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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

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<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASYCUDA</td>
<td>Automated System for Customs Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCMU</td>
<td>Central Contract Management Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Conference on Biological Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIF</td>
<td>Consolidate Investment Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Coronavirus Disease of 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPMO</td>
<td>Central Procurement Management Officer</td>
</tr>
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<td>CRC</td>
<td>Constitutional Review Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisation</td>
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<td>DBT</td>
<td>Development Bank of Tuvalu</td>
</tr>
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<td>DCC</td>
<td>Development Coordination Committee</td>
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<td>DFAT</td>
<td>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
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<td>DSO</td>
<td>Diverse Sexual Orientation</td>
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<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council</td>
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<td>EEZ</td>
<td>Exclusive Economic Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environment Impact Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAC</td>
<td>Government Advisory Committee</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>GoT</td>
<td>Government of Tuvalu</td>
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<td>HIES</td>
<td>Household Income and Expenditure Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>HLPF</td>
<td>High Level Political Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDC</td>
<td>Least Developed Country</td>
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<td>LBG</td>
<td>Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LL</td>
<td>Leave and Learn</td>
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<tr>
<td>LLMAs</td>
<td>Locally Managed Marine Areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQI</td>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
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<td>MECD</td>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination Department</td>
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<td>MHSWGA</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affair</td>
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<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIRAB</td>
<td>Migration, Remittances, Foreign Aid and Public Bureaucracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>MPA</td>
<td>Marine Protected Areas</td>
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<td>MPWIELMD</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, Environment, Labour, Meteorology and Disaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSMEs</td>
<td>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTFF</td>
<td>Medium-Term Financial Framework</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAFICOT</td>
<td>National Fishing Corporation of Tuvalu</td>
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Tuvalu First Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2022
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The accomplishment of Tuvalu’s first ever Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report has only been possible through the excellent contributions of a whole range of stakeholders, both locally and afar.

Firstly, a special thanks to our development partners who have been on the journey with us from the start. In particular, we thank UNESCAP, UNDP, UNRCO, UNEP and SPC, as well as all other partners that contributed to the drafting and review of this report. The ongoing support to the Tuvalu VNR team, both financial and technical, with regards to the process of undertaking a VNR and the outputs required along the way, has been much appreciated.

A sincere Fakafetai lasi (many thanks) to all the Island Communities both on the capital and outer islands including men, women, youth, people with disabilities and students. This includes NGOs (TANGO, TuFHA, Fusi Alofa, Tuvalu Red Cross Society (TRCS), Tuvalu National Council of Women (TNCW)), private businesses and academia. A lot of consultations have taken place over the last six months, and the honest feedbacks and involvement from all components of Tuvaluan society has been first rate.

We would also like to thanks representatives from the Government of Tuvalu from line ministries, in particular Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, Environment, Labour, Meteorology and Disaster (MPWIELMD), Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Gender Affair (MHSWGA) including Department of Gender Affair, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Department of Businesses, Live and Learn Project, and Te Fakalagi for providing photos and data for inclusion in the report.

Finally, it has been a long journey since October 2021. Te Tuvalu VNR Team led by the Permanent Secretary with the support from the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination Department, Central Statistic Department, Central Contract Management Unit along with the support from Mr Siliga Kofe who served as local consultant throughout. It is through their great contribution throughout the VNR process that the report has been made possible.

NCD – Non Communicable Diseases
NGOs – Non-Government Organisations
NSSD – National Strategy for Sustainable Development
ODA – Official Development Assistance
PBACD- Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination Department
PICs – Pacific Island Countries
PPP – Purchasing Power Parity
PRM – Public Reform Matrix
PWD – People with Disabilities
PYC – Pacific Youth Council
SDA – Seventh Day Adventist
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS – Small Island Developing States
SOE – State of the Environment
SPA – Strategic Priority Areas
SPC – South Pacific Community
TANGO – Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations
TC – Tropical Cyclone
TCAP – Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project
TCS – Tuvalu Cooperative Society
TNCW – Tuvalu National Council of Women
TNPF – Tuvalu National Provident Fund
TPCC – Tomasi Puapua Convention Center
TRCS – Tuvalu Red Cross Society
TTCC – Tuvalu Telecommunication Corporation
TTF – Tuvalu Trust Fund
TuFHA – Tuvalu Family Health Association
UN – United Nations
UNCAC – United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP- United Nations Development Programme
UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP – United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific
UNPPRAC – United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption
UNRCO – United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office
UPR – Universal Periodic Review
VNR – Voluntary National Review
WB – World Bank
I am honored and privileged to present the first ever Tuvalu Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report of the progress against the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Tuvalu to both the United Nations and our people.

This VNR report is centered around the recent Tuvalu National Strategy for Sustainable Development Plan for 2021 – 2030 called Te Kete, which aligns very well with the ambitions of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Extensive consultations took place across the country to identify five Strategic Priority Areas in the Te Kete, addressing all three key pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, with an additional focus on upholding our traditional cultures, which are extremely important to our people.

The report outlines the progress of Tuvalu in achieving both the national outcomes addressed in the Te Kete and the 17 Goals across the SDGs. There have been many successes along the way, which have been clearly articulated in this report, but many challenges still remain such as impact of climate change to our people and improvements in various sectors including education, health, social and civil society. This report reflects the major successes, remaining challenges and also the lessons learned for the future VNRs and especially for achieving the 2030 Agenda for SDGs.

I would like to thank all those involved in making this report possible, in particular the team from the Ministry of Finance who led the process. The cooperation of all other government ministries, as well as island communities, NGOs and the private sector was also much appreciated.

Finally, many thanks to our development partners who have greatly assisted Tuvalu to get to where we are today. Your ongoing support both financially and technically to Tuvalu’s endeavors of achieving sustainable development, and assistance with the production of this report is most valued.

The Government of Tuvalu will continue to implement the 17 SDGs through Te Kete and will ensure that No One is Left Behind.

Respectfully,

Honorable Kausea Natano
PRIME MINISTER OF TUVALU
HIGHLIGHTS

The overall progress achieved in Tuvalu since the SDGs started in 2015 has been mixed, with clear signs of progress in some sectors, yet ongoing challenges in others, as evidenced in Section 4 of this report. Tuvalu’s National Strategy for Sustainable Development “Te Kete” runs from 2021-2030 and has clear alignment with the SDGs which is well illustrated throughout this report. Some of the more noticeable achievements against both the SDGs and Te Kete, as well as ongoing challenges are included in the following listing.

- the review of the Constitution to make it more amenable to the living culture of Tuvalu, with the review report going to the next sitting of Parliament for approval;
- the advocacy against climate change has stepped up, building on the successful efforts of the previous government;
- acting in partnership both at the local and international level is a formal government policy in the Te Kete that enables the implementation of international agreements like the SDGs, Samoa Pathway, Addis Ababa Agreement, Sendai framework and other international conventions, declarations and legal instruments that Tuvalu is a signatory to and has verified;
- involving people and stakeholders in planning the country’s development and also in the M&E that tracks implementation and recommend emerging policy;
- improvements in the planning system through the timely provision of financial and non-financial reports on the implementation of SDGs and Te Kete, to allow the making of informed decisions including, on next year’s budget and related functions;
- developing the capacity of the government Statistics Department to provide data and statistics;
- adoption of modern technology in policy formulation and implementation e.g. e-learning, e-medicine, use cyberspace to earn income and raise people’s capacity to gainfully utilize the opportunities availed by modern technology;
- the problem of lifestyle diseases (NCD) and its impact on the lives of people, and high cost of treatment, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Government continues to confront this killer disease with the help of its overseas partners.
- the struggle by the education ministry to overcome the problems of numeracy and literacy in school children, in order to increase the qualified teacher: pupil ratios, improve the pass rates of all schools, and implement its e-learning policy. The ministry is acting to rectify the situation with support from bilateral and multilateral partners.
- dealing with the plight of the left-behind and the 28% of the population who are categorized as poor;
- strengthening the Department of Gender and Department of Social Welfare to cater to the needs of the vulnerable people - women, youth and people with disabilities, outer islands, the old and retirees.
Tuvalu - about us

Tuvalu is the second smallest state in the Pacific island region, isolated with a distance of 2000 km from Australia, the nearest metropolitan center in the region. It consists of 9 small islands with a combined landmass of 26km² (average 1.9 metres above sea level) scattered in a North-South direction slightly west of the 180 degrees' longitudes, from just south of the Equator almost touching the International Date Line, down to latitude 10 degrees South. There are 8 traditionally inhabited islands, the ninth island was Nuiakita, it is the southernmost island of Tuvalu, which was offered to Niutao island during the colonial days because less than 50 people lived on the island (population of 34 based on the 2017 census). Tuvalu has an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of 750,000 square kilometres (290,000 square miles).

Tuvalu is a constitutional monarchy with a Governor General nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the Queen of Tuvalu. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Westminster’s model bequeathed by the British government on Tuvalu’s independence in 1978, is the governing model that Tuvalu has adopted and operationalized. The separation of powers principle is well established and the rule of law is also understood, appreciated and practiced making Tuvalu one of the most peaceful and contented countries in the world. There are 8 second tier governments called falekaupule1 on each of the islands, they are the traditional island governments that ruled the islands prior to missionization and colonization. Many of the communal values like sharing, reciprocity and the prioritization of one’s island, a phenomenon called in Tuvalu as ‘islandism’, are practiced although the market mode of operation is fast making inroads into the ‘old school way’. Many communal practices and responsibilities are monetised and funded from salaries of Public Servants, remittances from families overseas and donor funds. The scenario does not appear ideal for either’s unrestricted growth.

The policy architecture is increasingly capturing these features of the Tuvaluan society by democratizing the policy-making process through greater use of the public consultation instrument. Government considers the public consultation reports, which together with its own preferences and those of its advisers, approves the making of the policy or plan, adopting the parameters that should be followed. Oftentimes the contradiction amongst the three dimensions of sustainable development that include economic, environment and social development occur, and the advice of technocrats often give precedence to the field of their expertise and interest. The green growth idea with its own green growth technology recognizes the economic value that green growth adds to the economy and the social life of the community is often unaccounted for. The economic path points to the higher productivity and output of industrialization using modern technology.

In Tuvalu, the final decision is always made by the government which is more amenable to the voice of the falekaupule and people of the islands. In many cases it is the lack of transparency and insistent probing that prevents information from reaching the decision makers. Tuvalu was categorized as a Least Developed Country (LDC) in 1986 and is a Small Island developing States (SIDS), by virtue of its location, remoteness, scattered nature and absolute smallness. The islands are made up of young, poorly developed, infertile sand and gravel coraline soil which is of poor quality limiting the agricultural development on the atoll country.

These geographical features have considerably exposed Tuvalu to the impacts of climate change. Storm surges, king tides and floods are common occurrences. These have intensified due to changes in weather patterns and sea level rise, and have continuously plagued the country’s potential in terms of economic and social development.

Tuvalu is also known as a MIRAB nation which is a model explaining the economies of small island nations which are characterized by dependence on Migration, Remittances, Aid and Bureaucracy. This is because the majority of government revenues and private incomes are received from abroad through distributions from the Tuvalu Trust Fund (TTF), proceeds from fishing licenses granted to foreign fishing vessels to fish in Tuvalu waters which on average accounted to around 40% of total GDP for the past six consecutive years, revenues from the dot tv, remittances, and ODA. Yearly inflows from these sources show significant fluctuations over the years because of their association with external factors (economic and environmental).

Tuvalu VNR - about this report

This is the first-ever Tuvalu VNR Report to be developed since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015. The current Voluntary National Review (VNR) is an evaluation of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as the Agenda 2030. Tuvalu has its own development plan, the current plan the seventh in the series is the Te Kete, which is the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD). Te Kete and SDGs are compatible as both their outcomes are centered on the improvement of the quality of life of people. As such the evaluation of Te Kete is also an evaluation of the SDGs. The VNR report proceeds on this premise, focusing on the SDG Indicators that align with the priorities of Te Kete.

Te Kete reflects Tuvalu’s vision of a ‘Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu’ and aspires, to achieve the SDGs, with an inward look at the capability of our human resources for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods. Te Kete and SDGs are compatible as both their outcomes are centered on the improvement of the quality of life of people. Te Kete (2021-2030) focuses on the 5 strategic priority areas of Enabling environment, Economic development, Social development, Island and culture development and Infrastructure development.

These priority areas are outcomes of the various national consultations with stakeholders which were considered at the National Summit on Sustainable Development in November, 2020. Tuvalu is committed to the execution of its Te Kete (2021-2030), with its success dependent on national consultations, collective ownership of the plan and collaborative partnerships between the people, government, community leaders, businesses and civil society. Integrating of the SDG goals and targets into the Te Kete was made possible with a comprehensive consultation with relevant stakeholders nationally, highlighting the Te Kete Vision.

1 Traditional assembly in each island, composed in accordance with traditional customs and culture of each island (Falekaupule Act (1997))
This review is a part of the follow-up and review mechanism of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which countries take stock and assess both the progress and the shortcomings in the national implementation of the sustainable development goals and their targets. It is a regular and inclusive review of progress both at the national and sub-national levels.

Figure 1. Whole VNR Process below shows the steps in the process from the approval to conduct the VNR to the completion and the implementation of the VNR recommended next steps.

Source: Tuvalu VNR Team
The whole VNR Process was a lengthy one which undertook the key steps as follows:

1. Approval to conduct VNR

This was a national review with a formal approval from the Government of Tuvalu (GoT). In late 2021 the Government of Tuvalu conveyed its intention to undertake a VNR to the President of ECOSOC. This intention was being deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is Tuvalu's first VNR report and it is to be presented to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July, 2022.

2. Appointed Tuvalu VNR Team

A team was appointed from the Ministry of Finance to plan and implement Tuvalu’s VNR. This team consisted of representatives from;

1. Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination Department (MECD)
2. Central Statistics Office
3. Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination Department (PBACD)
4. Local consultant

Apart from the above team members there were also other supporting members involved in the organizations of consultations and audio-visual materials that included;

1. UN In-country Officer
2. Private Video consultant
3. Central Contract Management Unit (CCMU)

3. Connect with the Supporting Team

Being Tuvalu’s first VNR Report the team were supported primarily by experts from UNESCAP, UNDP, UNRCO and SPC with the exercise.

4. Appointed Local Consultant

Due to the short period of time and the workload for completing this review, a local consultant was recruited to work on this review making sure this VNR met all the requirements.

5. Stakeholders Consultation Engagement

Figure 3 below shows the main focus of the consultations which were held with various stakeholders. These consultations were focused on;

1. Awareness on SDGs
2. Introduction about VNR & why it is important?
3. How they feel about SDGs?
4. Main Challenges they faced
5. What should the GOT do?
6. What supports we need urgently from Development Partners?

The consultations were divided into two phases;

a. Funafuti island consultations (representatives from the private sectors, NGOs, and the Public Service (Ministries))

This included stakeholder consultations with community groups on Funafuti where their views were obtained on the two sustainable development plans (SDGs and Te Kete). Stakeholders included representatives of the private sector, NGOs and the Public Service. The numbers that attended varied with the extent of publicity through the media and notifications issued by the...
M&E Unit. These consultations took place at the Tomasi Puapua Convention Center and Funafuti Falekaupule (island community hall).

b. Outer Island consultations
The 7 outer islands which consist of 3 northern islands, 3 central islands and 1 southern island were consulted by four separate teams traveling by boat for a total of four weeks. These separate teams managed to proceed with one consultation on each island.

VNR Consultation on Nanumaga Island group of men (Northern Islands)

These consultations involved the whole island community with various groups such as men, local government (falekaupule and kaupule), business representatives and vulnerable groups of women, youth, people with disabilities and students. The breakdown of trips were as follows:

The First VNR Team managed to travel to two of the Central islands and one of the Northern islands. Unexpectedly, the boat headed to another Northern island to pick up some representatives for one of the meetings held at Funafuti.

The Second VNR Team traveled to the three Northern islands including one of the islands that had already been covered by the first team consultation. In doing so, the team has an opportunity to double check and conclude some outstanding matters as they focused on the consultation outcomes.

Third VNR Team traveled to the remaining island from the Central by a batch despite the inconsistency of the boat schedule.

VNR Consultations on Nukufetau Island - Group of Women (Central Island)

The Fourth VNR Team traveled for another round trip to one of the southern islands. This roundtrip was delayed due to an accident with a barge used by the boat.

Each trip took 4 to 5 days, often experience delays, didn’t always followed the most desirable boat route, but ensured no island was excluded from this important consultation process.

