Gender Assessment

FP147: Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean

Multiple Countries | UNEP | B.27/02

19 November 2020
Annex 8

Gender Assessment
Annex 8 – Gender Assessment and Action Plan

1. INTRODUCTION: Gender mainstreaming for the GCF Pacific UNEP Programme

This Gender Assessment is a formative research input for a Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding proposal being developed by UN Environment Programme (UNEP), titled: Enhancing Climate Information and Knowledge Services for Resilience in Five Island Countries of the Pacific Ocean.

This Programme aims to bolster climate resilience and adaptive capacities among communities, stakeholders and governments by providing climate information services in five vulnerable Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands – RMI, and Tuvalu). Classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), these countries have been identified as ‘climate hotspots’ (or vulnerable to climate risks and impacts due to greater exposure to coastal erosion, natural hazards, sea-level rise and saline intrusion, temperature variability, among others) compounded by the following factors: remoteness and deprivation from the benefits of scale, small domestic markets and heavy dependence on a few and external markets, high volatility of economic growth, fragile natural environments, and socioeconomic as well as gendered vulnerabilities.

With four Results focused on strengthened climate information, climate modelling and predictions, and improved response capability and community resilience, the proposed Programme can strategically contribute towards greater gender equality in the five countries by:

- Adopting gender-responsive approaches for the design of climate information services;
- Promoting gender-balance, where possible, through technical and maintenance capacity-building activities of hydro-meteorological networks, equipment and systems;
- Establishing gender-aware policy frameworks to inform collaboration between climate service and national/regional hydro-meteorological stakeholders; and
- Pioneering gender mainstreaming analyses and praxis with regard to, climate information, geospatial, hydro-meteorological and early warning services in the Pacific Ocean region.

A kaleidoscope of overlapping cultural, economic, social and political roles form gender relations in the Pacific SIDS beneficiaries of this project. Given the expanse of the region and the unique markers of the different island societies, these roles have multiple facets, broadly reflecting the:

- Geographical and geopolitical specificities of the region;
- Traditional norms within intraregional societies of the five countries; and
- Gender gaps in economic roles and political representation, which also show variation between the countries.

The Programme recognises that the lack of a gender-responsive approach to address the above baseline (see Section 3 for details), particularly stemming from:

- Stereotypical views of climate services being gender-neutral; and
- Lack of incorporation of gender needs or ethnic vulnerabilities in adaptation opportunities, resilience capacities and mitigation services; and

2 Current literature on climate change, and its effects and emergent risks, are predominantly produced in scientific circles. Yet, there is increasing evidence that adopting social science methods, and situating resilience and adaptation practice within a broader science-policy interface and right-based perspectives, can gear projects towards environmental and socioeconomic co-benefits. Particularly, this could better prepare communities to avoid resource strife and respond to the complexity of social arrangements, reducing far-reaching impacts of climate risks. See Butterfield, R. (2018) ‘Bringing rights into resilience: revealing complexities of climate risks and social conflict’ in Disasters. Journal Article.
3 Poor or missing gender analysis, or the lack of gender-responsive action, may lead to planners or personnel depending on women to assume a central role in their coping strategies, which may not be the practical reality for many vulnerable communities. Further, this also glosses over the
• Paucity of financial means, gender budgeting and dedicated resources towards mainstreaming gender action.

These factors can limit the potential, inclusiveness and success of adaptive actions in the Pacific countries. Benefits of increased support and access to climate services, as well as awareness raising and capacity building, may accrue to better-off households or more mainstream groups, that are able to capitalise on new opportunities and respond better to changes ushered in by the Programme.

A ‘gender lens’, thus, is both necessary and relevant for the project to maximise its outcomes. This is particularly for the creation and strengthening of climate information service capacities for predicting and tackling climate change impacts, natural hazards and weather variation that cannot be avoided. An exercise of establishing institutional structures and broad-based political and socioeconomic frameworks to mobilise medium- and long-term climate change adaptation action as well as cooperation is also necessary.

To elucidate, employing a gender mainstreaming perspective will highlight and amend persistent inequalities and unequal access, which often result in specific and entrenched vulnerabilities in the region. Vulnerabilities can be defined as a set of general characteristics that impair the ability of a social group to cope with external shocks, to respond effectively to them, and to adapt to a situation of climate change. These vulnerabilities (such as economic status and political access; performance on health, education and livelihood indicators; access to productive assets, information networks, skills, among others) need addressing through climate services, as they act as impediments towards adaptive capacities against climate risks and impacts. Further, these vulnerabilities, when compounded or individually, can reverse the progress achieved in securing household economic stability (with spill-over effects on food, energy and water security) and managing community, resource and social strife, as well as reverse advances made on developmental goals and social change.

On the other hand, gender mainstreaming through the Gender and Development (GAD) approach (as adopted by the Programme) will also recognize the role marginalised and vulnerable groups can play, and not simply stylise them a priori as ‘victims’. With an inclusive project design, they are often able to contribute traditional and artisanal knowledge of coping and improvising strategies, which can either be strengthened and mainstreamed as well as used as a basis for further capacity development.


The GAD approach seeks to correct systems and mechanisms that produce gender inequality by focusing not only on women, but also by assessing the social status of both women and men. Moreover, it emphasizes the role of men in resolving gender inequality, and places importance on the empowerment of women, who are placed in a socially and economically weaker position than men.
2. Methodology: Identification of Gender Priorities for GCF Pacific

2.1 Appraisal of Gender Mainstreaming Priorities of GCF and UN Environment

The analytical prerogatives of this Gender Assessment and Action Plan are informed by both GCF’s and UNEP’s respective gender policies.

The GCF adopted a revised version of its 2014 Gender Policy and Action Plan on June 2018 in Korea. The revised Policy addresses pertinent issues on gender and climate change: the expansion of gender mainstreaming beyond the preserve of ‘women’s issues’; and, the identification of synergies with the in-house Indigenous People (IP) Policy as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)’s Gender Action Plan (GAP), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Overall, the Policy and Action Plan reinforce the responsiveness of GCF to the multiple, heterogeneous, culturally diverse context of gender equality to better address and account for the links between gender equality and climate change – a perspective that this five-country Programme mainstreamed in the development of the funding proposal.

