



Pacific
Community
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du Pacifique



The Republic of the Marshall Islands – Pacific Community

Country Programme 2019–2022

April 2019



CORPORATE



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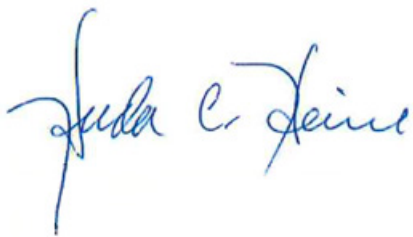
List of abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank	PAFPNet	Pacific Agricultural Forestry Planters Network
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	PAIS	Pacific Agricultural Information System
CIA	Culture and Internal Affairs (same as Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs)	PHD	Public Health Division (SPC)
CRGA	Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations	PIEMA	Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance
CRVS	Civil registration and vital statistics	PIHOA	Pacific Island Health Officers' Association
CSO	Civil Society Organisations	PILNA	Pacific Island Literacy and Numeracy Assessment
DCRP	Disaster and Community Resilience Programme (SPC)	PLD	Pest List Database
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PPAWS	Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security
DVPPA	Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act	PRA	Pest Risk Assessment
EPPSO	Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office	PREP II	Pacific Resilience Programme Phase II
EQAP	Education Quality Assessment Programme	PROP	Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Programme Project
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women	PSS	Public School System
EWS	Early Warning System	R2R	Ridge to Reef
FAD	Fish Aggregating Device	RBA	Rights Based Approach
FAME	Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Environment Division (SPC)	RENI	Readiness for El Niño project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations	RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
FBO	Faith Based Organisations	RRRT	Regional Rights Resources Team (SPC)
GANHRI	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	SCE	Social Citizen Education
GEM	Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division (SPC)	SDD	Statistics for Development Division (SPC)
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
GIS/RS	Geographic Information System/ Remote Sensing	SDP	Social Development Programme (SPC)
HIES	Household Income and Economic Survey	SEEMP	Ship Safety Efficiency Management Plan
IMF	International Monetary Fund	SOE	State Owned Enterprise
IRA	Import Risk Assessment	ToT	Training of Trainers
JCS	Joint Country Strategy	SPC	Pacific Community
LRD	Land Resources Division (SPC)	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	ToT	Training of Trainers
MCIA	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Republic of Marshall Islands Government)	USA	United State of America
MNRC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce	WB	World Bank
MOHHS	Ministry of Health and Human Services		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
MSC	Micronesia Shipping Commission		
MTBIF	Medium Term Budget and Investment Framework		
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases		
NSP	National Strategic Plan		
NSW RFS	New South Wales - Rural Fire Service		
OCS	Office of the Chief Secretary		
PacTVET	Pacific Technical and Vocational Education and Training		

Foreword and endorsement

The *Republic of the Marshall Islands – Pacific Community Country Programme 2019–2022* (the Programme) provides the direction for the Pacific Community's (SPC) engagement with the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) over the next four years, leading up to the end of the current Compact financing period in 2023. It outlines key actions that the Government of RMI and SPC agreed upon through a consultation process that began in July 2018.

The Programme is one of the first country programmes for a Pacific Community member and has been developed and endorsed since the *Joint Country Strategy 2008 – 2012* (JCS) (precursors to country programmes). It will be used to guide further planning, implementation and monitoring, on an annual basis, in order to support the achievement of developmental outcomes for RMI and to consider potential impact pathways towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



HE Dr Hilda Heine, Ph.D.

President

Government of the Republic
of the Marshall Islands



Dr Colin Tukuitonga

Director-General

Pacific Community

Introduction

1. The *Republic of the Marshall Islands – Pacific Community Country Programme 2019–2022* (the Programme) was developed in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) during 2018, under the leadership and coordination of the Office of the Chief Secretary.
2. The process of developing this programme began with a visit to RMI by the Pacific Community (SPC) Director General in July 2018, followed by in-country consultations in August 2018, which were led by the Chief Secretary and SPC Deputy Director-General (Suva). These consultations included RMI central agencies as well as a range of line ministries. This was followed by a process of analysis of key policies, strategies and developmental priorities of the government and its key development financiers; assessment of the relevance, significance and targeting of SPC's current portfolio of activities in RMI; and consultations with SPC programme divisions on current and planned areas of support.
3. Based on these consultations and analyses, the programme was jointly prepared and reviewed by the Government of RMI and SPC Executive, and jointly agreed upon. It aligns with the Government of RMI's priority interests from its relationship with SPC, given SPC's strategic plan developmental objectives and expected resourcing capability.

RMI's developmental agenda

RMI's Vision

In our own hands is our future.

RMI's National Objective

Sustainable, equitable and measurable development reflecting the priorities and culture of the Marshallese people.

4. In response to its developmental challenges, in 2001 RMI adopted its *Vision 2018 Master Plan*, which specified 10 national developmental themes and corresponding national goals and targets, along with overarching objectives for each sector that is aligned to these national themes and targets. Currently, and in recent years, this is supported by the *National Strategic Plan 2015–2017* (NSP), which is a three-year rolling plan that is updated during the annual budget process and is scheduled to undergo three-yearly stocktakes¹ through to the end of the current Compact funding period in 2023. The government expects the NSP to be reviewed by the end of November 2019. Although the priorities are unlikely to change, it is possible that some of the performance indicators will.
5. Most recently, RMI has put in place *Agenda 2020: A Framework for Progress*, which is an overarching framework that highlights the 10 highest-priority national challenges and the 10 most critical institutional reforms that are required in order to address these challenges (see Annex B). *Agenda 2020* is overseen by the Office of the President and Cabinet.
6. In addition to these overarching national frameworks, RMI's developmental actions are guided by a range of sector-level strategies, as well as some key regional and global commitments and frameworks (see Annex B).
7. RMI implements its developmental priorities with support from a range of development partners (see Annex B); chief among these being the USA, which, under its Compact agreement, provides half of RMI's budget. This Compact financing agreement expires in 2023.

