focus. As a result, MELAD has conducted capacity-building plans and training for youth clubs since 2015. The training aims to strengthen the skills of youth in the country on various topics (mangrove replanting, waste management).

2.4.2 More young people are involved in youth-led climate monitoring and adaptation programmes

The MELAD capacity-building programmes for youth cover climate change and adaptation.

2.4.3 More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices

Young Kiribatians are heavily involved in capacity-building programmes on sustainable environmental practices.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 4

The table below summarises progress made under the capacity-building programme. Since 2015, MELAD has delivered a range of capacity-building training for youth clubs around the islands. Data is not available on the number of youth who have attended the workshops over the four-year period. Progress is being made with respect to the engagement of young people in promoting sustainable environmental practices. MELAD’s main concern is about putting the skills learned into practice. While the initiative to build youth skills on environmental practices has merits, there is no guarantee that the youth will apply the skills to improve their families’ well-being.

Outcome 4: More young people participate in environmental action			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015 – 2019	Contributing outcomes (a), (b) and (c)
Mangrove replanting training	MELAD, Youth Clubs	Information not available	More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices
Waste management training	MELAD, Youth Clubs	Information not available	
Turtle tagging training	MELAD, Youth Clubs	Information not available	
Biodiversity and climate change training	MELAD, Youth Clubs	Information not available	More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices



MARSHALL ISLANDS



1. INTRODUCTION

Based on the 2011 census, the Marshall Islands has a population of 53,158 and a median age of 20.6 years of whom 60% or 32,016 (16,528 males, 15,488 females) are under 25 years old with 16,318 young people (8,416 males, 7,902 females) aged 10–24 years. Youth empowerment is needed with key challenges being high youth unemployment, health, and education.

Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, Marshall Islands Youth Congress and Majuro Youth Council

The annual National Youth Week is observed with workshops and youth projects involving all churches, youth presidents, and local NGOs. The Majuro Youth Council is comprised of all church youth presidents and some NGOs.

- **Employment:** The Youth Corps, Red Cross, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and WAM provide most of the youth employment training opportunities.
- **Health:** Drug abuse prevention programmes, sports activities, International Men’s Day (2019, 2020) are held with a focus on mental health, suicide, drug abuse, and alcohol abuse (30 participants).
- **Youth in decision-making:** Through the Majuro Youth Council and the Marshall Islands Youth Congress, youth are voicing their opinions, including on the social media platform, Kewan Jela.
- **Youth in environment:** Climate change awareness programmes and Climate Change Week are held with engagement from the Youth Bureau, Climate Change Directorate, MOHHS, Environmental Protection Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and IOM.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

Although there is no data on the youth employment rate, employment remains low across the population and is heavily concentrated in the services sector, and the rate of youth who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is high. According to the 2016 Pacific Youth Consultation Proceedings, 44% of young men aged 20–24 years experience NEET in the Republic of Marshall Islands.¹⁴ According to the 2017 ILO survey, the labour force participation rate was 41.3% and the employment-to-population ratio was 39.3%, with both rates at more than 23 percentage points higher for men than women. The total unemployment rate was 4.7%, with the male rate 0.4 percentage points higher than the female rate.

Of students graduating from the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), 58% have found employment. Projects and Programmes undertaken between 2015 and 2021 include:

- Certificate of Completion in Vocational Carpentry (2016–2021)
- Maritime Vocational Training Centre (STCW certificate, SPC Basic Crew Member)
- Certificate, SPC Fisheries’ Observer certificate (2016–2021)
- Youth Corps (2016–2021)
- National Career Readiness Certification
- Referee and Umpire Clinic (2019)
- Solar Photo-Voltaic Trainings (2019)
- Construction Trades Boot Camp (2019)
- Micronesia Women’s Leadership Training Agroforestry

¹⁴ <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/workshop-skills-dev-decent-work-pacific-proceedings-dpta>

The **CMI Youth Corps** conducts employment preparedness training programmes for youth. The carpentry project worked with the local construction company, Pacific International Incorporated (PII), to train youth in carpentry; all 30 trainees who completed the course were certified and found employment with PII. Although the CMI strategic plan includes a focus on entrepreneurship training, a programme facilitating student entrepreneurship is not yet in place.

In collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Ministry of Transportation, CMI also trains future engineers on crew on fleets for sustainable sea transport, to meet the country's global climate goal, and provides trainings on STCW and on basic safety at sea. Other training programmes support: canoe-building; solar PV; handicraft-making; and net-making in coordination with the National Training Council (NTC) in Jaluit and Mile Island. In addition, the **Regional Education Lab** offers a mathematics transition programme with CMI instructors as mentors to public high school teachers.

The **Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office** employed 200 youth to undertake the 2021 census and also offers internship programmes in Majuro and Ebeye. In collaboration with the NTC, job corps, NTC training, and Taiwan Technical, training has been provided on solar, electric, and car mechanics.

The **NTC** also organises youth training programmes. In collaboration with the private sector, the NTC organised carpentry training workshops, allowing students to gain employment in the workforce. In partnership with CMI and USP, NTC trained high school graduates to gain certification in carpentry. In 2020, a Summer Boot Camp was organised. NTC focused on training hard skills (carpentry, auto-mechanics, welding, electrician) and soft skills (hospitality, tourism, accounting). Development of the National Action Plan on Youth Employment (NAP 2017–2019) was nationally driven by the NTC, under the guidance of the TVET Steering Committee with technical support from ILO. Since 2016, consultations have taken place across government ministries, regional and international development partners, training institutions, employer and employee organisations and youth representatives.

The NTC skill-building programmes help youth learn to develop resumes, acquire social security cards, open bank accounts, and receive medical care. Of 25 youth trained, six found decent jobs.

Training	Trade type	Location	Duration (months)
Ajeltake Automotive	Auto-mechanics	Majuro	4
Waan Aelon in Majel	Basic life skills and carpentry	Majuro	6
Dren Meo Clam Farming	Clam farming	Majuro	3
Jeirok Sewing	Sewing	Majuro	5
Ene Rose Sewing/Tailoring	Sewing	Majuro	3
Ebon Atoll Local Government Gardening Project	Gardening	Ebon	3
Mejit Island Local Government	Canoe-building	Mejit	6

WAM: WAAN AELON IN MAJOL train youth in traditional canoe-making programmes and internships.

University of the South Pacific: In 2019, tracking data indicated that, of the 182 graduates in the RMI workforce serving in senior and middle management service roles, 120 are in the public sector, agencies or embassies, and 62 work in the private sector, including family businesses. USP Marshall Islands Campus –

TVET Programmes have included those listed in the table below.

2019	2020	2021
Certificate IV in Early Childhood Education and Care – 19 students (WB ECD Project funded)	Certificate IV in Accounting – 13 students (NTC funded)	Certificate IV in Resilience (Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction) – 16 students (World Bank Pacific Resilience programme [PREP]-funded)
Certificate IV in Accounting – Cohort 1: 25 Students, Cohort 2: 12 Students (NTC-funded)	Certificate IV in Business Administration – 12 students (NTC-funded)	Certificate IV in Project Management Practice – Student enrolment ongoing (USAID-funded)
Diploma in Accounting (Level 5) – 11 students (NTC-funded)	Certificate IV in Hospitality Operations – 13 students (NTC funded)	Certificate IV in Accounting – planned for Semester 2 (NTC-funded)
	Certificate IV in Resilience (Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction) – 24 students (Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP)-funded)	Certificate IV in Business Administration – planned for Semester 2 (NTC-funded)
		Certificate IV in Information Technology (Support) – planned for Semester 2 (NTC-funded)

2.2 Young people’s health status is improved

The **Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS)** is the sole health provider in RMI, which is equally accessible to all youth and promotes human services, substance abuse prevention awareness programmes at schools and local communities, mental health counselling, reproductive health, STI and HIV prevention, immunisation campaigns, as well as COVID-19 awareness, preparedness, and vaccine administration. RMI maintains the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the region, STIs, and high school dropout. Prevention efforts are needed and should start in homes and communities. Some schools do not allow the MOHHS to discuss sex education to their students due to cultural taboos and church teachings. With drugs also on the rise, efforts are needed to reduce the trend.

CMI has a well-developed nursing programme, and there is a small gym, health and wellness committee, and healthy lifestyle programme (Taekwondo, nutrition class, gym, nursing programme-practicum, sports and New Year, New Me programme).

Single State Agency (SSA) focuses on substance abuse prevention and awareness programmes and partners with local churches on related programmes.

Youth to Youth in Health employs youth in health awareness activities (STI and HIV/AIDS counselling, Psychological First Aid, substance abuse prevention and treatment counselling and school intervention).

Marshall Islands Red Cross Society conducts First Aid and CPR trainings, hires youth volunteers, and most graduates of trainings enter the workforce. In addition, it intervenes during pandemics, TB and dengue fever outbreaks, and administers COVID-19 Moderna vaccines.

USP promotes healthy lifestyles and is a non-smoking campus. Each Friday, the students engage in sports activities (volleyball, tennis, canoe paddling).

2.3 Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

CMI has a student body association, which elects its own leaders, has a representative in the President’s Executive Council, and meets monthly with the CMI President.

SSA serves neglected youth, teaches life skills to empower them and support them to speak up, and helps them pursue an education.

Youth to Youth in Health offer social activities and community engagement, leadership training and community outreach and advocacy.

Marshall Islands Red Cross Society has a seat reserved for youth on the National Board.

USP has a student representative on the student council.

2.4 More young people participate in environmental action

CMI has an Environment Club and a Nuclear Club which undertake community service clean-ups. EPPSO is also involved in the clean-up campaigns. In order to play volleyball, the club members need to pick up five pieces of trash. The Reimaanlok – Looking into the Future project aims to strengthen natural resource management in the RMI. The RMI R2R project seeks to sustain atoll biodiversity and livelihoods by building community and ecosystem resilience to threats and degrading influences via the integrated management of terrestrial and coastal resources in priority atolls/islands.

SSA teaches environmental care through, for example, community clean-ups.

Jo-Jikum offers several youth development programmes: Earth Champions; Climate Change Arts Camp; Digital Storytellers Collective; and the Jo-Jikum Internship.

- **Earth Champions (2018):** Youth leaders from four villages (Rairok, Woja, Ajeltake, Laura) were given training and small grants to carry out recycling and waste management projects in their villages, raising awareness on environmentalism. With a UN GEF small grant, Jo-Jikum ran the first Earth Champion “Waste Management and Treatment Project for Youth”, providing tailored training to four Rimajel youth in partnership with Teliphen Neamon from the Majuro Atoll Waste Company – Cansecho Copra Carmel, Brandon Nathan, Lang J Walter, and Lah Jortake Loir Tamare. A six-month youth empowerment programme transforms local youth leaders, aged 18–25 years, into community change makers via capacity-building trainings and small grants, allowing them to develop and implement solutions to environmental issues in their villages. The first Earth Champions programme focused on waste management.
- **Climate Change Arts Camp:** In 2016, 30 Majuro high-school students participated in a one-week arts camp focused on climate change, waste, coral bleaching, and weaving, learning the science of climate change and receiving artistic training from established artists. The latest Arts Camp was reimaged as the Climate and Health Arts Seminar in July 2020.
- **Digital Storytellers Collective:** Youth aged 18–25 years participated in a digital storytelling training after which they developed stories on climate change from local people in their villages using cameras and phones, which were shared via social media and online platforms. A pilot of this programme was held in 2019, with support from IOM and the World Bank, and the first Jo-Jikum Digital Storytelling Collective, a collective to support one another in media and social justice, was developed.
- **Jo-Jikum Internship:** Funded by the National Training Council and CMI, the internship programme is open to all youth aged 18–25 years who have completed high school. Contracts with CMI last a full semester, while NTC contracts last three months with a possibility of re-hire. Jo-Jikum interns help maintain and monitor the Jo-Jikum Youth Center and community garden, coordinate the logistics, and assist in implementing programmes, design and deliver workshops to other youth, use their creativity to create campaigns related to environmentalism, and attend meetings and conferences on behalf of youth and RMI.

Youth to Youth in Health are also involved in community clean-up campaigns.

Marshall Islands Red Cross Society is involved in community clean-up campaigns.

USP organises a TVET climate change programme, including certification in resilience, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as bachelor's and master's degree programmes on climate change. Its Pacific Youth Leaders of Today programme organises beach and park clean-ups.

3. KEY FINDINGS

The findings below emerged from a review of RMI progress against the four PYDF development outcomes for youth.

- **Employment, health and education** are pressing issues. There is limited youth training geared towards employment and few viable jobs are available. Some carpentry programmes are available and successful; however, unemployed youth have not been effectively engaged in them.
- **Youth engagement, participation and representation:** There appears to be limited trust in the capacity of young people to contribute positively to development, including via their participation in decision-making. In the local culture, it is also taboo to question elders and considered rude for young people to be involved in elders' decision-making. The recent trend on social media platforms, such as Kewan Jela, for youth to voice their opinions has sparked interest, including among politicians. The lack of empowerment and participation initiatives for young people remains a major concern. In addition, the limited focus on vulnerable and unattached young people leaves them beyond the reach of organised programmes.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The most pressing challenges facing RMI youth are in employment, health, and education. Youth unemployment, coupled with an overall lack of jobs, remains the greatest challenge, and there is a need for youth empowerment programmes.

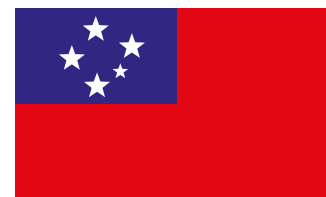
1. **Initiatives are in place to address youth unemployment, but more targeted efforts are needed.** In RMI (mostly Majuro), (i) NGOs conduct training skills programmes, (ii) the National Training Council provides opportunities for school dropouts to access further training opportunities in Hawaii, (iii) environmental training programmes are offered, (iv) the CMI Youth Corps offers carpentry, welding, and maritime training skills for unemployed youth, which lend to employment in the workforce, and (v) local hospitals employ youth through a local nursing school. Despite a slight increase in vocational training, training remains limited overall. Coupled with the lack of jobs and limited motivation among youth, targeted measures are needed.
2. **Young people's health status is improved.** The Ministry of Health employs youth in the nursing sector, and CMI offers a strong nursing programme. The Taiwan Government promotes medical college scholarships in Taiwan. RMI conducts government and private sector workshops on drug and alcohol abuse prevention; however, the youth drug and alcohol abuse rate has not declined. A change in approach is needed.