Outer islands falekaupule provided the venues for the consultations that were rich in discussions, questions and answers. Participants were grateful for the opportunity to hear about the SDGs and the opportunity to express views about the sustainable development plans.

The overall plan, including timelines, for all stakeholder consultations are shown below;

Figure 4: Timeframe for Stakeholder Engagements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Type of Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th Week of October, 2021</td>
<td>Members of Government, CSOs, Private Sector, Development Partners</td>
<td>National Awareness Workshops and how they can be involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Week of December</td>
<td>Key members from island communities on Funafuti</td>
<td>Island Communities Group Awareness Workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Week of Jan - 2nd week of Feb, 2022</td>
<td>Government Ministries, Department Persons with Disabilities &amp; Private Sectors</td>
<td>Specialized consultation (include interviews on their particular sector)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Mar - 3rd of April</td>
<td>All 7 outer islands including various groups (men, women, youth, people with disabilities, local government</td>
<td>Outer island Consultations * awareness * getting information from different perspectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Data Collection Process

The data collection process covered all key messages and statistical data obtained from a number of sources and through various methods, which included:

i. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)
ii. The various stakeholder consultations
iii. The line ministries
iv. UN agencies
v. The online Solevaka Platform
vi. NGOs, Private Businesses, Ministries through their contributions for the VNR Main Message

7. Drafting and Finalizing

Below are the plan steps for drafting the report but some will not be able to achieve due to some unforeseen circumstances: These included;

i. Consolidate all the findings
ii. Develop a zero draft
iii. Circulate for Comments from all stakeholders
iv. Present for comments from the Government Advisory Committee (GAC), this committee consist of all Ministries Secretaries and Chair by the Secretary to Government
v. Present to the Cabinet for their comments
vi. Incorporate all the comments
vii. Present for final approval from both the GAC & Cabinet

Challenges in preparing VNR

A number of challenges were encountered during the production of the VNR which can be summarized as follows:

A) In the overall VNR Process

a. Delays in the approval to processes;
b. Alignment of SDGs to the National Strategy Sustainable Development 2021-2030, TE KETE
c. Development of the Indicator Framework for Te Kete
   ● The team’s minimal experience and limited knowledge in developing indicators, including those using administrative data, resulted in the team spending a significant amount of this activity.
   ● Hard to identify suitable indicators
d. COVID-19 border lockdown prevented visits from development partners to support the process
e. Poor internet connectivity
f. Lack of Office space for the local consultant
g. Differentiation between Tuvalu and the twinning country (Philippines) in terms of their context, coverage, focal point (specific for SDGs), staffing, etc

B) In the Stakeholder Engagement

a. Accommodating the complexities of a cross-section of Tuvaluan stakeholder who participated and engaged with the VNR Team, and shared their stories, information and other related views on the implementation of the SDGs for inclusion in the VNR, through opportunities provided by; face-to-face consultations, the use of the online Solevaka Platform, and the Twinning arrangement.

Challenges related to Data Collection

Some challenges in this area included:
a. Lack of availability of up to date data (including disaggregated data)
b. Difficulties in collecting qualitative data
c. Difficulties in collecting and analyzing administrative data due to absence of a dedicated unit responsible for this activity.
d. Some stakeholders don’t have the data to share because they are not required to measure them.

Lessons Learned

A) In the Overall VNR Process

a. Conduct second VNR following the next MICS
b. Establish an SDG unit within the MECD to focus exclusively on SDG related indicators.
   This unit would:
   - Implement the ESCAP National SDG Indicator Tracking Tool;
   - Provide up-to-date data;

b. Budgetary Constraints: Hard to conduct the outer island consultations due to insufficient funds available.
c. Transportation issues:
   - Inconsistency of boat schedule with boats being the only means of transport to the outer islands for consultations. This kept delaying the conduct of these consultations which in turn affected the timelines of the work plan and its targets.
   - Emergencies and Accidents;

The barge of the Nivaga III (Boat) capsized while the VNR team traveling to the southern island consultations were on board.

Photo Credit: Petesa Finekaso
- provide progressive update;
- monitor, evaluate and analyze the data
- enable continuity on SDGs alignment with existing policies, policies directions and others

c. Continue the twinning arrangement for exchanging experiences and skills for further improvement.

B) In the Stakeholder Engagement

a. Stakeholder’s engagement should continue to maintain updated data and information. In doing so, both stakeholders and the government would have an improved level of awareness regarding the SDGs, Te Kete and the VNR. Active participation of stakeholders would also contribute to a good second VNR report, assuring that No One is Left Behind.
b. Continue budgetary support to ensure a high level of preparedness for the next VNR.
c. Considering the major transportation issues, consider more use of available means of communication such as zoom or MS Teams to conduct outer island consultations. On the other hand, this could be faced with connectivity issues requiring the support of IT expertise.

C) In Data Collection

1) Surveys such as the Tuvalu MICS 2019-20 can be used to provide measures of indicators that are not addressed in Tuvalu’s administrative data.
2) The National SDG Tracker is a useful tool that can be used to monitor progress of the SDGs.
“Te Kete” which literally translates as a basket in Tuvaluan, symbolizes the means (repository) by which we store and preserve our traditional knowledge and wealth that transcends space and time to be utilised to support our daily needs and wellbeing whilst simultaneously building a resilient future. The traditional colours of Tuvalu, which are reflected in the format presentation of Te Kete (white, yellow, red and black) are commonly used in the decoration of handicrafts and household articles. More importantly, they are also used as important accessories and fineries for the installation of high chiefs, celebrations of special occasions such as weddings, rite of passage as well as other important events.

Te Kete has an important biblical meaning for it was by a basket (te Kete) that Moses was saved and who in turn led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land. Jesus was born in a manger or a basket-type of sorts. So Te Kete symbolizes Tuvalu’s strong Christian faith and the main platform upon which Tuvalu shall be saved from calamities and plagues affecting Tuvaluans now and into the future.”

Monitoring Progress
The decision to evaluate the SDGs through Te Kete necessitated linking the monitoring frameworks of the two plans. This was assisted by key data sources such as the recently conducted Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Survey 2020 and the ESCAP SDG Database which was linked to the SDG Indicators as shown in Annex A, which clearly illustrate the alignment between the SDG indicators and Te Kete indicators.

The M&E Unit’s half yearly cycle, which is well understood by government stakeholders, is the operational process where the data requirement for the link between these two plans is operationalized. The Unit send out the indicator descriptions for Te Kete to all stakeholders at the start of the cycle in January, who in turn provide the indicator data to the Unit at the end of May. The Unit analyzes the data particularly the impact of the performance (indicator data) on the overall Outcome in the Te Kete. It fills in the report template and passes it to the Secretary in the Ministry of Finance who takes the report to the monthly meeting of the Government Advisory Committee (GAC). The report is then submitted to Cabinet for a final decision.

(a) Creating ownership of the SDGs
• efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the SDGs
Consultations with stakeholders in Government, NGOs, business sector and the local government sector that included cultural institutions were planned and held throughout the period from late December 2021 through to April, 2022. All the outer islands were visited by teams from the Ministry of Finance and the UN Coordination Office on Funafuti.

The VNR project was explained to stakeholders as the first time to evaluate progress against the SDGs, which shares with Tuvalu’s own national development strategy the Te Kete 2021-2030, common Outcomes and Indicators that measure the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Discussions took place including interviews and exchanges amongst the various parties including women’s group, youth, people with disabilities, business representatives and local governments falekaupule and kaupule. All expressed support for the VNR process and appreciated the UN’s interest to know how the people of Tuvalu are managing with sustainable development.

(b) Incorporation of the SDGs in national framework
• initiative undertaken to adapt the SDGs and targets to its national circumstances

Figure 5 below shows how the Goals of the SDGs align to the 5 Strategic Priority Areas of the Te Kete. The alignment can also be seen in the statistical annex, Annex 1. There are a number of indicators missing from this Annex, which means that Tuvalu is yet to implement the necessary local action or the statistics are still to be found.

Te Kete is the premier national plan document in the country, it caps all the plans in the country including those from and by local governments, businesses, NGOs, cultural institutions and religious bodies. Its formulation included submissions from all bodies in the country as well as public and stakeholder consultations. Due to inconsistency in boat schedule, these consultations were only conducted on Funafuti and invited all the island leaders and various important groups such as men, women, youth, people with disabilities, NGOs, government representatives. This is the planning phase prior to the stages of planning inside the government that ends with Cabinet approval and tabling of the plan document in parliament. All the wishes of all the institutions should be in the plan document barring changes that Cabinet may have made.

• policy coherence and interlinkages
Policy coherence across the whole of government operations is the responsibility of the Secretary to Government and GAC. For financial policy the responsibility lies with the Ministry of Finance. Policies need to be clearly and succinctly stated in policy statements and how the policy relates to other areas of operation inside and outside government. The labyrinth of interlinkages amongst the various institutions can make things complicated for Public Administration and Managers. In Tuvalu at this point in time there is capacity in getting the policy on paper but not so for managing the implementation. The administration and management of SDGs through Te Kete starting at the M&E Unit in the Ministry of Finance will find the management of the policy interlinkages for coherence a real challenge.
c) Integration of the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) of sustainable development.

The integration of the economic, environment and social dimensions of sustainable development is about the process of optimizing output of the three pillars in order to maximize the integrity of our planet earth and the benefits for people. In Tuvalu it should be primarily but not exclusively the management by the GAC of the outputs of the three pillars. In practice the GAC deals more with harmonizing working relations between and amongst ministries and departments of government rather than adjusting outputs to maximize the combined outputs of the three pillars. The Cabinet finalizes the decision based on considerations other than optimal allocation of resources that produced the output of the three pillars of resources.

(d) Leave no one behind

The principle of ‘Leaving No One Behind’ is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It represents the commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine their potential (UN Sustainable Development Group Leave no one behind). Several groups stand out as at the risk of falling behind and include people with a disability, people in the outer islands, vulnerable groups (elderly, youth and children) and people from the LGBTI community.

This principle is also reflected in Te Kete under Strategic Priority Area 3 “Social Development” through National Outcome 12 ‘Civil Society, Youth, Women, Men and People with disabilities participation improved’. Clear reference is made that “Inclusivity will be at the center of growth and development of these sectors, and the benefits of prosperity will be spread as widely as possible to improve the social well-being of all Tuvaluans. No one will be left behind regardless of island, gender, physical and intellectual capability and social and economic status”. The focus is on active engagements, benefitting simultaneously people with disabilities, men and women.

People With Disability (PWD)

The Fusi Alofa Association together with the Tuvalu Red Cross Society and volunteers assisted as necessary by the Health Department are the institutions that cater for the PWD. The group will further fall behind if they are denied development opportunities. Persons with disabilities living in the outer islands of Tuvalu feel particularly disadvantaged in regard to service provision. In particular they noted that most of the outer island schools do not cater for children with disabilities; assistive devices are generally not available; there is a lack of accessibility for people with mobility impairments due to poor road conditions and no ramps in public buildings. Persons with disabilities living on the outer islands have asked for equipment, tools for garden work and for housing support. On Funafuti persons with disabilities get together daily to study Braille, play, exercise and share their nourishment. They lack a place for boarding and live with families who bring them daily to a center rented by Fusi Alofa. One of the main difficulties of island, gender, physical and intellectual capability and social and economic status. The focus is on active engagements, benefitting simultaneously people with disabilities, men and women.

Better statistics are needed to develop a Te Kete databank fed from surveys like the Population Census (one later this year), Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and other surveys and reports like the IMF Article IV annual reports, NGOs and the annual reports of government ministries and departments.

Essentially, what’s required is to develop a system (i.e. a data collection system including an application for data entry and reporting) that tracks the progress towards achieving goals set out in Te Kete as well as the SDGs. The system would utilize statistics produced by surveys mentioned above, conducted regularly to update the system. The use of administrative data to update the system is another data source, however, there is a lot of work to be done to improve the reliability, accuracy and completeness of all administrative records that are maintained by the relevant stakeholder.

### Figure 5: Mapping Sustainable Development Goals to Te Kete Strategic Priority Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Te Kete Strategic Priority Areas (2021 - 2030)</th>
<th>Sustainable Development Goals (2015 - 2030)</th>
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#### Implementation challenges and way forward

Many implementation challenges confront the way ahead for the achievement of the Te Kete and SDG targets. Problems of implementation typically relate to inadequate skill capacity, lack of data for planning and measuring the output of implementation and the impact on outcomes.

The education of Te Kete stakeholders is the main obstacle to a well-publicized, written, measured and timely evaluation report. The quality of evaluations depends on the number of meaningfully conducted consultations with groups considered outside the marginalised groups. They are the living witnesses and gauge of policy failure. The way forward will have to start with a determined effort to train stakeholders in how to produce indicator data for the sectors or ministries wherein they work.

Better statistics are needed to develop a Te Kete databank fed from surveys like the Population Census (one later this year), Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and other surveys and reports like the IMF Article IV annual reports, NGOs and the annual reports of government ministries and departments.

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2. Ibid
Tuvalu First Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2022

Tuvalu First Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2022

Outcomes of gender equality and non-discrimination

Analysis of Tuvalu’s progress in implementing the gender equality and non-discrimination principles of equality and non-discrimination and legalize de jure the de facto situation. Working Group recommended repealing all sex-related discriminatory legislation and legislation criminalizing consensual same-sex relations between adults to ensure consistency with the principles of equality and non-discrimination and legalize de jure the de facto situation.

This stark impact of the kind of development that is taking place in Tuvalu is the growing gap between the furthest ahead and the furthest behind groups. Transport and communications are subjects that are continually raised by the outer islands as delaying the construction of infrastructures and the imported food content of their daily diet. The Ministries looking after these subjects have responded by putting out a shipping policy that aims to address the problem.

There is strong religious opposition to the formal recognition of the rights of DSO to same sex marriage. The Constitution recognizes the Human Rights Charter but the majority of the community maintain their objection to same sex marriage. LGB is not practiced openly and neither are they actively discouraged. Transgender is not known in communities and neither is marriage. The Constitution recognizes the Human Rights Charter but the majority of the population falling in this group. The highest gaps between the furthest behind and the furthest ahead groups can be seen in Internet usage and in the completion of secondary and tertiary education. The furthest behind groups in completion of secondary and tertiary education are poorer men.

In general, the D-Index measures the distribution of a positive outcome. Prevalence and/or justification of violence against women and prevalence of stunting and overweight in children under 5 years of age are not positive outcomes, but rather a barrier for women’s and children’s fulfilment in life. To calculate the D-Index for these barriers, while keeping the same interpretation as for other positively defined indicators (opportunity), the absence of prevalence and/or justification, for example prevention of violence against women and prevalence of stunting and overweight in children under 5 years of age is first calculated. The remaining calculations follow the same formula as for standard positively defined indicators.

Identifying those left behind (MICS)

One stark impact of the kind of development that is taking place in Tuvalu is the growing number of people who are disadvantaged and are being left behind. Analysis of Tuvalu’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019-2020 shows that individuals living in poorer households (belonging to the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution) and with lower or secondary education, are the most common furthest behind group in many areas of development. Other variables like residence, sex, age groups and children under 5 years old, also appear as significant in some indicators. Surveys, analysis and reports on the situation reveal alarming results that will be addressed later in this VNR Report.

Inequality refers to the unequal distribution not only of income and wealth, but also of opportunities and services. Inequality of opportunity undermines the realization of human rights and constitutes a barrier for social mobility. The dissimilarity index\(^1\) (D-Index) measures how different groups - such as women, poorer households, or rural residents - fare in terms of access to a certain opportunity, or how different groups disproportionately experience a certain barrier. Like the Gini coefficient, the D-Index ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates no inequality, and 1 indicates that the entire access to a service is reserved to a specific group of people with shared circumstances (e.g. men from urban areas).

The chart below shows the D-index of the 12 indicators used for the analysis of Tuvalu’s inequalities. It shows that the highest inequality was in family planning, while the least was in overweight figures.

Figure 6:D-index of selected indicators, Tuvalu, 2019 (based on MICS)

Gaps between the best off and the furthest behind groups

The table below, generated from the MICS (2019), further shows the level of inequalities within Tuvalu in the following areas: basic sanitation, clean fuel, COVID-19 preparedness, family planning, early childhood education, tertiary education, Internet usage, secondary education, sexual or physical violence against women, overweight in children under 5 years of age, stunting in children under 5 years of age\(^1\), and violence against women justified.