UNEP recognises the role of gender equality as a ‘driver of sustainable environmental development’, to not only assuage the stresses on natural resources, impending climate risks and adopting adaptive and mitigating actions, but as well to increase the visibility and capacity of vulnerable and social groups in sustainable development and climate resilient policy- and decision-making. To that end, the organisation has sought to formalise and bolster agency-wide gender mainstreaming efforts through its Gender Equality and the Environment policy, Global Gender and Environment Outlook research study, and inclusion of gender-responsive elements in previous and upcoming projects, as an accredited entity (AE) of the GCF.

2.2 Literature Review, Secondary Data and Gender Baseline

The Gender Assessment and Action Plan is informed by the following methodological steps:

- The content of this annex draws from a comprehensive desk-review and ex-post gender analysis of Feasibility Studies conducted for each country. Actions suggested through the action plan, and beneficiary identification (and enumeration), therefore are indicative only. At the start of Programme implementation, a more in-depth study of gender stakeholders will be conducted.

- The desk-review of existing literature was conducted on climate change adaptation (CCA), climate information systems (CIS), early warning systems (EWS), disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M), and hydro-meteorological systems in relation to gender and the context of the Pacific SIDS. Literature was drawn from: research reports from international organisations or platforms (Secretariat of the Pacific Community – SPC, United Nations Development Programme – UNDP South Pacific, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – UNESCAP, etc.); multilateral development banks (the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank – ADB); journals (Gender and Development, Journal of Coastal Research, etc.); and grey literature (government reports and policies).

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8 UN Environment (2015). Ibid.

• The literature review revealed useful data and research, which were informed by varied methodologies and perspectives. Thus, a derivative baseline (Section 3) from these readings was inferred to identify the gender barriers and dynamics in the five nations, and the potential entry points for this Programme.

• The next section (Section 4) presents gender-responsive elements to be incorporated within Programme outcomes to reduce climate vulnerability, particularly of at-risk households and ethnic minority groups; gender considerations and actions for stakeholders; and presents normative information to gear the overall proposal towards better socioeconomic, gender and environmental co-benefits.

• Subsequent to the above, Section 5 explores the policy environment in the Programme countries, and presents a potential list of gender collaborators, relevant for activities and stakeholder consultations during Programme implementation.
3. Socioeconomic and Gender Baseline in the Pacific Countries

3.1 Composite Indices

Implementing gender-responsive adaptation action requires situating the project’s results framework on a thorough and context-driven baseline. A primary step in understanding the baseline is collation of scores and rankings from composite indices. These indices have differing methodologies, and are being employed, as indicative (and not conclusive) measures of current levels of development, gender equality, and poverty and labour force participation.

As Booyse’s research\(^\text{10}\) shows, composite indices present both challenges and advantages. For example, numerous fallacies have been identified in the methodologies employed in composite indexing. These indices are mainly quantitative, and present empirical and aggregate measures of complex development phenomena, making values apparently objective, at the cost of subjective nuances. Yet, these also remain invaluable as useful supplements to income-based development indicators, understanding relative degrees of development, simplifying complex measurement constructs as well as providing access to non-technical audiences.

This baseline, firstly, has compiled scores of three different UNDP composite indices: Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII) and Gender Development Index (GDI).

At the outset, this revealed a data gap, as figures for Cook Islands, Niue and Tuvalu are unavailable for the HDI. Further, there are no figures for the GDI and GII, as the tables below reveal. Secondly, the extent of the data gap became clearer when the baseline attempted to make references to the World Economic Forum (WEF)’s Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)’s Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), where data for the project countries remain unavailable as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. HDI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP (2018) – out of 189 countries(^\text{11})</td>
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</table>

This index measures and combines three basic dimensions of human development (long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living) and provides an overview of socioeconomic landscape of a country. In line with Booyse’s argument, however, the HDI should be treated as indicative, not conclusive. It provides an overview of relative degree of development in a particular country but remains a ‘synthetic indicator’. Recent research has shown the need to supplement the HDI with other indicators associated with economic and social cohesion, sound development strategies, and sustainability in growth models.\(^\text{12}\)

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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>106</td>
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NOTE: HDI rankings for the Cook Islands, Niue and Tuvalu are not available in the latest edition, revealing the existing data gap for the region. Although HDI values are available for regional clusters such as East Asia and Pacific (0.7333 – high development) and SIDS (0.722 – high development), it is difficult to percolate these values at the national level of the project countries.


## II. GII

**GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX**  
**UNDP (2018) – out of 189 countries**

This index, showing inequality in achievement between men and women in three aspects (reproductive health, empowerment and labour market), provides a useful gender baseline in terms of health equity, economic capital and financial access, speaking to the gender opportunities of men and women in the countries. It provides a primary understanding of the different levels of achievements on basic development indicators between men and women. This displays useful features towards the gender status quo hypotheses, which could then be derived in the context of this project. GII should be treated as indicative, not Pernmayer finds that the functional form of the index could be unclear, particularly the inclusion of indicators of relative performance of women vis-à-vis men, along with absolute women-specific indicators.

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**NOTE:** GII rankings for all the project countries are not available in the latest edition, revealing the existing data gap for the region. GII values for the relevant regional clusters such as East Asia and Pacific (0.312 – high development) and SIDS (0.447 – medium development) are available; although it is difficult to percolate these values at the national level of the project countries.

## III. GDI

**GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX**  
**UNDP (2018) – grouped in 5 for absolute deviation**

The GDI (UNDP) index shows the ratio of female to male HDI values. GDI expresses values in deviation, hence, in order to facilitate understanding GDI grouped categories have been used (as grouped by UNDP) to show the absolute deviation from gender parity in HDI values. This further reiterates the results of the HDI and GII (also by UNDP), and shows the real gender gap in human development achievements.