SPC organisational context

8. SPC's work within its member countries and territories aims to achieve the following organisational objectives and key results, which are specified in the member-endorsed *Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2016–2020*:

<p>Strategic organisational objective 1: Strengthen engagement and collaboration with members and partners.</p>	<p>Expected result: Strong engagement by members in SPC's programmes and closer collaboration between SPC and its partners, which enhances the relevance and effectiveness of SPC's work.</p>
<p>Strategic organisational objective 3: Address members' development priorities through multi-disciplinary approaches.</p>	<p>Expected result: Enhanced, evidence-based, multi-disciplinary approaches to the design and implementation of programmes addressing national and regional development issues (including analysis and prioritisation of responses to social, environmental and economic issues).</p>

¹ 2015–2017; 2018–2020; and 2021–2023.

A changing partnership

9. Historically, SPC has provided wide-ranging support to RMI. Broadly speaking, this support is and has been fairly well aligned with the government's developmental priorities. However, it has always been mostly siloed – both within RMI line agencies and within SPC programme divisions.
10. RMI wishes to continue drawing extensively on SPC's scientific and technical expertise in order to help address priority areas from the NSP and *Agenda 2020* (which builds on the NSP). Senior officials in both RMI and SPC have agreed that a different sort of partnership could potentially achieve greater impacts, as follows:
11. **High-level ownership and leadership of a deepening relationship** – the implementation of the Programme will be led by the Government of RMI through coordination by the Office of the Chief Secretary (OCS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, of which the latter is SPC's focal point. Within SPC, it will be overseen by the Deputy Director General (Suva). This is a new arrangement. SPC's support is also now being sought by RMI (in those areas where SPC has expertise) across sectors and the work of different donor partner projects. This too will be a new arrangement and requires further analysis of how SPC might best be able to deliver against it. It requires SPC to take an umbrella view of the alignment of developmental work that is being done within and across sectors (including other RMI partners) and to ensure that its own support is achieving results beyond the activity level – that it is helping RMI to strengthen its position in the lead-up to 2023.
12. **Shared responsibility and accountability for advancing agreed strategic priorities** – RMI and SPC will, as part of The Programme, increase proactivity in galvanising resources and partners to help accelerate progress against the strategic priorities that are identified by RMI (see paragraph 14 below). For example, the Government of RMI will engage with its other development partners and financiers to encourage them to use SPC as their implementing agent, wherever the Government of RMI considers SPC to be best placed to play that role. Similarly, SPC will engage with current and potential financing partners on the inclusion of tailored activities to address RMI's strategic priorities, wherever this might be feasible. Where possible, the Government of RMI and SPC will also continue to explore opportunities to co-fund priority work.
13. In short, RMI is seeking a partnership from SPC that jointly examines the full range of resources that are available for addressing RMI's strategic priorities (not just SPC resources) and jointly explores effective ways of mobilising, targeting and applying those resources. Where SPC takes a lead role in addressing particular sectoral or cross-sectoral needs, it will do so in partnership with the government.

Strategic priorities

14. During The Programme period (2019–2022), SPC will work more deeply with RMI in support of the following priority areas:

- (1) **Statistics** – RMI recognises the need to strengthen its data capacity to monitor progress and achievements in addressing its developmental priorities, which is a challenge that constrains both policy formulation and direction setting for developmental activities.²
 - SPC’s Statistics for Development Division (SDD) is now working with RMI to test cost-effective processes for enabling Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) to be conducted more regularly, with assurance of quality data. Beyond ongoing support for surveys, RMI seeks technical support from SPC (SDD) to develop a comprehensive database of indicators and national datasets (e.g. for the Sustainable Development Goals) so that it can develop an RMI results framework. As part of this, RMI needs support to collect and analyse sector-level data, where the main priorities are agriculture, land and environment (and within these, climate change), education data to inform policy-making, and gender-related data.
 - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) – RMI wishes to draw actively on SPC’s expertise in this area to strengthen CRVS across sectors (health, education, social security, culture and internal affairs, and justice). A CRVS workshop to assist RMI with the first report is scheduled for April 2019 to work with CRVS stakeholders in reviewing the progress of the implementation of the national CRVS work programme. Key areas to be addressed in this priority sector for RMI include the following:
 - Review of the efficacy of existing business processes for birth registration, death registration, and collection of cause of death information including linkages between civil registration and other important identification databases.
 - Review completeness and quality of birth, death and cause of death datasets. Work with relevant official(s) in initiating the development of a vital statistics report based on the most recent data.
 - Complete reporting against the regional action framework for CRVS in preparation for the 2020 ministerial conference. For CRVS information see <http://getinthepicture.org/resource/escap-resolution-748-accelerating-implementation-regional-action-framework-civil>
- (2) **Biosecurity** – RMI is receiving little donor support on the ground to strengthen its biosecurity at pre-border, border and post-border levels. The government is now seeking technical and capacity development assistance from SPC – to help national authorities put in place effective biosecurity rules and regulations, undertake effective surveillance and allow early responses to incurring pests such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle, breadfruit fly and other invasive species. SPC is already working in RMI and supporting aquatic biosecurity risk management through the strengthening of capacity in aquatic animal disease management, development of a national aquatic biosecurity plan, as well as a regulatory framework for managing aquaculture.
- (3) **Food security** – RMI requires particular support to address challenges in agriculture and with non-communicable diseases.
- (4) **Agriculture** – Agricultural development is of very high priority for RMI yet, in key areas such as food security and biosecurity, RMI is receiving little donor support on the ground. The government is therefore keen for SPC to take a lead role in advancing agricultural innovation in order to improve adaptation to climate

² The main data at present comes from household income and expenditure surveys (HIES), the most recent of which was in 2011. *The next HIES is expected to be conducted in 2019.* A recent UNDP report has highlighted the lack of baseline data and clear targets against which to track progress towards the NSP; the inability meet reporting requirements for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) because data are not updated or disaggregated; and calculation errors and inconsistencies (UNDP, 2018. *An Assessment of Data Availability of the National Strategic Plan/Sustainable Development Goals: Republic of the Marshall Islands*, March). At this broad level, UNDP assistance is being planned, and work is underway to introduce a whole-of-government information system.

change and improve the nutritional intake of Marshallese people. Some key priorities include support for an agriculture census and for the establishment of a national seedbank.