- 3. Governance structures empower young people to influence decision-making processes.** CMI has a student body association which engages students in decision-making processes. The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs has a Marshall Islands Youth Congress and a Majuro Youth Council which offer workshops and trainings, engaging some youth in the decision-making processes. Cultural norms make it difficult for youth to voice their opinions, as their involvement in decision-making is considered disrespectful. However, social media provides youth with a forum to be heard.
- 4. More young people participate in environmental action.** The Government is actively involved in climate change initiatives. Jo-Jikum, a local NGO, focuses on environmental action. CMI urges youth to be engaged in climate action. However, initiatives should target youth in rural areas, in particular, to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change.



Young people at the forefront of preserving a clean environment in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. © SPC 2023

SAMOA



1. INTRODUCTION

In Samoa, youth are defined as those 18–34 years of age. In the 2016 national census, there were 48,125 youth, representing 25% of the total population (195,179 persons). The Ministry of Women, Community Services and Development (MWCSO) is the government ministry responsible for youth development, with current priorities to improve education and employment prospects for youth.

The local youth development model is based on the respective roles of the Government, village and church. The Government supports youth employment, health and education, the village focuses on culture, and the church builds spirituality.

For the Government, a primary concern is youth unemployment. According to a 2017 ILO report, youth unemployment in Samoa was 44.7% of the country's total employment rate (14.5%); young women represent the majority of those unemployed. The *Tua-i-le-Vao-Ola* National Community Economic Development Strategy 2019–2024 replaced the 2015–2019 NYP and is the main policy for the Government and its stakeholders in promoting youth development in Samoa. The strategy is designed to improve the economic status of communities by increasing employment among youth. It has three main goals: (i) reduce vulnerability by supporting micro- and small-sized businesses; (ii) reduce vulnerability by strengthening pathways to employment; and (iii) reduce and alleviate poverty by changing mindsets and sustaining financial literacy development.

The village governance setting offers youth a place to be heard. In each village, there are three distinctive bodies: the village council (*pulega a ali'i ma faipule*); women's committee (*auluma*); and untitled men (*taulele'a or aumaga*). The village council (including some youth) is the main authority supported by the women's group (including young women) and untitled men (including young men), offering youth an opportunity to learn the local culture and traditions.

Almost every church in each village has a youth group (*autalavou*) where youth spirituality is nurtured.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

2.1.1 Access to relevant education in formal and vocational sectors

Established prior to 2015, the Government's free education policy enables youth to access secondary school free of charge. MWCSO is a member of the Education Sector Advisory Committee, which oversees the strategic direction of the education sector and advises the Government.

The Scholarship Committee along with the Samoa Qualification Authority (SQA) provides scholarships through the Government, specifically aimed at assisting economically-disadvantaged youth. These scholarships are designed for individuals who have been accepted into vocational programmes at the National University of Samoa and other institutions offering post-secondary education and training throughout the nation. Since 2015, a TVET Support Fund, under the SQA, has assisted young people from economically vulnerable families who cannot afford the cost of programmes offered by PSET providers. The Fund is supported by the Australian and New Zealand governments. In 2015 – 2018, 849 were assisted under the scheme to enrol in PSET providers around the country.

MWCSD, in partnership with UNDP, offers a skill-matching initiative as part of the YEP, which provides sponsorship for youth to enrol in programmes of their choice offered by various PSET providers. Once completed, participants are placed in the internship programme to increase their employability.

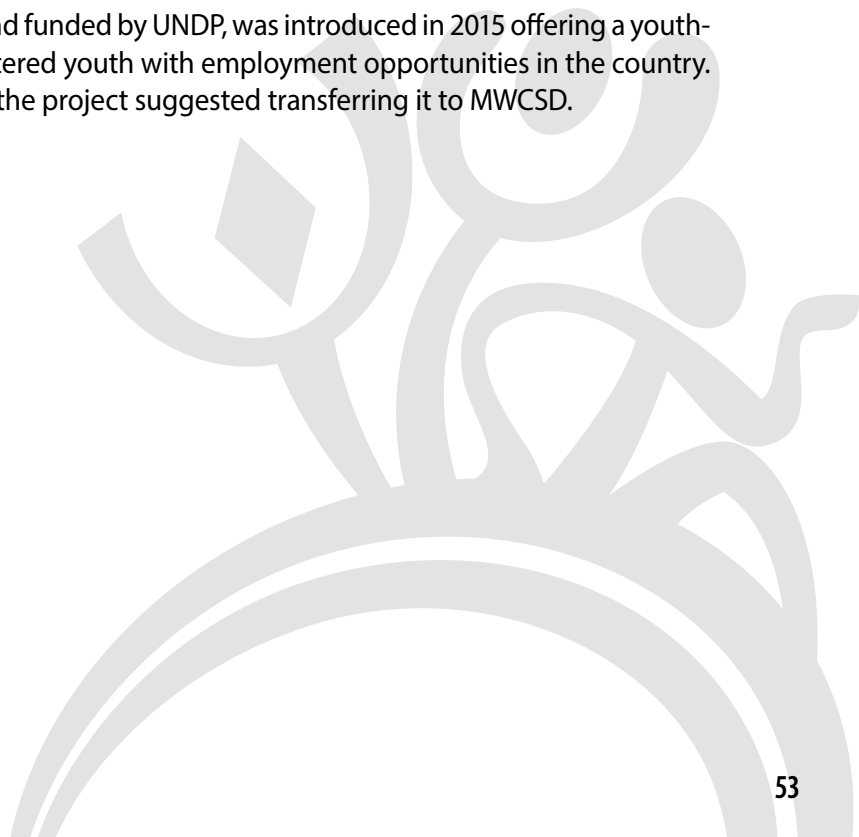
2.1.2 More young people are involved in entrepreneurship

- In 2015, MWCSD launched the Samoa One-UN YEP in partnership with UNDP and other UN agencies. Funded by UN agencies, the Samoa One-UN YEP is administered by the MWCSD Community and Economic Development Division offering internships, a small business incubator, and skill-matching.
- **Internships:** The MWCSD provides youth seeking employment with internships. Since 2015, 150 youth have registered for the programme and 110 subsequently gained employment.
- **Small business incubator:** The Small Business Incubator promotes youth entrepreneurship. While youth are the primary target, other family members are also engaged. Assistance has been granted to 90 families, with 60% of their businesses proving viable, lending to improved living standards and increased school attendance among their children.
- **Skill-matching initiative:** This is referred to under 2.1.1.

Other stakeholders implement similar youth entrepreneurship initiatives: In 2017 – 2018, the Development Bank of Samoa offered a grant scheme; and a Youth Co:Lab, funded by UNDP, links youth already in business with youth beyond Samoa (e.g. in Asia), creating a trading network.

2.1.3 Youth-friendly employment services are established to connect young people to employment opportunities

An E-Youth Hub, facilitated by the SNYC and funded by UNDP, was introduced in 2015 offering a youth-friendly employment service to link registered youth with employment opportunities in the country. In 2019, the hub was on hold; a review of the project suggested transferring it to MWCSD.



Progress under PYDF Outcome 1

The table below summarises progress under Outcome 1. The YEP initiative and TVET Support Fund, administered by SQA, assist youth from lower income families to enrol in PSET providers, increasing their access to education and training in formal and vocational sectors (outcome [a]). The Education Sector Plan 2013–2018 supported PSET providers responsible for TVET, improving youth access to such training.

Outcome 1: More young people have secured decent employment			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.1.1)
Samoa One-UN Youth Employment Project	MWCSD, UNDP, ILO	2017: sponsored 150 youth	Young people have increased access to relevant education and training in formal and vocational sectors
TVET Support Fund	SQA, DFAT, MFAT	2015: sponsored 607 youth 2016: No record 2017: sponsored 123 youth 2018: sponsored 119 youth	
Education Sector Plan 2013–2108	MESC, National University of Samoa, SQA, MWCSD, PSET providers	2015: 5,785 enrolled in PSET 2006: 5,453 enrolled in PSET 2017: 5,000 enrolled in PSET 2018: 4,777 enrolled in PSET	
			Contributing outcome (2.1.2)
Samoa One-UN Youth Employment Project	MWCSD, UNDP, ILO	90 families included in the programme 60% of families are rated as successful	More young people are involved in entrepreneurship
Development Bank of Samoa Grant Scheme	Communities	Information not available	
			Contributing outcome (2.1.3)
Samoa One-UN Youth Employment Project	MWCSD, UNDP, ILO	150 youth registered with MWCSD internship programme 110 now employed permanently	Youth-friendly employment services are established to connect young people to employment opportunities
Samoa National Youth Council E-Youth Hub Project	UNDP, MWCSD, communities	No information available	

Source: Data provided by MWCSD and SQA

Of the 90 families supported under the YEP entrepreneurship programme, about 60% have shown progress. Some are now able to connect a water source to their homes, pay their children's school fees, and improve the conditions of their homes. The internship programme has also been successful, with many youth gaining full-time employment following completion of their internships.

Youth development in Samoa is not without challenges. Public officials and stakeholders cite concerns with issues hindering their youth development efforts:

- **Unrealistic design of youth development programmes:** Feedback suggests that some Samoa One-UN YEP components are not feasible to implement.
- **Difficulty coordinating different development partners:** Officials responsible for YEP, VSRHP, and PPCR all noted difficulties collaborating with multiple development partners.
- **Youth attitude:** Efforts by MWCSD to find employment for youth interns are sometimes undermined by youth who are unwilling to accept certain jobs. The same is experienced with the VSRHP, whereby programme implementers found it difficult to proceed with the programme due to non-attendance and the inability of youth to follow instructions.
- **Mismatch of skills and labour demand:** Through the Internship programme, the MWCSD detected a mismatch between skills learned by youth in formal education and labour market demand. Similarly, the 2018 tracer study by the National University of Samoa concluded that 30% of TVET graduates felt their qualifications were irrelevant to labour market needs.

- **The new structure of the MWCS D:** Restructuring in 2015 distributed the MWCS D youth development role across other divisions, reducing attention on youth development.
- **National priorities:** A lack of prioritisation on youth development in the Government’s Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2016/2017 – 2019/2020, with youth cited just once in the strategy, has hindered MWCS D and its partners in youth development efforts.
- **Sustainability of programmes:** YEP and the TVET Support Fund are supported by development partners. However, sustaining them after external funding ceases is a key challenge.

2.2 Young people’s health status is improved

2.2.1 Young people’s mental health and well-being are improved

The Ministry of Health (MoH) provides services to youth and others experiencing mental health challenges. Since 2015, NGOs have provided toll-free counselling services to young people in need.

2.2.2 Young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights are improved

Since prior to 2015, the Ministry of Health has supported STI prevention under its routine services, in hospitals nationwide. In partnership with Samoa Family Health Association and, MWCS D provides clinics targeting village youth under the VSRHP. UNFPA has contributed STD 127,000 annually to this programme.

2.2.3 Young people’s nutrition and physical activity is improved

The Ministry of Health provides services, including one-to-one counselling sessions, awareness-raising workshops, and promotional materials. Although youth are not specifically targeted, the majority of participants in these services are young people.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 2

Progress under Outcome 2 is summarised in the table below. Although incomplete, the results show that youth attend SRHR clinics and awareness-raising workshops.

Outcome 2: Young people’s health and well-being status improved			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.2.1)
Ministry of Health mental health clinics	Community	2015: 2,115 attended clinics 2016: 2,014 attended clinics	Young people’s mental health and well-being are improved
NGO counselling services	Community	No information available	
			Contributing outcome (2.2.2)
Ministry of Health STI services	Community	2015: 2,154 attended clinics 2016: 997 attended clinics	Young people’s sexual and reproductive health status is improved
Village Sexual and Reproductive Health Program	MWCS D, UNFPA, Samoa Family Health Association, Samoa AIDS Foundation	2018: 460 attended (257 female, 203 male)	
			Contributing outcome (2.2.3)
Ministry of Health clinical nutrition and dietary service	Community	2015: 1,041 attended clinics; 13 workshops 2016: 1,238 attended clinics; 20 workshops	Young people’s nutrition and physical activity are improved

Source: Samoa National Health Service Annual Report 2015; 2016

Stakeholders, such as the National Sports Federations, promote increased physical activity.

The new structure of MWCS D seems to have reduced the Government's focus on youth development. Coupled with the absence of a specific focus on youth development in the Government's national priorities, this limits the MWCS D capacity to promote the development of initiatives that support youth health. Without such commitment from Government, related efforts will remain hindered.

2.3 Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

2.3.1 Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups

The SNYC, established in 2011, aims to represent all youth in Samoa at the national level and influence the decision-making processes of the Government, development partners and other stakeholders on issues pertaining to youth development. SUNGO advocates for the rights of youth and influences government decision-making on matters concerning youth development.

2.3.2 Governments increase investment in youth development across sectors

The Government and development partners have provided financial assistance to MWCS D for youth development. However, it is difficult to determine government investment specifically for youth development due to the restructuring of MWCS D in 2015. Other sectors (agriculture, education, health, justice, policing, prisons) all have services that benefit young people but, as they also target others, it is difficult to determine the precise share of resources directed to youth.

2.3.3 Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in development processes

At the time of the review, the MNRE was the only government authority working with youth on national development. In 2019, a climate change project was launched to work with youth groups on climate resilience. The Samoa Conservation Society, a NGO specialised in conservation of Samoa's biological diversity and natural heritage, engages youth in a national development project.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 3

The table below shows support linked to PYDF Outcome 3. The SNYC SUNGO and MWCS D are the main authorities influencing decision-making processes at the political level. SNYC provides assistance to youth development in various communities. The Government's investment in youth development is difficult to estimate. UNFPA contributed USD 0.6 million to the VSRHP in 2017–2019, while UNDP invested USD2 million to the YEP.