The area with the biggest left behind group is in early childhood education with 46% of the population falling in this group. The highest gaps between the furthest behind and the furthest ahead groups can be seen in Internet usage and in the completion of secondary and tertiary education. The furthest behind groups differ for each indicator. For example, the furthest behind group in Internet usage are individuals with lower education. Only half of them use the Internet. The furthest behind groups in completion of secondary and tertiary education are poorer men.

About 22 per cent have completed secondary education, while 16 per cent have completed tertiary education. Section 5 summarizes which are the common circumstances that make the furthest behind groups.

For only one indicator, stunting in children under 5 years of age, analysis finds that, after including ethnicity and religion as circumstances, the composition of the furthest behind group changes. About 12 percent of children whose mother has lower or secondary education and who belong to a minor religion are stunted, when compared to 6 percent of stunted children in the population.

The greatest inequalities exist in access to tertiary education (49 percentage points) and secondary education (47 pp), followed closely by access to clean fuels (44 pp) and internet use (44 pp).

Furthermore, detailed analysis which delves further into those left furthest behind has been done as illustrated in the following example for access to tertiary education by 25-35 year olds. As can be seen in this analysis males in the bottom 40 percentile are only a 16% likelihood of undertaking tertiary education, whereas females in the top 60 percentile living in urban area have a 65% likelihood of undertaking tertiary education.

### Institutional mechanisms

The 2030 Agenda has impelled an upgrade of the planning system in the country by requiring work to be measured by a system of Indicator data that’s set by stakeholders. The process is centered in the MECO in the Ministry of Finance, which has shown real interest and enthusiasm in the new approach. The approach to stakeholder consultation is also more effective despite the limitations in domestic travel between islands. Community consultations are more constructive, aided by the support of the UN which supports communities exercise control over national affairs.

The monitoring of the Te Kete, is now through the MECO that circulates the required information needs, including through workshops, to stakeholders and line ministries with all the relevant supporting documents. Each ministry has the responsibility to reach out to stakeholders through projects and other developments which fall under their portfolio to provide their progress report over a specified period required by the MECO. An annual progress report is then developed based on the updates from line ministries and submitted to GAC, Cabinet and even Parliament as needed. This report also aims to reflect the SDGs, where relevant, to the activities implemented by line ministries.

The production of the new indicator data system of information and data collection and reporting from stakeholders to the M&E Unit, is now being put in place, applied by stakeholders and managed by the Ministry of Finance and GAC. Te Kete and relevant SDG Indicators will be set with national targets for the outputs that stakeholders pursue enabling an assessment of the impact on Outcomes. For the M&E cycle to work well, it needs to be supported by other functionaries in and outside government.

### Structural Issues

Tuvalu is the second smallest state in the Pacific island region, isolated with a distance of 2000 km to Australia, the nearest metropolitan center in the region. The 9 islands with a total land mass of 26 km2 are scattered in a north-south direction almost touching the International Date Line. It stretches from near the Equator to 10 degrees south. By virtue of its location, remoteness, scattered nature and absolute smallness, it is plagued by the small effects on the country’s economic and social development.

Diseconomies of scale drives up prices and the isolation and scattered nature of settlements further worsen the economic life of many people in the islands. Economic activities are stunted by the incapacity to generate profits and attract investment. The capacity of the domestic market is small and supports only small-scale artisanal production. Short to medium term ways to stimulate and start economic production as in the Import Substitution policy and other fiscal strategies at the macroeconomic level can be expensive, but the output as illustrated in the experience of comparable countries has not always been successful. The infant industry protection policy has spurred crony capitalism everywhere and divided communities even in the Pacific island countries.

Smallness effects also affect the junction between economic and governance structure. The governance structure inherited by Tuvalu requires that there should be a Parliament, Executive and Judiciary which is a minimum structure for viability and recognition as a State in the liberal democracies of the world. The governance institutions certainly are proving too large a fit on the economic and physical structure of the island nation; likened to a small person wearing an oversized coat. The cost implications are many and most certainly the pace of adoption and adaptation to the cultural onslaught from outside, is fast. Change is however necessary and must be managed or it will negatively impact the culture of Tuvalu.
The Tuvalu National Strategy for Sustainable Development or Te Kete 2021-2030, as the country’s high-level planning and result oriented strategic plan, supports the achievement of the SDGs through 5 Strategic Priority Areas, covering 20 National Outcomes, 90 key strategic actions, monitored by an indicator framework. This setup is equivalent and compatible with the SDGs 17 Goals, Targets or Outcomes and Indicators.

The Te Kete has five Strategic Priority Areas, which have been mapped to the 17 SDGs, with the following sections of this report discussing SDG progress, while recognizing their alignment to these Strategic Priority Areas.

The VNR makes use of data available in the country, noting that there is a serious scarcity of data, as there is in many other Pacific island countries, with plans in place to rectify this problem. One of the complexities when assessing Tuvalu’s performance against Agenda 2030 is this lack of available, reliable, recent and disaggregated data, despite a recent census, HIES and MICS. Some SDGs - specifically related to infrastructure, life below water and the environment or govern ance – are less analyzed and harder to monitor. This is Tuvalu’s first VNR and it offered valuable lessons for better preparation of future VNRs.

The progress assessments in this year’s VNR are partly anecdotal because this is the first time a system was developed to secure quantitative indicator data. Due to the lack of data available for this VNR Report it will show the high demand for improvement in collecting data in order to provide a more realistic assessment of Tuvalu’s progress toward all Sustainable Development Goals and relevant targets. Most of the existing development strategies and activities are aligned with achieving the SDGs but are not sufficiently reflected through lack of data available. As a result, there is insufficient data to assess progress on all the SDGs. A more comprehensive assessment, with improvements in data production, is expected for future VNRs.
The goal of SPA1 is “The required institutional, policy and regulatory enablers are imperative platforms which facilitate the effective achievements of our national vision and are rated priority in the overall execution of Te Kete.”

SPA1 aims to create an environment that’s conducive to the growth and achievement of the other four strategic priority areas. The five National Outcomes under this SPA are:

- Harnessing the digital transformation to improve lives;
- Strengthened partnerships;
- Good Governance is strengthened;
- Climate Change and Disaster Resilience increased;
- Environment, Meteorology, Land and Waste Management strengthened.

This SPA focuses on digital transformation (SDG 9), strengthened partnerships (SDG 17), good governance (SDG 16), climate change (SDG 13), disaster risk reduction (SDG 11), waste management (SDG 12), and ocean protection (SDG 14).

Thus SPA 1 thus incorporates elements of SDGs 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17.
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Te Kete has put forward improving shipping, networking, harbor facilities and harnessing the digital transformation to improve lives, as national priorities.

There are several projects aimed at improving internal coordination and communication with the rest of the world. Connection through a Marine Cable facility will have transformative impacts all around, raising performance in many sectors in the country. The Marine Cable facility would more efficiently facilitate the block chain technology and increase efficiency of the system for money transfer, as well as provide a safe tool for certification of government documents and numerous other online activities. As such there is a need to draft legislation to protect and control the many uses of the Marine Cable. The ICT roles in relation to the World Bank funded submarine cable and dot TV are performed by the General Manager of the Tuvalu Telecommunication Corporation (TTC) and the telecommunication adviser.

Figure 10: Internet users per 100,000 inhabitants by year

Tuvalu is also working on a National ICT policy which is expected to be approved soon. This new policy would update the current ICT Action Plan, starting with outcomes assigned to the ICT Department within the Te Kete. Many government departments implement different applications of the digital communication technology like telemedicine, e-commerce and eLearning. While the Policy coordination and collaboration are discussed and agreed at the GAC level, the practical operational work is done at the inter-departmental level for expediency.

One of the main challenges faced by outer islands is the expensive and unreliable connectivity especially during bad weather. This is one of the difficulties that delays developments on outer islands.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
The population living in urban areas has increased over the past two decades. Between 2000 and 2020, the proportion of people living in urban areas has increased from 46% to 64%. Rising urban population strains land use for residential and commercial purposes, in the face of limited land availability.

Land management is archaic and tries unsuccessfully to make its governing colonial rules work.

The land records kept by different institutions including the Kaupule, the Lands Courts, National Archive and other institutions need to be updated and their contents aligned if there is to be justice in the decisions of the Lands Courts throughout Tuvalu.

The Department of Environment focuses on protection of the environment from the impact of climate change that typically affect coastal, marine and terrestrial environments as well as the conservation of the living and non-living natural resources. The function encompasses a lot of areas of operation with nineteen legal bills addressing Environmental protection. Where activities impact the environment, the department is empowered to issue precautionary notice warnings to those responsible. The Key Outcomes include the enforcement of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), the maintenance of the islands’ pristine and clean environment, enhancement of meteorological services and strengthening of land management and development.

The Department of Environment has prepared the State of the Environment (SOE) Report and six National Reports that have been submitted to the Conference on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ozone Layer Protection Act 2008 Revised Edition and Ozone Depleting Substance Regulation 2010 Revised edition, documentation of Traditional Conservation and Protection Methods endorsed by the DCC\(^2\), the forerunner of the Government Advisory Committee (GAC). Also established were the Network of Traditional Practitioners, an Invasive Species Policy and the enactment of the law and regulations protecting threatened species. Ongoing activities include the EIA consultations on the outer islands of Tuvalu and the establishment of the Environment Trust Fund endorsed by Cabinet. The Chemical Management Policy has been approved by the Cabinet.

Te Kete proposed the development of effective frameworks for disaster risk and resilience management. There is a 16.2% likelihood of a disaster affecting the country per year which is relatively low in comparison to the rest of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs). However, the percent of population affected is the highest of the PICs at 42.6%. Percent GDP affected has not been listed but would be expected to be high as well\(^3\).

A large proportion of the country live in poor households that reside near areas prone to cyclones. They are mostly in weak structured homes\(^4\). In 2015, Tropical Cyclone (TC) Pam was over 1,400 km from Tuvalu, yet it was still able to bring strong winds and storm surges that affected people and their homes. Nearly 20% of the GDP was lost due to the damage of TC Pam on properties, appliances and loss to plantations and livestock. Furthermore, these poor households often face a slower recovery due to financial constraints. The most significant stressor or households is cyclones followed by droughts and floods\(^5\).

The Department of Disaster Management is guided by seven Acts of Parliament and four major policy instruments including the National Disaster Risk Management Arrangement 2012, Island Disaster Preparedness Response and Recovery Plan 2018, Te Kakeega III National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020 and the Vaka Fenua Climate Change Policy 2012-2021. The Department’s programme of work includes activities that have already started, while many more are to be implemented in the next two or more years. The three goals of the Department are

\(^2\) DCC before but now change to GAC
\(^3\) Lee, D., Zhang, H. & Nguyen, C. (2018), The Economic Impact of Natural Disasters in
\(^4\) Government of Tuvalu - Central Statistics Division, 2010
(1) the development and review of laws, plans and policies for guiding the functional area of the disaster subject, (2) develop the human resource capacity to implement the laws, plans and policy, and (3) engage partners inside and outside Tuvalu to help in building resilience through Disaster Risk Management. In 2021 and 2022, the Department increased data reporting on Sendai Framework Monitor, validating 22 targets, including disaggregated data by sex, age and disability. However, enhanced disaster damage and loss data collection are needed to implement informed and impact-based decision making. Furthermore, the Department needs to increase efforts to implement gender-responsive and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction to decrease deaths and affected people from these groups who are disproportionately affected by disasters.

The Meteorology Department generates daily bulletins about the weather and looming storms and cyclones. It collaborates with the disaster function in the prognostication and rehabilitation of disaster devastated communities. The department has its own Strategic Plan 2020-2024 and reports on its work in its Annual Report to the Ministry and onward to GAC.

In Funafuti, the maximum temperature has increased at a rate of 0.21°C per decade since 1950. By 2030, under all emission scenarios indicates, the air temperature and sea surface temperature will continue to increase. There is an expected 0.4 to 1.0°C increase in temperature under a high emissions scenario. Overall, a rise in the frequency of hot days and evenings while a decline in cooler weather would be expected. The number of days with rainfall is also projected to have its annual and seasonal average increase due to the intensification of the South Pacific Convergence Zone. The intensity and frequency of extreme rainfall is also expected to increase13.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
Domestic material consumption has been on the rise in Tuvalu, currently at 1.1 tons per capita, an increase from 0.9 tons per capita in 2000. The lack of space on Funafuti for the waste dump, disciplined collection and sorting, and waste incineration are some of the challenges that need to be overcome. However, waste generation has been decreasing. The Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan 2017-2026 estimated that waste generated in Funafuti was 0.37 kg per capita per day in 2014, reduced from 0.43 kg in 2000. On the other hand, electronic waste has increased from 0.8 kg in 2000 to 1.5 kg in 2017 (UNEP estimates). Tuvalu is a signatory to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol). While Tuvalu has complied fully with the Montreal Protocol, it has not yet fully complied with the Stockholm Convention.

Tuvalu is aiming for a circular economy, to address the increasing amount of waste, reduce the dumping in landfills and achieve SDG 12.

SDG 13: Climate Action
As a low lying atoll, Tuvalu is highly vulnerable to impacts brought about by the Climate Crisis, including those of sea level rise, salinization, increased severity of storm surges and cyclones, acidification and coral bleaching, spring tides and seasonal droughts. These impact all sectors and are severely damaging to an economy with the smallest GDP in the world. These disasters have impacted Food Security (affecting pulaka & taro plantations), Infrastructure, Water Security, Health Systems, and the Environment, limiting Tuvalu’s ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Funafuti, the maximum temperature has increased at a rate of 0.21°C per decade since 1950. By 2030, under all emission scenarios indicates, the air temperature and sea surface temperature will continue to increase. There is an expected 0.4 to 1.0°C increase in temperature under a high emissions scenario. Overall, a rise in the frequency of hot days and evenings while a decline in cooler weather would be expected. The number of days with rainfall is also projected to have its annual and seasonal average increase due to the intensification of the South Pacific Convergence Zone. The intensity and frequency of extreme rainfall is also expected to increase13.

The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranks Tuvalu as 125th highest climate risk country out of 180 assessed. The same study places Tuvalu near the bottom list as 172nd in terms of average fatalities but is at 2nd place in average losses per GDP unit for extreme weather events recorded during the twenty-year period.

Actions undertaken in the climate area include the development of a long-term national strategy involving land reclamation as a protective measure against sea level rise. Disaster risks and resilience management frameworks are being implemented with success. Funds have been generously donated from multilateral and bilateral sources to refund all the costs arising from the TC Tino. Some of the projects such as Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP) were established to protect Tuvalu from climate change impacts and sea level rise.

The implementation of a National Adaptation Plan has covered a good proportion of SDG 13.2.1 Policies and Strategies. Te Kete’s ‘staged land reclamation policy’ is taken up at the local govern-

Case Study – Tropical Cyclone Tino
In January 2020, Tropical Cyclone Tino left a trail of destruction as it swept through all the islands in Tuvalu. Tuvalu was still recovering from the storms caused by TC Pam in 2015. There is a persistent and urgent call in Tuvalu for greater investment in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Many houses and building have been affected by these severe cyclones. Pulaka & Taro plantation were also affected that cause the soil more saltiness. Some of the daily houses had been flooded. Meeting halls and other public building were also affected.

Upscaling the implementation of ‘Te Kete’, mainly on Disaster Risk Reduction at the national level, will have potential and ultimate influence to reduce and reverse the trend and likewise to enhance the progress towards the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

The implementation of a National Adaptation Plan has covered a good proportion of SDG 13.2.1 Policies and Strategies. Te Kete’s ‘staged land reclamation policy’ is taken up at the local govern-

Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011
ment level by two of the eight islands, and they have already started their concept designs and fundraising. On the other hand, one of the conference buildings in the capital Funafuti was built on reclaimed land. This is called the Tomasi Puapua Convention Center (TPCC) which has multi-purposes including venues for various occasions such as Pacific Forum Meeting Venue, communities and individuals.

Photo credit: https://meys.gov.tv/partners/projects (Source)

By 2020, official development finance from global financing facilities including the Green Climate Fund, World Bank, Asian Development Band and bilateral sources have been directed to much needed implementation. A ‘rehabilitation and land reclamation framework’ against seal level rise and climate change impacts is awaiting approval, being one of the Te Kete outputs.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
The Environment Department had made expansion and establishment of both Locally Managed Marine Areas (LLMAs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in all the outer islands. They work collaboratively with island communities, local government (kaupule) and the Fisheries Department. All the nine outer islands of Tuvalu have either expanded or established LLMAs and MPAs. For the way forward, the department will continue to assist the communities in developing management plans for LLMAs and MPAs.