(5) **Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** – In RMI diabetes and obesity, in particular, are a significant challenge. SPC has already contributed significantly to raising awareness through the provision of information materials³; but RMI is now seeking more direct, intensified and tailored support from SPC to tackle this growing problem – especially in the context of helping to improve food security and nutrition. RMI is also requesting technical support from SPC to help it better address the mapping and management of cancer.⁴

(6) **Gender, social inclusion, human rights and culture** – Priorities for RMI include the following:

- Strengthening gender mainstreaming across all sectors. This includes continuing to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to support the government in implementing gender equality commitments, as well as engaging with specific sectors in line with other priorities identified (food security, climate change resilience and statistics) in order to strengthen a people-centred approach across development programmes.
- Streamlining culture (cultural industries, culture and education, and historical preservation) as well as legislative/treaty review and compliance with treaties that have been ratified.
- Mainstreaming of priorities for youth development, with RMI's youth policy expected to be endorsed early in 2019.
- Subject to a plebiscite on the question of establishing a National Human Rights Institution/Ombudsman's Office, further SPC support may be sought in future to assist RMI with the next steps. This might include further consultations; e.g. in outer islands, legislative drafting, sourcing financing, and thereafter assisting RMI to obtain status accreditation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- In addition, RRRT is working with the RMI Public School System (PSS) to strengthen the syllabus and teaching of social citizenship education in pilot schools (covering human rights, gender equality and eliminating violence against women and girls, and nuclear issues), with a view to rolling out the syllabus across the PSS in due course.⁵

15. From SPC's perspective, increased visibility and intensified national engagement in supporting RMI to address these critical challenges makes sense, given its extensive role and regional contribution to advancing the management of these issues.

3 Most NCD-related support in RMI has been led by other donors; particularly USA and the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA).

4 This is a particular concern for RMI because, as a result of past nuclear testing, the country has both high-risk and a high prevalence of cancers caused by radiation. These cancers also seem to disproportionately affect women (directly and through effects on their childbearing ability). RMI has no cytologist/pathologist, so specimens cannot be tested in-country, and it struggles to collect, maintain and analyse needed data.

5 The project is the formal and informal education component of the European Union funded *Pacific Partnership to End Violence against Women and Girls*. The *Pacific Partnership* has two other components; one addressing social norms and essential services relating to violence against women and girls (implemented by UN Women), and another, which empowers civil society to ensure regional organisations and governments are accountable for their work on addressing violence against women and girls (implemented by the Forum Secretariat).

Other ongoing support

16. SPC is already deeply engaged with RMI on a range of other important developmental issues. In each of these areas, the current support being provided is highly valued by the government and no significant change in scope or direction is anticipated to be needed in the lead-up to 2023. An example of these is as follows:
- **Fisheries** – RMI’s engagement with the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division (FAME) of SPC is deep, and has been for many years. As a consequence, RMI has confidence in the existing partnership to be able to address all of its marine priorities and to anticipate and plan emerging priorities.
 - **Education** – In addition to the PILNA work, SPC’s EQAP is beginning to engage with RMI’s Ministry of Education regarding qualifications frameworks and quality assurance of qualifications in RMI. The scope of this support will likely expand during 2019.
 - **Disaster risk reduction** – The support of SPC continues to be needed to help RMI bring a resilient developmental perspective to its planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) programmes; in particular through capacity strengthening of the National Disaster Management Office.
 - **Gender mainstreaming** – SPC is providing technical support to RMI for several years in the field of gender statistics and analysis and policy development and implementation on gender mainstreaming. The Social Development Programme (SDP) has supported RMI in hosting regional meetings and promoting their commitments to gender equality at the international level. The gender mainstreaming country work plan will be finalised with the Government of RMI in 2019 for implementation until 2023.
 - **Regional work** – RMI will continue to contribute to and benefit from the broad range of regional work that SPC undertakes; e.g. participation in regional meetings and workshops, region-wide scientific and technical research and analytical reports, regional databases and information products, etc.
 - **Climate change** – SPC will support RMI’s efforts to strengthen dialogue with other atoll countries on adaptation to climate change and provide technical support to adaptation planning.
17. A summary of the full range of SPC work currently being undertaken in RMI is provided in Annex C.

Ways of working

18. **Principles:** RMI and SPC have jointly agreed that in both planning and implementing activities within The Programme, all of the following eight principles will be acted upon:
- (1) **Aligned** – The Programme should be aligned to national development plans, policies and strategies, which set the framework for the provision of developmental assistance.
 - (2) **Mutual** – RMI and SPC will seek to complement each other’s efforts and will operate with mutual respect for each other’s roles and responsibilities. Goals and actions will be mutually agreed, planned and implemented by RMI and SPC in genuine partnership. SPC support will be provided where in-country ownership and commitment is clear and the context is conducive to achieving The country Programme objectives. RMI and SPC will work together to provide mutual support and recognition in relation to activities that are jointly implemented.