Outcome 3: Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.3.1)
Samoa National Youth Council	PYC	• Information not available	Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups
SUNGO	SNYC, youth groups	• Information not available	
			Contributing outcome (2.3.2)
MWCS D	MWCS D, MoF	• Information not available	Government increases investment in youth development in all sectors
VSRHP	UNFPA	• 2017: USD 0.2m 2018: USD 0.2m 2019: USD 0.2m	
Samoa One-UN Youth Employment Program	UNDP	• 2015: USD 0.5m 2016: USD 0.5m 2017: USD 0.5m 2018: USD 0.5m	
			Contributing outcome (2.3.3)
Samoa One-UN Youth Employment Program	MWCS D, UN agencies, SNYC		Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in the development process
MNRE Climate change project	Youth groups	• Please refer to the discussion under Outcome 4	
Samoa Conservation Society project	Youth groups	• Please refer to the discussion under Outcome 4	

Source: Data provided by MWCS D

SNYC considers culture the key challenge to youth engagement in decision-making processes as youth are considered too young to make decisions. As a result, governance structures at the village, church and political levels are not inclusive of youth. It is recommended that the Government formally recognise SNYC as a stakeholder in its decision-making processes, like the Women in Business and Council of Churches, to ensure their advocacy for youth inclusion is heard and youth interests are represented in government decision-making. Officials consulted for the review also suggested that MWCS D re-establish the Youth Division, and the Government put in place a mechanism responsible for youth development.

2.4 More young people participate in environmental actions

2.4.1 More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives addressing food and water security

The Farm to Table project funded by UNDP, in partnership with Women in Business Development Incorporated, is a particularly relevant initiative under this outcome. It aims to engage youth in organic farming and enable them to sell their produce to the business community (hotels, restaurants), while securing food for their families and communities.

2.4.2 More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes

Most MNRE programmes targeting the environment and climate change are universal. However, PPCR, launched in 2019 and funded by the World Bank, aims to build the capacity of youth to support the resilience of the marine sector. This includes establishing and protecting fishery reserves and conserving mangroves. The project is for two years and MNRE is the main implementing agency working in partnership with the Youth Climate Action Network.

The Samoa Conservation Society engages youth from three villages on the southern side of Upolu. The Samoa Climate Smart Rainforest Restoration employs 30 youth to plant native trees in the national park. The project aims to restore rainforest while increasing forest resilience to climate change.

2.4.3 More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices

All programmes under outcomes 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 include sustainable environmental practices.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 4

The table below outlines progress made towards Outcome 4. With respect to the Farm to Table project, 574 youth benefited by practicing organic farming and developing other related capacities. The Samoa Climate Smart Rainforest Restoration project employed 30 youth, including nine women.

Outcome 4: More young people participate in environmental actions				
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.4.1)	
Women in Business Development Incorporated – Farm to Table project	Samoa National Youth Council; Youth groups	574 benefited from the project in various capacities	More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives addressing food and water security	
			Contributing outcome (2.4.2)	
MNRE – PPCR project	Youth groups	• Information not available	More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes	
Samoa Smart Climate Change Rainforest Restoration Project – Samoa Conservation Society	Youth groups	• 30 youth employees		
			Contributing outcome (2.4.3)	
Women in Business Development Incorporated – Farm to Table project	Youth groups	• 574 benefited from the project in various capacities	More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices	
Samoa Smart Climate Change Rainforest Restoration Project – Samoa Conservation Society	Youth groups	• 30 youth employees		

Source: Data provided by Women in Business Development Incorporated; Samoa Conservation Society

SOLOMON ISLANDS



1. INTRODUCTION

In the late 1980s, the Government's priority with respect to youth development was to build youth capacity in leadership, management, negotiations, agriculture, fishing and small engine maintenance. Small grants and youth loan guarantees featured in the Government's support for youth development in the late 1980s and 1990s. However, limited budget allocations, unstable administrative settings and community tensions with the riots of 2006 meant that many of the initiatives were not sustainable.

Youth unemployment is currently the most pressing concern for the Government. The latest census, in 2015, showed a total population of 636,750, 70% of which was below 34 years of age. In 2005, ILO reported that only two of every 10 youth (aged 15–34 years) in the Solomon Islands were gainfully employed and the unemployment rate for youth aged 15–19 years was 75%. Education is the second most significant youth problem. Low school enrolment and irrelevant curriculum are key concerns.

Rapid population growth, estimated at 50 births per day, is an added burden to government resources. NCDs are the primary health concern among youth. The majority of youth abuse alcohol, smoke and are physically inactive.

The Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs (MWYCFA), in partnership with development partners and stakeholders, leads efforts to address youth challenges, focusing on policy-making and monitoring while the nine provincial governments are expected to implement the policies.

The Government's vision for youth is for them to be "empowered, talented, innovative and valued young people who are able to realize their full potential and understand their roles and responsibilities to make meaningful contributions to the long-term sustainable development of Solomon Islands, socially, culturally, economically, politically and spiritually".

In 2017, the Government introduced the NYP 2017 – 2030 outlining its vision, goals and priority areas for youth development. MWYCFA provides advice and monitoring while provincial governments roll out the strategies for youth development specified in the policy. A Strategic Framework for Youth Development and Empowerment in Solomon Islands was launched in 2017 to accompany and guide provincial governments and development partners in implementing the NYP. The NYP includes six target areas: (i) education empowerment; (ii) economic empowerment; (iii) health and well-being; (iv) sustainable development; (v) leadership, government, peace-building, social inclusion and citizenship; and (vi) evidence-based approaches, access to information and provincial implementation strategies.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

2.1.1 Access to relevant education in formal and vocational sectors

The Solomon Islands free education policy, introduced during the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, only covers primary education. As a result, young people, particularly girls, are often left behind from secondary schooling.

Young people's access to post-secondary school education is also limited. While the Government and donor countries offer scholarships to study at USP and universities in Australia and New Zealand, the limited number of these awards means few young people access post-secondary education and vocational training.

2.1.2 More young people are involved in entrepreneurship

The NYP 2017–2030 sets the direction for the Government and development partners in youth employment and entrepreneurship. Initiatives implemented since 2015 are outlined below.

- The **National Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Strategy** provides career pathways and entrepreneurship capacity-building via internships in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and trade at the local, regional and international levels.
- The **Youth employment, empowerment and young entrepreneurs programme (YEEYEP)** assists youth with start-up financial support and entrepreneurial capacity-building to improve the knowledge and skills of young entrepreneurs in basic business management and administrative skills.
- **Youth@Work Programme (Y@W)**, launched in 2012 with SPC support, builds the skills of young people, improving their long-term economic prospects via internships in employment or entrepreneurship. Initially only in Honiara, the Y@W was extended to Auki, Malaita and Gizo and is funded by the Government and SPC's collaboration with DFAT, the Queen's Young Leaders Funding, UNDP and Plan International. An independent evaluation in 2015 led to its up-scaling in resources and coverage. In 2017, Y@W was redesigned to prepare for its handover to the Government, allowing SPC to adapt the initiative elsewhere in the region.



The selected young individuals embarking on the PYEEEP training pathways in the Solomon Islands. © SPC 2023

2.1.3 Youth-friendly employment services are established to connect young people to employment opportunities

Both the YEEYEP and the Y@W programmes provide capacity-building and internship support that link young people to employment opportunities.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 1

The table below outlines progress made under PYDF Outcome 1.

Outcome 1: More young people have secured decent employment			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.1.1)
Government scholarship scheme		Information not available	Young people have increased access to relevant education and training in formal and vocational sectors
			Contributing outcome (2.1.2)
National Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Strategy	Youth groups, communities	No information available	More young people are involved in entrepreneurship
YEEYEP	Youth groups, communities		
Y@W (QLP)	Provincial governments, MWYCFA	2017: 56 completed business training and started their own businesses; 45 youth with a disability started businesses	
Y@W (DFAT)	Provincial governments, youth clubs, MWYCFA, SPC	2018: 200 new businesses started, 80% in agri-business	
Y@W (UNDP)	Provincial governments, youth clubs, MWYCFA, SPC	2017 – 2019: 83 completed training on business creation and established businesses	
			Contributing outcome (2.1.3)
Y@W (QLP)	Queen's Leadership, provincial governments, youth clubs, MYCFA, SPC	2017: 428 completed pre-employment training, career expo, and an awareness session with 417 placed in internships 2018: 460 completed pre-employment training; 347 completed 15-week internships	Youth-friendly employment services are established to connect young people to employment opportunities
Y@W (DFAT)	Provincial governments, youth clubs, MWYCFA, SPC	2018: 133 completed youth employment training; 29 were placed in internships	

Source: DFAT Y@W Annual Report 2018; Queen's Young Leaders Annual Report 2017; UNDP Project Completion Report 2019

Y@W is making progress towards addressing youth unemployment with encouraging results in the four provinces it covers. A significant number of youth have started small businesses and many have also gained full-time employment through the internship programme. However, the need for sustainable funding and resources threaten continuation of the programme.

2.2 Young people's health status is improved

2.2.1 Young people's mental health and well-being are improved

The NYP 2017–2030 emphasises youth mental health and represents the Government's commitment to address related health issues, including drug abuse and suicide. The National Hospital's Psychiatric Unit provides centralised services, particularly for those with acute mental health challenges.

2.2.2 Young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights are improved

The NYP 2017 – 2030 aims to address SRHR and teenage pregnancy, emerging challenges facing young people in the country. MHMS provides SRHR services to all citizens, including youth. Since 2015, MHMS has worked with NGOs, in particular the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association, to provide these services. In operation since 2008, the association provides SRHR services to young people at four Youth Health and Social Centers in Honiara and three provinces.

2.2.3 Young people's nutrition and physical activity are improved

The NYP 2017–2030 aims to increase awareness among all youth of the importance of healthy living and lifestyles and to engage them in culture, sports and other physical activities to improve their health and holistic well-being. MHMS focuses on nutrition, particularly of newborns and children. While youth can access nutrition services, mothers and children are the primary target.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 2

The table below highlights progress made towards PYDF Outcome 2. Services for mental health, SRHR and nutrition are available for young people. Funding is a critical need to ensure accessibility of the services to young people outside Honiara.

Outcome 2: Young people's health and well-being status improved			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.2.1)
MHMS mental health service	Communities and youth	No information available	Young people's mental health and well-being are improved
			Contributing outcome (2.2.2)
MHMS sexual and reproductive health services	Communities	2017: 2,798 HIV tests and sexual and reproductive health clinics conducted	Young people's sexual and reproductive health status is improved
			Contributing outcome (c)
MHMS nutritional services	Communities in provinces	Information not available	Young people's nutrition and physical activity are improved

Source: MHMS Annual Report 2017

2.3 Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

2.3.1 Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups

Outcome 5 of the NYP 2017–2030 aims to empower youth as agents of positive change, through their participation in leadership, decision-making and governance mechanisms including traditional leadership and governance at household, village, community, provincial and national levels. Measures needed to achieve this objective are outlined below.

- Create an enabling environment to increase opportunities for youth, including disabled and marginalised youth, to participate in, lead, plan, make decisions, implement, monitor and evaluate development opportunities within and outside government systems.
- Facilitate leadership, social accountability and civic engagement opportunities for young people to acquire more knowledge and awareness on the role of government, parliament, parliamentarians, traditional leadership and governance, provincial and ward governance, businesses and civil society to strengthen their roles in democratic society.

Initiatives that strengthen representative structures for young people include the Y@W leadership and empowerment component. Youth empowerment programmes provided by the Honiara City Council have three components: youth volunteer opportunities; workshops and training; and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Solomon Islands National Youth Congress and Provincial Youth Councils offer initiatives to develop representative structures for young people.

2.3.2 Governments increase investments in youth development across sectors

The universal nature of services provided by all sectors of government makes it difficult to accurately determine the share of government investment in youth development. The allocation to MYCFA is the only government investment in youth identified as part of this review.

2.3.3 Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in development processes

Responsibilities are shared on a small scale with, for example, youth in Honiara involved in a project that encourages water cleanliness and sanitation.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 3

The table below highlights progress made in the Solomon Islands under PYDF Outcome 3. The main challenge is limited coordination between provincial governments and the central government.

Outcome 3: Governance structure empowers young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.3.1)
Y@W	Youth, communities		Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups
National Youth Congress, Provincial Youth Councils, Honiara City Council	Youth, communities	No information	
			Contributing outcome (2.3.2)
MWYCFA development budget	Ministry of Finance and Treasury	2019: USD 1.1m 2018: USD 0.5m 2017: USD 4.0m 2016: USD 3.2m	Government increases investment in youth development in all sectors
			Contributing outcome (2.3.3)
No information available			Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in the development process

Source: Government of Solomon Islands Development Budget 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019

2.4 More young people participate in environmental actions

The NYP 2017–2030 outlines the Government's plan to encourage young people to participate in environmental actions, by equipping them as effective catalysts and enablers of a sustainable environment. The Government aims for young people to promote green and blue economies, strengthen resilience to natural disasters and climate change, and ensure food, water and energy security. To support the NYP, a youth participation strategy includes activities that promote youth-led programmes to:

- maximise the blue economy and marine-based economic development, improving human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental and ecological risks, with the aim to preserve the environment and ecosystems for future generations; and
- support disaster preparedness and response, climate readiness and resilience, and food and water security.

2.4.1 More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives addressing food and water security

In early 2019, SPC and the Government committed to a three-year programme supporting food security. While not specifically targeting youth, the programme was expected to engage a significant number of young people.

The Ministry of Environment Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology (MECDM) engages youth in Honiara to take a lead role in cleaning up the Mataniko River, reducing contamination via effective waste management practices. Young people residing in the area are targeted to be trained and, then, lead waste management practices and advocate for others to engage in such practices in the community.

