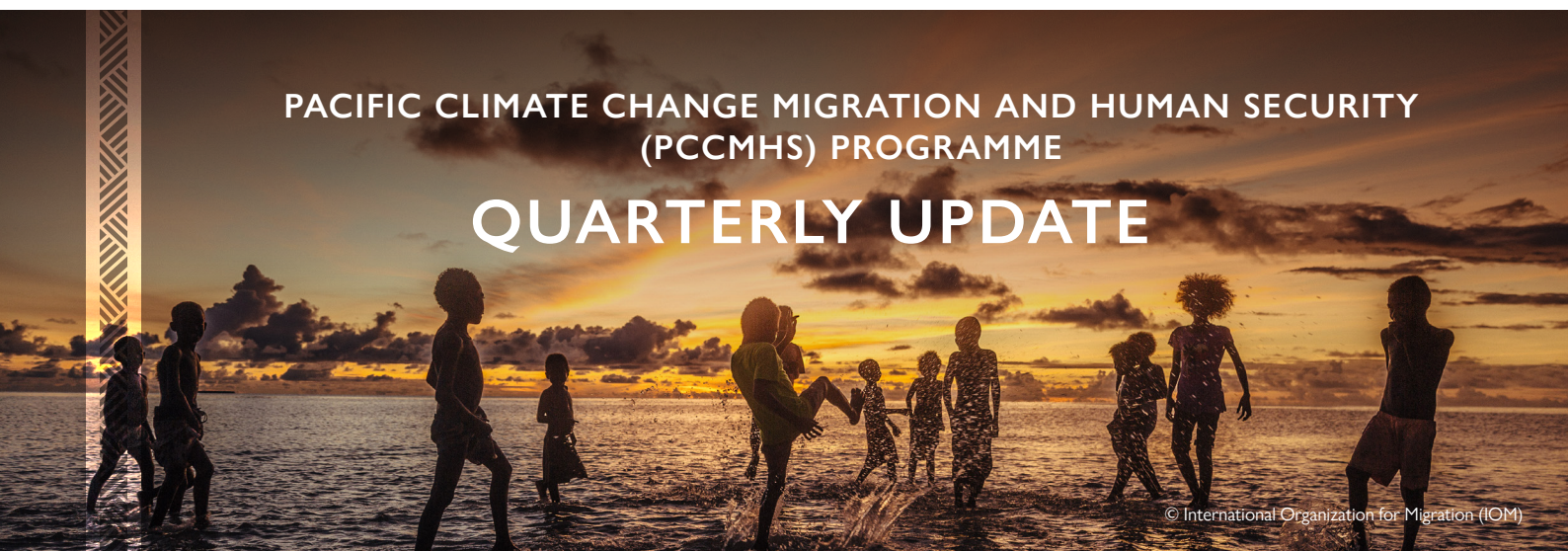


# ENHANCING PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT OF MIGRANTS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS IN THE PACIFIC REGION



## PACIFIC CLIMATE CHANGE MIGRATION AND HUMAN SECURITY (PCCMHS) PROGRAMME

# QUARTERLY UPDATE



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## UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE



Left to right: Vakaoca Kedrayate (MOFA), Christopher Yee (IOM), Elenoa Patricia Momoivalu (ESCAP), Kristy Fong (MOFA), Mr. Iosefa Maiava, Head of UNESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific, Mr. Esala Nayasi, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Fiji, Alisi Vosalevu (PDD), Mr. Solomon Kantha, IOM Fiji Chief of Mission, Mr. Agus Wandí (RCO), Jone Tikoicolo (ESCAP), Sabira Coelho, PCCMHS Programme Manager, Shane Antonio (OHCHR).

### Recap of Regional Policy Dialogue

- From September – November 2020, a Regional Policy Dialogue (RPD) was organized virtually by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) consisting of six webinars with senior officials from 13 Pacific Island Countries.