- (3) **Evidence-based** – Policy, programming, delivery choices and actions will be founded on a comprehensive and realistic analysis of RMI’s context, and the messages and lessons from SPC’s extensive scientific, technical and regional knowledge and experience.
 - (4) **Flexible** – SPC assistance within RMI will adapt and respond to changes in national priorities, circumstances and capacity.
 - (5) **Coherent** – Different areas of SPC’s engagement and support will seek to complement each other (across sectors and across countries), in the interests of augmented developmental results, reduced fragmentation and effective exploitation of synergies. As part of this, SPC will mainstream issues relating to youth, gender equality and culture into its divisional work. Both SPC and RMI will actively seek and embrace the involvement and contributions of other partners in order to enrich the developmental outcomes that are collectively pursued.
 - (6) **Targeted** – SPC assistance will be confined to its identified areas of comparative advantage relative to other country and regional partners, in areas where SPC is uniquely positioned and/or a recognised centre of excellence in terms of its scientific and technical expertise and experience. Within this, SPC will target services that can most effectively and efficiently be provided through cooperation at the subregional or regional level. In special circumstances, SPC will also consider activities in emerging priority areas of importance to RMI in which it may wish to develop its expertise.
 - (7) **Regionally relevant** – SPC will support activities that are identified as regional priorities and those that can be characterised as regional public goods. These activities will support national priorities; complement national capacity; promote a regional issue, position or norm; and result in economies of scale and increased sustainability.
 - (8) **Transparent and accountable** – Interaction will be demonstrated in all RMI and SPC collaboration.
19. In each of its long-standing areas of work at the national level in RMI, the support of SPC is highly valued. Nevertheless, there are ways in which SPC’s ongoing support can be improved. RMI and SPC will actively explore opportunities to broaden or improve the contributions being made through these activities – and the ways in which they are monitored – in line with the new partnership set out in paragraphs 9 to 12 above. For example:
- SPC is in the early stages of internally developing integrated programming and management approaches that will likely benefit RMI in some key areas, such as statistics, nutrition and food security, and gender and youth development. Beyond this, integrated programming within SPC will position it better to respond to RMI’s desire for SPC to play a role in helping the government to optimise developmental results across key sectors and donor projects, where SPC has relevant expertise.
 - There is scope to better coordinate SPC’s work in RMI. This will be achieved through regular/systematic coordination discussions between the RMI focal point and the SPC Regional Director for Micronesia on an agreed schedule, and joint country missions carried out by technical divisions whenever combined support is expected to be delivered.⁶ SPC is also mobilising resources to establish a regional position to promote land resource management and agriculture.
20. **Activity programming:** For each of the strategic priorities for this Programme (paragraph 14 above), SPC staff missions will visit RMI before the end of June 2019 to flesh out the specific areas where SPC can best contribute.
21. **Resource mobilisation (financial and technical):** This will be a joint responsibility, including from other potential partners. To this end, RMI has committed to work with its bilateral donors to have them use SPC as an implementing agency where feasible and appropriate. There may also be an opportunity for co-funding initiatives between SPC and the Government of RMI.

⁶ For example, for food security. This might include experts in non-communicable diseases, climate smart agriculture, value chains and gender empowerment.

22. **Focal points:** Progress with implementing the Programme will be monitored and coordinated by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade for RMI with consistent reporting to the Office of the Chief Secretary, and the Regional Director Micronesia for SPC.

Tracking performance

23. RMI will be responsible for monitoring and assessing the performance and contribution of SPC-supported activities within RMI against its *National Strategic Plan* and *Agenda 2020* priorities.
24. SPC will continue to monitor and assess the performance and contribution of SPC-supported activities within RMI against the *Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2016–2020* and against SDGs significant events and achievements, which are presented to the CRGA each year in the *SPC Results Report*. A country-specific report will be provided annually to RMI.
25. The Programme is a living document. It will be revisited annually by both RMI and SPC in order to check and monitor the relevance of ongoing activities to RMI's specific policy objectives and to update the results matrix (Annex A) with any new activities or emerging priorities.
26. RMI and SPC will also work together to jointly develop integrated impact pathways in key areas, along with baselines against which monitoring can be conducted.

Annex A: RMI results framework 2019–2022

Priority	Impact	Result	Indicator	Lead responsibility	
				RMI	SPC
Statistics	Well informed, evidence-based government policies and development programmes.	<p>Strengthened access to and use of development statistics in policy development and progress monitoring (<i>SPC Strategic Plan</i> Development Objective 4) and to meet international reporting obligations.</p> <p>EPPSO strengthened (<i>Agenda 2020</i> PGR4).</p> <p>National systems of statistics collection and analysis strengthened for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture, land and environment, including climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction • Education sector • Gender and youth-related statistics (gender and youth analysis, dissemination, monitoring and learning) 	<p>Successful completion of key surveys and reports: 2019 HIES; 2019 Voluntary National Report; and 2021 census.</p> <p>Availability of quality, reliable and current data to inform policy and programming decisions.</p> <p>NSO staff trained to put in place new national results framework and action plan.</p> <p>Type and quality of education sector data collected and analysed.</p> <p>Number of sector ministries/departments collecting and analysing sex-disaggregated and other gender significant statistics.</p>	OCS, EPPSO	SDD
				EQAP SDP, FAME, GEM, LRD, PHD	

Priority	Impact	Result	Indicator	Lead responsibility	
				RMI	SPC
Biosecurity	Improved intra-and inter-island trade of plant and animal commodities free of pests and diseases.	Strengthen regulation and improved biosecurity control mechanisms pre-border, border and post-border. Improved early warning and response mechanisms in place for pests and diseases.	Number of border control officers capacity built to conduct pre-border Import Risk Assessments and to strengthen import permit conditions to address biosecurity risks. Strengthened and operationalize System of Procedure (SOP) and tools in place to collect data on border inspections, treatments, sanitary and phytosanitary certifications related to animal and plant products, respectively, imported or exported. Early warning plans in place and response plans developed. Number of post-border early warning system (EWS)/ traps installed at biosecurity hotspots, and data collected on the quarterly surveillance carried out and recorded from these EWS/traps. Number and type of post-border data on interception of biosecurity related items/hosts on inter-island trade. Ongoing pest and disease surveillance and results to update the pest and disease database (PLD) for RMI, and use of these results for market access requests, trade negotiation, PRA's and National Reporting Obligations (NRO's) to the respective international bodies, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPCC) and World Organisation to Animal Health (OIE).	MNRC	LRD
<p><i>Note: SPC (LRD) is in the process of recruiting a Technical Adviser for Plant health and Biosecurity. The objectives and scope of SPC's national support for biosecurity in RMI will be determined following more detailed in-country consultations (to be completed by end April 2019). This results framework will be updated then.</i></p>					