Geske Dijkstra and Hanmer find that although gender-related development indices have increased attention towards 'feminization of poverty and underdevelopment', more robust data needs and indicators are required to create aggregate indices that are sensitive to contemporary trends in gendered privation, particularly with the categorization of ‘women’.

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**NOTE:** GDI rankings for all the project countries are not available in the latest edition, revealing the existing data gap for the region.

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### IV. GGGI

**GENDER GENDER GAP INDEX**

*WEF (2018) – out of 144 countries*

The GGGI (WEF) benchmarks 144 countries on their progress towards gender parity on four thematic dimensions – economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. The Index benchmarks national gender gaps on economic, political, education- and health-based criteria, and provides country rankings that allow for effective comparisons across regions and income groups.

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**NOTE:** GGGI rankings for all the project countries are not available in the latest edition, revealing the existing data gap for the region.

### V. MPI

**MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX**

*(2019) – out of 101 countries*

Calculated by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Institute (OPHI), and UNDP, the global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), measures acute poverty in developing countries (covering 76% of the population). It complements traditional income-based poverty measures by capturing the severe deprivations with regard to different indicators: education, health, and living standards. The index not only identifies those living in multidimensional poverty, but the extent (or intensity) of their poverty. The MPI can help the effective allocation of resources by making possible the targeting of those with the greatest intensity of poverty; it can help address some SDGs strategically and monitor impacts of policy intervention.

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**NOTE:** MPI rankings for all the project countries are not available in the latest edition, revealing the existing data gap for the region.

### 3.2 National Aggregate Statistics and Data

Adding nuance to the baseline established by the composite indices is the next step of understanding the gender inequality context in which the project is expected to function. The national-level data points (divided into three categories – poverty and hardship, labour and education, and, health and social indicators) presented below are not comparable across countries, given the different methodologies of each statistical bureau or office. These broadly speak to issues identified by the GCF as crucial in the project design stage (such as: poverty levels, participation of men/women in formal/informal labour markets; gender-disaggregated education and literacy indicators; gender-disaggregated health, morbidity and mortality statistics, etc.) to map and mainstream existing vulnerabilities.

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### I. POVERTY & HARDSHIP

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<tr>
<td>% of Population Below International Poverty Line</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.3(^{21})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Population Below National Poverty Line</td>
<td>28.4(^{22})</td>
<td>14.2(^{23})</td>
<td>24.9(^{24})</td>
<td>~30(^{25})</td>
<td>26.3(^{26})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Female-Headed Households Living Below Poverty Line</td>
<td>27(^{27})</td>
<td>37.5(^{28})</td>
<td>35.5(^{29})</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Male-Headed Households Living Below Poverty Line</td>
<td>32(^{30})</td>
<td>14(^{31})</td>
<td>18.4(^{32})</td>
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**NOTE:**

NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL POVERTY LINES / HARDSHIP / VULNERABILITY: It is important to differentiate these three concepts in the context of the five Pacific project countries. National poverty lines are defined according to each country’s specific economic and social circumstances. The national poverty lines are typically lower in poorer countries and higher in richer countries. International poverty lines attempt to hold the real value of the poverty lines consistent across countries by accounting for differences in purchasing power across countries. According to a World Bank report\(^{33}\), hardship and vulnerability are related, but distinct, concepts: hardship is about having low current well-being, and vulnerability is about expectations of reductions in future well-being. People can be said to experience hardship based on many different measures, such as lacking access to services or living in low-quality housing. A common measure of hardship around the world, which this report applies to the Pacific, is the inability to meet the basic needs of life as measured by consumption. On the other hand, vulnerability is based on expectations about the future. Specifically, vulnerable people face high risk, or a high probability, of a reduction in their well-being in the future, possibly to the point of experiencing hardship or deepening existing hardship.

**COOK ISLAND:** In 2006, 24% of female-headed households (FHH) had just one person, which increased to 28% in 2011, as evidenced from trends in Rarotonga. This is important to note because one-person households are considered vulnerable or at a social disadvantage associated with age. Further, in 2005-2006 FHHs lived very close to the poverty line. In Rarotonga, women headed 27% of households, but such households accounted for 32% of households in the lowest 20% of household expenditures. Thus, a woman headed about 3 out of every 10 of the lowest-spending households in Rarotonga, and 1 out of 4 were headed by a woman in the Southern Group. A similar analysis based on household income estimates and sex of the household head from the 2011 Census shows that 28% of FHHs had


\(^{28}\) Niue Stats & PRISM (2012). Ibid.


\(^{31}\) Niue Stats & PRISM (2012). Ibid.


household incomes in the lowest 20%, compared with 17% of male-headed households (MHHs). While there are more MHHs in the lowest income percentiles than FHHs, a higher proportion of FHHs are in this group.35

NIUE: This is the figure for ‘Basic Needs Poverty’, which broadly attests to the definition of hardship, as provided above.

PALAU: FHHs, in Palau, are slightly disadvantaged overall. Nationally, 26.5% of all HHs were headed by females, and accounted for 27% of urban HHs and 25% of rural HHs. FHHs were under-represented in the lowest two urban deciles, accounting for only 15% of HHs, but were very much over-represented (28% of HH) in the lowest two deciles in the rural areas. The situation was even more marked in the lowest three rural deciles, where 40% of all HHs were headed by females. In the urban centre, 30% of HHs in the lowest three deciles were headed by females suggesting that there were a considerable number of FHHs in the third decile, and therefore amongst the most vulnerable in the present circumstances of rising prices.36

RMI: About 1 out of 4 (26%) households are FHHs. In 2011, average annual income for FHHs was 41% lower than for MHHs.37

TUVALU: As of 2012 (UNFPA website), gender disaggregation unavailable.