2.4.2 More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes

Y@W engages youth to take a lead role in addressing climate change, after benefiting from capacity-building on climate change and adaptation. MECDM prepares youth in Honiara and other provinces to lead their communities in climate change adaptation.

2.4.3 More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices

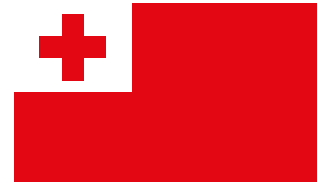
MECDM manages over 50 donor- and government-funded projects directly linked to sustainable environmental practices. Young people are not specifically cited in these projects but are involved.

Progress under PYDF Outcome 4

The table below summarises progress under PYDF Outcome 4. To support commitments at both the political and community levels for youth to play a critical role in leading climate change initiatives, they must be invited and able to participate in the design and implementation of environmental action projects.

Outcome 4: More young people participate in environmental action			
Initiatives implemented since 2015	Stakeholders	Achievements 2015–2019	Contributing outcome (2.4.1)
SPC food security initiative	Government of Solomon Islands	No information available	More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives that address food and water security
MECDM Mataniko River project	Honiara youth, church, community	No information available	
			Contributing outcome (2.4.2)
Y@W project	MWYCFA, youth, communities	Refer to discussion in 7.1.2	More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes
MECDM projects	Communities, provinces, youth	Information not available	
			Contributing outcome (2.4.3)
MECDM projects	Communities, provinces, youth	Information not available	More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices

TONGA



1. INTRODUCTION

Tonga defines youth as those 15–34 years of age. In the 2019 Tonga Youth Thematic Report, the Department of Statistics noted that youth represent almost 32,000 or one third of the total population in Tonga. Using the international definition of youth (15–24 years), youth represent almost 19,000 or 18.6% of the population.

Tonga's budget commitments to youth are in its support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), with USD 25,600 allocated for youth development in the 2015–2016 budget estimates. In the past five years, this has increased greatly. The 2020–2021 budget estimates in youth development increased to USD 446,800. This does not account for investments in other ministries where youth also benefit. For instance, the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) and the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) run programmes that include youth, although their budgets do not specifically cite youth allocations.

In 2017, the Government separated its Youth and Culture Division into two divisions. The culture division is now under the Ministry of Tourism, while the Youth Division remains under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. This has allowed staff to focus on youth work and support youth networks and has strengthened the Youth Division's relationship with stakeholders allowing development of a national youth strategy and the first NYP for better coordination and guidance of youth work.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

Youth unemployment in Tonga is four times more than adult unemployment with young women most affected. Tonga's 2018 Labour Force Survey Report noted an overall unemployment rate of 3.1% with youth unemployment at 8.9%. For young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), it is 39.5% of youth (34.5% young men, 44.5% young women). The high rates of subsistence production and unpaid work are contributing factors.

In 2015, Tonga joined New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme and Australia's Pacific Seasonal Worker scheme. Although no specific data has been provided on youth-aged workers, many young people have been economically empowered and employed, even if temporarily, through these programmes. The MET also reinforced the Education Act 2013 (effective 2020), where the compulsory age for education in Tonga is 4–18 years of age to ensure young people are better equipped educationally for a future career and more likely to be employed. MET has worked closely with Tonga Skills, a key investment of the Australian Government, to build the skills of Tongans. Support from Tonga Skills include entrepreneurial and enterprise development for all ages.

Numerous NGOs work to address unemployment at the community level. The Tonga National Youth Council (TNYC) leads the young farmers' programme of virgin oil and vanilla exports to combat youth unemployment and school dropout and foster entrepreneurship. Their programmes have been funded by MFAT, OXFAM and New Zealand. Talitha Project provides adolescent girls with training in economic empowerment. Naunau 'o e 'Alamaite Tonga Association has built the skills (crafts, sewing) of persons with disabilities, supporting their economic prospects.

Takiama Ma'a Tonga, established in 2013, provides coaching, research, and mentoring programmes to address school dropout. By the end of 2016, they had profiled 3,000 school dropouts but lacked the funding to implement intended programmes. In 2014, Tonga Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship was established to address youth unemployment and, to date, provides employment services, entrepreneurship initiatives and work readiness training with mentorship.

On the Spot, Seleka International, Nuku alofa and ICON Creative Summit offer community creative art trainings to hundreds of young people, most of whom are estranged, unemployed, or school dropouts. Churches undertake other community initiatives, including encouraging young people in entrepreneurship (bazars, market days, self-reliance trainings, further education). Some communities are supported by youth councils and some villages have established themselves as NGOs to be able to apply for funding.

Despite the efforts by government organisations and CSOs, challenges remain with respect to this PYDF Outcome. Young people in entrepreneurial businesses, particularly in handicrafts, find it difficult to gain marketing opportunities for their products and services. Their lack of experience next to adults in certain fields disqualifies them from many employment opportunities. Further, many youth initiatives are project-funded and lack funding for equipment and facilities. Finding core funding, instead of project-to-project funding, is an ongoing challenge for youth-led organisations. Capacity-building within the organisation is needed. During the pandemic, the market for young entrepreneurs declined and youth-led organisations were led by people residing overseas who could not return.

The more successful unemployment efforts are led by organisations that have secured core funding for several years and are led by adults with the experience and qualifications to direct youth programmes. International networks also offer support, providing local youth with the support they need from overseas counterparts.

2.2 Young people's health status is improved

Adolescence is the healthiest period in the life-course. The 2019 Tonga Youth Thematic Report noted that youth in adolescence “also mark the first manifestations of issues which can have lifelong effects on health and well-being, such as unsafe sexual behaviour, early childbearing and substance misuse”. Key health figures outlined by the Department of Statistics include the following:

- Adolescent boys (59%) aged 15–19 years are four times more likely to have ever used tobacco compared to adolescent girls (13%). In the month preceding the survey, 47% of boys used tobacco compared to 3% of girls.
- About 4% of adolescents aged 15–17 years have dealt with anxiety; just over 2% have experienced depression.
- More adolescent girls aged 15–19 years feel discriminated on the basis of gender, religion and belief (13% each) compared to adolescent boys (4% and 7%, respectively).
- Overall, 26% of children aged 5–17 years engage in economic activities at or above the age-specific thresholds outlined in the definition of child labour.

In its Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability Report, the Ministry of Health noted that “only two facilities (7%) within Tonga ... provide adolescent and youth-friendly services according to global standards”. Further, young people tend to find non-formal groups to address their health needs.

Both the Government and CBOs undertake health interventions to ensure good health and well-being among youth. A recent increase in drug-related crimes has gained attention and commitment from the Government to tackle illicit drugs through its Ministry of Police and stakeholders. Taskforces and cluster groups have been initiated to help in water and sanitation projects throughout Tonga.

The Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA), Talitha Project, Tonga Leitis Association, the Salvation Army, Breakthrough Nation Tonga, Tonga Red Cross, TCDT and Tonga Health Promotion Foundation (Tonga Health) lead community health efforts. Although most of these are not youth-led, their teams all have youth-aged staff and youth are primary targets of their initiatives and projects. TFHA provides clinical health services, counselling, and awareness-raising via its drama group, Fili Tonu, informing young people of SRHR in a culturally sensitive way. Tonga Red Cross offers first aid training and health promotion to all, particularly those with disabilities. TCDT reaches rural communities, promoting family gardens, organic fertilisers, farming, and NCD prevention through healthy eating and living. The Talitha Project oversees the My Body, My Rights programme for young girls helping address gender-based violence and SRHR issues in the past decade. Tonga Leitis Association raises awareness and conducts regular check-ups for the LGBTQI+ community on STIs, HIV/AIDS, and other SRHR issues. Tonga Health programmes address NCDs through healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco control and reduced harm from alcohol misuse. The Salvation Army is the only body in Tonga providing alcohol and drug counselling and rehabilitation programmes. Breakthrough Nation offers free Zumba classes, promoting fitness and healthy lifestyles.

A lack of mental health awareness programmes and clinical services addressing mental health concerns is a gap in the health sector. There is a lack of data on mental health, and cultural stigma around mental health discourages young people from talking about it until it is too late. Only one expert medical doctor provides related services in the psychiatric unit at the hospital, and people with severe cases resulting from limited housing and unemployment are prioritised. While churches offer programmes to alleviate mental health concerns, suicide remains a concern among young people.



Representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources in Tonga observing a quarry site. © SPC 2023

2.3 Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

Of the four outcomes, governance has the least youth-led programmes, due to a lack of understanding of governance and disinterest among young people in participating in lengthy processes and meetings with government bodies or large organisations.

In the latest census of 2016, there were 18,736 youth aged 15 – 24 years (9,555 young men, 9,181 young women). In Tonga's 2014 elections, 6,468 youth aged 21 – 24 years registered to vote. About half of the registered youth voters did not vote (3,093), with a lack of interest being the main reason cited followed by overseas residence.

Efforts to help young people in governance include their increased engagement in Parliament discussions and processes, NYP development, and more consultations and engagement between government and civil society.

The Legislative Assembly of Tonga revived its TYP to encourage and support youth participation in political processes and inspire young people in leadership and decision-making. Prior to 2015, Tonga only held TYP twice (2002, 2010). After 2015, the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga hosted two more Youth Parliaments (2018, 2020). TYP provides youth representatives with the opportunity to bring to the forefront issues directly impacting the youth they represent.

The youth-led NGO, GOSHCRY, was established in 2015 to train young people to understand, avoid becoming victims of, and stand up against corruption. Its members partnered with donors, media, and members of Parliament to lobby and discuss the Anti-corruption Standing Committee within Parliament. GOSHCRY discontinued activities in 2017 and, in 2018, a new NGO, Tonga Youth Leaders, was established and led by all young people, who partnered with donor agencies and Parliament to publish the first ever Youth Voter Education Handbook, run the Girls Take Over Parliament, She Leads programme, and train young women on budget and political processes. As part of their mentorship programmes, young people have been mentored by prominent leaders in Tonga, including the Speaker of Parliament, CEOs, and educators. Through this programme, young people benefit from practical, hands-on work and internships, learning how to work and create youth-friendly programmes for their peers. Together with TNYC, the Talitha Project engages in voter and civic education as part of its political and leadership participation programmes. Of the two youth-led organisations focused on governance, one is no longer in place and the other changed its name and area of focus to include more people in the diaspora and expand its reach beyond the youth population.

A key finding is the issue of youth age, as young people who once led the organisation have outgrown the youth demographic. Plans are not in place for more young people to take over leadership of the organisations. As many young people choose not to be involved in governance due to the reasons cited above, it can be difficult to replace youth leaders. Some young leaders express the lack of simple and practical guidelines from government, or too many lengthy consultations without follow-up. Capacity-building in finance and administration is also another factor to consider.

2.4 More young people participate in environmental action

In the 2021/22 Floating Budget of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga, there is an increase of 111% in the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), due to proposals for new buildings and ongoing projects in renewable energy, adaptation, and climate change. Albeit not youth-specific, youth initiatives partner with the Government in the Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Resilience.

Through 350.org Tonga, which seeks to reduce carbon emissions from 400 to 350, youth have led national climate strikes, an annual “No Car Day”, and beach and waterfront clean-ups. The No Pelesitiki (No Plastic) Campaign advocates for banning plastics in Tonga, regularly picking up plastic trash along the waterfront, and youth champions to care for the environment. The Tonga Red Cross has led disaster risk management and climate change efforts among civil society for years. The TCDT raises awareness and promotes solar energy. CARITAS Tonga has led climate change adaptation, resilience, and rehabilitation programmes, successfully securing water tanks for communities, building houses following natural disasters, and engaging youth in climate change programmes.

Inclusion of the outer islands is a key challenge. However, Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI) Tonga Trust has led donor-funded projects in the most remote areas of Tonga.

Overall findings across the four PYDF outcomes

Youth-led efforts that have been unsuccessful in all four outcomes can be attributed to:

- a lack of coordination among organisations and with the Government;
- a lack of funding for youth-led efforts;
- a lack of plan in place for new leadership when young people outgrow the youth demographics, resulting in organisations leaving the youth sector;
- a need for youth-friendly facilities, especially in health, creative arts and marketing;
- competition for the same pool of funding, which can be discouraging to youth-led NGOs with fewer years of experience, coupled with duplication of efforts due to a lack of coordination between youth-led programmes; and
- a need for effectively implemented policies and clear communication with youth groups.



VANUATU



1. INTRODUCTION

Vanuatu is comprised of six provinces: Shefa; Tafea; Torba; Penama; Malampa; and Sanma. With over 250,000 residents, youth have represented the majority of the population since 2009. As a result, youth play a vital role in development, and Vanuatu makes it a priority to promote youth engagement in its development.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (MYSD) aims to provide leadership by creating strategic opportunities for youth, sports and training. As youth represent the bulk of the population in Vanuatu, it is vital to empower them to play a positive role in its socio-economic development. MYSD's main programmes are sports tournaments/championships and International Youth Week.

The Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNYC) was set up to support and promote youth development through youth programmes that target specific thematic areas to empower and support youth. Through networking, VNYC reaches youth in all six provinces. Each province has its own Youth President who ensures information and services are accessible to all youth. VNYC activities include: International Youth Day; Youth Economic Empowerment Forum; Youth Council elections; cultural programmes; Youth Parliament; Climate Change Networks; and internships. VNYC relies on funding for its programmes (8 million VUV for International Youth Day; 1 million VUV for a Youth Economic Empowerment Forum).