There has been strengthening and amendments of the Environment Impact Assessment Regulation in order to include social aspects. This was to ensure that for every development, assessment of potential environmental and social impacts is taken into consideration, including alternatives and mitigation measures, especially the management and monitoring of various developments.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
The third National Outcome of Te Kete aims to strengthen Good Governance through three Key Strategic Actions. The first is targeted at improving the law-making process through community consultation and capacity building. All bills, except the finance appropriation bill, are required to be referred to the Falekaupule after passing their first reading in Parliament. They are returned with comments from the second tier of government and after successful second and third reading the bill becomes law. Lawyers and MPs usually attend community consultations to explain the bills to the Falekaupule and obtain their opinion on the bills. Over the years there has not been an exception to this legal requirement.

The separation of powers principle is adopted and practiced in Tuvalu. The Judiciary and Parliament operate separately from the Executive that nevertheless exercises some control through the annual and capital budgets of these two other branches of government.

Abuse of power, i.e. the illegitimate use of public office for personal gain, led to the conviction of a former Prime Minister in 2016. This was also the reason for the banishment of some people from one island for failing to support the Falekaupule in forcing the ousting of the island’s elected MPs. These cases have been to the High Court and the Tuvalu Court of Appeal. There is no known petty bribery of politicians, possibly because of the culture of ‘chiefly charity’. Elected chiefs on the islands of Tuvalu are expected to feed the whole island in a capping feast that confirms his access to the position.

Under SDG 16.5, Tuvalu has been developing its national anti-corruption strategy (art 5 of the UNCAC) through a nationwide consultation campaign, with this work (2018-2019) supported by UNPRAC (UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption) project. Tuvalu has been strengthening its understanding of oversight mechanisms in response to COVID-19 and considered mitigation of corruption risks in public procurement. Tuvalu has endorsed the Teieniwa Vision which is the regional commitment to progress Pacific unity against corruption.

The Tuvalu Ministry of Education is strengthening its outreach to youth on integrity matters including through a peer-sharing workshop in 2018 on Integrity (Anti-Corruption) in the Education Curricula which included the Ministry of Education of seven PICs (Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) and through sport and corruption awareness-raising activities in December 2021. This was complemented by the work done by the Pacific Youth Council (PYC) Partners in June 2017, which looked at challenges faced by PYC and proposed a clear path forward for PYC’s independence and growth which included the Tuvalu youth.

The performance of the Lands Court on Funafuti has seen improvement. It has recently reduced the turnaround time for cases before it, from 280 days to 21 days. Quite a number of people were not satisfied with decisions on their cases in court because of the delay in finalizing the decision, and not following the legal procedure in the law. A number of Magistrates Training Workshops are put on occasionally by the Judiciary, including training visits to the outer islands.

A Constitutional Review Committee (CRC) completed its public consultations in 2016 and its Report awaits approval of parliament. The CRC consultation spanned over 2 years and included the Outer islands three times, overseas communities in Fiji, NZ, Australia and Academia in those countries. It is considered the most thorough Constitutional review ever in Tuvalu.

https://www.google.com/search?q=Tomasi+Puapua+Convention+Center&source=ImageUrl&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwXljzQAOsa8AhX0pY4HFrqOcsQ_AUoAmoECAEQBA&biw=690&bih=725&dpr=1.25&imgc=1Bq8KClq7IpcM
Tuvalu has a relatively less pervasive incidence of violence against women than other Pacific island countries. According to the 2019 MICS, 6.6% of women aged between 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence and 5.4% have experienced sexual violence in the past 12 months. The MICS also reported that only 27.4% of women reported their last incident of assault to police.

Figure 11: Proportion of women who reported assault, 2019

SDG16.3.1 Proportion of women for whom last incident of assault was reported to the police

27.4%

Data source: 2019 Tuvalu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

SDG 17: Partnerships
Partnerships within and with countries outside Tuvalu have allowed constructive sharing and reciprocity for positive development. Government has put out a Foreign Policy, Siku Lagi, highlighting Tuvalu’s cultural values that has kept the people united and working together for a long time. The hope is that international relations can see the advantages that the policy can secure for the peace of the world and moving ahead together as partners. Tuvalu is seeking higher returns on investment through delivery of a responsible and effective foreign policy. Responses from the region and beyond have been congratulatory and supportive of the Siku Lagi but the impact on investment returns has not been apparent.

The same partnership practice is followed by the government in its relations and dealings with NGOs, Public Enterprise, Private Sector and the local governments Falekaupule in Tuvalu. The preparation of this VNR Report attests to the partnership and working together approach that was used with all stakeholders.

The main financial sources that Tuvalu may mobilize to finance the achievement of the SDGs include Government tax and non-tax revenue and ODA. FDI in Tuvalu is low and remittances have been declining. Between 2000 and 2019, FDI as a percentage of GDP has been lower than 1% in four of those twenty years. Returns to these two sources should be reviewed soon.

Tuvalu has increased the Government revenue generated from domestic resources. Between 2012 and 2016, Government revenue, excluding grants, as percentage of GDP increased from 60.5% to 105.2%. This is mainly driven by the significant increase in fishing fees. As a result, the Government has significantly improved its capacity to finance its own expenditures, with the self-reliance ratio (percentage of public expenditure financed by public revenue generated domestically) increasing from 65.7% in 2012 to 85.3% in 2016.

ODA is a major source of funding for Tuvalu to finance its development. Between 2000 and 2019, net ODA received has increased from US$7.5M to US$37.4M (in 2018 constant prices). At the same time, net ODA as percentage of GDP has increased from 33% in 2003 to 77.2% in 2019. ODA for technical assistance has increased from US 1.9M in 2000 to US$7.2M (2018 constant prices) in 2018.

Figure 12: Net ODA received

Between 2000 and 2019, the volume of personal remittances received has declined from the peak of US$6.5M in 2002 to less than US$1M in 2019, and remittance as percentage of GDP has decreased from 42.3% in 2002 to 1.9% in 2019.

Tuvalu relies heavily on imports for its domestic consumption. Imports on average amount to around 60% of its GDP. The small export sector accounts for less than 1% of its GDP in most of the years between 2000 and 2017. (IMF Article IV 2021)
2. STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The goal of SPA2 is “Sustainable economy where equitable distribution of wealth through comprehensive review and effective implementation of tariffs, taxes and traditional sharing norms, job creation and income generation opportunities are achieved.”

SPA2 aims to create economic growth with equitable distribution of wealth. The four National Outcomes under this SPA are:

- Macroeconomic resilience;
- Fisheries contribution to socio-economic development and quality of life increased;
- Agricultural productivity increased; and
- Develop, improve and strengthen the Private Sector.

Poverty (SDG1) could be addressed by the creation and more equitable distribution of wealth. Economic growth (SDG8) and Private Sector growth (SDG9) would provide decent work (SDG 8) and contribute to the alleviation of poverty and better nutrition (SDG2). The sustainable use of sea derived food in a Blue Economy (SDG14), would also contribute to both SDG2 and in providing more work opportunities (SDG8).

SPA2 incorporates elements of SDGs 1, 2, 8, 9 and 14.
dependents, including retirement pensions, medical and educational benefits, housing benefits, and others. The TNPF also plays a key role for members to access credit as member balances are the only form of collateral in Tuvalu.

On the other hand, expenditure of the Government on education, health and social services combined has stagnated. There are currently no social assistance programs targeting children or families who are living in poverty or who are vulnerable to poverty. There is no record of any programs targeting other vulnerable population groups, such as people living with disabilities.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger
Tuvalu has made progress in reducing hunger and improving food security and nutrition. Donors support funding for infrastructure development in education, health, energy, agriculture, etc. The Taiwan Technical Mission dispatched by the Republic of China (Taiwan), has cooperated with the Agriculture Department since 2003. The current projects mainly focus on the production of vegetables and fruits. Demonstration farms have been set up on the main island of Tuvalu and the outer islands, and the cultivation area and crop yield have been continuously expanded. It also assists in holding vegetable and fruit markets. In addition to crop production, it has also worked with the public health department to promote a balanced diet in recent years. The R.O.C. (Taiwan) government has also sent teaching, environment, and information volunteers to assist in school teaching, environmental hygiene, and hospital information system maintenance. Many activities contribute to this such as the Live and Learned project, which focus on promoting household gardening, Live and Learn (LL) Environmental Education is an International NGO base in Melbourne, Australia. There are 12 Offices of LL with 10 in the Pacific and 2 in South East Asia. LL Tuvalu was established in April 2019. There are about 4 main thematic areas for LL which includes: climate change; women in empowerment; livelihood; and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Since it began, there had been two projects that LL Tuvalu implemented in Tuvalu which includes: Tuvalu Food Future Project and the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. The former project was funded under the Australian Aid through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the WASH programme in relation to COVID19 was jointly funded by the Humanitarian Programme (Australian aid) and American aid.

Tuvalu Food Futures project aim to improve food production using locally grown food crops in order to improve the nutritional diet of the Tuvalu population. This was implemented since May 2019 and now it is on its third phase until 2024. The WASH project was initiated with the assistance of the American and Australian aid due to the COVID19, as a way for preventative and mitigation measures.

Case Study 2: Live and Learn Project
Project sites include Funafuti, Nukufetau and Nukulaelae and a total number of 373 food cubes to grow food crops in those sites. Food cubes is a wicking system which saves water during drought. On Nukulaelae the project worked with 35 households with food cubes supplying families with vegetables including cucumber, cabbages, capsicum; tomatoes, water melons, cassava, taro and pulaka (giant swamp taro). On Nukufetau island the project had assisted the community by supplying regular vegetables, sweet potatoes, pawpaw and cassava from a community garden at Funaoa. Likewise, on Funafuti, the garden on Funafalaa also supplied the main settlement that housed more than half of Tuvaluan population with vegetables.

About 80,000 plus soaps with hygienic kits (which include a bucket with a tap, a box of 25 medicated soaps and a hand-towel) were distributed to all households in Tuvalu of which about 1,616 households in total including families with vulnerable people like people with disability and the elderly. Each household also received a poster to educate household members on the proper way of handwashing. There were 17 preschools, 10 primary schools and 2 secondary schools which also received hand wash stations using buckets with taps per classroom. On Funafuti, the project managed to install hand wash stations using sinks and taps at the Nauti primary school and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Primary school. UNICEF also provided our schools and clinics with about 6640 soaps to highlight good handwash practices. Under the project, LLEE Team managed to travel to all islands in Tuvalu and to promote to the youngsters and teachers in all schools in Tuvalu the proper way of handwashing through the use of songs and demonstration of proper way of handwashing using soaps and water as preventative measures to the epidemic COVID19.

The population eats about one-fourth of the recommended intake of fruits and vegetables per day. As rice and sugary foods are imported, their supply is subject to the impacts of natural disasters and shocks to global commodity prices. Growing food and vegetables has become more difficult, due to the poor soil, lack of fresh water for irrigation, and climate change impacts, particularly sea-level rise. Food security and nutrition in Tuvalu are under pressure from these combined factors.

Tuvalu has done well in regard to nutrition indicators.

- Prevalence of stunting in children under the age of five dropped from 10% in 2007 to 5.7% in 2019;
The adult population of Tuvalu has increased from 48.6% in 2012 to 51.6% in 2020. According to the 2021 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report, the prevalence of obesity in the adult population of Tuvalu has increased from 48.6% in 2012 to 51.6% in 2020.

Only recently has Tuvalu had to rely on imports. Not that long ago Tuvaluanans lived a subsistence lifestyle, using what they grew or could be caught locally. Most Tuvaluan families own pigs, and many own chickens or roosters. Fish remained a main source of protein, but fish surrounding the islands has been becoming scarce. Imported rice made up 34% of the food consumed, coconuts 19%, white sugar 17% and fish 7%. Local production was also impacted by pests, such as the yellow crazy ant affecting coconut trees.

CSOs support the Government of Tuvalu on improving the livelihoods of its people. Planting programs, such as the Tuvalu Food Futures and the Tuvalu Food markets in Funafuti are seeing success and now these need to be implemented in the other islands as well. The Tuvaluan values of “communal living” and a strong sense of “everybody helping everybody” help achieve national wellbeing. But local food scarcity remains a threat and poverty has become evident, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic. The escalation of food prices as a result of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, is expected to worsen the situation, although data on this was yet unavailable.

There were calls for the Government to strengthen the Price Control Unit to enforce price control related policies to avoid exploitation of the situation. However, other agriculture approaches also needed to be considered. It is well known that very few vegetables are grown in Tuvalu. Vegetables are mostly imported and come at a high price making them unaffordable to much of the population. A low vegetable diet could have impacts on people’s health and nutrition. The situation is not helped by the impact of climate change and sea-level rise that increases the salinity of its soil.

A lot more effort, both in policy and activities is needed to reduce reliance on imported food. The Ministry of Finance’s sales tax and price-control, even calling certain imported food as ‘sin food’ have had a clear dent in the retailing of certain imported food items. There is also a positive public-wide response to vegetable gardening, tubers and fruit trees throughout the islands and public campaigns by many NGOs and local governments to eat locally planted products. The response for greater food security is encouraged by the insecurity brought about, courtesy of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A number of policies were being proposed, the first of which was meant to foster import substitution through fiscal and tax incentives. A number of policies and laws are in place to encourage food gardening and toddy production as a substitute for the very expensive imported sugar. The increase in the Sales Tax due to the way it is applied also makes imported food more expensive and helps consumers to switch to locally produced food. While the policy may achieve its purpose, the wider impact of inflation on consumers and vendors as well due to the resulting decline in their sales volume, deducts from the overall benefits the policy intended. The Ministry

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- Prevalence of wasting dropped from 3.3% in 2007 to 2.8% in 2019;
- Prevalence of overweight children declined from 6.3% in 2007 to 4.2% in 2019.

These figures are also significantly lower than the Pacific island country averages (9.0% wasting, 41.4% stunting, and 8% overweight) and the world averages.

The development of agribusiness and commercial activities associated with agriculture and fisheries are also encouraged by the Government. There is no body in the country that caters for commercializing agriculture. The Tuvalu Cooperative Society (TCS), liquidated earlier this year, failed after operating for over 40 years as the leading organization in the semi-commercial sector in Tuvalu. The commercialization of agricultural production will depend on the operators themselves, but these are still few in the commercial sector.

Emphasis is also being made on local food production and the use of traditional food preservation knowledge. The switch to local gardening is supported by donors. Technical advisors from Taiwan are also supporting the local production of food produce. The marketing of local food is led by the Business Center of the Ministry of Finance with its fortnightly Tau Maketi (food market) that’s beginning to receive garden produce from the outer islands. Private cooking and catering for both local and non-local dishes are provided and taught by private sector operators.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

To address poverty Tuvalu needs further economic growth. GDP per capita has seen a lot of fluctuation in the last three decades. Owing to its small economy, any minor fluctuation could have a considerable impact on Tuvalu’s economy.

The most effective way to address poverty is for Tuvalu to focus on the creation of employment. However, Tuvalu has not been successful in this area. The employment to population ratio has seen continuous gradual decline in the last three decades, from 62% in 1991 to 55% in 2021, although there had been some positive signs in this area before the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities to generate and improve access to employment opportunities for young people are limited.

Tuvalu has a high unemployment rate. According to Tuvalu’s Population & Housing Mini-Census conducted in 2017, the total national unemployment rate is 28.5%, reduced from 39.6% in 2012. The unemployment rate for females is 30.4%; compared with 27.2% for males. It is worth noting that these figures cover only formal employment, excluding unpaid family workers, paid informal employment, and other remunerated or non-remunerated working occupations.

Based on standard definitions used globally, a WB estimate places Tuvalu’s overall unemployment rate at 8.5% in 2016, 4.6% for males, 16.2% for females, and 20.6% for youth.

However, for the period between 2015 and 2019, Tuvalu has experienced a sustained average economic growth of 4.4% per annum; the highest in the region, 2.7% higher than the world average. As a result, Tuvalu’s GDP per capita in 2019 was 24% higher than that in 2014.

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for planning, budgeting and aid coordination, as well as trade and business. It maintains discipline by the application of financial policies including the Public Reform Matrix (PRM) and the Medium-Term Financial Framework (MTFF). It is also
responsible for the mitigation of severe economic and financial crises both at home and abroad. It invests the country’s sovereign assets overseas as buffers to assist in financing the government’s annual budget deficits when this occurs. The Tuvalu Trust Fund (TTF) is one such investment. In general, it has provided a sustained flow of income which Tuvalu keeps in its Consolidated Investment Fund (CIF) and can draw-down from when needed.