See Table II on the next page.
II. LABOUR & EDUCATION

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% OF LABOUR FORCE – FEMALE</td>
<td>65(^{38})</td>
<td>74.8(^{39})</td>
<td>58.1(^{40})</td>
<td>28(^{41})</td>
<td>51.1(^{42})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% OF LABOUR FORCE – MALE</td>
<td>77(^{43})</td>
<td>76.7(^{44})</td>
<td>78.4(^{45})</td>
<td>51(^{46})</td>
<td>67.6(^{47})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% FORMAL LABOUR – FEMALE</td>
<td>54.5(^{48})</td>
<td>46(^{49})</td>
<td>~40(^{50})</td>
<td>36.7(^{51})</td>
<td>36(^{52})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% OF ADULT LITERACY – FEMALE</td>
<td>79(^{53})</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>99.1(^{54})</td>
<td>98.2(^{55})</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% OF ADULT LITERACY – MALE</td>
<td>75(^{56})</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>98.2(^{57})</td>
<td>98.3(^{58})</td>
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**NOTE:**

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION: The labour force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country’s working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population at working age. The breakdown of the labour force (formerly known as economically active population) by sex and age group gives a profile of employment distribution of the labour force within a country.\(^{59}\)

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\(^{39}\) UNESCO UIS (2011).


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Reliable data on labour force participation and unemployment in small PICs are scarce and often inconsistent, finds an ADB report on Pacific labour markets.\(^{60}\)

**FORMAL LABOUR:** These figures show the percentage of female labour force involved in formal sector labour. According to the ADB\(^{61}\), though countries in the Pacific stand to benefit from a demographic dividend of young population, but labour markets are simply not producing enough jobs to accommodate all the young people entering the workforce each year. This has pivotal repercussions for the future, as current trends already foreshadow a high degree of unemployment among disadvantaged demographics – particularly young women. Thus, gender inequality in employment distribution and labour markets persists throughout the region. This imbalance extends to, additionally, the labour market, where women are more likely to take up vulnerable work and less likely to participate fully in the first place. The prevalence of the informal economy is a particular worry, as it comes with a shortage of decent jobs and social safety nets.

**LITERACY RATE:** According to UNESCO UIS, literacy rate is the percentage of population aged 15 years and over who can read and write with understanding a short simple statement on his/her everyday life. Generally, ‘literacy’ also encompasses ‘numeracy’, the ability to make simple arithmetic calculations. The Cook Island figures are the average for English and Maori literacy for both men and women.

### III. HEALTH & SOCIAL

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>% MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (MMR)</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE, PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS</strong></td>
<td>8.1(^{62})</td>
<td>22(^{63})</td>
<td>15.3(^{64})</td>
<td>35.4(^{65})</td>
<td>33(^{66})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% EXPOSURE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)</strong></td>
<td>33(^{67})</td>
<td>-(^{68})</td>
<td>25(^{69})</td>
<td>51(^{70})</td>
<td>37(^{71})</td>
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68 UN Women estimates that 60 to 80% of women and girls in the Pacific Islands will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes, given the prevalence in the region. With regard to GBV in Niue, interviews with government officials and the police department suggest that interpersonal violence (IPV) is more common than non-partner violence in Niue. As with other Pacific Island countries and territories, the data is sparse. Comprehensive surveys on VAWG have only been conducted in 12 other PICs in the past 10 years, and as of November 2017, Niue has not been one of them. See ICAAD – International Centre of Advocates Against Discrimination (2017). *Assessing Gender-Based Violence in Niue*. Report. Accessed 12 August 2019. Available at: https://www.api-gbv.org/resources/assessing-gender-based-violence-niue-2017/


NOTE:

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO & UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE: The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies MMR or complications during pregnancy and childbirth as a leading cause of death and disability among women of reproductive age in developing countries. The MMR represents the risk associated with each pregnancy, i.e. the obstetric risk. It was an MDG as well as is an SDG 3 indicator. Similarly, the under-five mortality rates take stock of child deaths below the age of 5 due to preventable reasons. Inequities in child mortality between high-income and low-income countries remain large, according to the WHO. In 2017, the under-five mortality rate in low-income countries was 69 deaths per 1000 live births – around 14 times the average rate in high-income countries (5 deaths per 1000 live births). Reducing these inequities across countries and saving more children’s lives by ending preventable child deaths are important priorities, particularly under the post-2015 SDG agenda.

LIFETIME EXPOSURE TO GBV: According to the World Bank, around 1 in every 3 women in the world face/will face physical and sexual abuse during their lifetime; and, 1 in 4 children bear witness to domestic or GBV. In some Pacific countries, the statistics are telling – lifetime exposure from 40 to 70% in certain areas, making GBV incidence rates the highest in the world. The Asian Pacific Institute of Gender-based Violence (APIGBV) finds that cultural contexts of preserving family honour, shame stemming from experiencing violence, and lack of redressal and grievance mechanisms as well as low support for GBV Pacific Islander survivors are crucial in continued and elevated rates of GBV in the region. GBV statistics, sourced from either national bodies or UN Women, show that an average of 1 out of 4 women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes in the selected Pacific countries for the project.

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4. Gender Mainstreaming, Sectoral Issues & Climate Information Services

Using the above gender baseline as the point of departure, sectoral issues in relation to gender mainstreaming for climate information services have been identified for the Programme design and planning.

4.1 Mainstream Gender within Climate Information Services in Pacific Islands Countries

The Pacific Island countries identified by the Programme are uniquely vulnerable to aggregate shocks from both economic and environmental stressors due to their countries’ predicament of small size, isolation, and other geographic, economic and socio-political features. Despite several Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIESs) having been conducted in the region and macroeconomic impacts of negative shocks having been well studied, the impacts on household well-being and effectiveness of prevailing risk management mechanisms are not well understood.74

Given this lacuna in data and research, impacts of climate-related risks, hazards and natural disasters in the backdrop of limited climate information services, cannot be empirically quantified but can be postulated to not generate uniformly distributed impacts within a population. The impacts and exposure compound with current prevalence of hardship, gender inequality and lack of access to social safety networks to disproportionately affect the poorer and more vulnerable demographics – determined by the needs, opportunities and risks facing men and women.