Priority	Impact	Result	Indicator	Lead responsibility	
				RMI	SPC
Food security	Ready availability of resilient, climate-adapted crops.	Food security strengthened through the development of an Agriculture Strategic Plan (Agenda 2020 MC6). Production systems strengthened to be more sustainable, adaptable and resilient.	Increased traditional crop production and use. Number of PGS (Participatory Guarantee System) certified organic farmers who are using resilient practices (e.g. increased crop diversity, mulching, composting and/or traditional practices such as pit planting). Number of farmers who have adopted new practices (e.g. management, pest and disease management) and who report increases in production. Number of women who have developed their potential in organic farming, as well as contributing to and being actively involved in practices to prevent pests and diseases.	MNRC	LRD
Health	Reduced incidences of diabetes and obesity. Declining consumption of tobacco and sugary products. Timely and accurate cancer screening and diagnosis.	NCD Strategic Plan developed to support RMI NCD policy. Improved multi-sectoral responses to non-communicable diseases. Improved in-country cancer detection.	Government pursues legislative changes and action plans are implemented Evidence of use of survey results to inform policy, strategy or capacity development targeting.	MOHHS	PHD
Human rights	Human rights promoted and protected, and human rights commitments fulfilled.	An established human rights coordination or monitoring mechanism. Strengthened government capacity to apply human rights and gender equality to national developmental issues. Domestic violence and Family Protection legislation implemented, resourced and monitored.	Cancer coding and classification system in place. Quality of cancer screening data independently assured. Evidence of effective implementation of the MOU between RMI and SPC on human rights issues.	MOHHS CIA PSS	PHD RRRT

Priority	Impact	Result	Indicator	Lead responsibility	
				RMI	SPC
Gender mainstreaming	Equitable participation of men and women of all diversities in social and economic development outcomes.	Integrated gender-responsive considerations across at least four ministries. Gender equality is systematically included across legislation, public policies, services and programmes. Existence and use of gender statistics and analyses to inform policy, public services and programme design.	Number of sector ministries and agencies who have applied new practices to develop and implement gender responsive programmes and services (e.g. evidence of improved public programmes and services for addressing gender inequality and shared benefits of development outcomes between genders) Evidence of partnerships between government institutions, academics, CSOs, FBOs and the private sector. Availability of quality, reliable and up-to-date sex disaggregated data and gender analysis to inform policy and programme decisions.	MCIA	SDP
Culture	To protect cultural heritage and promote traditional knowledge, cultures, practices and rights of the indigenous people of the Marshall Islands.	Institutional mechanisms for culture are reviewed, revised and developed (policies, legislations, services and programmes). Improved communication and resource. Culture mainstreamed across all sectors. Strengthened culture production.	Evidence of structural reforms: strengthened policies, legislations, treaty bodies, human resource and training programmes. Increased partnership and resources to protect RMI cultural heritage and develop cultural industries. Culture integrated into national and local planning. Environment enabled for the promotion of cultural industries and arts.	MCIA	SDP
Programme -wide	RMI well prepared for post-2023 Compact transition.	Integrated (cross-sectoral, cross-donor) planning and implementation of developmental activities.	Frequency of high-level (ministerial and executive management) engagement. Number of new examples of collaboration between SPC and other RMI development partners. RMI feedback on SPC's agility and responsiveness to changing country context and needs.	MFAT	Exec

Annex B: A profile of RMI and its development

Overview

Geography: The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is an archipelago of 29 coral atolls, five low coral islands (the furthest of which is 1100 kilometres from the capital, Majuro) and 1151 islets, none of which is more than 2 metres above the ocean surface. As a consequence, RMI is vulnerable to tidal surges and large waves. The country's land mass totals just 180 square kilometres, but this is highly dispersed over an exclusive economic zone of 2.1 million square kilometres. Agricultural opportunities are limited because RMI's land is not nutrient rich. RMI also suffers from drought, which in 2013 and 2016 affected over 75% of the population; however, the marine resource base is large. RMI shares about 50% of its maritime borders with the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Nauru. The other 50% borders international waters.

Population: The most recent figures (USA for July 2017) estimate RMI's small population at 74,539, which is significantly higher than the 2011 census figure of 53,158. Some 40% of the population is aged 15-years or younger. The fertility rate is high (4.1%). Population density is high comparative to other Pacific island countries and territories (6.8 people per household). Around 77% of the population is now concentrated in two locations – the capital, Majuro or Kwajalein (Ebeye Island). Ebeye is one of the most densely populated locations in the world. RMI's labour force is just 12,647 (2011 census). In addition, an estimated 25,000 Marshallese live in the USA.

Government: RMI is an independent country in a Compact of Free Association (the Compact) with the United States of America (USA). It achieved its independence on 21 October 1986. The Compact, originally signed in 1983 and renewed in 2003, recognises RMI's right to self-government and seeks to promote economic development and budgetary self-reliance.

RMI's constitution was adopted in 1979, which established a mixed parliamentary and presidential system. RMI has a bicameral *Nitijela* (parliament/lower house), comprising 33 members who are elected every four years by universal suffrage. Each of RMI's 24 electoral constituencies – one for each inhabited island and atoll – elect one or more representatives (senators) to the *Nitijela*. Senators elect the President from within the *Nitijela*. The President is both Head of State and Head of Government and selects the Cabinet from the members of the *Nitijela*. A Council of Iroji (upper house) – comprising 12 tribal chiefs – advises cabinet on customary law and traditional practice but does not have legislative or executive power. At the municipal level, each atoll has a local government composed of an elected Mayor and Council.

The most recent election was held in November 2015 and the next is due in 2019. The current and eighth President of RMI is HE Hilda Heine.

Economy: RMI is classified as a middle-income country, with external grants, taxation, fishing royalties and shipping registry fees being the main sources of government revenue. In 2017, just under half of RMI's budgeted government expenditure was directed to education, health and public works. Economic growth is estimated to have accelerated in FY2017 to about 3.5%, but over the medium-term it is expected to moderate to about 1.5% (IMF, May 2018).

RMI's economy is constrained by its small population, vulnerability to external shocks, narrow range of natural resources, geography and extreme weather events. The Government of RMI is the country's major employer, accounting for 41% of formal employment and about 40% of GDP. The construction industry is expanding but there is limited domestic production. Although small, fisheries, copra, handicrafts and subsistence agriculture (concentrated on small farms) are the most significant sectors of the economy. The most important commercial crops are coconuts and breadfruit.

Industry is limited to handicrafts, tuna processing and copra. Tourism holds some potential, given that RMI is one of only four coral atoll nations in the world, and home to premier fishing and diving locations. The islands and atolls have few natural resources, and imports exceed exports. Annual exports are dominated by fish, copra oil, copra cake and handicrafts and are valued at just under USD 54 million. Annual imports are valued at more than double this (USD 133 million) and primarily consist of food, fuel, machinery and other equipment.