Youth development in Vanuatu is supported by a range of CSOs:

- **The Ntalpuk Ning Epang Faum Association (NNEFA)**, a small youth group that seeks to empower and support youth and marginalised groups (youth, especially school dropouts, single mothers, widows, LGBTQI+ persons) in education, economy, environment and spirituality, providing skill-building opportunities to help youth find learning opportunities and suitable jobs in the future. Core activities include: (i) climate change awareness (coastal beach clean-up, community clean-up, tree-planting); (ii) participatory hygiene and sanitation training; (iii) leadership/human rights awareness; and (iv) mentorship (since 2020). Since 2017, NNEFA has had limited funding with some activities funded by personal money or through small sponsorships. In 2018, SPC provided EUR 8,000 for 12 months.
- **The Nakor Alaam Association (NAA)**, a youth group coordinated by a middle-aged single mother, targets youth (including school dropouts and unemployed youth), people living with disabilities, single mothers and widows, and men. NAA focuses on youth development ensuring that youth and other groups are supported to access information that can help them understand and address issues affecting them. NAA campaigns include: behaviour change awareness; peace and security awareness; climate change action; and networking. NAA was self-sponsored by executives who are active members. Since 2018, SPC has funded NAA campaigns with EUR 8,000 annually. No other funding is provided.
- **The Tongoa Shepherds Women's Association (TSWA)** is women-led and targets women (young mothers, single mothers, widows, persons with disabilities) and youth. Most TSWA activities focus on women's economic empowerment. Women participants are from Tongoa Island, one of Shepherd's Islands, in Shefa Province. Women participate in economic empowerment programmes to gain leadership skills and empowerment to start small economic activities (local weaving, handicraft) and earn an income to help support their families. TSWA activities include: women in economic empowerment training; women in leadership training; behaviour change awareness; mental health and psycho-social support awareness and research; waste management action; and good governance

awareness. TSWA has received limited funding since 2010. In 2017, TSWA began receiving EUR 8,000 from SPC. UNDP offered one-time support (150,000 VUV) to support a women-in-leadership campaign. Due to a lack of funding, since 2010, executives have used their personal money.

- The **Tomas Savot Youth Association (TSYA)** is a church youth group which meets regularly to participate in spiritual activities. Educational activities are also offered, ensuring youth are supported academically and build skills for their future. TSYA activities include: prayer warrior; visitations; religious skits/drama; HIV, STI, teenage pregnancy, and family planning awareness; and roadside clean-ups. TSYA has not received funding from donors; it relies on small fundraisers to support its activities. However, it seeks sponsorship from ministers or leaders when needed. An estimated 50,000 VUV could support youth activities for 3–6 months.
- The **Ikaokao Youth Council (South Aniwa, TAFEA PROVINCE)** is comprised of youth representatives from youth groups across the island of Aniwa in Tafea Province. The Council ensures youth voices are heard and taken into account. Youth programmes under consideration must pass through this decision-making body, and all youth directly benefit from it. As the Council is remote, it is not able to access many awareness-raising programmes or services. Activities include community and beach clean-ups. As the Council does not have the means to support its activities, everything is provided free of charge and part of community work. Although it does not have the capacity to apply for funding, funding is needed due to its remote location and limited access to services and trainings.
- The **Eraniao Youth Council (Eratap Village, Efate, SHEFA PROVINCE)** is represented by youth members from a youth group in Eratap, which supports local youth activities and ensures youth can access services that benefit their livelihoods. Activities include beach and community clean-ups.
- The **Sower Club Association** is youth-led and encourages youth to pursue talents and skills that enable them to earn a living. Activities include small-sized businesses (sewing, painting) and roadside clean-ups. The Association has never applied for funding; executives use their personal money to implement programming at an estimated value of 55,000 VUV annually

Private sector involvement in youth development includes:

- The **V/Lab or Vanuatu Lab** empowers and connects Ni-Vanuatu's individuals and local businesses to relevant clients. As entrepreneurship is uncommon in Vanuatu, these services serve to encourage entrepreneurship. Activities include: business trainings/coaching sessions; skills training; networking/social events; and innovation programmes.

NGOs supporting youth development in Vanuatu include:

- The **VPride Organization** is the only LGBTQI+ organisation in Vanuatu, established to support and advocate for the rights of the SOGIE community, especially those facing discrimination and violence. This youth-led movement targets men, women and youth, notably those from the LGBTQI+ community (including people living with disabilities) and engages with key stakeholders within and beyond Vanuatu to educate the public on their rights. It offers training on SRHR and SOGIE, as well as Socio-Economic Empowerment Dialogue, youth internships, and physical activities/sports (volleyball, Zumba).
- The **Wan Smol Bag Youth Centre** offers a theatre where actors produce shows on life and the Rainbow Theatre supports people living with disabilities. The centre provides the support and services that meet the needs of youth who have not completed their education, as well as other target populations (youth, persons living with disabilities; single mothers; widows; LGBTQI+ persons; older persons). Accommodating over 300 youth, programmes include: entrepreneurial art classes (sewing, painting); Kam Pusum Head clinic/workshop; healthy Kakai programme; climate change awareness/drama; Rainbow Theatre; and Wan Smol Bag Theatre. Each programme costs around 500,000 VUV; funding is needed.

- **Youth Challenge Vanuatu (YCV)** is the only youth centre in Port Vila, registering nearly 500 youth and building the skills of youth to secure jobs or other opportunities (short courses/trainings). The centre is unable to expand outside Port Vila but indirectly reaches youth drop-ins visiting Port Vila. YCV's core programmes are: ready for work; ready for business; computer classes; and mentoring/coaching. Target groups are: youth (including LGBTQI+ youth); single mothers; and persons with disabilities. YCV requires 20 million VUV annually, which it receives via donor assistance.
- **Vanuatu Surfer's Association (VSA)** is the only surf association in Vanuatu. Targeting youth, persons with disabilities and anyone in surfing, VSA teaches surfing and supports those interested in competing regionally and internationally. Sports encourage youth to be influencers and, with most participants competing regionally, the community feels a sense of pride. Set up by expatriates seeking to promote youth development, most youth participants are from Pango Village, a coastal community in Efate just outside Port Vila. Activities include: surfing lessons; local and regional surfing competitions; and the Solwota Sista Program.

2. REVIEW AGAINST PYDF DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 Young people secure decent employment

The MYSD offers internships to youth fostering their leadership in the workplace. When, for example, the Ministry of Justice and Community Services needed research on child protection, the MYSD identified youth volunteers wanting to learn more and to gain professional experience.

The VNYC promotes youth development and supports the growth of the nation's population. Among its many programmes, International Youth Day is one of its biggest events. Youth representatives from each province attend awareness-raising programmes offered by diverse organisations, ministries and private businesses for a week and learn about opportunities available. The Youth Economic Empowerment Forum, which brings together networks from all provinces, promotes youth entrepreneurship and encourages youth to take a lead in innovation. The forum empowers youth and links them to networks to further their careers. VNYC also provides internships to youth fostering their personal growth and providing opportunities for youth to further their studies or secure employment.

NNEFA, through its networks, identifies opportunities for its target groups to access opportunities in environmental, economic, spiritual and social fields, equipping them with skills to help them secure employment in the future. Although NNEFA aims to provide direct youth employment services in the future, they currently link youth to short internships to build their capacity and support job readiness. In the mentorship programme, youth are coached and benefit from skill-building for their futures.

NAA runs informational campaigns and raises awareness on peace and security and behaviour change, fostering positive well-being and building a healthier community. Networking with other CSOs ensures NAA's target groups positively engage in climate change action and gain learning opportunities.

TSWA conducts advocacy campaigns, targeting women and youth (young mothers, single mothers, married women, women with disabilities, rural women and youth), directly or indirectly via networks. Advocacy campaigns focus on topics, such as women in leadership and good governance. TSWA supports participants via entrepreneurship and encourages them to use their talents and skills to earn a living (weaving mats, bags, or dishes) while showcasing their skills and promoting their culture.

At the Sowers Club Association, unemployed youth are supported to promote their talents and skills (painting pillowcases, bedsheets, and calico/dresses, sewing/tailoring) via small-sized businesses.

The V/Lab programme enables selected individuals to participate in business trainings, coaching sessions and skills training, helping put in place their entrepreneurial business ideas. V/Lab networking events for entrepreneurship link and build relationships between individuals and potential clients.

VPride offers employment services and training to build the capacity of target groups. While youth participants experience challenges finding opportunities and being treated equally elsewhere, VPride offers them a space to feel safe while building their confidence in a positive work environment where they can learn, grow and access opportunities.

This Wan Smol Bag Centre provides youth with skills and experience to secure employment. Art classes (e.g. sewing) build participant skills so they can use them to earn a living via small businesses.

YCV, through partnerships, enables youth to participate in trainings that enhance their skills and provide experience for youth to find their areas of interest. Youth entrepreneurship is promoted through the Ready For Business programmes which provide students with business support and mentorship (business management coaching, mentoring, start-up funds). Ready For Work provides selected youth with short (2–3-month) internships to be trained and gain job skills. When companies have openings, youth interns are subsequently considered for the roles.

The VSA Solwota Sista programme is a women-led initiative that promotes girls/women in leadership through trainings, programmes and sport for development.

2.2 Young people's health status is improved

Since 2019, UNFPA has funded health (17 million VUV) and supported youth development in partnership with MYSD and VNYC. MYSD guides youth organisations, like VNYC, to support youth well-being. (See below a reference to Vanuatu Daily Post, October 2019.) Projects include: media advocacy for youth SRHR (family planning, family life education); the first Youth Development Index and a Youth Data Registration System to improve access for youth stakeholders/sector on youth information and data; a Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Climate Forum; a Youth Services Directory to direct young people to service delivery points, health information and other youth services.

NNEFA provides participatory hygiene and sanitation training and awareness, encouraging community resilience and improved livelihoods, ensuring communities understand the importance of keeping clean and healthy for positive development and improved mental health.

The NAA coordinator specialises in psycho-social support and mental health, including through a behaviour change campaign.

TSWA campaigns include behaviour change advocacy. TSWA works with youth and women who lack support and direction and are unable to find employment, criticised and involved in crimes or violence. Advocacy also helps community members understand and support these and other target groups. Mental health and psycho-social support awareness and research help ensure up-to-date information.

The Tomas Savot Youth Association raises awareness on HIV, STIs, teenage pregnancy, and family planning, helping improve SRHR.

The Sowers Club Association creates a safe space to advocate for SRHR.

VPride focuses on health awareness with respect to STIs and HIV/AIDS, and provides rapid test toolkits to the LGBTQI+ community. Activities promoting self-care and well-being ensure individuals know the importance of self-care to improve mental health. VPride also offers a safe house and support for those contending with family or other issues. Physical activities (Zumba, volleyball) offer relaxing social and networking opportunities for the SOGIE and LGBTQI+ communities to feel welcomed.

The Kam Pusum Head Clinic, operated by the Wan Smol Bag Centre, provides a health clinic and raises awareness on STIs, HIV/AIDS and family planning. The Healthy Kakai programme promotes nutritious food and a healthy lifestyle via sports and other fun, engaging activities as well as at its canteen.

The YCV encourages discussions on mental health and well-being, SRHR, nutrition and physical activity for youth development. YCV networks, partnerships, and awareness-raising by the Ministry of Health, Wan Smol Bag and other organisations inform youth and build their capacity for a healthy lifestyle.

2.3 Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes

The MYSD ensures youth are fully empowered to contribute to socio-economic development. Through partnerships, such as VNYC, programmes directly engage youth across all sectors nationally. The Inter-Secondary School Games, which can lead to the National Games, engage youth, and the MYSD hosts the Melanesian Athletics Championship, which directly influences and engages youth.

The VNYC ensures Youth Councils are in place in diverse locations, including remote areas, enabling information from the VNYC to pass directly through the councils and effectively engaging youth in programmes and opportunities. Cultural programmes (e.g. Ship for World Youth Program, in partnership with Japan) engage youth regionally and internationally to learn and benefit from training. During these programmes, which take place every four years, youth promote their culture and study for three months to gain insight into career options. The Youth Parliament, also organised by the VNYC and key partners, enables selected youth to undergo a one-week training to learn about the Parliament and gain firsthand experience as parliamentarians and in a leadership role.

NNEFA ensures its target groups participate, to the extent possible, in networks that influence change, such as the Vanuatu Civil Society Influencing Network which promotes women in leadership on platforms (political spaces, environmental platforms) in order for women's voices to be heard to bring about change to benefit all. NNEFA encourages other small clubs or youth groups to engage actively in spaces, such as networks, that positively contribute to development. NNEFA also helps other youth networks connect with youth to access information via email, social media, phone and face-to-face.

NAA supports its target groups to contribute positively to development via networks, including in climate change action through the Vanuatu Climate Action Network or the Vanuatu Youth Livelihood Network. By building relations and collaborating with other networks with shared goals, youth networks are strengthened. As youth engagement in development is a high priority for NAA, working together with regional networks like these ensures a collaborative approach to address issues.

TSWA has an affiliate network, the Kokoreko Youth Association, which is mainly youth-led. Youth groups are supported via TSWA advocacy campaigns, and direct involvement with networks collaborating with TSWA ensure youth are actively engaged in development (small-sized businesses, climate action, climate-related campaigns), building youth skills and engaging them.

At the Sowers Club Association, youth are increasingly engaged in environmental action, which has helped the association be a part of environmental platforms (Vanuatu Climate Action Network, Resilience Program, Oxfam Vanuatu).

VPride members participate actively in platforms or spaces that promote development, including through influential networks in the region. VPride also participated in a Climate Flash Mob, using it as an opportunity to draw the attention of leaders to the seriousness of climate change in small island states and the need to act now. Organised by the Vanuatu Climate Action Network, in collaboration with Pacific Climate Action Network, youth marched in solidarity with the aim to influence leaders.

Youth at the Wan Smol Bag Centre are encouraged to participate in spaces that can promote their understanding and networking to directly influence policy amendments.

YCV is open to anyone who helps empower and support those in need of training, employment or information on services. As it is the only youth centre, many organisations ask its youth to attend high-level events in order to support youth as the future of the country. YCV youth engage as volunteers at Oxfam Vanuatu, Save the Children and ministries, as well as in the Oxfam Cash Transfer Programme. Some ministries have always used youth volunteers, especially in times of disasters when staffing is insufficient, thereby building youth skills and giving them access to more opportunities.

2.4 More young people participate in environmental action

The **MYSD** supports youth in environmental action via youth-led initiatives on food and water security, climate change adaptation and management, and sustainable environment by networking and collaborating with key partners, like VNYC, to ensure youth are engaged in ways that can contribute positively towards socio-economic development in Vanuatu.