A major responsibility of the Ministry of Finance is the maintenance of macroeconomic stability in the economy, which it does by maintaining fiscal balance in revenues and expenditure. This has been done successfully over the years, partly due to donors’ annual budget grant support. The continuity of this support is crucial for the maintenance of fiscal balance which prevents drawing down on the Consolidated Investment Fund. The capital budget is almost entirely funded from multilateral and bilateral aid although Tuvalu contributes to this as well. Overseas funding of rehabilitation and recovery from disasters also assists the country’s financial situation.

The Ministry of Finance makes efforts to provide a conducive business environment to encourage private sector growth and local exports while reducing reliance on imported food products. The private sector covering retail merchandise shops, lodging, restaurants, fish and processed fish, coconut and gardening products are all making reasonable progress in the past five years. Limited direct financing is provided by the government that prefers to provide credit lines to its Development Bank of Tuvalu (DBT), that lends onward to clients and borrowers. Both these Banks have substantial bad debt suggesting that the business environment is not too conducive to private sector growth. The far wealthier Tuvalu National Provident Fund (TNPF) provides loans for housing construction and medical treatment abroad for its members. There is no effort made to privatize government owned corporations and services.

Export production is not actively supported; a few containers of crushed beer cans by individuals together with the Waste Management project is all the effort done in this particular area.

A coconut replanting scheme is intended to support the growth of small-scale businesses producing exotic coconuts products and income for a large proportion of the population. The project is yet to start and is still at the preparatory stage of growing seedlings. A number of locations for replanting throughout Tuvalu are under consideration. Landowners need to lease several hundred acres of land for this purpose.

The agreements on Tuvalu’s sovereign assets and rentals with users is an area in Te Kete that is due for review. This includes the Tuvalu foreign fishing licenses, dot TV, Tuvalu owned Embassies and High Commission buildings on rent arrangements and other assets like the fishing vessel MV Taumoana that was recently sold for US$7 million.

The Te Kete also reflects the need for an effective national planning management framework at all levels of planning, implementation, assessment and reporting. While Tuvalu has had plans and strategies before, the VNR process has supported a comprehensive assessment of the depth of levels of planning reached and the reporting of the Te Kete work achieved, with elaborate stakeholder consultations throughout Tuvalu.

Official Development Assistance to Tuvalu has been increasing both in terms of value and as percentage of GDP. At the same time, and since 2013, ODA is provided increasingly in the form of Aid for Trade. Both the volume of Aid for Trade and the share of Aid for Trade in ODA have been increasing since 2013.

On the other hand, the Department of Labour continue to implement the Labour Mobility Scheme for not only individual families but Tuvalu as a whole. The Labour Mobility Scheme has helped boost up Tuvalu’s GDP in terms of remittances that the worker sends over to their families back home and has also helped individual families fulfil their dreams such as starting their own small family business, build their own house and support their children’s education, to name a few.

SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure
The Te Kete supports the growth of the private sector of Tuvalu, in recognition of the sector’s potential to create employment. There are a number of ways the government could further intervene to grow the sector.

Government is promoting the outsourcing of delivery of government services to the private sector, in an effort to boost private sector growth. Very few government services are as yet delivered by the private sector. A few private construction companies have won government contracts to build government residences, classrooms and clinics. The big contracts for airfields, airports, buildings and harbors are won by foreign companies that have sub-contracted parts of their work to local companies.

The Customs department embarked on an institutional strengthening and modernization project to deploy UNCTAD’s Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) with funding assistance from Australia and New Zealand in line with the PACER Plus Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme to increase the efficiency of the Customs cargo

Photo credits: Telieta Lusiane Finauga
clearance, minimize the risk of fraud, maximize revenue receipts, and facilitate trade. To address the issue of limited ICT resources and capacity in-country, the customs system and ICT infrastructure are remotely hosted in the UNCTAD regional office in Suva that Customs officers and the trade community could access wherever internet connectivity is available.

The project has facilitated closer cooperation with other government agencies, including the National Bureau of Statistics to provide regular trade data extraction from the customs system; the Price Control Department to mitigate price control mechanisms; and the Revenue Authority to automate the issuance of taxpayer identification numbers.

Training and provision of finances for private sector development have not been forthcoming. At least retail shops and supermarkets are considered capable of growth on their own without government intervention. Over $112,000 was received from the European International Fund for training and tourism activities in line with the national tourism policy.

SDG 14: Life below water
Although Tuvalu’s land area may be small, the country’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers more than 750,000 km2. Due to limited land size and poor soil quality, the marine biodiversity within the EEZ is of immense importance for food, livelihood, cultural and environmental security. It is the main local source of animal protein, shells for handicraft production and revenue from licensing agreements with foreign fishing nations. The Memorandum of Understanding between National Sun Yat-sen University and the Government of Tuvalu that is going to be signed would greatly assist with the preserving of the marine biodiversity. Exploitation at the local level is mainly for subsistence use, although there has been limited local commercial fishing of finfish and shellfish for local sale and small exports.

The Te Kete promotes the establishment of sustainable small-scale fisheries operations for income generation, food security and healthier diets, while providing employment and optimizing revenues from ocean fisheries.

The Fisheries Corporate Plan sets the operational objectives of the Department of Fisheries. The Government is making efforts to promote local sustainable commercial fisheries. A donor funded project (WB, NZ) supports the Department of Fisheries and its commercial arm, the NAFICOT, in procuring Japanese fishing boats and other equipment and tools for commercial fisheries.

The department also manages the fishing operations of foreign fishing nations in Tuvalu waters that has earned the country up to $75 million in its best year. However, in past three years it has earned the country an average of $40 million per year. Other programs support inshore or coastal fisheries, artisanal fisheries training, technical advice on conservation and protection, biodiversity development and provision of fishing gear and security equipment.

The National Fishing Corporation of Tuvalu (NAFICOT) had a joint-venture with a commercial company in Taiwan. The joint-venture fished commercially in the waters of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Tuvalu being a member of both organizations. The joint-venture owned a fishing vessel and sold catches to foreign commercial fish processing companies in Asia. Tuvalu received revenues in company tax and dividends amounting to $10 million over the years until the venture ceased due to legal complications with the other party in the joint-venture. Tuvalu sold the joint-venture fishing boat for US$7 million.

Tuvalu’s submarine ecosystem is home to some characteristic communities of phytoplankton (microalgae), zooplankton, seaweeds (macro-algae), corals, molluscs, crustaceans, other marine invertebrates, a rich finfish fauna, sea turtles and seabirds. Research suggests that the total number of reef and inshore fish species might approach 800; and the figure for total finfish species could be 900 or more, including deep-water and offshore species. Of these, about 500 species are recognised by name in Tuvalu.

Overfishing, coastal erosion, extreme weather and tidal events and climate change are the main drivers of the loss of biodiversity. As of 2020, 0.03% of marine areas were protected areas - a growth from 2018, when the extension of marine protected areas was a third, 212.5 km2.

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**Case Study – TAU-MAKETI**

TAU-MAKETI which literally translates to “your market”, is a monthly market arrangement that provides a platform for MSMEs and aspiring entrepreneurs to trade products and promote services on Funafuti. Encouraged by the prolonged COVID-19 and border restrictions, the TAU-MAKETI endeavors to provide a platform for businesses affected by COVID-19 to generate income on a monthly basis. This market arrangement started in October 2020, and in 2022, it has expanded to Nanumea and Vaitupu.

The traditional Tuvaluan society is subsistent by nature, and availing such platforms will encourage subsistent farmers, artisanal fishermen, women in handicraft to venture into semi-commercialized system by trading their surplus produce/catch.

**TAU-MAKETI** has the following objectives:

- To provide a platform that encourages entrepreneurship amongst potential business people including unemployed women and youths, MSMEs and local artists.
- To provide a platform for businesses affected by COVID-19 border restrictions.
- To strengthen private and public sector partnership in supporting MSMEs and domestic trade.
- Encourage smallholder farmers, artisanal fisherman, women in handicraft to increase food production and local crafts and tap into commercial ventures to meet the demand for local food and crafts.
- Foster competition, networking and a learning environment to improve the quality of local products.

Photo Credit: https://www.facebook.com/Tau-Maketi-10103250895459/
Tuvalu is a party to a number of global and regional treaties and arrangements for cooperation in the management of these shared resources, notably the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the Nauru Agreement, the Palau Arrangement, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention. It is an active member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC); the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA); and the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA); it also participates in the fisheries programs of the Pacific Community (SPC).

A hundred people are employed in the Fisheries department and the NAFICOT Corporation. Some 50 fishermen operate in the private sector. On the outer islands, fishing is a daily occupation but mostly for own consumption and sharing with neighbors. Tuvalu fishery has met the demand of the local market and makes an important contribution to the health and nutrition of Tuvaluans.

3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The goal of SPA3 is “Achieving a healthy, educated, appropriately skilled, spiritual and cultural value-based society this is committed, proactive and innovative.”

The three National Outcomes under this SPA are:
- Health and well-being improved;
- Quality education for sustainable living improved for all; and
- Civil Society, youth, women, men and people with disabilities participation improved.

In order to promote social development SPA3 focuses on health and well-being (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4) and participation of Civil Society, youth, women, men and people with disabilities (SDGs 5 and 10).

In the health sector the Te Kete aims to reduce the incidence of NCDs among Tuvaluans and for people to have improved secondary health care. As for education, it aims to have an appropriate curriculum fostering human quality, resourcefulness and productivity, with the national human resources needs well aligned with the education and training platforms. It also aims to have Civil Society and gender mainstreamed into the implementation framework of the plan, and have persons with disabilities, men and women actively engaged and benefiting simultaneously.
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
This SPA has a special focus on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The Ministry of Health’s National Health Strategic Plan 2020-2024 lays out comprehensively what will be done to reduce the incidence of NCDs, particularly hypertension and diabetes. Government spending on the aggregate overseas treatment of diabetics (dialysis) runs into tens of millions of dollars since the late 1980s when the first patient was evacuated overseas. There have been a lot of lives lost or limbs removed due to NCDs. The Health Department continues to raise awareness and organizes public workshops and campaigns against smoking, alcohol consumption and the need to exercise and eat nutritious food. Alcohol consumption per capita per year for 15 years and older, was 1.3 liters of pure alcohol in 2019 according to ESCAP SDG Indicator Data. In data obtained in 2019, there were 82.2% of women and 51.2% of men aged 15 to 49 years who did not smoke cigarettes or any other smoked tobacco product during the last one month.

Tuvalu has low child malnutrition with one of the lowest childhood stunting rates in the Pacific islands at 5.7%. Child obesity, wasting, and overweight prevalence is also low at 2.8% and 4.2% respectively. However, rates of obesity and associated non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a significant public health concern for the adult population. Among adults aged 18–69 years, it is estimated that 55.2% of males and 70.7% of females are obese. Adolescent overweight is estimated at 58%, noting the absence of physical education in schools.

Public spending on health is the highest among Pacific island countries. The budgetary impact of the referral scheme of cases abroad is significant. Health national capacities and emergency preparedness have been declining. The strength and capability of the Health service is sometimes estimated at 58%, noting the absence of physical education in schools.

To address the improvement in the quality of curative or secondary health care, the on-going developments in these branches of the Health ministry include training health professionals abroad, the provision of supplies and equipment and raising public awareness through campaigns and workshops. Mental health is also to be improved by working in partnership with relevant stakeholders inside and outside Tuvalu.

Tuvalu has made progress in improving the health and well-being of children. While the SDG target for neonatal mortality was achieved, the target for under-five mortality has yet to be reached. The latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) indicated a reduction in neonatal mortality to 8 per 1,000 live births, while under-five mortality was estimated at 30 per 1,000 live births (from a previous estimate of 25). Among all live births with reported birth weights, 3.9% were considered overweight, which is low by Pacific island country standards. Adolescent mortality is estimated at 7.07. Mortality rates are higher among children from the poorest 40% of households.

Tuvalu’s maternal mortality rate is zero, a figure that needs to be interpreted with caution, given the small number of vital events in Tuvalu. Antenatal coverage with 4 visits is estimated at 60.3% while 99.5% of deliveries were attended by a skilled attendant, which indicates near universal coverage. Tuvalu’s total fertility rate is estimated at 3.3. Adolescent birth rates are the third lowest in the Pacific, estimated at 28 per 1,000 women aged 15-19.

Tuvalu has a moderate coverage for all recommended vaccines, estimated at 68.3% and 64.9% for children 12-23 months and 24-35 months respectively. In 2019, Tuvalu met global targets for the proportion of children aged 12-23 months vaccinated for Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) estimated at 99%, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) was at 92% while measles containing vaccine (MCV2) was estimated at 92%. Tuvalu is one of a growing number of Pacific island countries that has introduced new vaccines, specifically Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Pneumococcal (PCV) and Rotavirus.

Roughly 55% of caregivers sought care from a health provider for children with diarrhea, and while most received an Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), less than 5% received the recommended treatment of both ORS and zinc. Only a quarter of newborns did not receive any post-natal care visit and 40% of mothers did not receive any postnatal care visit. Newborns of

MICS 2019/2020
mothers who were less than 20 years of age were slightly less likely to receive a postnatal visit. Another issue of concern is the increase of Tuberculosis incidence from 205 per 100,000 in 2016 to 296 per 100,000 populations in 2019. This may indicate the existence of underlying issues in the health system, specifically regarding health education. At 43.8%, the exclusive breastfeeding prevalence is one of the lowest in the PICT region while early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of giving birth occurs among only 39.2% of mothers.

Should a COVID-19 outbreak occur, impacts could be severe due to Tuvalu’s isolation, health system constraints and high rates of non-communicable diseases and co-morbidities. Recognizing this risk, the Government of Tuvalu declared a national emergency on 20 March 2020 and locked down its borders. A National COVID-19 Taskforce undertook a full assessment and developed Tuvalu’s Talaaliki Plan (worst case scenario) to provide a ‘blueprint for action’. As a result, Tuvalu has had no cases of COVID-19 as of April 2022, reported to WHO. As of 4 April 2022, a total of 12,528 vaccine doses had been administered (WHO data).

This SPA also encourages greater use of traditional medicine and healing.

SDG 4: Quality Education

Tuvalu’s Te Kete identifies improved quality education for sustainable living as a national development priority, which aligns with SDG 4. It proposes a number of strategic actions to achieve this goal, including reforming the school curriculum, aligning education and training policies with human development priorities and providing quality education and learning.

Curriculum for upper primary school and secondary levels was reformed in 2014 following the launching of the Tuvalu National Curriculum Policy Framework. Work on the review of the curriculum will start in 2022 under the TuLEP program, funded by World Bank. A World Bank team also appraised the education system and produced, amongst other important pieces of advice, a national Reading project that’s now running in the country.

The Tuvaluan Government has allocated a significant proportion of its budget to education. In 2016, Government expenditure on education amounted to 20% of its GDP, the highest in the region – bolstered by a scholarship abroad scheme. However, Tuvalu seems to have regressed in achieving quality education for all. School enrollment rates in ECCE, primary education, and secondary education have all been declining since 2015, while the number of school drop-outs has been rising. In view of contradictory datasets on education performance, the Assessment has opted for UNESCO data which contain consistent historical series and sets.

According to data from UNESCO\(^2\), gross school enrollment rates and net school enrollment rates are on the decline, as evidenced in the following table.

![Table: GER and NER by education level by year](https://example.com/table.png)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education level</th>
<th>Gross enrollment rates (%)</th>
<th>Net enrollment rates (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-primary</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>85.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>62.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most recent MICS has also confirmed that enrollment rates in various education levels and grades have declined. It shows that in 2019, 73% of 3-5 year-old children attended pre-primary education and 77% attended school in the year prior to primary education; 82.1% of the primary school aged children are in school, while 17.9% are out of school; 78% of the lower secondary school aged children are in school, 22% are out of school; 47.5% of upper secondary school aged children are in school, while 52.5% are out of school. The number of school dropouts has been rising. The number of out of school children (in absolute numbers) increased from 131 in 2014 to 273 in 2020 and the number of out of school adolescents increased from 164 in 2014 to 327 in 2020.

Teaching quality at preschool level is also a concern. At the pre-primary level, the 2016 Tuvalu early Human Capability Index (Tu-eHCI) suggests that preschools were failing to have their intended effect on the preparedness of children for primary school education. There has been an increase in the completion rate for lower secondary education. According to the MICS report, the completion rate for 2021 was 88.5%, higher than the 61.1% reported previously. Tuvalu has a relatively high human capital, with nearly universal adult literacy in the English language. Tuvalu’s male literacy rate was 96.2% while female literacy rate was 98.3% in 2019.