Compact funding provides well over half of RMI's budget resources. It has been diminishing since 2003. Although the basic relationship of free association with the USA continues indefinitely under the Compact, the bulk of the financial provisions expire in 2023. For 2017, this funding amounted to over USD 80 million. After the Compact grant period expires in 2023, RMI is expected to complement domestic revenues with returns from the Compact Trust Fund, which receives annual savings from fiscal surpluses and contributions from development partners. However, building the trust fund is a major challenge for RMI. As a consequence, the IMF has highlighted inadequate fiscal adjustment ahead of the expiry of the Compact grant agreement in 2023 as the main medium-term downside risk confronting RMI.

Society: Poverty is an urgent concern for RMI because of scarce natural resources, high unemployment and wealth inequality. Ebeye, in particular, now has 12,000 people living on 32 hectares. Contrary to traditional culture, violence against women is also now a significant concern. Traditionally, the Marshall Islands are a matrilineal society, where women are owners of land resources and have traditionally been respected as decision-makers. Traditional Marshallese custom (manit) includes defined roles for men and women that are often complementary and highlight the valuable contributions of each sex. Marshallese proverbs and stories reiterate lessons of respect for women, children and men alike. The prevalence of overweight and obesity is critically high in RMI, and particularly so for women. Non-communicable diseases are at epidemic levels and account for 74% of the 10 leading causes of death in RMI.

Development and reform priorities

National Strategic Plan	
Sector	Strategic area
Social development	Health
	Education
	Gender
	Children, youth and vulnerable groups
	Community development
Environment, climate change and resiliency	Vulnerability assessment and disaster risk reduction
	Disaster management and response
	Conservation resource management
Infrastructure development	Transportation
	Energy
	Water and sanitation
	Solid and hazardous waste management
	Information and communications technology

National Strategic Plan	
Sector	Strategic area
Sustainable economic development	Agriculture and agricultural production
	Marine resources (fisheries, fisheries infrastructure, deep-sea mining)
	Trade and local manufacturing
	Tourism
	Financial services, private sector investment and employment
	Government investment (trust funds)
Good governance	Public administration
	Public financial management and reform
	Law, justice and public safety
	Legal and regulatory
	State-owned enterprises management and reform
	Macroeconomic planning

Key development policies and strategies

National

- Vision 2018 Master Plan
- National Strategic Plan 2015–2017
- Compact of Free Association, as amended (2003–2023)
- Medium Term Budget and Investment Framework (MTBIF)
- Agenda 2020: A Framework for Progress

Sectoral/Thematic

- National Gender Mainstreaming Policy (2015) and Implementation Plan (2016)
- Gender Equality and Social Action Plan 2017–2020
- National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan (April 2016)
- Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management 2014–2018
- National Climate Change Policy Framework (March 2011)
- Trade Policy Framework (May 2012)
- Food Security Policy (October 2013)
- Policy Options for Improved Food Security (August 2014)
- Rights of Persons with Disability Policy (2015)

- Child Rights Protection Policy (2015)
- Youth Policy (2014)

Regional

- SAMOA Pathway (2014)
- Regional Framework for Accelerating Action on Food Security and Nutrition in Pacific SIDS (Draft, February 2018)
- Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership (September 2013)
- Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
- Pacific Youth Framework
- Pacific Culture Strategy
- The Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women's Rights
- The Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

Global

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Barbados Plan of Action
- Beijing Platform for Action
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- International Conference on Population and Development

Key development partnerships

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved three new projects in 2017, aimed at: (a) assisting RMI to meet its renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, through investment in the Majuro distribution network; (b) improving the quality of basic education; and (c) enabling the RMI Ministry of Finance to effectively implement public financial management and state-owned enterprise reforms. ADB is also financing the Ebeye Water Supply and Sanitation project.
- **Australia** currently focuses its support on securing water supply and sanitation services on Ebeye Island and on improving social and economic opportunities for women and girls. Australia is also intending to bolster support for the education bureaucracy in RMI.
- The **European Union** national indicative programme (2014–2020) includes an allocation of EUR 9.1 million – primarily in support of renewable energy and energy efficiency, but also for public financial management, economic development, accountability, civil society participation in policy dialogue, and implementation of the CEDAW Convention.