- The RPD presented government officials with an opportunity to examine the challenges and opportunities to enhance protection of Pacific Islanders migrating in relation to climate change.

### Results of the RPD

Some of the results of the RPD included:

- exchanges and learning on the policies and measures adopted by individual Pacific countries to address challenges and harness opportunities related to climate mobility.
- identification of opportunities to address the policy and legal gaps to enable protection of Pacific communities most prone to the impacts of the climate change.
- Increased common understanding of the principles and objective of a regional framework to address climate mobility. Such a framework would be inclusive of all voices, respectful of national experiences, and anchored in existing political processes, Finally, it would aim to promote recognition and legal protection of migrants and displaced persons, particularly in the context of climate change.
- Commitment to conduct further national and sub-national level consultations.

- During the last webinar, Hon. Simon Kofe, Minister of Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs, Tuvalu made the following insightful statement:-



*Every nation must take ownership of and responsibility for climate-change-related issues ... Developing a regional framework to respond to climate change- and disaster-related migration, displacement, and planned relocation can enhance our regional advocacy at the international level, boost the Pacific's role as leaders in battling the world climate crisis, and encourage all nations to do their part in resolving this crisis.*



Hon. Simon Kofe  
Minister for Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs, Tuvalu.



### Next steps?

- In concluding the final webinar for 2020, Dr Filimon Manoni, Deputy Secretary General for the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat stated that: -
- “I am pleased with the approach taken by the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security programme which puts Members [Countries] at the centre of this policy dialogue consultation. This engagement would assist partners to frame the best regional response to progress this work during such unprecedented times”.
- Following on from the RPD, in December 2020 Government representatives had requested for PCCMHS partners to coordinate with the Pacific Island Forum Secretariate (PIFS) to refine the concept of a regional framework and to identify opportunities for inclusion into regional processes.
- As a result of a high-level meeting with PIFS, it was agreed to establish a high level joint working group to guide the development of a proposed regional framework before seeking the endorsement of the Pacific Island Forum leaders.

- Discussions on climate mobility will gain further momentum in 2021 as the PCCMHS programme looks to support national and regional consultations in the Pacific region.
- The PCCMHS programme will review the outcomes of these consultations in an endeavor to inform a regional framework that reflects national policies, strategies and narratives while promoting recognition and the legal protection of migrants and displaced persons particularly in the context of climate change.



### ILO CONCLUDES E-ACADEMY ON LABOUR MIGRATION

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) completed an E-Academy on labour migration from 09 November- 18 December 2020, bringing on board 47 participants from 11 Pacific countries.
- The E-Academy on Labour Migration (e-LMA) offered participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a diversified training package, exploring fair and effective labour migration governance, linkages between migration and sustainable development, and instruments and mechanisms for protecting migrants' and their families' rights.
- At the end of the e-LMA, participants were able to significantly increase their knowledge and understanding on key issues and policies regarding labour migration at the global and regional level, and also from a gender perspective.
- It also created an opportunity to promote migration-development linkages, human security and rights-based approaches to labour migration policies and programmes at national, regional and international levels.



## PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



Front to back: Teea Tira (PIFS), H.E. Tregor Albon Ishoda, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji, Sabira Coelho (PCCMHS Programme Manager), Terry Keju, First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Marshall Islands, Sharon Tohaimae (PIFS), Christopher Yee (IOM), Rina Tareo (Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands), Nacanieli Bolo (IDMC).

- Climate change is not a “doomsday proposition” but a living existential threat to humanity, Pacific government officials have warned.
- The stark warning was made at Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement, co-organised by the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP)’s Technical Working Group (TWG) on Human Mobility that is co-chaired by IOM. PCCMHS programme partners are members of the TWG, and the Pacific Regional Consultation linked to the discussions under the RPD.
- Government representatives from 10 Pacific countries reiterated strongly the need for accelerated and ambitious action to address disaster-induced displacement as part of the global fight against the climate crisis.
- “Every year, more of our citizens will be forced to leave their homes to escape stronger storms, rising seas, and swelling rivers brought by climate change,” said Prime Minister of Fiji, Voreqe Bainimarama in a video message.