A study conducted by Practical Action75 in Nepal and Peru, for example, finds that gender inequality and social marginalization increases vulnerability to disasters. This is primarily because pre-determined social and economic roles disallow for women to participate meaningfully in DRR and DRM decision-making. Women also tend to care-givers, in the Pacific societies, and hence have different preferences and capacities to prepare and respond – it has been observed that they prefer earlier evacuation, for example, when disaster and early warnings are announced. At the start of Programme implementation, an in-depth engagement of these stakeholders will be conducted, which will include exercises to understand how youth and vulnerable groups are placed within the household, to deliver gender-responsive climate information products.

Gender-responsive climate information services will play a unique and positive role in increasing adaptability and resilience of communities towards climate-related risks and hazards; bolstering national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS) and climate data collection, analysis and interpretation; and strengthening early-warning services.

At the outset, mainstreaming gender in climate information services through the Programme will involve the consideration of the following factors76 in activity design: division of labour (activity/place); visibility of labour (formal/informal sector); poverty levels; human development factors including nutrition pattern, literacy levels, health, recourse to legal protection (inheritance/land rights); survival skills; access to information; supply of information; access to critical resources (emergency aid/loans/insurance); and influence over decision-making processes. The Programme will further analyse and address the impacts of gender inequalities in the implementation of relevant sub-activities. For example, the in-country deep dive study will inform the design of gender-responsive Early Warning Systems (EWS) organisational and decision-making processes (sub-activity 3.1.1); and differential access and control of resources will be assessed for the identification of appropriate communication channels for women, youth and the elderly in the development of localised communications systems (sub-activity 3.1.2).

A study by Oxfam77 in the Pacific region demonstrates the importance of gender-responsive adaptation approaches: through women’s focus group discussions and purposive qualitative data

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77 Lane, R. & McNaught, R (2009). ‘Building gendered approaches to adaptation in the Pacific’ in Gender and Development. (Vol. 17, No. 1). Oxfam GB.
collection, it was discovered that – bulk of post-disaster resource allocation decisions were made by men at the household and community level; women were concerned about receiving correct and timely information from men as forecast and disaster warnings were not often relayed from the public to the private sphere (reducing the critical time required for preparing in the wake of the disaster/s); and, women were generally segregated from decision-making councils, community meetings, etc.

The Programme will minimise the risk of increasing gender-based violence (GBV) through adopting a gender-sensitive and responsive approach to EWS. Based on awareness and understanding of the specific ways in which gender relates to EWS in the five Pacific SIDS and the differential impacts of the EWS on gender groups, the Programme will ensure that disaster preparedness, response and contingency planning proactively consider gender and respond to the specific needs, concerns and capabilities of different gender groups.\(^78\) To this end, the Programme will follow Good Practices as defined by the EU-funded Global Crisis Response Support Programme.\(^79\) For the four key elements of EWS this implies:

- **Risk Knowledge**: risk assessments will include core questions on what gender-related factors make specific groups of women, men, girls and boys at greater risk during different types of crises.

- **Monitoring and Warning Service**: the Programme will assess which specific groups of women/men/boys/girls have access to which types of observational information and how each group can be leveraged for this information to help monitor for early warning signs of impending crises.

- **Dissemination and Communication**: the Programme will assess gender and age differences related to communication of warnings and develop a strategy that takes these into account.

- **Response Capability**: The Programme will consider women and children as potential change agents and not just as vulnerable groups. Planning will take this factor into account and also ask women at the community level what factors need to be addressed to ensure their priority needs are also taken care of during different types of crisis and in the post-crisis recovery period.

### 4.2 Gear Products towards End Users in Climate-Vulnerable Sectors

A World Bank report\(^80\) finds that of the 20 countries with the highest average annual disaster losses scaled by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), eight are Pacific island countries: including Niue (ranked 4\(^\text{th}\)), the Marshall Islands (ranked 14\(^\text{th}\)), and the Cook Islands (ranked 16\(^\text{th}\)). Palau, in this analysis, is ranked a close 22\(^\text{nd}\). The extent of exposure, another CGIAR report\(^81\) highlights, to these impacts and losses are determined mainly by two factors: *ex ante* and *ex post* coping mechanisms, resources and information available to a community, and frequency and intensity of shocks/impacts that determines income shortages, asset loss, and cause failures of local recovery techniques built up over time. The reports reiterate the importance of climate information services for the Pacific Island countries, and how these cannot simply be limited to technical capacities and tools, particularly because expected and unavoidable variations in climatic patterns, climate-induced disasters and hazards, and unpredicted climate change risks will create different exposure patterns among communities. The in-depth study on gender and community stakeholders will include analyses to disentangle the relations of power and patronage in the five Pacific SIDS. This will build on the stakeholder consultation and mapping exercises conducted in each island, which revealed that

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78 Brown et al. (2019). Gender Transformative Early Warning Systems: Experiences from Nepal and Peru, Rugby, UK: Practical Action


communities are aware of, and have some auto-adaptation methods for coping, towards climate events.

In Cook Islands, outer island consultations highlighted the necessity to expand forecasting capabilities (Pa Enua), with cross-checking capacities from local observations. In this context, Au Vaine Kumiti (women’s committee) has been identified as an organization with the capacity to raise funds and dispense tropical cyclone warnings to communities. With Programme support, Au Vaine can be expected to expand to Pa Enua, among other outer islands. In Niue, Boy’s and Girl’s scouts play a similar role in community engagement and will be supported to ensure community prerogatives are included in the National Framework for Climate Information Services. For Palau, island disaster preparation and recovery committees, the Palau Red Cross Society, and Center for Women’s Empowerment Belau are key stakeholders to both identify deeper nuances of what community activities and how women navigate these spaces. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and SPREP will also coordinate and collaborate with the Palau Weather Service to include traditional climate knowledge and leverage available resources in these communities. In RMI, the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society and Women United Together Marshall Islands will perform similar roles as in Palau. BOM and SPREP are also expected to instigate work on collecting and capitalizing on traditional knowledge towards integration into climate and weather advice, in collaboration of the RMI Weather Service Office. In Tuvalu, the Red Cross has been identified (as in Palau and RMI) as a key collaborator to ensure the last-mile delivery of EWS and CIS.