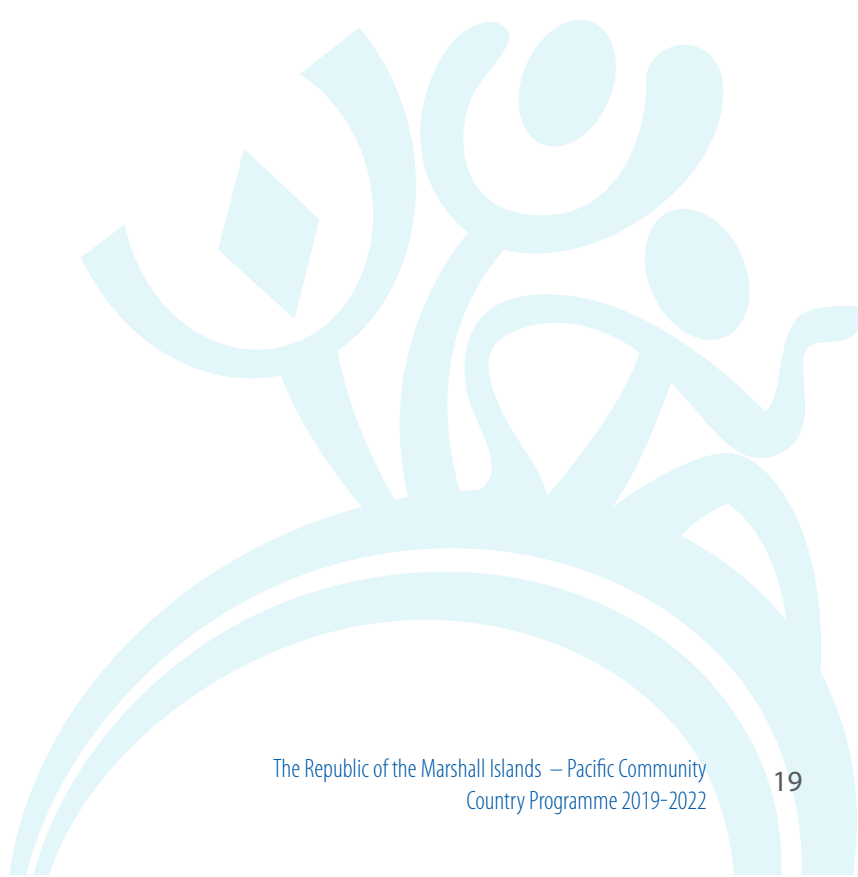
- **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** country programme framework (2018–2022) is focused on achieving a sustainable increase in the trade and marketing of domestic agriculture products and the healthy consumption of safe and nutritious food – in particular school nutrition education; the distribution of seeds, seedlings, cuttings and school nursery materials to drought-affected communities; coastal and nearshore fisheries technologies and practices; local seafood safety and fish processing techniques; capacity development to conduct surveys; the contribution of nearshore Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) on food security and livelihoods; and (with SPC), aquaculture business investment planning and development to increase resilience and improve food security.
- **German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)** supports several projects, including a ten-year regional initiative that is focused on building the skills and capacities to enable communities to cope with climate change (2008–2018).
- **International Organisation for Migration's (IOM)** Country Strategy 2017–2020 helps address RMI's migration challenges, including in the context of climate change adaptation, community resilience to disasters and human rights protection.
- **Japan** provides assistance to build, manage and maintain infrastructure, including domestic shipping services, telecommunications and construction (e.g. markets, classrooms, medical facilities). It also supports international fisheries development and management; replanting of coconut trees; education (mathematics and Japanese language teaching); health, water and waste management; and sustainable energy systems.
- **New Zealand**, through its North Pacific Development Fund, supports projects that are focused on education and building resilience; income and job generation; disaster management; and community development.
- **Republic of China (Taiwan)** is RMI's second largest donor after the USA, contributing to the general budget fund and supporting, for example, medical services, agriculture, infrastructure (e.g., highway improvement, pavements, schools, convention centre), procurement of ships and vocational training. It is also a significant contributor to the Compact Trust Fund, having committed a total of USD 50 million.
- **United States of America (USA)** is RMI's most significant development partner with funding under the Compact providing for approximately 60% of the RMI's annual budget in the areas of health, education, and infrastructure development and maintenance. The Compact also provides for RMI's defence, financial assistance and access to USA domestic services and its labour market, in exchange for the USA having exclusive rights to establish and operate military bases in RMI. USA financing is provided through grants, trust fund contributions, settlement of claims arising from a USA nuclear testing programme (1946–1958), and lease payments for the establishment and operation of military bases on and around Kwajalein Atoll (until 2086).
- The **World Bank (WB)** is providing significant support through the Pacific Resilience Project II for the strengthening of early warning systems; institutional strengthening of the National Disaster Management Office; and enabling investments in shoreline protection. It is also supporting sustainable energy development; strengthening of budget execution and financial reporting systems; fisheries regulation and control through the regional oceanscape programme (PROP); and is in the process of developing projects in early childhood development and nutrition and maritime investment.

In addition, RMI is implementing some significant development projects that are financed through, for example, the Global Environment Facility and Green Climate Fund.

Annex C: A profile of current SPC support for RMI priorities

NSP Sector 1:	Social development	
SPC Strategic Plan:	Goal 2: Pacific communities are empowered and resilient Goal 3: Pacific people reach their potential and live long and healthy lives	
NSP sub-sector	Current (2018) SPC support	SPC leads
Health	<p>Non-communicable diseases (NCD) – Advocacy (e.g. for integration of NCD and food security into national development agenda); professional placements (including South-South collaboration); technical assistance; and promotional resources for awareness campaigns.</p> <p>Cancer mapping – Technical support to strengthen the coding and classification of cancer, train RMI staff and provide independent quality assurance of data; and to strengthen cancer screening, in-country clinical detection and the Cytology Department.</p>	PHD
Education	<p>Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) – Implementation and administration.</p> <p>Social citizenship education (SCE) – Workshops, M&E support and piloting in selected schools.</p> <p>Rights-based approaches (RBA) – Technical and capacity development for application of RBA in curriculum review; and mentoring of teachers and youth.</p> <p>Gender mainstreaming in the Public School System (PSS) – This includes support for obtaining baseline information and donor reporting.</p>	EQAP RRRT RRRT, EQAP SDP, RRRT
Gender equality	<p>Gender equality – Booklet on mainstreaming in RMI, which was completed and published in May 2018; participation in governance committee of the RMI 50:50 Innovation Fund; support the integration of gender equality and women's human rights in the national strategic plan review process; support the integration of gender perspective in the RENI project; conduct gender assessment in three sectors – including fisheries.</p> <p>Gender statistics – Technical support to produce a gender statistics action plan; finalise gender data analysis of formal sector employment data; compile statistics for the Common Core Document; and update the RMI gender statistics framework annually, as well as questionnaire design and gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) analysis of the 2019 HIES.</p> <p>Eliminating violence against women (EVAW) – Development of school curriculum on social citizenship and youth initiatives; and support for statistics compilation on domestic violence cases and court outcomes. Production of a gender stocktake and capacity building for the Ministry of Education in mainstreaming gender. And the development of a gender mainstreaming policy for education;</p> <p>Women's economic empowerment – Support for value chains in cultural industries.</p>	SDP, GEM SDP, SDD SDP, RRRT SDP
Community development	<p>Culture and human rights – Cultural mapping of links between Marshallese culture and human rights.</p> <p>Community disaster resilience – Design and oversight of integrated and contextualised TVET CDR training.</p>	RRRT GEM