- The virtual event gathered government officials, UN agencies, civil societies, academia and the private sector together to exchange policy best practices on disaster displacement and review challenges ahead as the Pacific continues to grapple with extreme weather events.
- The outcomes of the consultation will also inform the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, an eight-member group established by the UN Secretary-General to identify concrete recommendations to better prevent, respond and achieve solutions to internal displacement.
- “For far too long, the idea of internal displacement may seem abstract but the issue is real and here in the Pacific,” stressed Tregor Albon Ishoda, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Fiji, recalling the “devastating impacts” of Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Harold in the consultation.
- For further information on the Pacific Regional Consultation on Internal Displacement, including the summary report, country statements and video of the meeting, visit: [www.resilientpacific.org/pacific-regional-consultation-on-internal-displacement/](http://www.resilientpacific.org/pacific-regional-consultation-on-internal-displacement/)



### PCCMHS IN 2021

#### a. Community Consultations to commence shortly



Left to Right: Lucille Chute, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Adivasu Levu, Sabira Coelho, Karishma Devi and Christopher Yee

- IOM in partnership with the Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and alongside Transcend Oceania will be facilitating ‘on the mat’ community consultations in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji from April to June 2021.
- On the mat sessions will enable an intergenerational dialogue with 10 diverse women (including women with disabilities, young women, rural women and LGBTIQI).



*Climate-driven displacement isn't some distant doomsday proposition. It is happening right now. In response, we have to change and adapt as quickly as the climate.*



Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama  
Prime Minister, Republic of the Fiji Islands



- The discussions will also include church leaders, rural women community leaders and youth groups explore the human security implications of climate change related migration, and to understand perceptions of migration and what shapes resilience.

#### b. National Consultations

- IOM will lead national consultations in 12 Pacific Island Countries in the second and third quarter of 2021 to capture national perspectives and positions on change related migration, displacement and planned relocation.
- The PCCMHS programme has already engaged national consultants in Vanuatu, PNG, Nauru and the Cook Islands with engagements being finalized for Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati
- The PCCMHS team has had bilateral meetings with Government officials, CSO's and various community-based groups in these countries to provide a background of the programme and the objective of the national consultation, and to identify country priorities.

#### c. Review of Seasonal Workers Schemes

- ILO is finalizing a nearing the completion of a report which reviews the seasonal worker schemes of Australia and New Zealand, with respect to (i) international human rights and labour standards, (ii) participation of women and marginalised groups and (iii) review of labour migration policies and laws in destination countries



Shane Antonio (OHCHR) interviewing a seasonal worker in Ba, Fiji.

- This report will be published in the second quarter of 2021 following validation meetings.

#### d. Advocacy Briefs

- Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR) is currently developing advocacy briefs to support Pacific Governments ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their obligations under other international human rights instruments and on ratification of ILO core migrant workers conventions 97, 143, 181, 188, 189, and 190.
- Pacific governments including Fiji have ratified the ICRMW and are also party to several of the other core international human rights instruments, and thereby are obligated to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status.
- Advocacy briefs will be published in the third quarter of 2021.

#### e. People Centered Activities (PCA's)

- ILO are working on a series of People Centered Activities in Tuvalu and Kiribati to be implemented in the next three quarters of 2021. This includes:
  - developing standard employment contracts (SECs) that are general or sector-based, covering the agriculture, hospitality, fisheries and seafarers industries.



People-centred activity: standard employment contract consultations workshop with Kiribati stakeholders.

- Supporting the seafarers industry: technical advisory on the terms under which agents should operate in the seafarer industry for Tuvalu; review of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBAs); and the refresher courses for nominated seafarers to allow them to join work ready pool.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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