The quality of educational facilities also needs to be improved. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports indicate that all schools have access to electricity except for primary schools for both Niulakita (which uses solar) and Nukufetau, which will have full access to electricity when the Nukufetau classroom project is completed in 2022. Although all schools now have full access to internet through the TuLEP project, only half of them have basic drinking water (50% in 2019). In response to COVID-19 global pandemic and to enhance resilience in education systems, Tuvalu took part in the regional learning management platform (Waka Moana) development and developed online and offline resources for teaching Year 7, which can be expanded further.

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\(^2\) https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/tv (accessed 18 May 2022)
Tuvalu First Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2022

The Republic of China (Taiwan) tries to reduce the digital gap and assist the construction of the ICT capacity in Tuvalu, therefore, Taiwan Digital Opportunity Center (TDOC) is established under the Tuvalu Atoll Science Technology Training Institute (TASTTI) in 2020. Also, the 4G/LTE deployment project covering Funafuti and all outer islands will benefit education in Tuvalu.

The provision of quality teaching and learning is required by the Education Ministry. To address this, teachers and administrators are evaluated and awarded salary increments for successful achievements of ‘excellence’. Staff evaluation reports are dutifully done each year but the process needs improvement.

Data on literacy and numeracy suggest that 54.8% of the 7 to 14-year-old students who attended the test were able to read and 38.9% managed to complete the numeracy tasks. The completion rate in Primary schools was 99.1%, Lower Secondary schools 88.5% and upper Secondary school 43.4%. It was found by the MICS that 68.6% of children 24 to 59 months old were developmentally on track in health, learning and psychological wellbeing in 2019.

Tuvalu has a high youth unemployment rate. One reason for this is that secondary school education insufficiently prepares the graduate transition into active work life, compounded by the lack of opportunities in the narrow national labor market. The education system may need to revisit and reform the current curriculum to facilitate school graduates’ transition with those skills currently in-demand in the local and international labor markets. Very little data is available on Tuvalu students obtaining higher education. UNESCO data indicates that in 2018, there were 440 outbound students, i.e. those who study overseas.

Efforts are being made to align national education and training to national human resources development priorities. This important work is done through the national planning system where the GAC receives and advises, where necessary, on the alignment of performance with policy.

A more exciting key strategic action, also linked to SPA 1 Enabling Environment, addresses the provision of e-learning through the internet. The Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports with the assistance of the Ministry of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs, had installed Kaicific satellite dishes on each school. Moreover, the Education Department, with the assistance from development partners, is now in the process of developing e-learning platforms, whereby students can use for learning.

This SPA also recommends the development of a framework for strengthening the Tuvaluan language. The plan is yet to be developed and requires the revival of the Tuvaluan Language Board that was established 40 years ago when Tuvalu seceded from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony.

**SDG 5: Gender Equality**

Women are increasingly active in development activities. They are well organized, have their own registered national women’s association and their institutions are recognised by governments and other countries with whom they collaborate, particularly with their counterpart organizations. Women’s institutions are as old as the culture of Tuvalu itself. After the country’s political independence in 1978 a Department for Women was set up in the Ministry of Social Service later to become the Secretariat to the national Tuvalu National Council of Women (TNCW) that was also incorporated as a Charity. It sets the policy, work plan and constitution of the TNCW that the eight island councils follow. Funding of its programs is provided by donors and international women’s organizations.

Only 1 out of a total of 16 (6.25%) Members of Parliament is a woman. Increasing women’s political empowerment and leadership continues to be a challenge as according to tradition men are viewed as being in charge of decision-making in public affairs and women are discouraged from participating as their role is viewed according to traditional parameters as running the household and raising children. Additionally, systematic barriers and negative cultural attitudes, the lack of an adequate quota system, insufficient capacity-building for potential women candidates, limited financial resources, and the lack of logistical support impede the equal participation of women in political life.

Approximately 36% of managerial positions in the country were held by women in 2016. Gender ratios in a lot of areas have grown in favor of females. In schools, girls perform better than boys even at the end of secondary schools and university. In the Public Service there are more females than males. The MICS shows that of those who started their studies at the University of the South Pacific in a typical year, 80% of them finished, with 16% being males and 64% females. Those who dropped out of the USP are more likely to be in the poorer 40% of the population.

While women tend to have higher levels of education and a resulting higher human capital, this has not translated into employment equality or quality employment for women. There are still significant gender gaps in labor force participation, with women engaging mainly in unpaid informal household economic activities. In 2017, 58.5% of Males aged 15 and older are in the labor force, while only 39.7% of Females aged 15 and older are ready to work outside the home or the family household. Compared with the figures of 2002 (last full population census), the female labor force participation rate has declined by 7.3% from 47% that year.

Equal access to information is one of the key areas for women’s empowerment. The most recent MICS shows that there are digital gaps between men and women. Women are less frequent mobile phone owners and use digital devices less frequently. According to the MICS, 77.8% women aged between 15 and 49 owned a mobile phone, 5% less than men; 70.5% of women had used a mobile phone during the 3 months prior to the survey, 18% less than men; 65.6% of women used Internet at least once a week during the 3 months prior to the survey, 7% less than men; 65.6% of women used Internet at least once a week during the 3 months prior to the survey, 7% less than men.

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26 Inter-Parliamentary Union. 2021. https://data.ipu.org/content/tuvalu?chamber_id=13549

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Photo credit: rthur Edwards/The Sun | Credit: PA Wire/Press Association Copyright: Arthur Edwards/Press Association / Milestone Media | Photo Credit: Source: Pool/Getty Images AsiaPac
Gender equality and equity both influence the women’s policy and implementation of women programs and projects. A problem that has been fundamental to the adoption of women’s rights in Tuvalu is the equality and rights of women in the affairs of the islands and state. While there are no laws at the moment against the equality of women and men, there is in practice a sizable opposition by both men and women also, to gender equality.

A significant proportion of women are still subject to various forms of violence. According to the MICS, 36.1% of women aged 15-49 years old surveyed in 2019 had experienced physical violence since the age of 15. This represents a slight increase from the 37% reported in the 2007 DHS study. The MICS 2019 also reported that 6.6% and 5.4% of women aged between 15 and 49 have experienced physical and sexual violence during the 12 months prior to the survey in 2019.

Violence against women is a crime and the government and Tuvalu communities strongly advocate against it. The right of husbands in domestic affairs does not include undue physical or psychological violence against his partner and offspring. The Judiciary and the Police in Tuvalu are fully aware of the extent of the domestic rights of married couples and partners. Data from MICS confirms that there is indeed domestic violence against women in the country. This state of affairs is alarming and all of society should begin to plan a comprehensive campaign to reverse the problem.

**Case Study – Addressing Domestic Violence**

In order to address the complex and sensitive issue of domestic violence, Tuvalu Women for Change and Tuvalu Red Cross joined forces to establish the Faka-Laafia (Tuvaluan for “place of refuge”) Network, which uses valuable partnerships to create a reliable referral system with community-based access points for survivors of domestic violence. The Faka-Laafia Network, which presently includes 12 NGOs, will focus on increasing access to essential services for survivors of domestic violence by providing a referral pathway to the Government service providers. They also aim to boost prevention efforts by promoting public awareness on the impacts of domestic violence on the lives of its survivors, especially women and children.

Tuvalu Women for Change also recently completed a rapid assessment on Tuvalu’s response to domestic violence, which highlighted a gap in coordination between Government, NGOs, and community-based service providers, thereby hindering the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and response. The Faka-Laafia Network then seeks to complement the work of Government service providers by coordinating them with the NGO members and volunteers of the network, who are being trained to be first responders, case workers, and counsellors.

Additional contributions to counter domestic violence came from Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, which trained 20 volunteer counsellors and mentored on self-care and basic counselling skills including for gender-based violence. More sexual and reproductive health services are available in rural and remote areas with an expansion of outreach clinics by the Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) including through peer volunteers. Tuvaluans in outer islands learn about TuFHA’s services and outreach schedules through radio broadcasts. TuFHA is also a member of the Faka-Laafia Network and the Tuvalu National Advisory Committee for Children’s Rights, which successfully pushed for legislative amendment repealing corporal punishment in schools in 2017.

**SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

Tuvalu may have the highest household income inequality among Pacific island countries. According to Tuvalu’s HIES 2015/16, Tuvalu’s household income inequality has been increasing. Its Gini index has increased from 39.1% in 2010 to 43.0% in 2015, even though the percentage of population living below the national poverty line remains around 26%.

This high level of inequality is also reflected in the percentage of the population who felt that they had been discriminated against. According to the MICS, a third of the women and men aged between 15 and 40 felt that they had been discriminated against.

Every island and the eight island communities on Funafuti have several youth groups. Funafuti island has three or four youth groups according to their religious denominations that have chosen Funafuti island as the headquarter for their church. The rest of the seven outer island communities on Funafuti have their own youth group as do the youth on the seven outer islands. Youth and Sports on each island are the Falekaupule’s responsibilities, as are the Women’s Committees, Dancing Groups, Fishermen Groups and the incorporated companies and bodies owned by the Falekaupule.

The Department of Youth and Sports in the Ministry of Education plans and implements all Youth and Sports programs and budgets and accounts to the National Youth and Sports Council (NYSC) and their Minister. Participation in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, South Pacific Games, and Paralympics is organized by the Ministry and NYSC. The Ministry for Youth and Sports is yet to develop a master plan to advance to the next step the training of youth for careers in professional sports, as is required by the Te Kete.
The Te Kete is supportive of persons with disabilities to be actively engaged in the development effort so they can benefit from it with interventions at the policy level and at the regulatory level. The Building Code requires public buildings to have wheelchair access and other amenities that are accessible to those using wheelchairs.

Te Kete Strategic Priority Area 4: Island and Culture Development

The Te Kete Strategic Priority Area 4: Island and Culture Development is focused on building vibrant and resilient island communities enhanced by the protection and promotion of our unique cultural heritage for sustainable livelihoods. The four National Outcomes under this SPA are:

- National Outcome 3: Capacity and resilience of Falekaupule increased
- National Outcome 14: A devolution policy framework improved
- National Outcome 15: Culture and traditional knowledge enhanced
- National Outcome 16: Traditional economic model of reciprocity and distribution of wealth strengthened

The goal of SPA4 is “Building vibrant and resilient island communities enhanced by the protection and promotion of our unique cultural heritage for sustainable livelihoods.”

The four National Outcomes under this SPA are:
- Capacity and resilience of Falekaupule increased;
- A devolution policy framework improved;
- Culture and traditional knowledge enhanced; and
- Traditional economic model of reciprocity and distribution of wealth strengthened.

This SPA has a strong focus on culture. Culture and tradition are important aspects of Pacific lives. Culture is a living phenomenon that society does almost unconsciously. The way the island speaks, language, dancing, singing, plaiting garlands, weaving mats, making canoes, te lima (self-defense), mulivaka (art of fishing), cutting toddy and all the other things that make one island different from the other seven islands of Tuvalu constitutes culture and traditional knowledge.

The outcomes of this SPA require focus on culture (SDG 11) and land (SDG 15), considering the limited amount of land on these islands and the close link of Tuvaluan culture to its land. Added attention needs to be given to Climate Change (SDG 13) seeing the impact that climate change is having on the land systems of these island atolls.
Thus SPA4 incorporates elements of SDGs 11, 13 and 15.

Figure 18: Progress against selected SDG indicators, SPA4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Target 2030</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.1.1 Forest area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.2.1 Prevention and control of invasive alien species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.3.1 SDG for biodiversity (SDG and DAC members)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5.1 Fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5.2 Food and nutrition security</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The SDGs Target 11.4 focuses on the strengthening of efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.

In order to better protect the islands, the Te Kete proposes improvement of the traditional Falekaupule governing organizational structure. The Falekaupule’s current structure is defined by the Falekaupule Act 1997. The traditional organization structure was changed by the 1997 Act because it was no longer functional in the context of governing the islands in the late 20th Century. Any restructure would need an amendment to the legislation. This falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

The working relationship between the local government and its working arm (the Secretariat of the Falekaupule) has been turbulent for a good part of the last 40 years. The powers provided in the Act for each of the two institutions are quite clear but the issues relate to the transition of these institutions from English law (as a former British colony) to Tuvaluan law. The Secretariat of the Falekaupule consists of young and educated officials while the Falekaupule consists of older and more experienced members governing the islands. Conflict has occurred on every island, in some cases more than once. The responsibility for addressing such conflict is provided in the legislation and several Ministers have successfully restored order in the past. This Ministry has ongoing programs that support the operations of all local governments. It carries out appraisals on the functionality of local government organizations and institutions and takes appropriate actions to remedy and improve the work of local government.

The Tuvaluan government is also aiming for the development and implementation of a decentralization policy framework. The status of devolution (the sharing of legal authority) to the local governments in the country is in the Falekaupule Act 1997 and its amendments. The powers or authority that was parted to the local governments are (1) the authority to make its own bye laws and (2) the power to make its own Budget. Both still need to be checked by the Attorney General for consistency with other national laws and then approved by the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD). As early as 1980 a decision was made to share out some of the government ministries. Agriculture technical staff was transferred to Vaitupu followed by a branch of the Education directorate also to Vaitupu. Education came back after less than a year and agricultural research has remained there to this day. Today, decentralization of services and big projects like harbors and airfields have achieved a lot despite the lack of a decentralization policy framework. Other services like electricity, internet and mobile phones have all established themselves in the outer islands. This latter form of decentralization is in line with the meaning of this process, which decentralizes to more than one station, unlike the sharing to Vaitupu only in the 1980s.

Despite the progress that has been achieved without a proper framework, the Ministry of Finance and Planning may wish to develop the Decentralization Framework in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government. It will make for a clear view of where Tuvalu has been and will be heading in the future in its decentralization efforts.

This SPA calls for the equitable distribution of resources to all the islands in accordance with the traditional sharing norms of Tuvalu. Each island has its own custom of sharing its resources typically of fish, root crops, coconuts and gifts or donations of merchandise goods. The islands are continuing to apply their customary way of sharing resources even to financial grants from the national government for island projects of choice. A recent policy established a subvention grant for members of parliament to use on island projects that are approved by the Falekaupule. Usage has included the construction of family homes, grants to commercial companies owned by the local government, purchase of water tanks and boats for families and other items for the islands organizations like youth and sports, women and training awards.

This body of cultural knowledge needs to be recorded and documented. The National Archive holds some of the documents recorded in the 19th and 20th Century about the culture of Tuvalu at that time. The National Archive can develop a project to record the present day culture and knowledge of Tuvaluans in the 21st century thus far. A National Archive Committee in collaboration with GAC can organize the practice of selected cultures and knowledge for national implementation, mindful of course, of the island culture.

SDG 13: Climate Action

Tuvalu consists of eight small low-lying atoll islands. These islands are extremely vulnerable to climate change, particularly sea-level rise. Rising sea water is not only eroding the coast line but also seeping through the ground. This impacts the ability of the country to have any form of agriculture and calls for more resilient infrastructure. Adding climate change to the other pressures on land, such as high population density on some of the islands, and a mounting waste problem, requires the implementation of customized solutions. With the threat of sea-level rise, Tuvalu faces the risk of being completely submerged under water, with the loss of their land and all that lives on it, unless the world takes urgent steps to limit GHG emissions. This would displace thousands of Tuvaluans from their homeland, undoubtedly impacting their sense of identity and the continuation of Tuvaluan culture.

Photo Credit: https://www.pinterest.com/pin/529313762424847340/
The Tuvalu Association of NGOs have expressed their support to the concept of “Toku fenua, toku tofi – MY ISLAND, MY BIRTHRIGHT” to stand up and protect Tuvalu for the next generation from displacement or relocation.

Of course there are other reasons why Tuvaluans migrate, besides Climate Change impacts. They migrate internally and overseas in search of well-paid jobs to support their families and to provide better education for their children. Other people have migrated so that they can access a better health system.

Climate Change has also been discussed elsewhere in this document.

**Case Study – Climate Change Views of the People**

Comments received in Funafuti and Vaitupu on the issue of Climate Change Displacement and migration:

- We are not moving; we will die on our land no matter what happens in the future
- We will move to Kioa in Fiji if the impacts of Climate Change are getting worse
- We believe in adaptation, NOT migration
- We cannot move to other countries because we are connected to our land
- NZ is the best place to move as there are many Tuvaluans there
- We are facing difficulties in accessing the PAC (People with Disabilities)
- We wanted the government to bring in more projects that we can build our island to be more climate resilient
- The development of policies and plans about climate change mobility should consider disabilities at all levels
- Most of our land areas, especially those areas on the coastline, have been washed away by big waves during tropical cyclones;
- Many of the families were displaced during cyclone seasons.