The **VNYC** is involved in climate change networks, which promote youth leadership in addressing climate change. VNYC believes in youth and engages them in different spaces, creating opportunities to motivate and empower them.

NNEFA supports environmental campaigns (coastal beach clean-ups, tree-planting, community clean-up activities led by youth) as part of climate change awareness-raising activities, understanding that youth can be agents of change on climate change.

NAA positively engages in climate action and climate awareness programmes (roadside clean-ups, tree-planting) directly and indirectly via networks, encouraging youth to believe in their power as agents of change who make a difference and bringing communities together fostering teamwork.

The Kokoreko Youth Association, in affiliation with **TSWA**, engages in waste management practices and encourages youth to take climate action, showing leadership through crisis and building true leaders.

The **Tomas Savot Youth Association** members live in a peri-urban area, including an over-crowded settlement, and see firsthand the consequence of pollution. As land and sea pollution are major issues, the TSYA youth engage in clean-up campaigns and educate their peers on the importance of taking a lead and making a change. In a remote area, environmental issues are evident, resulting in regular clean-up activities and beach clean-ups, which engage youth positively for climate action and help youth become aware of their surroundings and assume leadership to contribute positively to their communities.

The **Eraniao Youth Council** engages in environmental activities in which youth groups can participate to promote the well-being of their natural environment.

The **Sowers Club Association** conducts regular road clean-ups and engages youth, promoting their environmental leadership and showing the community the need to work as a team to create the environment desired.

As part of the **V/Lab** entrepreneurship programme, sustainable business ideas are encouraged and supported to promote environmentally friendly business ventures.

VPride recently began engaging in environmental protection and conservation, and the SOGIE community continuously strives to become better leaders by engaging in small climate action events that enable them to contribute to positive change and support climate justice.

The **Wan Smol Bag Centre** uses awareness and drama to urge the public to reflect on climate change.

YCV promotes networking with youth in climate change workshops, awareness and parades/marches in Port Vila, to educate them and promote their leadership in protecting the environment.

The **VSA Solwota Sista** programme is actively engaged in activities that help protect the environment. As part of Mama's Laef Organization, the programme encourages safe environmental products and engages daily in mangrove planting along the coasts and coral planting to protect the sea habitat and build more reefs. These environmental activities help youth and community members become agents of change.



Unlocking climate finance to promote livelihoods, build resilience, and enhance disaster risk reduction in Pacific communities (climate resilient project, Vanuatu). © SPC 2023

Annex 3: Stakeholder consultations

The following is a summary of stakeholder consultations undertaken in 2019 as part of this review.

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP support to youth development is guided by the PYDF and its outcome areas. As reflected in the country briefs, UNDP has developed numerous initiatives with young people nationally and also implements regional programmes, including Innovation Hub, StartSomeGood and YouthCo:Lab, in partnership with other stakeholders. These initiatives are largely linked to Outcome 1 of the PYDF.

- **Innovation Hub** is a regional initiative involving multiple stakeholders with the USP, to bring together young people around the region to discuss innovative ideas at the hub and develop them further for commercial or other purposes.
- **StartSomeGood** is a crowdfunding initiative to assist social entrepreneurs, NGOs and community groups in raising funds to make a difference in their communities. UNDP uses this platform to assist young people in social entrepreneurship and NGOs around the region.
- **YouthCo:Lab** under UNDP's Regional Programme for Youth Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship encourages youth to take a lead role in entrepreneurship and social innovation for national development.

United Nations Population Fund

UNFPA supports its target countries in the region on SRHR. In addition to financial and technical assistance, since 2015, UNFPA has conducted research on SRHR across all countries in the region. The findings are helping determine effective interventions for youth and communities.

International Labour Organization

ILO is one of the main international agencies working with regional governments, workers' unions and employers to ensure the rights of workers in the workplace and a decent workplace. Since 2015, ILO has supported the region on youth employment.

Technical and financial assistance help improve employment policies in favour of young people and promote access to decent employment services. The Pacific Youth Employment Strategy, launched in 2011 and led by ILO, is one example. ILO research also provides knowledge on youth employment and unemployment in the region. As related data has been limited in the past 20 years, statistical information derived from ILO surveys has supported evidence-based decision-making.

OXFAM

OXFAM is an international NGO supporting youth development in the region, especially the Melanesian countries of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Its main focus is poverty alleviation through initiatives that include youth development.

In Fiji, OXFAM partners with other NGOs to empower young women to voice their concerns on issues facing their communities and educates young leaders on strategies for peace-building and social cohesion, supporting PYDF Outcome 3. OXFAM's work in Vanuatu supports Outcomes 1 and 4. OXFAM trains young people on strategies to maintain water and sanitation facilities and builds the capacity of young people in small business management, carpentry, home economics and mechanics. In the Solomon Islands, OXFAM supports the empowerment of women, especially young women, addressing gender-based violence and promoting social inclusion.

Australia Pacific Training Coalition

In addition to USP, the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) is one of the largest providers of technical and vocational, education and training (TVET) in the region. Its work directly supports PYDF Outcome 1. APTC's main goal is to produce a skillful, productive workforce that contributes to Pacific prosperity. All of APTC programmes are recognised with Australian qualifications and graduates can find employment in Australia.

The table below summarises the number of students in the region graduating from APTC. In 2016, 1,118 young people graduated from six campuses around the region. This is a substantial number of young people gaining Australian TVET qualifications.

Country	No. of Graduates: Semester 1	No. Graduates: Semester 2	Total
Fiji	199	274	473
Kiribati		18	18
Papua New Guinea	136	110	246
Samoa	91	73	164
Solomon Islands	32	40	72
Vanuatu	58	87	145
Total	516	602	1,118

Source: APTC Annual Report and Plan 2016–2017

Seasonal workers programme with Australia and New Zealand

For the countries examined in this review, the seasonal workers' scheme is not directly integrated into the labour mobility initiative aiming to address youth unemployment, although the NYPs of Kiribati and Solomon Islands make indirect reference to the scheme. Based on feedback for the mid-term review, the seasonal workers scheme is integrated into national employment policies but without a specific youth dimension in the policy as it is intended for all citizens. Anecdotal evidence suggests that most beneficiaries of the scheme are from nationally recognised youth age groups.

New Zealand's Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme started in 2007 for most countries and territories in the region. According to New Zealand Immigration, 3,111 seasonal workers from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands arrived in New Zealand in 2017–2018 as outlined in the table below.

Number of seasonal workers arrived in New Zealand, 2017–2018

Country	Fiji	Kiribati	Samoa	Solomon Is.	Total
No. of arrival	359	231	1,878	643	3,111

Source: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/statistics/statistics-rse-arrivals.pdf>

The New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (NZMBIE) conducted a pilot study on remittances in 2014 on 640 seasonal workers from Samoa and Tonga working in the Hawkes-Bay area for the 2014–2015 season. The workers earned a combined income of NZD 11.96 million. A total of NZD 1.4 million was paid in tax and NZD 3.2 million was remitted to both countries.

In the case of Samoa, the study found that an individual worker remitted an average of NZD 4,614 almost three times per month. While employees remitted 42% of their take-home income, other forms of remittances (food, clothes, white goods) were also noted in the study.

Annex 4: Persons consulted

Government

Surname	Name	Designation	Country	Organisation
2019				
Hereniko	Phillip	Director	Fiji	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Lakhan	Ravinesh	Principal Officer	Fiji	Ministry of Youth and Sports
Tewareka	Tarateina	Principal Officer	Kiribati	Ministry of Women, Youth Sports and Social Affairs
Matakore	Bereka	Principal Officer	Kiribati	Ministry of Employment
Tooki	Tiene	Secretary	Kiribati	Ministry of Employment
Atantaake	Beniana		Kiribati	Ministry of Education
Tokintekai	Tieri	Clerk	Kiribati	Parliament
Bernard	Maria	Programme Manager	Samoa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
Leauvaasa	Ana	Acting A/CEO	Samoa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
Koster	Vivian	Consultant/Adviser	Fiji	Pacific Youth Council
Bradburgh	Tarusila	Adviser	Fiji	Pacific Youth Council
Carling	Mereia	Consultant	Fiji	
Nanai	Sovala	A/CEO	Samoa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
Ah Sue	Rosalina	Principal Officer	Samoa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
Botel	Ruci		Fiji	UNDP Pacific Office
Taulagi	Latu	A/CEO	Samoa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
Potogi	Telea Kamu	Principal Officer	Samoa	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
Reupena	Francis	A/CEO	Samoa	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Motusaga	Dr Mema	Team Leader		SPC
Toelupe Tago Elisara	Kuiniselani	Director		SPC
2021				
Bradburgh	Tarusila	Adviser	Fiji	Pacific Youth Council

SPC

2021	
Nilesh Goundar	Manager Programmes: HRSD
Arieta Matalomani	Team Leader Inclusive & Equitable Societies: HRSD
Rose Martin	Leader Mainstreaming & Capacity Building: HRSD
Neomai Maravuakula	Leader Governance & Institutional Strengthening: HRSD
Dr Mema Motusaga	Adviser-Youth: HRSD
Josephine Kalsuak	Adviser-Human Rights: HRSD
William Nainima	Adviser-Human Rights: HRSD
Alison Culpin	SDD SDG Statistician
David Abbott	SDD Acting Director

Country	Government Representatives	NYC/PYC representatives including youth leaders from Pacific CSOs
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Fiji	Rovereto Nayacalevu - Permanent Secretary Ministry of Youth & Sports, Nasogo House P.O. Box 2448, Government Buildings Suva Phone (679) 3315960 Fax (679) 3305348 Email: rovereto.nayacalevu@youthandsports.gov.fj Phillip Hereniko - Director Ministry of Youth & Sports P.O. Box 2448 Government Buildings Suva Phone: (679) 3315 960 Fax: (679) 3305 348 Email: philip.hereniko@youthandsports.gov.fj	Miliana Carpentar Iga Technical Administrator – Pacific Youth Council, milianaiga@gmail.com Josevata Cava - Interim Secretary National Youth Council C/o Ministry of Youth & Sports – Postal Address Phone: 7169508, Email: josevata7cava@gmail.com Jofiliti Veikoso - Gender & Social Inclusion Officer: Live & Learn Fiji (Representative of the Pacific Youth Council), (Pacific DRR Youth Rep) jofibonafide@gmail.com Sagufta Salma Janif Nominated candidate for the Pacific Youth representative for the COMMONWEALTH Youth Council Representative, Fiji (President Young Entrepreneurs Council) sjanif1@gmail.com Josaia Tokoni Fiji (FCCOSS) (350 Pacific Youth Rep) jotokoni@gmail.com Shivneel Narayan: Fiji Youth Council Asinate, Pacific Youth Forum Against Corruption (also represents the Pacific Conference of Churches) Walosio Samu, Youth Coordinator – Youth Integrity Fiji Broderick Mervyn - Coordinator: Ignite4Change Email: broderickj.mervyn@gmail.com Mere Rai - Chairperson FTUC Youth Committee (Fiji Trade Union Congress) mereraiv@gmail.com Avikesh Kumar Lavetanalagi Seru
Kiribati	Youth Division Ministry of Women, Youth & Social Affairs (MWYSA) (Represented Daisy Korina – Deputy Secretary, Admin Division: MWYSA)	
PNG	David A.S Rupa Principal Advisor –International Relations (International Youth Development Policy, Political & Diplomatic Affairs) Executive Branch National Youth Development Authority (NYDA) PO Box 1028, WAIGANI, NCD 121, Papua New Guinea Phone: (675) 340 1362 Mobile: (+675) 7591 5131 Website: www.nyda.gov.pg Email: david.rupa@nyda.gov.pg	
Solomon Islands		Harry James Olikwailafa - Vice Chair Pacific Youth Council (also the Vice Chair for Solomon Islands Youth Congress) Email: harryjames662@gmail.com Ray Win- Commonwealth Secretariat

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Annex 6: PYDF Review Report–SPC Management Response

SPC MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT OF THE PACIFIC YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (2014–2023)

The Pacific Community (SPC), through the Human Rights and Social Development Division (HRSD),¹⁵ is custodian of the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023.

A mid-term review of the PYDF was conducted in 2020–2021, to assess how each country had delivered against the four outcome areas of the PYDF and how SPC and the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) had delivered in terms of their coordination role for implementation and advocacy for resource mobilisation for youth development work in the region.

At the end of 2021, HRSD conducted a virtual validation workshop with the National Youth Machineries (NYMs) or Ministries for Youth, the National Youth Councils or Congresses (NYCs), and the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) and, in December 2021, a final draft of the report was completed.

In 2022, SPC focused its efforts on compiling its management response while, at the same time, delivering key pieces of work under the PYDF. The management response involved looking across the whole organisation to capture programmes/projects that were delivering in collaboration with young people, youth groups or youth networks specifically targeting youth.

Definition of youth

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), “youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood’s independence. That’s why, as a category, youth is more fluid than other fixed age-groups. Yet, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment, because ‘youth’ is often referred to a person between the ages of leaving compulsory education and finding their first job”.¹⁶

“The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines ‘youth’, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States. The Secretary-General first referred to the current definition of youth in 1981 in his report to the General Assembly on International Youth Year (A/36/215, para. 8 of the annex) and endorsed it in ensuing reports (A/40/256, para. 19 of the annex). However, in both the reports, the Secretary-General also recognized that, apart from that statistical definition, the meaning of the term ‘youth’ varies in different societies around the world. When the General Assembly, by its resolution 50/81 in 1995, adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and beyond, it reiterated that the United Nations defined youth as the age cohort of 15–24.”¹⁷

Definitions of the youth period vary in the Pacific region. However, there is broad agreement on its importance as a key stage in personal development in the life course. Youth development prepares the stage for adulthood and full participation in society, in the transition from dependent to independent living. The success of this transition across the youth population has profound implications for social and economic development.¹⁸

15 The former Social Development Programme (SDP) of SPC was custodian of the PYDF. In September 2020, SDP merged with the former Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and formed the new Human Rights and Social Development Division (HRSD).