In order to address differential exposure patterns, climate service products, such as impact-based forecasting (analysing and disseminating implications of the forecast and specific uses of the forecast information) and nowcasting (short range weather forecasting, particularly from ground-based remote sensing systems, radars, wind profilers) etc., have to be geared towards end users, particularly those with low access in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, fishing, pearl farming.

In the Programme design phase, consultations held in each Programme country provided insight into end user-relevant climate information services. In Cook Islands (where the economy is driven by tourism, pearl farming, fishing and agriculture) key informants and stakeholders revealed the need for tailored forecasting and information (such as agro-climate bulletins) for end users in each sector. Similarly, in Niue, consultations focused on the requirement of demand-driven climate products, interpretational capacities and technical training (for manual hydro-meteorological tools). Further, in RMI, a consolidated adaptation portal with a user-friendly interface that collates relevant climate information, and adaptation and resilience strategies for sector-specific stakeholders were requested. Lastly, in Palau and Tuvalu, funding requests prioritised national dashboards to allow for downscaling forecast data and analysis in line with user requirements, and distributable oceanic climate information to sectoral users, respectively.

At the start of Programme implementation, a deep dive into these identified community contexts in collaboration with key stakeholders will be conducted, which will improve understanding of the current gender stakeholders and the roles that they perform. This study will help in designing gender-responsive climate information products and early warning services for greater end-to-end value and effectiveness functions, in tandem with gender-responsive mapping of users and stakeholders. These processes, in the context of the Pacific island countries, have to specifically target women because they are often excluded from decision-making spheres, and lack access to information and communication channels due to cultural traditions leading to lack of investment in gender-relevant climate content development at the local level.

The case of agriculture in the Pacific islands, for example, demonstrates how women play pivotal roles in climate-vulnerable sectors. Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP), a EU-funded SPC project, highlights how using a gender-responsive participatory consultative approach for project design recognised women’s participation in the agricultural sector in seventeen
Pacific islands. Further, the successes of gender engagement of the project reveal how women are able to adopt long-term adaptation strategies (through active participation and inclusion in priority-setting and decision-making) in the project’s intervention sites through capacity building and strategic extension support.

DSAP’s methodology recognized and capitalised on the fact that women are generally more active in subsistence agriculture in Pacific societies because: their male counterparts often predominate cash crop production such as sugar, copra, coconut etc., as they have greater access to agricultural training or, migrate to urban/peri-urban areas of the islands/abroad as they are culturally to attain the bread-winning role in the household. Thus, women are specifically responsible for food security within the household and have to shoulder important farm management decisions and actual labour – making them key users of agro-climate information services, impact forecasting and hydrometeorological content. The Programme will follow the best practices and lessons learnt from the DSAP project in recognition of the need to leverage the capacities of women as key actors in food security. Additional analysis, built on the formative research presented above, will be conducted in a dedicated Gender Session within the climate sector action and communication plan (CSACP) workshops.

4.3 Utilise Community Information Channels and Local Knowledge

A complementary approach to creating user-friendly and gender-responsive climate service products is sourcing local knowledge, artisanal practices and traditional know-how to inform these outputs. Despite the vulnerability of Pacific islands to disaster and climate change variability, research shows that men and women of Pacific island communities have been successfully using knowledge of their surrounding environments to mitigate impacts and risks for generations. Through a variety of traditional practices and unique coping mechanisms maintained through informal education across generations, Pacific societies have managed climate and disaster loss burdens. These methods include both community-based practices: traditional systems of exchange/warning, management of natural resources, weather pattern interpretation and information dissemination, and intra-household practices: food preservation, housing construction, etc.

Conducting mapping exercises, informed by participant observation and consultative approach, will be key to: understanding how local information and warning systems work; identifying community engagement and decision-making groups; and, investing in gender-relevant or women’s groups. These exercises will assist in empowering women in their roles as key actors in climate-vulnerable sectors; encourage active participation and involve them as information producers; and, draw out valuable inputs for the design of climate information products.

Youth and elderly groups are part of the household structure in the Pacific islands. Women are often the primary caregivers within this household structure; therefore, this assessment prioritises gender stakeholders. However, the Programme includes specific interventions targeted at youth and elderly peoples – for example, the Youth Climate Change Awareness Camp in Niue (sub-activity 3.2.2) and engagement with community elders to integrate traditional knowledge in EWS (sub-activity 3.1.3). These interventions will deliver on increasing awareness, increasing participation, and expanding the roles played by these specific vulnerable groups.

A CGIAR report finds that inclusion of traditional methods and gender-responsive design in community engagement could substitute for where modern innovations are lacking in gender awareness or accessibility, as these utilize strong social networks that have a historical continuity within the community and provide a familiar means of communication. Adaptation to technological changes is not linear, hence, these traditional methods can be easily hybridized with modern

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85 Ibid.
technology such as (where available) radio, television and short messaging service (SMS) through telecom networks to ensure impact forecasting products and other relevant climate content are disseminated effectively. Feedback loops, by which community members, specifically women in vulnerable groups such as subsistence-dependent, can reflect upon which methods work best for their particular context, are also necessary. By introducing new technologies into traditional networks and means of communication, climate information providers such as field workers from met services, may be able to extend the reach of their climate information services and help more vulnerable communities to adapt to environmental changes.

4.4 Create Opportunities for Women to Overcome Gendered Barriers

Section 3.2 presents different statistics related to poverty and hardship, labour and education, and health and social indicators to demonstrate the gendered realities of the Pacific islands under the purview of this project. To further the analyses, it is important to consider the intra-household dynamics between men and women pertaining to culture- and faith-based socioeconomic practices. Regionally, it is commonplace for women to participate in the bulk of domestic, care and reproductive work – which is further exacerbated with productive labour due to high levels of male out-migration for seasonal work. Thus, it can be surmised that gendered time poverty in the Pacific Islands is high.