**SDG 15: Life on Land**

Due to the limited land size with a land area of only 26 km², there are extreme pressures on the available land. This is particularly pronounced in Funafuti, the capital. Being the seat of government and the commercial center, this island attracts residents from the other island atolls.

The Te Kete stresses the importance of safeguarding Tuvaluan culture and tradition which are closely linked to the land. It has identified maintaining Tuvalu’s pristine and clean islands and strengthening land management and development as two key outcomes. Tuvalu has a third of its land area covered by forest. As a small island country, with limited land and the poorest substrates and soils of the world, balancing the demand for land for economic activities and avoiding pollution and degradation is a complex equation, especially under the threat of sea-level rise.

Recognition needs to be given that Tuvalu is also home to 362 species of vascular plants, 59 species of which are indigenous, 28 species of indigenous birds, indigenous land mammals, amphibians or freshwater fishes, and terrestrial invertebrate. Tuvalu also has some unique terrestrial ecosystems and vegetation. Tuvalu is experiencing an increasing loss of species diversity and declining population levels of some important species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List Index has decreased from 0.848 in 2015 to 0.827 in 2021. This indicates a slight increase in the risk of extinction across species. The main interventions to maintain biodiversity ecosystems are to implement enforceable conservation and restoration practices, such as terrestrial protected areas, and to enhance national awareness through education programs. Less than 2% of the land area is currently declared as protected.

The government also has plans for land reclamation and coastal protection, implementation of which has also started and was expected to be finished in 3 to 4 years.
Te Kete Strategic Priority Area 5: Infrastructure Development

The goal of SPA5 is “The physical infrastructure required to establish an enabling infrastructure that contributes to the resilience of our people from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters is established.”

SPA5 aims to create climate resilient infrastructure that serves the people of Tuvalu. The four National Outcomes under this SPA are:

- Resilient housing and national building facilities upgraded;
- Improve shipping, networking and harbor facilities;
- Quality and affordable energy supply; and
- Access to clean water and sanitation achieved.

SPA5 thus aims for more resilient infrastructure (SDG 9), improved transport (SDG 11), access to clean energy (SDG 7) and clean water and sanitation (SDG 6).

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Tuvalu has achieved near universal access to improved water services. The proportion of the population using basic drinking water services was 99.3% in 2017. Improved drinking water sources can reduce the risk of acquiring waterborne infections. While many types of sources fall into this category, the main focus is ensuring that the water comes from a known, uncontaminated origin, and is transported to the household in a way that ensures it is always safe and available.

Tuvalu has also achieved a comparatively high level of access to basic sanitation services, at 82.3% of the population. Safely managed sanitation is defined as use of at least a basic sanitation facility and a handwashing facility with soap and water, which is not shared with other households, and where excreta are treated safely either on-site or off-site.

However, the main challenge for Tuvalu is the access to safely managed water and sanitation services. Safely managed services include basic water sources located on the premises, available when needed, and free of fecal and priority chemical contamination. Currently only 5% of the population has access to safely managed drinking water and 12.3% has access to safely managed sanitation services. Open defecation is a frequent practice.

Inadequately managed and treated water and sanitation is a leading cause of waterborne disease. Inadequately treated sanitation also contaminated surface water and the environment. Access to clean water and sanitation has been identified as a national development priority in Tuvalu’s Te Kete. A number of actions have been proposed, including building water storage capacity, increasing access to clean water supply and education on hygienic practices.

Greater access to clean drinking water continues to be emphasized, as is the importance of complying with Acceptable Drinking Water Standards. The required update on the Tuvalu National Water and Sanitation Policy is in progress.

Water storage capacity on Funafuti has not increased even though the procurement of two desalination plants assisted in meeting the demand for water. This is due to the overcrowding on the capital. On Vaitupu, the two natural water ponds in the North have been rehabilitated and some 40,000 liters are pumped daily to the main village. On the other outer islands, community water storage cisterns are available, but more need to be constructed.

The presence of a hand-washing facility with soap and water on premises has been identified as the priority indicator for the global monitoring of hygiene under the SDGs. With the impact of COVID-19, the importance of this facility has been recognised globally. Households that have a facility but lack water or soap are classified as having a limited facility and distinguished from households that have no facility at all. According to MICS, 98% of the households in Tuvalu have handwashing facilities and have both water and soap available in their houses.

Education programs on hygiene and sanitation are ongoing to help foster healthy homes and cleanliness throughout the islands.

**SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy**

Tuvalu has made progress in ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Since 2017, 100% of the population have had access to and pay for their electricity consumption, from 94.6% in 2002. At the same time, it has increased the usage of clean fuels and technologies. According to the MICS 2019-20, 89.7% of the population were primarily reliant on clean fuels and technologies for cooking, nearly 41% more than the 48.5% in 2015. Due to the introduction of clean fuels and technologies, the share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption increased to 13.5% in 2017 from 0% in 2011.

The efficiency of energy usage has declined. Data from the UN Statistics Division suggest that the level of primary energy intensity increased from 3.4 megajoules per dollar of GDP in constant 2011 PPP in 2000 to 3.7 megajoules per dollar of GDP in constant 2011 PPP in 2017.

The 2009 Tuvalu National Energy Policy (TNEP) recognises the link between energy and the environment and the importance of renewable energy resources for Tuvalu. It aimed to have electricity generated through 100% renewables by 2020, which has not been achieved.

In its Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Tuvalu committed itself to a reduction of GHG emissions from the electricity generation sector, by 100%, to almost zero by 2025. Tuvalu’s indicative quantified economy-wide target for a reduction in total emissions of GHGs from the entire sector was targeted to 60% below 2010 levels by 2025. Tuvalu’s renewable energy relies exclusively on solar energy. The country requires additional support to achieve this target by 2025.

An assessment of an appropriate energy mix through research, collaboration and partnership required in the Te Kete has not been completed yet. The Department of Energy is continuing to make the assessment. Efforts to reduce dependence on costly fuel imports are ongoing and the switch to solar and other renewable energy sources continues.

Since 2014, international development partners have provided a total of US$21.62M ODA to Tuvalu’s energy sector, of which US$21.35M were invested on renewable energies. Some prominent projects include the Tuvalu Renewable Energy Projects (TREP) funded by the New Zealand Government and the 350 kw Solar Power Projects funded by UAE’s Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

In 2018, a project funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (a facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation) managed by UNDP through UNOSSC was...
established on the implementation of solar home systems at Funaoa islet (Nukufetau atoll). The project focuses on installing stand-alone photovoltaic solar home systems that will provide reliable, high quality, cost-effective and environmentally friendly 24-hour power supply to 5% of the Nukufetau population.

The expected short-term development change is household and community access to modern energy services on Funaoa islet and local capacity established to operate and maintain the photovoltaic solar home systems including operational photovoltaic based telecommunication systems on Funaoa and Savave islets. The benefits associated with the 24-hour power supply includes 1) food security – foods can be refrigerated for future use; 2) education and productivity improvements - children are able to use computers and have light available in the evenings to study and read books; 3) health benefits – vaccines and medicines are stored at appropriate temperature. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2022. 31

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The SDG Target 9.1 aims to develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

The Public Works Department (PWD) has a long term plan to build national buildings and will start as soon as finance is available. Funds from the World Bank, Australia and New Zealand enabled the construction of the Convention Center, International Airport and the upgrading of the airfield. Boat harbors on all the islands are also funded by the World Bank. Also the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has availed funds for land reclamation and coastal protection on the islands. Government has also set aside funds to start work on airfields construction and the purchase of aircraft to start a domestic Air Service.

House construction is ongoing by PWD and the local government of Nufuati with well over 80 houses completed and occupied by civil servants. Many private homes have also been built and occupied. However, the demand for housing is high. The Building Code is still to become law but PWD construction has complied with the cyclone-proofing standards in the Code. The construction of classrooms and clinics together with housing for staff in the outer islands has been built as the programme continues with its implementation.

The maintenance of major infrastructure and the building and the housing programme was a big component of the Government's annual budget. The fiscal balance is possible thanks to donors' generous budget support grants. Government needs to develop a financial strategy for the sustainable maintenance of its capital projects.

Another requirement in this SPA is the development of a Master Plan for sports facilities in Tuvalu. Designs are completed for the construction of sports facilities including stadiums, a gymnasium and sports equipment, with construction to begin soon.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) is yet to be adopted and implemented to maximize the use of limited land resources.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The population of those living in urban areas has increased over the past two decades. Between 2000 and 2020, the proportion of people living in urban areas has increased from 46% to 64%.

Waste management has been identified as a national priority in Tuvalu. ADB research carried out in 2014 highlighted that there were significant problems in this area, including limited landmass available for storing waste and Tuvalu’s geographical isolation, making it more expensive to ship recyclable materials for processing. The ADB report also highlighted the lack of a solid waste management policy, the absence of improved waste management services and gaps in education about waste management, as well as in the enforcement of any regulations. Littering, illegal dumping and burning of waste remain a problem which needs to be addressed.32

The Government has taken steps to remedy these issues with the implementation of the 2017-2026 Waste Policy and Action Plan, with the vision of having “A Cleaner and Healthier Tuvalu for today and future generations”. The 2019 Annual Review of the plan shows evidence of “significant progress”. For example, in the review of existing waste-related legislation and the merger of waste-related legislation into a single Act, as well as the development of specific regulations to support strict enforcement of the new waste legislation, the allocation of a reasonable budget for waste services, and the implementation of public awareness programs involving communities and schools in all waste service areas in the Tuvaluan language. There has been a 50% reduction of occupational and public health and safety incidents and 100% coverage of collection in the main island and at least 80% coverage of collection in the outer islands. There are also ongoing explorations and participation in information exchange programs on waste management best practices with other countries within and outside the region.

The SDG Target 11.2 aims to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, by 2030.

With Tuvalu being an archipelago, its focus needs to be on maritime transport. People living in outer islands have expressed a need for more frequent shipping services for both passengers and cargo.

Tuvalu is implementing a big infrastructure programme in this area involving harbor construction in all the outer islands, airfields and airport for domestic air services, and improvement in the management-for-efficiency of international air and sea links. One harbor and two airfields are already completed and work on two more airfields have started.

Tuvalu is also in the process of improving the quality of its roads on Funaoa. This maintenance costs $50,000 per year. There are also plans to upgrade and have a tar sealed road to Motufoua Secondary School on Vaitupu.

31 Information provided by the Pacific Office of the United Nations Office for South South Cooperation.

As many countries begin to accept the COVID pandemic as normal, Tuvalu just has 3 positive cases (at the time this report was produced), which the government have isolated until they recover as part of the security and protection measures instituted as defense against the virus. The country is still in lock-down mode because local governments have opposed the government’s attempt to reduce the lock-down from 14 days to 3 days. Outer islands have also demanded vaccination certificates from visitors to their islands.

Tuvalu has achieved a high rate of vaccination, with an estimated 89% of the population aged 18 years and over having received two vaccine doses.

Figure 21: Covid vaccination rate

The restrictions on movement have impacted economic and social development and indeed the transport of goods and services from overseas that this acutely import-dependent country needs. Import prices have soared driving a lot of families below the poverty line which according to ESCAP statistics affected 28% of the population in 2010. In absolute terms, half the country’s population could be below the poverty line, triggering a lot of negative multiplier effects in the economy and community life.

Secondly, an emerging challenge is the digital transformation that was noticeably accelerating prior to and post COVID-19 impacts, as an increasing number of people, especially the Government, have now mostly placed digital strategies at the heart of most policy agendas. Surging demand for bandwidth-intensive communication services for teleworking, online social activities and increased cross-border collaboration by the government and academics spurred further progress. Today’s heavy reliance on digital solutions has also added urgency to concerns around imposing stricter privacy and security measures as this emerging challenge possibly creates a fertile environment for cybercriminals.

Gaps in internet access or usage due to age or income level mean uneven access to public information and services, especially critical during a pandemic. In the not so distant and likely future where jobs, education, healthcare and even social interactions will largely depend on digital
technologies, failing to ensure widespread digital access risks deepening inequalities and may also hinder countries’ efforts to emerge stronger from the pandemic.

Climate change and perennial disasters have also aggravated the challenges facing people. Impacts work through the economic and social linkages in the community and deliver their dreaded result on the consumer.

The new normal of living with the COVID pandemic will be harder for most people. There will be more poor people for the government to cater to. Domestic relations will be more stressful and food prices will be beyond the purchasing power of many people. The supermarkets’ sales will drop as well as profits. Hotels and restaurants have already declined because visitors, stopped by the COVID lock-downs, have not visited in the last 2 years.

One unintended result of the COVID pandemic is the switch to the development of food security; the local production of food is compelled by the lack of options feeding the majority of people in the country. It is important to ensure that prices of local produce are kept within the purchasing capacity of the poor, by government subsidy and price-control powers of the Minister of Finance.

FINANCING AND MONITORING THE SDGs AND TE KETE

Photo Credit: https://english.president.gov.tw/News/5273nd
SDGs will continue to be implemented in Tuvalu through the Te Kete. This means that stakeholders of Te Kete and SDGs including the ministries and departments of government, NGOs, business sector and local governments are SDG implementers. The full working relationship amongst stakeholders needs to be better understood, hence the planning function will address this challenge by, amongst other duties, consider setting up a National Planning Council (NFC) with the membership representing all the SDGs and Te Kete stakeholders. The NFC is not a rival but a complement to GAC as it will allow a greater degree of transparency, inclusivity and accountability at the policy advisory level especially with information that sometimes does not get through to GAC.

Other elements in implementing the Te Kete and SDGs, with an array of challenges, include the following;

**i) Monitoring the SDGs and Te Kete**

The development of the National Indicator Framework (NIF) is one of the challenges faced by the Tuvalu VNR Team. Te Kete itself have their proposed indicators for their respective activities with further alignment of these National Indicators from the NIF to the SDG Indicators required, in order to clarify exactly what indicators are relevant for reporting against the Te Kete and SDGs. There is a need for capacity building to improve skills and knowledge on developing various indicators including both qualitative and quantitative.

Strengthening the link between planning and budgeting is also an area of consideration. This will contribute a lot to achieving the SDGs, which will be presented in future VNR Reports. By doing so, monitoring and evaluation of Te Kete will mandatorily include the linkage of annual plans and allocative budgets for line ministries. As a result, progress reporting against the SDGs will also be undertaken in a more nationally relevant manner.

To improve monitoring and evaluation processes of Te Kete and the SDGs there is a high need for improved M&E capacity building trainings, workshops and technical related assistance. It is also recommended to have a M&E system to ease the monitoring and evaluation process.

**ii) Data collection and leaving no one behind**

It was evident from the start of the VNR process that data and statistics would be an issue during the development of the report since the stories are dependent on quality statistics for evidence. The majority of the statistics used in the VNR are either from the Tuvalu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in 2019 or the ESCAP SDG Gateway. However, the Tuvalu MICS 2019-20 was not designed to produce all SDG indicators but rather a selected few and the ESCAP SDG Gateway only produces SDG indicators when the data is available. This is evidence that Tuvalu should strive to develop mechanisms that ensures the proper management and integration of administrative data for the production of relevant indicators.

Tuvalu does not have a system or a mechanism that; ensures proper recording or entry of administrative data, collection or integration of the recorded administrative data, and analyses of the data to produce SDG indicators from administrative data. Having such a system would result in the frequent update of more SDG indicators which is crucial to track the progress towards achieving SDGs. Furthermore, such a system also does not exist for Te Kete, and therefore tracking progress towards achieving the goals set out in the National Plan is also a challenge.

The financial strains of using administrative data to produce SDGs and Te Kete indicators are far less tense compared to using surveys. However, the accuracy and reliability of the data are questionable if there are no systems in place to validate the data. Therefore, it is critical that the agency responsible for the tracking of SDGs and national goals firstly identify the data custodians of the indicator, determine the system that is suitable for the custodian and design a data collection or integration system that enables access from a central location.

**iii) Partnership and technical support**

Based on the implementation of both Te Kete and SDGs, there is a lot of assistance required for achieved both national and global goals. Tuvalu will definitely require technical support for effective implementation of Te Kete and the SDGs. This support will assist in the improvement of;

- education,
- health,
- agricultural,
- people with disabilities,
- transportation,
- accessibility to clean water and
- especially in terms of developments that enable Tuvalu to tackle climate change impacts and ensure no one is left behind.