16 <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf>.

17 Ibid.

18 State of Pacific Youth 2017. David Clarke and Peter Azzopardi. UNFPA Pacific Sub-regional Office. Suva. 2019. p.24.

Given the cultural practices of young people remaining dependent longer on parents, the defining age group for youth in the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) ranges from 15 – 35 years in most countries and from 10 – 35 years in Kiribati. The table provided in Annex 7 lists SPC member countries and the age categorisation of youth according to their respective national youth policies.

The Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023

The PYDF is described as a coordinated approach to youth-centred development in the Pacific where it:

- (i) provides guidance on how to measure and monitor the situation of youth;
- (ii) encourages engagement and has commitment from development partners, governments and administrations;
- (iii) reaches the youth missing out on mainstream development efforts; and
- (iv) is informed by the voices of youth throughout its process.

The PYDF rationale recognises the need to reach the youth missing out on mainstream development and, as such, a particular focus was to help identify and implement measures to target: young people not in education, employment and training (NEET); young women; rural youth; young people with disabilities; and youth who are often discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

Review summary

The mid-term review demonstrates efforts to address issues concerning youth throughout the region. It finds that reducing youth employment (Outcome 1) has received the most attention. The focus in terms of health and well-being (Outcome 2) has been on sexual and reproductive health with mental health and efforts to address non-communicable diseases being universal and not specific to youth. Involvement in environmental and climate initiatives (Outcome 4) is an emerging area in many countries. The review indicates that more needs to be done about empowering youth to increase their influence in decision-making structures (Outcome 3) and strengthening the regional coordination mechanism making it fully operational.

The review makes 22 recommendations for governments and administrations and seven specific recommendations for SPC and Pacific Youth Council (PYC).

In this management response, SPC responds to the recommendations for SPC and the PYC by indicating:

- whether the recommendations are accepted or partially accepted;
- reasons for the responses; and
- the time frames for actions

Annex 8 provides the work currently being undertaken by SPC to deliver as one and the work planned for 2023 gathered from the business plans of the SPC divisions.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPC AND THE PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL

1. Strengthen communication and awareness of youth development issues in the region and the key outcome areas in the PYDF, including development partner consultations at the regional level

Response: Agree.

The review found a need for increased awareness about the PYDF within the Ministries of Youth/National Youth Machineries (NYMs) and the other stakeholders. To improve communication and awareness, SPC has compiled a matrix (Annex 8) demonstrating all the activities undertaken by SPC under the four outcome areas of the PYDF and activities planned for 2022 and 2023.

SPC's Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) policy focuses on a people-centred approach (PCA) to development across the delivery of services to members by ensuring mainstreaming (as appropriate) of gender equality and social inclusion (e.g. of youth, persons with disabilities), human rights, culture, climate change and environmental sustainability in all programmes. A Social and Environmental Technical Group has been set up and continues to support all divisions to ensure youth are engaged in national and regional projects and programmes.

2. Continue to strengthen the capacity of the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) and their support for the NYCs (National Youth Councils) in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat and United Nations agencies

Response: Agree

More needs to be done in coordination and capacity-building for the PYC. The PYC has struggled in recent years with a lack of funding and personnel to volunteer their time. It has managed with one administrative person whose salary was previously covered by the Commonwealth Secretariat; however, the funding is no longer available and one non-remunerated board chair now holds the role while completing her PhD.

HRSD is supporting PYC with the hosting of its General Assembly both financially and with technical support. The date has been changed twice since the fourth quarter of 2022 due to PYC's schedule. HRSD and the PYC will workshop a general assembly concept paper, budget and programme mid-2022 with the view to host the General Assembly in the first quarter of 2024.

Regional coordination and capacity-building needs will be discussed as part of the agenda and incorporated into SPC's annual work plan relating to youth.

SPC is already providing technical assistance to several National Youth Machineries and National Youth Councils to build their capacities and support with implementation of their National Youth Policies and it looks forward to working with more National Youth Councils to increase capacity, specifically strengthening governance structures based on national needs.

3. Develop a regional coordination and review process led by Pacific youth which would involve regular virtual and/or face-to-face meetings of stakeholders across the region. This would ensure accountability for the implementation of the PYDF

Response: Partially agree

SPC will continue to work with PYC to build capacity and strengthen regional coordination. However, ensuring the efficacy and sustainability of any coordination and review process requires it to be led by Pacific youth, including the existing youth councils. This step can only be undertaken once PYC has had the opportunity to consider the review and its recommendations and held its General Assembly to legitimise its representation of Pacific Youth voices. At the moment, PYC and HRSD are looking at the first quarter of 2024 for the PYC General Assembly.

4. Adopt a set of core indicators (including SDG indicators and the 2017 State of Pacific Youth Report) for the outcome areas of the PYDF for monitoring, reporting, and tracking the progress of youth development across the Pacific region

Response: Partially agree

There is value in having core indicators relating to youth. It is equally important to ensure that the indicators are not onerous but rather build on existing data that member countries regularly collect.

HRSD is working alongside the Statistics for Development Division (SDD) to address this gap by considering available data collected through censuses, and surveys (including the household income and expenditure survey, and demographic health surveys) and relevant administrative data. Based on the data available, SPC will extract preliminary youth indicators and display them on a dashboard which will be available on the Pacific Data Hub. SPC expects to have a shell of the dashboard available for consultation by mid- to late 2023, with a populated dashboard available for all users by mid- to end-2024.

Once the initial phase of analysis is complete, SPC will be guided by PYC and member countries to support the ongoing development of indicators that extend beyond the PYDF and respond to youth development priorities of the region as defined by member states.

5. Continue to ensure regional support to implement the PYDF in policy-relevant research (including youth-led) research and evaluation regarding youth priority issues, such as employment in decent work, civic participation, skills development, and well-being, and the sharing of lessons learned and best practices

Response: Agree

HRSD is a newly merged division of SPC. HRSD brings together the Social Development Programme (SDP) and Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT). As separate programmes, SDP focused on gender equality, youth development and culture development, and RRRT focused on promoting and protecting human rights in the region.

HRSD is the custodian of the PYDF and is committed to working with members, partners, and across its divisions to advance the PYDF priorities. In its current business plan, HRSD has committed to the activities below, relating directly to PYDF outcomes.

- Continue to invest in building economic opportunities and capabilities among youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) through its Pacific Youth Engagement, Empowerment and Economic Pathways (PYEEEEP) Programme 2022 – 2025.

- Mobilise regional action to create mental health and social work services for young people and support youth health initiatives with the SPC Public Health Division through a People-Centred-Approach (PCA).
- Support young people to participate in decision-making fora and building capacity for young people in advocacy, policy engagement and policy implementation.
- Include young people through PCA mainstreaming around climate change, COVID-19 response, and recovery.
- Implement the Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2022–2032. This includes support for youth and culture programmes at national and regional levels, including youth leadership, mentorship, entrepreneurship, and development including opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and transmission of knowledge and skills to young people.
- Identify opportunities for strengthening the participation of women and youth networks in decision-making spaces.
- Work with partners to strengthen youth, culture, and disability statistics at the regional level.
- Work with youth focal points on youth policy reviews and implementation planning.
- Identify opportunities to enhance the participation of women and youth networks in decision-making spaces.
- Strengthen the partnership approach with the Pacific Youth Council and associated youth networks.

6. Strengthen coordination across SPC programme areas to better identify the organisation's full breadth of regional support for youth development.

Response: Agree

Annex 8 provides the tabulation of the work each SPC division is doing with, and for, youth and youth networks.

7. Continue to maintain partnerships with relevant United Nations agencies, Commonwealth Secretariat and the region's development partners to maximise opportunities for supporting youth development in the Pacific.

Response: Agree

There is room to strengthen the existing partnerships with relevant UN agencies, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the region's development partners. The review findings will be discussed with these development partners. Discussions started around a collaboration for development of a successor to the PYDF and supporting meaningful youth inclusion into regional and international convenings.

BRIEF COMMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

In addition to the specific recommendations made for SPC and PYC, there were several recommendations directed at member state governments, relating to the issues of governance and commitment, employment and entrepreneurship. These are contained in the review report. Government and Administrations are invited to consider those recommendations.

NEXT STEPS

The mid-term review report, finalised SPC's management response, and annual work plan related to youth will be circulated to all member countries and regional and development partners.

SPC will continue to work with the PYC to build capacity within PYC and with its members and work alongside stakeholders to strengthen coordination. Activities under the PYDF outcome areas have been detailed and a work plan, which is currently being implemented, is provided in Annex 8.

As this mid-term review was conducted 2019–2021 and the SPC management response is now finalised, SPC recommends that the findings of the mid-term review be taken as findings for an end-term review, which would be due for undertaking this year (2023).

This SPC management response proposes instead the following:

- 1) A virtual or hybrid convening of National Youth Machineries (NYM), development partners, the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) and National Youth Councils (NYCs) could be held in the first quarter of 2024 to consider the review findings and agree to a pathway with timelines and budgets for the development and finalisation of a successor to the PYDF 2014 – 2023. This successor document will take account of key regional accountability mechanisms and frameworks, such as the PIF 2050 Strategy, the Pacific Regional Cultural Strategy, the Triennial and the Pacific Disability Framework.
- 2) SPC could provide support to the PYC General Assembly convening anticipated in early 2024.
- 3) In the meantime, SPC and development partners will continue their current work in the delivery on the four outcome areas of the current PYDF.

Annex 7: Matrix of SPC member countries with youth polices

Member country	Is the Youth policy current?	Title	Youth age category as defined in the existing youth policy	Duration	Secretariat	Key priorities	Source of data	Link	Notes
COOK ISLANDS	YES	Te Mana o te Māpu – the Power of our Youth as Nation Builders: Cook Islands 2021–2026 National Youth Policy	15–24 years	2021–2026	Min. of Internal Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Youth are proud of their culture, traditions and identity Youth are learning and developing Youth are healthy and resilient Youth are accepted, respected and connected Youth are environment action ready 	Cook Islands Government website	https://www.mtafi.gov.ck/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/COOK-ISLANDS-NATIONAL-YOUTH-POLICY-2021-2026-5.pdf	
FUJI	NO	There was a national youth policy for 2011–2014	15–35 years	2011–2014	Min. of Education, National Heritage, Culture & Arts and Youth & Sports	Youth development is mainstreamed into various focal areas of national development	FAO	http://extranet.wfp1.fao.org/docs/pdf/fiji/171537.pdf	A review of the policy was carried out in 2017. MYS conducted further consultations with youth groups and other stakeholders in four divisions. In July 2019, MYS with the support of UNICEF, advertised for a consultant to help develop their new draft youth policy to ensure that it reflects the needs of all youth making it inclusive, comprehensive and aligned to the National Development Plan 2017–2026 and the National Youth and Sports Strategic Plan 2018–2022 to appropriately inform policy, planning and programmes relating to youth. Consultations took place throughout 2019 but it is unclear what the status of this is now.
KIRIBATI	YES	Kiribati National Youth Policy Framework and Action Plan 2018–2022	12–35 years	2018–2022	Youth Division in the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Education and skills-building Economic participation and employment Health and safety Social cohesion and civic participation 	UN Volunteers	https://knowledge.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/KNYP-KNAP%202018-2022%20%283%29_0.pdf	
THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	NO		14–25 years				https://www.cmlaw.org/pdf/public_laws/08/p108-27.pdf	Definition of youth as per statute (Public Law 12-67)	
NEW CALEDONIA	YES		13–30 years	2019–2025	Directorate of Youth and Sports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Think global, act local: structure the governance of youth policies in order to federate all actors and territories of intervention and to bring public action into coherence in all the spaces in which it must be exercised Youth in action: promote the autonomy, responsibility and social recognition of young people in order to meet their desire to be useful actors in society Positive educational practices: promote an educational presence throughout the entire lifetime of young people and develop linkages between generations to allow positive interactions with the social and cultural environment of each individual 	Govt of New Caledonia website	https://dis.gouv.nc/sites/default/files/atoms/files/de liberation_ndeg_397_du_20_09_19_-_plan_strategique_jeunesse.pdf	
PALAU	YES	Palau National Youth Policy	15–34 years	2005	Min. of Community and Cultural Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish programmes to promote the spirit of nationalism and patriotism, including but not limited to development and encouragement of ritual of a pledge of allegiance. Ensure safe, healthy and enjoyable passage through the youth stage of life, by developing strategies, for example, to maximise spiritual, physical and mental health, paying special attention to addressing issues of substance abuse, depression and suicide. Ensure that every young person graduating from high school has the ability to pursue further academic studies or be gainfully employed. Maximise employability of young people and maximise their economic contributions in all sectors. Strengthen programmes for crime prevention and rehabilitation of incarcerated youth. Develop and promote programmes for sports and recreation. Create and/or provide an environment and opportunities for youth to benefit from national development. Ensure that young people's voices are heard on all matters that concern them, including development and the sharing of natural resources. Ensure the active participation of young people in decisions regarding resource appropriations. Develop programmes to promote culture and fine arts. 			
PNG	YES	PNG National Youth Policy	15–29 years	2020–2030	National Youth Development Authority				
PITCAIRN ISLANDS	NO								The Institute of Statistics of French Polynesia does not collect any data specific to youth; instead, census data is collected in age ranges of five years. Given the absence of specific laws or policies relating to the definition of youth in French Polynesia, the French definition of youth – 16–25 years – may be applicable.