Bardasi and Wodon define an individual as ‘time poor’ if he/she is working long hours, while being simultaneously monetary poor, or facing the risk monetary poverty if he/she were to reduce his/her working hours below a given time poverty line. Thus, time poverty results from the combination of two conditions: firstly, the individual does not have enough time for rest and leisure once all working hours (whether spent in the labour market or doing household chores such as cooking, and fetching water and wood) are accounted for; and, secondly, the individual cannot reduce his/her working time without either increasing the level of poverty of his/her household (if the household is already poor) or leading his/her household to fall into monetary poverty due to the loss in income or consumption associated with the reduction in working time (if the household is not originally poor).

An additional implication of time poverty is the lack of flexibility/opportunity to change the current time usage pattern within the household to explore other economic activities, or, as in the case of this project, for autonomous or technical adaptation options towards climate resilience. For the project, the incidence of time poverty, particularly among women in the chosen Pacific islands, is an important factor to be considered in designing pilot activities, technical or maintenance capacity building, and the potential time use alterations for communities.

In addition to facing the time poverty-related risks, GBV is persist as a serious epidemic in the Pacific region. Available figures suggest that between 40 – 70% of women are subjected to violence from intimate partners and families across their lifetimes. Table III (Health and Social) indicators show that about 37% of the women in the five beneficiary countries face GBV during their lifetime. Despite long-standing aid programming to target and community policing to address GBV, rates remain high due to a variety of reasons: cultural underpinnings of masculinity, power, protection and patriarchy; high incidence of alcoholism among men in certain areas; and, lack of redressal and grievance mechanisms (or lack of expression due to traditional norms informing femininity, stigma and shame).

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), upon conducting an in-depth research on its designated regional zones and national societies, found that GBV is a constant theme in post-disaster contexts. Given the negative shocks, loss of family members,
livelihoods and homes, domestic conflict levels tend to rise leading to greater incidence of GBV, among other effects on gender relations. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards and risks, GBV can be expected to witness an upward trend, reiterating the importance of resilience mechanisms through climate information services. Further, recent research\(^\text{93}\) undertaken by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with USAID has revealed potential risks of and connections with environment- and climate-related stressors on increased GBV, which is both detrimental to the well-being of survivors as well as an impediment for climate change adaptation and resilience.

\(^{93}\) Research connecting environmental and climate-related stressors to GBV is nascent. AGENT – Advancing Gender in the Environment (USAID-IUCN partnership) is the at the forefront of collating, analyzing and identifying these stressors in different contexts.
5. Policy Environment, Legal Framework, & Potential Stakeholders

This section takes stock of the policy environment and legal frameworks available for gender-responsive climate change in the project countries (international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women or CEDAW, national laws and policies, strategy documents on gender and climate change). It identifies potential institutions for collaboration on gender mainstreaming, who were also included in the stakeholder consultations (see Annex 7) during the project cycle.

Legal tools and enabling policies are crucial in ensuring that gender inequality can be addressed through tangible and formal procedures. Additionally, the inclusion of local and national gender partners engenders capacity and technical knowledge towards future gender efforts while establishing ownership of the project and the change narrative being implemented.

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)\textsuperscript{94} scores, indicating the relative strength of legal and social institutions in the country, are not available as of August 2019 for the Pacific nations under the Programme’s purview.

### I. Cook Islands

| CEDAW, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) | The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women is the most central and comprehensive international treaty working for the advancement of women. Since its adoption in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), it has been ratified by 189 states.  
2006 – Cook Islands ratified CEDAW.  
In ratifying CEDAW, the Cook Islands committed to undertake all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.\textsuperscript{95} |
| National Gender Policy | 2018 – The Cook Islands National Policy on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and Strategic Plan of Action (drafted by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management), recognises that women and men are equal partners to the development of the Cook Islands, and places gender equality at the heart of economic and social progress, giving equal value to the roles and responsibilities of Cook Islands women and men.\textsuperscript{96}  
It also recognises that in order to redress gender it is necessary to create the conditions for women’s empowerment while women and men work together to address attitudinal and institutional barriers to gender equality.\textsuperscript{97} |
| Governmental Mechanisms | 1979 – the Government of Cook Islands established the Women’s Desk (the Women in Development Division, since renamed GADD) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs but failed to provide adequate resources.\textsuperscript{98}  
2011 – 2016 The Cook Islands National Policy on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment includes a strategic action plan with clear policy direction, prioritisation and commitment to allocate resources for gender equality, but with |

\textsuperscript{94} Calculated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the SIGI charts the health and strength of formal and informal laws, and access to rights, justice and empowerment opportunities for women and girls by combining qualitative and quantitative variables to understand how a woman’s life could be determined by discriminatory social and legal institutions. See OECD’s Technical Note here.

\textsuperscript{95} Government of Cook Islands & SPC – Secretariat of the Pacific Community (2012). Ibid.


\textsuperscript{98} Government of Cook Islands & SPC – Secretariat of the Pacific Community (2012). Ibid.
II. Niue

CEDAW, UNGA

New Zealand ratified CEDAW in 1985 and through this process Niue acceded to the convention; however, Niue has not yet ratified CEDAW in its own right. In 2001, it was recommended that Niue undergo a CEDAW compliance assessment to identify the extent to which Niue meets CEDAW indicators, with a focus on legislative compliance and non-discrimination. The report was not completed, but the draft highlighted significant shortcomings in existing legislation.

However, the Government of New Zealand, in collaboration with Niue, has incrementally dropped the special reservations for the non-application of CEDAW protocols and articles, such as for the Armed Forces and law enforcement forces.

Gender Policies

One of the strategies under the implementation of the 2009-2013 plan is to encourage increased participation of women in the development of Niue. The indicator for this was to develop and implement a national gender equality policy by 2013 to promote the increased participation of women and support Niue to meet its international commitments to gender equality.

Governmental Mechanisms

The Niue Council of Women (NCW) has historically been the civil society organization identified by government to address women’s issues at a local level. Until 2010, the NCW was the sole implementing agency for government grant funds for women. These grant funds are the only government mechanism targeted to support women’s empowerment and gender equality.