Tuvalu acknowledges the support from both the bilateral support from Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan together with the multilateral support from UN, World Bank and Asian Development Bank in various areas such as trainings. An example includes a recent training conducted to provide a better understanding on the methodology and data sources incorporated by the CSD in the compilation of the system of national accounts. A key part of the training was dedicated to the discussion on the 'Supply and Use Tables framework', a statistical framework for ensuring consistent and coherent estimates of GDP, followed by an introduction to the 'Input-Output analysis' and its use case for undertaking planning and policy decisions”.

There are also existing projects under the Climate Change Department that are funded by various organisations and development partners. These include: Managing Coastal Aquifer Projects (MCAP) which will end in 31 May 2024; Tuvalu Third National Communication Project (TNC) under the UNFCC which will end in 31 October 2023; Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA + SUPA) under indirect management with the Pacific Community (SPC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) which will end on 31 December 2023; Climate Security Project which will end 31 December 2022; Managing Water Scarcity through Strengthened Water Resources Management Project under the
Tuvalu’s National Sustainable Development Strategy (Te-Kete 2021-2030) seeks to establish and maintain a genuine and durable collaboration with national, regional, and international partners. For most small island developing states, partnerships for development are key to their progress due to small populations. To realize the nationally defined sustainable development targets in the strategy, South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) modalities must play an important part in the country’s development assistance framework.

South-South cooperation is a broad framework of collaboration among countries of the Pacific in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technical domains. Involving two or more developing countries, it can take place on a bilateral, regional, intraregional or interregional basis. Developing countries share knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to meet their development goals through concerted efforts. Triangular cooperation is collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems as well as other forms of support.

iv. Trade and investment
There is little foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tuvalu although the FDI Act in the 1980s has been enacted but has done little business. There is no FDI in Tuvalu private sector. Recently in 2013, NAFICT corporation joint-ventured with a Taiwan fishing company to fish under the Tuvalu flag in the EEZ of Forum Island countries. Taxes and dividends were received in accordance with the agreement between the parties to the Agreement. Other agreements with foreign companies like the dot TV with Verisign, the use of our international telephone code of 688, the use of our 200 miles exclusive economic zone by foreign fishing nations and similar arrangements are not strictly FDI because they are governed by their own legal contracts and agreements. They are national assets that earn us rental income from foreign buyers. Tuvalu is also a party to regional trade agreements of Forum Island Countries.

Tuvalu does not currently have much trade activity. Apart from the exports of fish from Fisheries’ Joint Ventures, Tuvalu does not have any product that can be exported. On 13 May 2022, Tuvalu launched its National Trade Development Strategy 2022 – 2026, which aimed to mainstream trade into national development strategies; set up structures needed to coordinate the delivery of trade-related technical assistance; and build capacity to trade, which includes addressing critical supply-side constraints.

Priority sectors for the government’s initial focus were identified as Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and Labor mobility. Other value-added items such as breadfruit chips, banana chips, kaleve-kula, virgin oil, processed fish (salted fish and smoked fish) are also potential items for trade, but since there is a big domestic demand for these, supply need to be increased significantly if the international market is to be served.

v. Financing or Mobilizing resources for SDGs and Te Kete
The Government strategy for resourcing the implementation of the SDGs and Te Kete is to seek financing from global climate funding and high-tech innovative sources. The policy aims to increase the country’s adaptive capacity to climate change and disasters thereby acquiring a higher level of security. This is also one of the IMF’s four main policy recommendations in its Article IV Report for Tuvalu in 2021.

There is a need for Tuvalu to co-finance some of the rehab costs and even capital investment against climate change. In 2019 for example, this cost equated to 6% of GDP and was provided for the Coastal Adaptation Project by the Green Climate Fund. Tuvalu needed to create buffers for meeting the contingency costs of natural disasters and the IMF suggested that Tuvalu need to increase spending annually by 2.3% of GDP until 2030 to be able meet a reasonable security standard against climate change.

The record of climate change and disaster funding has been generous with over AU$83 million from the Green Climate Fund in the last 4 years for coastal protection and the cyclone-proofing of residential housing in the country. Together with funding for disaster rehabilitation from multilateral and bilateral sources in the last 10 years, total funding would have topped $100 million. Tuvalu was able to be accredited to the Adaptation Fund in 2016, which is a multilateral climate finance facility. While the access bestows some advantage to Tuvalu, the real value depends on the local capacity to organize and manage the utilization of climate change funds. The National Survival Fund has averaged over 7% of GDP in the last 3 years to 2019 and is projected to continue at this level until 2022. This is one source for funding local investment in climate change and disaster rehabilitation.

Tuvalu remains thus far as an LDC and will insist on this position because of fragility of its economic condition.
The next steps in implementing the SDGs and Te Kete is for stakeholders, especially the government and the Public Service, to adopt the recommendations from the VNR Report. The Implementation Plan of the recommendations should be directed to all stakeholders at both the national and island governments tracking and evaluating progress. The recommendations include:

- Strict adherence to the M&E cycle of collating and reporting to GAC and Cabinet;
- Linking budget expenditure to Te Kete output results;
- Biannual reporting performance of the financials and non-financials by the PBACD & Treasury on the one hand and the M&E and CPMO on the other, to GAC and Cabinet by the Minister of Finance;
- Statistics to set up a database for the VNR and Te Kete, continue updating it;
- Seek finance for continuing VNR Reports in 2025;
- Refine and update the VNR Statistics Annex for use in the M&E biannual reporting;
- Set up a National Planning Committee under the Ministry of Finance;
- Use new technology in publicizing the work of SDGs, Te Kete and the VNR;
- M&E and Statistics meet biannually with all stakeholders including the outer islands to update information and review progress on SDGs and Te Kete.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance will be responsible for implementing these recommendations, through the office of the Director of Planning, Budget and Aid Coordination (PBACD).

To support this process consideration will be given to setting up a National Planning Council (NFC) with the membership representing all the SDGs and Te Kete stakeholders. Decision making at the policy level will be more inclusive, transparent and accountable to the people of Tuvalu.
The Tuvalu Government believes that the VNR process is true to the high ideals of democracy, where people themselves, represented by their government, account for progress they have made against the SDGs.

Summary of Analysis and Findings.

Climate Change, Sea Level rise and the Environment.
The biggest threat to atoll countries like Tuvalu is Climate Change, which causes sea level rise and disasters like cyclones, flooding and erosion of the islands. The harmful impacts on the life of people is a dreaded annual event that is also expensive and costly to rehab. All atoll countries in the world are predicted by the UN to go under within the next 100 years. Further disaster risk reduction efforts are needed to protect countries from disasters related to national hazards and climate change.

International advocacy against climate change is a regular government task and many countries including the Pacific islands region support the mission against climate change. Options for the way ahead are under consideration by the government and can include measures to save the physical islands by land reclamation.

Work Measurement
The capacity to measure the work that the government does and link resources used to produce results that affect the life of people is of paramount importance. The responsibility is on the national planning system to develop this capability within the government and we find work in this area is progressing well in the M&E Unit, Central Project Management Office (CPMO) and the Treasury department. The financial expenditure report from the Treasury is compared with the non-financial report (Indicator framework) from the M&E Unit. The GAC makes decisions about next year’s budget and other activities warranted by the information received from the Public Service. The final step in the planning process is the submission of GAC advice for a Cabinet decision.

Inclusivity, Transparency and Accountability
Based on the national consultations the VNR Team conducted with all the stakeholders including all island communities both on the capital and on the outer island, they will overcome the barriers that lies in between the public and the government in terms of improving the awareness level on SDGs and the progress toward them. Besides, the outcomes of these consultations will contribute a lot to the production of future VNRs. Public concerns raised during the VNR Process especially for the improvement of Tuvalu development in various areas, was to make sure no one is affected from any developments or lack thereof.

When we include everybody in what we do, hide nothing about what we do, and report and account to everybody about what we are doing, good things only will rain down on us. These are the foundational qualities of good governance and we strive to achieve these ideals in the business of governing that involves all of us.

CONCLUSION
We believe that Tuvalu has made reasonable progress in its effort to achieve a better life for its people. We believe that when Tuvalu produce its next VNR, significant improvements in sustainable development will be seen. The recommendations that emerged from this report will be implemented and we make that commitment in this regard to ensure that NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.

### ANNEX 1: STATISTICAL ANNEX

**Linking SDG Indicator To Te Kete Indicator Code**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>SDG Indicator</th>
<th>Te Kete Indicator Code</th>
<th>Corresponding SDG Indicator Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3.1</td>
<td>3.12.2.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable</td>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4.1</td>
<td>5.20.3.3</td>
<td>Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of household members using improved sources of drinking water either in their dwelling/yard/plot or within 30 minutes round trip collection time</td>
<td>99.4</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of household members with handwashing facility where water and soap are present</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.a</td>
<td>1.a.1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country’s gross national income</td>
<td>1.27</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of stunting (height for age &lt; 2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height ≥2 or &lt; 2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of anemia in women (% of female 15-49)</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-pregnant</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural orientation index - Agriculture value added share of GDP (FAO/AOI) [% of GDP]</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official flows (disbursements) for agriculture, total, by recipient (Million 2019 US dollars)</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</td>
<td>99.5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis incidence rate (per 100,000)</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Indicator Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coverage of essential health services</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Coverage of essential health services
Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who did not smoke cigarettes or any other smoked tobacco product during the last one month

- **Women**: 82.2%
- **Men**: 51.2%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.a</th>
<th>3.a.1</th>
<th>3.10.1.2</th>
<th>Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who during the pregnancy of the most recent live birth were attended</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>at least once by skilled health personnel 93.9 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>at least four times by any provider 60.3 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>at least eight times by any provider 27.7 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities 93.8 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.a</th>
<th>3.a.1</th>
<th>3.10.1.2</th>
<th>Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women age 15-49 16.9 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Men age 15-49 48 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.b</th>
<th>3.b.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>80.1 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
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<tr>
<th>3.c</th>
<th>3.c.1</th>
<th>3.10.3.1</th>
<th>Health worker density and distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing and midwifery personnel density per 10,000 population 42.6 2018 UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.d</th>
<th>3.d.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48 2020 UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 4.1 4.1.1 3.11.1.2 Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary, and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex |
|                                                | Percentage of children who successfully completed three foundational reading tasks |
| Age 7-14 54.8 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20          |                                                |
| Age for grade 2/3 40.8 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20 |                                                |
| Attending grade 2/3 30 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20  |                                                |
| Percentage of children who successfully completed four foundational number tasks |
| Age 7-14 38.9 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20          |                                                |
| Age for grade 2/3 26.8 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20 |                                                |
| Attending grade 2/3 15.1 2019 Tuvalu MICS 2018-20|                                                |

<p>| 4.1 4.1.2 NA Completion rate (primary education, lower |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| |                                                |                                                |
| 4.2 | 4.2.1 | NA | Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex | 68.6 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |
| 4.2 | 4.2.2 | NA | Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex | 77.1 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |
| 4.3 | 4.3.1 | NA | Proportion of 15-24 year-olds enrolled in vocational education, female (Percentage) | 2.5 | 2019 | UNESCO SDG Gateway |
| | | | Proportion of 15-24 year-olds enrolled in vocational education, male (Percentage) | 3.2 | 2019 | UNESCO SDG Gateway |
| | | | Proportion of 15-24 year-olds enrolled in vocational education, both sexes (Percentage) | 2.9 | 2019 | UNESCO SDG Gateway |
| 4.4 | 4.4.1 | 3.11.5.1 | Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill | | | |
| 4.5 | 4.5.1 | NA | Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated |
| | | | Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for girls divided by the net attendance ratio (adjusted) for boys |
| | | | Organised learning (one year younger than the official primary school entry age) | 1.08 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |
| | | | Primary School | 1.04 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |
| | | | Lower Secondary School | 1.1 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |
| | | | Upper Secondary School | 1.71 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |
| 0.4 | 4.1 | 3.11.5.1 | Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill | 51.8 | 2019 | Tuvalu MICS 2016-20 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organized learning (one year younger than the official primary school entry age)</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Secondary School</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Secondary School</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for rural residents divided by the net attendance ratio (adjusted) urban residents</td>
<td>4.b</td>
<td>4.b.1</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized learning (one year younger than the official primary school entry age)</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Secondary School</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Secondary School</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundational learning skills for the bottom 40% group divided by the foundational learning skill for the top 60% group</td>
<td>4.c</td>
<td>4.c.1</td>
<td>3.11.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>numeracy age 7-14 years</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundational learning skills for the bottom 40% group divided by the foundational learning skill for the top 60% group</td>
<td>reading age 7-14 years</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>numeracy age 7-14 years</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study (million US dollars)</td>
<td>4.b</td>
<td>4.b.1</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level</td>
<td>4.c</td>
<td>4.c.1</td>
<td>3.11.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained teachers, pre-primary education</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained teachers, primary education</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained teachers, secondary education</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.2</th>
<th>5.2.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ever in their lifetime</strong> 44.2 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>In the past 12 months</strong> 33.9 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.2</th>
<th>5.2.2</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ever in their lifetime</strong> 37 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>In the past 12 months</strong> 26.8 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.3</th>
<th>5.3.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Women before age 15</strong> 0 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Women before age 18</strong> 1.8 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Men before age 15</strong> 0 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Men before age 18</strong> 1.7 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.1</th>
<th>6.1.1</th>
<th>5.20.1.2</th>
<th>Proportion of individuals who use safely managed drinking water</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.2.1</td>
<td>5.20.2.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.3.1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5.1</td>
<td>Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (%)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.a</td>
<td>6.a.1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan (millions US dollars)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 7.1.1 5.19.1.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population with access to electricity</td>
<td>99.7</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1 7.1.2 5.19.1.2</td>
<td>Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2 7.2.1 5.19.2.1</td>
<td>Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3 7.3.1</td>
<td>Energy intensity level of primary energy (SDG) (Megajoules per unit of GDP in 2017 PPP)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.a 7.a.1</td>
<td>International support for clean energy and renewable energy (Million 2018 US dollars)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.b 7.b.1</td>
<td>Renewable electricity capacity, total (kilotwatts per capita)</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 8.1 8.1.1 | GDP per capita growth rate (2015 US dollars, average annual) (% change per capita per annum) | 5 | 2019 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
| 8.4 8.4.2 NA | Total domestic material consumption (million tons) | 0.01 | 2017 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
| | Total domestic material consumption per capita (tons per capita) | 1.11 | 2017 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
| | Domestic material consumption per GDP (kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP) | 0.3 | 2017 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |

| Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| 9.1 9.1.2 5.18.4.2 | Passenger and freight volume by mode of transport | | | |
| | Road transport, passenger volume (million passenger-km) | 32 | 2019 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
| 9.2 9.2.1 | GDP by activity: Manufacturing (% of GDP (2015 USD)) | 0.7 | 2020 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
| 9.a 9.a.1 NA | Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure (millions US dollars) | 6 | 2019 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
| 9.c 9.c.1 1.1.1.1 | Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology | 48 | 2017 | UNESCAP SDG Gateway |
### Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.3.1</td>
<td>Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.3.2</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>29.8</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10.3.3</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2018-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goal 10a. Reduce inequality within and among countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.3a</td>
<td>10.3a.1</td>
<td>Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goal 10b. Reduce inequality within and among countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.3b</td>
<td>10.3b.1</td>
<td>Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow [e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows] (million US dollars)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>11.5.1</td>
<td>Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.5.2</td>
<td>Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>38,568</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>11.6.1</td>
<td>Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Department of Waste Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.a</td>
<td>12.a.1</td>
<td>Installed renewable energy generating capacity in developing countries (in kilowatts per capita)</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>13.1.3</td>
<td>Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13.2.2</td>
<td>Total greenhouse gas emissions per year (thousand tons of CO2 equivalent)</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>14.5.1</td>
<td>Protected marine area (EEZ) (Km2)</td>
<td>213.9</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>15.1.1</td>
<td>Forest area (% of land area)</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>15.5.1</td>
<td>Red list index total (index)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Goal 16.1.4</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Goal 16.2.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Goal 16.3.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Goal 16.9.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Goal 16.b.1</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Goal 17.3.2</th>
<th>Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP</th>
<th>19</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed (per 100 population)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>UNESCAP SDG Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17.8.1.1.5</td>
<td>Proportion of individuals using the internet</td>
<td>67.5</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Tuvalu MICS 2019-20</td>
</tr>
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