Member country	Is the Youth policy current?	Title	Youth age category as defined in the existing youth policy	Duration	Secretariat	Key priorities	Source of data	Link	Notes
FRENCH POLYNESIA	NO		16 – 25 years						
TOKELAU	NO		12 – 24 years						The definition of youth is not defined by the Tokelau National Statistics Office nor within Tokelau's previous strategic plans. As a non-self governing territory of New Zealand, it is likely that youth is defined as it is in New Zealand (12–24 years).
TONGA	YES	Tonga National Youth Policy & Strategic Plan of Action	15 – 34 years	2021 – 2025	Youth Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The health and well-being of youth bodies, minds and souls Alcohol and other drugs (AOD); addiction and effects on youth Youth employment Social protection and accountability for youth Enabling environment at the national level to maintain youth issues among key stakeholders 	HRSO website	https://hrsd.spc.int/sites/default/files/2021-09/Tonga_National_Youth_Policy%26Strategic_Plan_of_Action_2021-2025.pdf	
TUVALU	NO	Tuvalu National Youth Policy	15 – 35 years	2015 – 2019					The Tuvalu National Youth Policy 2015–2019 defined youth as aged 15–35 years of age. The national youth policy is currently being revised. The Tuvalu National Culture Policy Strategic Plan 2018–2024 encourages the development of arts and entrepreneurship and the growth of its cultural production to create employment opportunities for youth.
NIUE	NO	Niue National Youth Policy 2009 – 2013	15 – 34 years	2009 – 2013			HRSO website	https://hrsd.spc.int/sites/default/files/2021-07/47312_Niue_national_youth_policy.pdf	<p>The Niue National Youth Policy 2009–2013 had the nine key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Education, training and career development Cultural heritage and spiritual well-being Youth employment and economic development Health and well-being Environment and climate change Media and information and communications technology Social development and family values Sports and recreation
MARSHALL ISLANDS	NO	National Youth policy	15 – 24 years	2009 – 2014	Youth Services Bureau		Economic Policy, Planning, and Statistics Office website	https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/RMI-2011-Census-Summary-Report-on-Population-and-Housing.pdf	There was a National Youth Policy 2009–2014 and a National Youth Policy Implementation Matrix (2013–2014) with a new youth policy expected in 2019; however, it is still under development.
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA	YES	National Youth Policy	15 – 34 years	2017 – 2023					
FUTUNA	NO								
NAURU	NO	Nauru National Youth Policy	15 – 34 years	2008 – 2015	Directorate of Youth Affairs, Department of Education			https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Nauru_2008_National_Youth_Policy.pdf	"The outdated policy featured five key strategies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Skills development – formal and informal education Employment and income generation Social development Supportive environment cross-cutting initiatives"
SOLOMON ISLANDS	YES	Solomon Islands National Youth Policy	15 – 34 years	2017 – 2030	Min. of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	There are six priority policy outcome areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Educational empowerment Economic empowerment Health and well-being Sustainable development Leadership, governance, peace-building, social inclusion and citizenship Evidence-based approaches, access to information and provincial implementation strategies 	MWYFA website	http://www.mwycfa.gov.sb/resources-2/strategic-plans-policies/youth-development-empowerment/6-solomon-islands-national-youth-policy-2017-2030/file.html	
AMERICAN SAMOA	NO		under 35 years				Dep. of Youth and Women Affairs		
VANUATU	YES	National Youth Development Policy and Strategic plan of action	10 – 30 years	2012 – 2022	Min. of Youth Development, Sport and Training	There are three objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate youth development into the mainstream of government policies, and programmes. Strengthen the capacity of key youth development institutions and ensure integration and coordination in the delivery of youth services. Strengthen the capacities of young people to participate in nation-building. 	Vanuatu Govt website	https://vryc.gov.vu/images/national/youthdevelopmentpolicy.pdf	
SAMOA	NO	National Youth Policy	18 – 36 years	2016 – 2020					

2021		2022												2023											
NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<p>1. PYDF MID TERM REVIEW REPORT (2022 – mid-2023) SPC-wide consultation with all SPC divisions on the mid-term review report, collation of comments on recommendations, and drafting of a SPC management response</p> <p>OUTCOME: 1.1 Finalised copy of the mid-term review report has been provided to member countries and stakeholders which includes: - A SPC management response that reflects One SPC delivering integrated programmes in the region for youth - An annual SPC work plan in the area of youth</p>																									
<p>2. YOUTH ECONOMIC PATHWAYS PROGRAMME (Nov 2021–June 2022) Negotiations with NZMFAT for delivering activities under Outcome 1 in 2 PICs</p> <p>OUTCOME: 2.1. NZ MFAT committed 2.4 million to a Youth Economic Pathways programme in 2 PICs</p>												<p>2.. YOUTH ECONOMIC PATHWAYS PROGRAMME (Nov 2022–May 2023)</p> <p>PLANNED ACTIVITIES - Scoping missions undertaken in consultation with NZ MFAT - Selection of 2 project sites in consultation with NZ MFAT - MOAs drafted and signed with PICs selected as project sites - HRSD drafts project documents including budgets, MELFS and work plan - HRSD recruits staff for the project countries - HRSD begins implementation</p>													
<p>3. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING TO THE PACIFIC YOUTH COUNCIL (Ongoing) SPC will provide support to PYC to convene their General Assembly in Q1 of 2024. In the meantime, T.A is available for PYC.</p>																									
												<p>4. RECRUITMENT OF TECHNICAL STAFF (Jun–Sep 2022) To assist with coordination, HRSD will recruit a Social Inclusion Advisor and a Social Inclusion Officer SI Advisor started on 12 Sept 2022 SI Officer started on 16 Jan 2023</p>													
												<p>5. DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH INDICATORS (Sep 2022–Dec 2023) HRSD is working in collaboration with SDD to develop a set of preliminary youth indicators. Based on the data available, we will extract preliminary youth indicators and display them on a dashboard which will be available on the Pacific Data Hub. SPC expects to have a shell of the dashboard available for consultation by mid-Q.3 2023, with a populated dashboard available for all users by the end of 2024.</p>													
												<p>6. MONITORING PLAN (Sep–Dec 2022) Social Inclusion Officer will develop a plan to monitor SPC's youth work plan and progress against PYDF Outcomes</p>													

SPC Delivering as one

	More young people secure decent employment	Young people's health status is improved	Governance structures empower young people to increase their influence in decision-making processes	More young people participate in environmental action						
<p>DIVISIONS/PROGRAMMES</p> <p>Young people have increased access to relevant education and training in formal and vocational sectors</p> <p>More young people are involved in entrepreneurship</p> <p>Youth-friendly employment services are established to connect young people to employment opportunities</p> <p>Young people's mental health and wellbeing is improved</p> <p>Young people's sexual and reproductive health is improved</p> <p>Young people's nutrition and physical activity is improved</p> <p>Representative structures for youth are strengthened and are inclusive of diverse groups</p> <p>Governments increase their investments in youth</p> <p>Governments and representative structures for youth share responsibilities in development processes</p> <p>More young people are engaged in innovative initiatives that address food and water security</p> <p>More young people are involved in youth-led climate change monitoring and adaptation programmes.</p> <p>More young people are engaged in promoting sustainable environmental practices</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>						
<p>Pacific Islands Fisheries Professional Programme</p> <p>The PIP Programme is a 12-month programme open to nationals and residents of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) who are currently employed in roles related to fisheries. The Programme's key objective is to build personal and professional capacity in the region. The focal areas for PIP roles have expanded since the programme's inception – from coastal fisheries science to the inclusion of both oceanic fisheries and coastal fisheries management and policy. The programme began in 2011 and has been in operation for 11 years.</p>					<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Youth programme in Noumea</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>					<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Awareness on the sustainable management of ecosystems</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>					<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Collecting data around coastal fisheries</p> <p>Youth are currently involved in the work around collecting data on coastal fisheries</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>					<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Partnership with Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM)</p> <p>Work with youth in the communities by empowering youth around the sustainable management of coastal fisheries. It is also about awareness around excessive control of the resources at the community level. It is all about access and control and their participation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>					<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>Markets for livelihood</p> <p>Ha'atafu Tonga - Tonga national youth congress – work in Tonga about (Special Management Area) SMA's – working with Tonga Ministry of Fisheries – focuses on organic farming of vanilla and coconut to address unemployment.</p> <p>SPC's Land Resources Division, Public Health Division, and Strategy, Performance and Learning are leading the design of the Integrated Food and Health System. Youth were engaged in the design discussions</p>										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<p>Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) initiative</p> <p>POETCom is a membership-based initiative that works throughout the Pacific with agricultural communities to develop their training, capacity and tools to use and promote organic agricultural practices.</p>										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Statistics for Development (SDD)

<p>Everything SDD does that include complete population coverage or a sample survey where steps are taken to replicate the whole population always includes youth as a component.</p> <p>One of the key household collections that SDD assists with is, UNICEF – MICS (multi indicator cluster service) that has a heap of potential. A lot of the analysis focuses pm 14-49 year olds.</p>												
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Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP)

<p>Regional Year 13 qualification SPFSC</p> <p>The regional Year 13 qualification (SPFSC) administered by EQAP on behalf of a number of PICs, offers a direct bridge between the formal education sector and tertiary levels studies or employment for youths of the Pacific. EQAP supports the development of microqualifications which offer recognition of skills that young people have and can develop outside of the mainstream education system, but can be later bridged back to tertiary studies. EQAP has direct roles in both the PACERF and PACER+ - both programs support the development of Pacific youths.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>											
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Public Health Division (PHD)

<p>The Wake up and Pacific NCD Youth Ambassadors SPC's Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) programme has been working with young Pacific people under the Wake-up! project since 2017. This project engages and empowers youth by providing training on communicating in their own language and using creative thinking to craft messages through arts and media to raise awareness and address NCDs in their communities.</p>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
<p>Pacific Youth Ambassador programme As a follow-on from this training, the Pacific Youth Ambassador programme was launched in 2020 to support innovations designed by the youth groups to raise awareness of preventing and controlling NCDs among young people and the wider community in their countries.</p>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division												
<p>Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (YNEET) The Youth@Work programme was implemented in Solomon Islands in 2012. Taking lessons from that, HRSD, with NZMFAT funding is piloting a Pacific Youth Engagement, Empowerment and Economic Pathways Programme (PYEEP) in Tonga and the Solomon Islands 2022- 2025</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									

<p>Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC)</p> <p>PPAC aims to build advocacy capacity among civil society organisations (CSOs) engaged in human rights and social development issues. It does this through a package of assistance that includes advocacy training workshops, ongoing mentoring, provision of small grants, and facilitation of regional dialogue and exchange for advocates.</p> <p>In the PPAC small grants phase 2020–2021, 37 CSOs in Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu received grants for human rights campaigns, as well as support for capacity building in human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, Pacific-style advocacy and organisational development. Seventeen of these CSOs implemented youth-focused or youth-integrated advocacy campaigns (some of which are referred to below.</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>In Tonga, the PPAC programme promotes youth inclusion through artistic knowledge and skills that will enable the education system and parents to recognise art as a life skill and a career pathway for young people.</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>In Vanuatu, PPAC assisted the Tonga Shepherd Women's Association to obtain support from community leaders on recognising the importance of incorporating mental well-being and psychosocial activities in targeted communities.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The PPAC programme has been working with 50 community leaders in targeted communities in the Malaita Province of Solomon Islands. The leaders have pledged to support young people's access to sexual and reproductive health programmes and services.</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>PPAC supported the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) to lobby the Nitijela to amend the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Styrofoam and Plastic Products Prohibition Act (2016) to include straws and plastic cutlery. The Nitijela's legal counsel and Marshall Islands Mayors' Association supported the MICS petition and progress is being made to amend the Styrofoam and plastics ban to include single-use plastic straws and cutlery in 2021.</p> <p>Three local businesses in Majuro are now using alternative products that reduce single-use plastic waste.</p> <p>Through PPAC, young people on Majuro, Marshall Islands, were taught advocacy skills and were able to successfully lobby government for the installation of rubbish bins at three main parks on Majuro.</p> <p>In Vanuatu PPAC efforts included revisiting a local youth committee on waste management and actively involving youth in recycling initiatives to beautify their settlements.</p>
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<p>The Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (PPEVAWG)</p> <p>Through its Social Citizenship Education component, works with both the formal school system and informal schooling sector to promote understanding and protection of human rights, gender equality and social inclusion, and to end violence against women, young women and girls. The overall objective is to raise socially responsible citizens. The programme's aim is that the children, youth and young adults who participate will have the mental strength, fortitude, and skills to be able to thrive in a new world shaped by the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, to develop a moral, spiritual and cultural sense of responsibility to their fellow citizens and their environment and to 'do no harm'. Target countries are Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The approach is based on Pacific values of respect for people and place, inclusivity and belonging, sharing and fairness, and the dignity and worth of every person. It is designed to help young people develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges.</p>								☑				☑
<p>Support provided to member countries on national youth policies</p> <p>At the national level, technical and financial support was provided to Tonga and Tuvalu in 2021 for the review and development of their national youth policies, and to local-level youth-led governance initiatives in Fiji. The support enabled young people in these countries to contribute to setting their national and local-level youth priorities. The Tongan National Youth Policy was launched on International Youth Day (IYD) 2021. The Tuvaluan National Youth Policy is being finalised after consultations during the commemoration of IYD 2021.</p>												

<p>Children and Young Peoples Human Rights Forum 2022</p> <p>Advancing the understanding of rights and freedoms of children and young people in Samoa through participation in international human rights mechanisms: On 7 July 2022, the Children and Young Peoples Human Rights Forum focusing on advancing the understanding of rights and freedoms of children and young people in Samoa through participation in international human rights mechanisms (Forum) was organized by the Samoa Office of the Ombudsman National Human Rights Institution (OMBNHRI) supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Child Rights Connect Geneva (CRConct).</p> <p>The Forum brought together children and young people between the ages of 12 and 22 from various colleges and representatives from the university and out of school youth.</p>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<p>Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM)</p> <p>SPC coordinates the organising and convening of the biennial Pacific Resilience Meeting (PRM) under the auspices of the Pacific Resilience Partnership set up in 2019 by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to support the implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP): An Integrated Approach to Climate Change and Disaster 2017–2030.</p> <p>PRM 2 T covered a learning lab on youth-led discussion on enhancing disaster data collection for the Sendai Framework Monitor. The PRM virtual platform is available at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAtys1X_FOTNGbmkKtCPn</p>										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES) Programme</p>											

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