A stock take of the Government’s gender mainstreaming capacity undertaken by the SPC (2015) found that while the government had a draft national policy on gender equality, there was a lack of awareness on the present challenges as well as limited resources and technical capacity to address the same.

III. Palau

CEDAW, UNGA

Palau is one of only seven countries in world that is not a signatory to CEDAW.

National Policies

The Palau Constitution and Title 1 of the Palau National Code (PNC) guarantee women equality under the law:

99 Ibid.
100 Ibid.
102 Ibid.
103 Ibid.
105 Ibid.
106 Ibid.
107 Ibid.
108 Ibid.
109 Ibid.
Every person shall be equal under the law and shall be entitled to equal protection. The government shall take no action to discriminate against any person on the basis of sex, race, place of origin, language, religion or belief, social status or clan affiliation, except for the preferential treatment of citizens (Palau National Constitution, Section IV.5).

No law shall be enacted…which discriminates against any person on account of race, sex, language, or religion, nor shall the equal protection of the laws be denied (1 PNC 407).

2012 – the Palau Family Protection Act provides protection to families from all forms of abuse.111

2013 – consultations began on developing a gender policy for Palau. In this context, ‘gender’ was considered to mean both men and women in balanced roles in society.112

2013 – compilation of the proceedings from 20 years of an annual women’s conference in Palau will be completed and will contribute towards developing the policy.113

2018 – the Palau National Gender Mainstreaming Policy was endorsed in April and is under implementation. The Policy correlates with the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, focusing on gender sensitive policies applicable to Palau. The Bureau of Aging and Gender under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs is actively engaged with traditional women groups in implementation of the Policy.114

Under the constitution of Palau, according to UN Women analysis, women are afforded equality of opportunity with men; recommendations by the association of women’s chiefs (Mechesil Belau) are given high consideration in legislative matters.

Further, the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs consists of three wings: the Bureau of Cultural and Historical Preservation; the Bureau of Aging, Gender and Disability (ADG); Bureau of Archives and Research; and the Bureau of Youth, Applied Arts and Career (YAC).115

RMI ratified CEDAW in 2006 and has pledged to embed CEDAW articles into legislative and policy initiatives across the governmental framework. This relates to the first Priority Outcome identified by the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy towards strengthened capacity across government to deliver gender-responsive programs and services.116

The purpose of the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy is to guide the process of developing laws, policies, procedures and practices that will address the needs, priorities and aspirations of all women and men, working towards effectively eliminating all forms of discrimination and inequality.117

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112 Ibid.
113 Ibid.
115 Ibid.
117 Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands (n.a.). Ibid.
It concerns private and public sectors, local governments, and communities. It requires the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all government policies, strategies, programs and services.\(^{118}\)

| Governmental Mechanisms | The Gender and Development Office, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is the official gender focal point of the government.\(^{119}\) The Gender and Development Office acts in an advisory and coordinating capacity.\(^{120}\) It informs, advises and provides technical assistance to the various levels of government to ensure that gender inequality and women’s human rights issues are properly addressed.\(^{121}\) The Gender and Development Office also coordinates the government’s efforts in addressing those issues.\(^{122}\) The Office also supports the monitoring and reporting process under the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy and other regional and international commitments promoting gender equality, and identifies areas needing further action.\(^{123}\) |

### V. Tuvalu

| CEDAW United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) | 1999 – Tuvalu ratified the CEDAW and is working towards embedding CEDAW articles into the constitution, legislative and statutory reforms, and policy initiatives across the government under the recent Gender Mainstreaming Policy. The CEDAW review report is also being prepared for presentation to the CEDAW committee. |
| National Gender Policy | 2014 – the Tuvalu National Gender Policy enacted this year aims to "achieve the recognition of women and girls in Tuvalu as partners and beneficiaries in all aspects of decision making and to ensure progressive realisation of women’s human rights."\(^{124}\) The Strategic Plan of Action (2014 – 2016) outlined a series of outputs and key actions in order to achieve the key outcomes of the Policy.\(^{125}\) The National Gender Policy aims to provide the guiding framework to operationalize Government’s commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment in Tuvalu. The Policy outlines the specific areas that the Government will focus on within the next five years and provides the basis for multi-sectoral engagement and partnerships towards the overarching goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women. |
| Governmental Mechanisms | Tuvalu’s main gender institution is the Department of Women Affairs, which has been renamed to the Gender Affairs Department, to reflect an inclusive approach and a broader focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment. |

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\(^{118}\) Ibid.
\(^{119}\) Ibid.
\(^{120}\) Ibid.
\(^{121}\) Ibid.
\(^{122}\) Ibid.
\(^{123}\) Ibid.
6. Conclusion: Regional Potential & Way Forward

This Gender Assessment has identified and illustrated both explicit and implicit gender and socioeconomic issues that could be addressed through the Programme Results. The findings from the Assessment also form the basis for the Gender Action Plan (Section 7), which will specify this proposal’s desired results, corresponding actions, indicators, timelines, responsible parties, and budget allocations, through the results framework.

This assessment is based on gender analysis of literature and data collected through a comprehensive desk-review. It is a formative research study as well as an inventory of sources, which will be the basis for a deep dive into gender aspects relevant for the Programme at the start of the implementation period. The proposed in-country deep dive study on gender and community stakeholders will flesh out the indicative suggestions made by this Annex and will contextualise the Results areas for greater gender impact and results. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for the Programme will be refined on the basis of the study, paying specific attention to gender differences and gaps in coping mechanisms, resources and information availability to design appropriate indicators that will monitor the gender-responsiveness of Programme implementation.

As gender equality gains priority in the GCF’s, SPC’s, UNEP’s and other agencies’ portfolios, this Programme partakes in the international conversation on gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive planning in climate change adaptation efforts, particularly through strengthened climate information services. If implemented effectively, this Programme has the potential to become a good practice gender-mainstreaming guide for future interventions in the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu (nationally), other Pacific Ocean island nations (regionally), as well as amongst other SIDS.