NSP Sector 2:	Environment, climate change and resiliency	
SPC Strategic Plan:	Goal 2: Pacific communities are empowered and resilient	
NSP sub-sector	Current (2018) SPC support	SPC leads
Vulnerability assessment and disaster risk reduction	<p>Ridge to reef management (R2R) – Post-graduate Certificate in Sustainable Ridge to Reef Management awarded.</p> <p>Readiness for El Niño (RENI) – Demonstration activities, training, technical analysis and placements for enhanced food security and use of traditional crops.</p> <p>Geographic information system/remote sensing (GIS/RS) – Establishment.</p> <p>Rights-based approaches (RBA) – Technical and capacity development for application of RBA in readiness for El Niño (RENI).</p> <p>Private sector engagement – This is for disaster preparedness and recovery, including training for business continuity planning (DCRP BSRP, with UNISDR).</p> <p>Disaster preparedness – Technical assistance for capacity strengthening in disaster risk management and for climate change institutions; and support for the integration of RMI's early warning, preparedness and response capacity with a regional platform (Pacific Resilience Programme Phase II).</p>	<p>GEM</p> <p>GEM</p> <p>GEM</p> <p>RRRT</p> <p>GEM</p> <p>GEM</p>
Disaster management and response	Emergency management – Partnership strengthening, including twinning (DCRP BSRP and PIEMA, NSW-RFS and NDMO).	GEM
Conservation resource management	Ecosystem process and coastal health programme – Implementation of tangible actions for community resilience.	GEM



NSP Sector 3:	Infrastructure development	
SPC Strategic Plan:	Goal 1: Pacific people benefit from sustainable economic development	
NSP sub-sector	Current (2018) SPC support	SPC leads
Transportation	<p>Shipping and ports energy efficiency – Training, technical assistance, and data collection and analysis; for e.g. Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) and port energy management (MTCC-Pacific¹), to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reliance on fossil fuel in the maritime transport sector.</p> <p>Ship safety – International Safety Management (ISM) code audit.</p> <p>Impact assessment of shipping services in the Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) – MSC to review the rationale of the MSC; assess and quantify the impacts of the MSC; and highlight possible gaps in the current modality of the MSC to deliver its objectives.</p>	GEM
Energy	Energy efficiency and sustainability – Field survey and environmental study undertaken (PREP II).	GEM
Energy (continued)	Sustainable energy qualifications – There is interest to deliver Sustainable Energy qualifications Levels 1 and 2, and Levels 3 and 4 Biogas and Solar strands. PacTVET is currently in the planning stage (finalising agreements; recruiting consultants; planning procurement needs and finalising TOT calendar).	GEM
Water and sanitation	<p>Water security – Demonstration activities, including placement of a national water security officer in the Environmental Protection Agency (DCRP-PPAWS project).</p> <p>Groundwater resource assessment – This is for identifying potential supplementary water sources on Wotje Atoll (DCRP-PPAWS project).</p>	GEM
Solid and hazardous waste management	Solid waste management – Demonstration activities, including through placement of a national project manager in the Department of Solid Waste Management to demonstrate ridge to reef approaches (DCRP Pacific IW R2R project).	GEM
Information and communications technology: SPC not active		

NSP Sector 4:	Sustainable economic development	
SPC Strategic Plan:	Goal 1: Pacific people benefit from sustainable economic development	
NSP sub-sector	Current (2018) SPC support	SPC leads
Agriculture and agricultural production	<p>Agriculture policy, strategies and statistics – Support for development of evidence-based sectoral, commodity and industry plans and policies, including Agriculture Policy Banks and a regional extension strategy for improved rural advisory services; development of a new regional strategy and associated training for improvement of national statistics collection systems and analysis for informed policy.</p> <p>Information systems – Pacific Agricultural Information System (PAIS) developed to improve access to updated technologies and innovations; Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Planners Network (PAFPNet) convened; Pacific Plant Pests and Pathogens free app and factsheets produced; and online agricultural portal developed, providing access to key sector policy plans.</p> <p>Germplasm exchange – Exchange of plant genetic resources for food and nutritional security, including benefit sharing accessions of banana, breadfruit, cassava, giant swamp taro, potato, sweet potato, taro and yam.</p> <p>Climate smart agriculture – Promoting adoption of resilient and climate-adapted crop varieties, including development of targeted composts for improving atoll soil health; and documentation and dissemination of climate resilient organic farmers’ practices.</p> <p>Farmer-market links – Development of value chain roadmaps, and the organic products of women are supported by value chains and organic certification.</p> <p>Biosecurity – Updated lists of emerging pests in the region.</p>	LRD
Marine resources (fisheries, fisheries infrastructure and deep-sea mining)	<p>Aquaculture – Aquatic biosecurity, including import risks analysis, preparedness and quarantine operations; aquatic animal disease; giant clam farming; business development strategy for sustainable production; capacity building in aquaculture and aquatic biosecurity; technical assistance to private sector development; and development and implementation of a national biosecurity plan.</p> <p>Stock assessment and monitoring – Analysis and advice for evidence-based fisheries management, including capacity development.</p> <p>Nearshore fisheries development – Staff training in all aspects of Fish Aggregating Devices work and mid-water fishing methods.</p> <p>Data management – Fisheries and marine ecosystems data collection and data management services, including capacity development.</p>	FAME
Trade and local manufacturing	<p>Merchandise trade statistics – Technical assistance and South-South collaboration to support production of quality and timely merchandise trade statistics to inform trade policy.</p>	SDD
Tourism: SPC not active		
Financial services, private sector investment and employment: SPC not active		
Government investment (trust funds): SPC not active		

NSP Sector 5:	Good governance	
SPC Strategic Plan:	Goal 2: Pacific communities are empowered and resilient	
NSP sub-sector	Current (2018) SPC support	SPC leads
Public administration	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) – Testing of cost-effective processes for enabling HIES to be conducted more regularly, with assurance of quality data.	SDD
	Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) – System review, prioritisation and training in the use of information technology to inform policy.	SDD
	Population census – Technical support for planning, design and delivery.	SDD
Public financial management and reform: SPC not active		
Law, justice and public safety	National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) – Community consultations; information, education and communications materials; legislative drafting; and capacity development.	RRRT
Legal and regulatory	Human Rights Task Force – Assistance with reporting and implementation of Treaty and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) obligations.	RRRT
	Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act (DVPPA) – Technical support to help the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs to revive the DVPPA Technical Working Group tasked with implementing the DVPPA.	RRRT
SOE management and reform: SPC not active		
Macroeconomic planning: SPC not active		

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