

# 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 PROGRESS IN 2021

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The Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCMHS) seeks to protect and empower communities adversely affected by climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement, and planned relocation. The programme is being delivered through a partnership led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labour Organization (ILO), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), along with the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. This update highlights the programme's key achievements till 2021.

### OBJECTIVE 1

*Pacific communities and governments demonstrate strengthened capacity and coordination through a human security-based response to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement, and planned relocation.*

### Regional Policy Dialogue brings together 13 Pacific Governments to discuss key concerns related to climate mobility

- A Regional Policy Dialogue hosted by ESCAP from September- November 2020 brought together 13 Pacific countries namely, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. In addition, academia, civil society organizations and development partners were also invited as technical experts.
- Government participants included nominated senior officials from relevant ministries (foreign affairs, climate change, lands, disaster management). The Dialogue, comprising of six webinars, provided an opportunity for participating countries to initiate discussions on a regional process to respond to climate change-related migration, displacement, and planned relocation. The Dialogue identified policy and legal gaps and identified potential next steps to address this through a regional approach.
- The outcome report published by ESCAP can be accessed [here](#).

## Progress made by the PCCMHS Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established by OHCHR in 2019, comprising experts from across the Pacific region on climate mobility. This was established as a means to provide technical advice to governments in the development of a regional framework on climate and disaster related migration, displacement and planned relocation. The TAG comprises 17 climate change, migration and human rights experts from around the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. In 2021, the TAG saw the addition of five new members.
- In 2020, the TAG developed key messages on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation in the Pacific region to inform the scope and contents of the regional framework. In 2021, the TAG continued its support for the programme. Two briefings were organised with the TAG to seek advice on how the programme could better situate itself within the mechanisms of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and discuss how the work can be continued following the end of the PCCMHS programme.

## Regional civil society dialogue promotes inclusive and community-led action on climate mobility

- To complement the results of the inter-governmental regional policy dialogue, a regional civil society dialogue was organized by IOM from 22-23 June 2021. These consultations provided an opportunity for civil society representatives from across the Pacific to review the human security implications of climate change, migration, displacement, and planned relocation. Joining the regional civil society dialogue were participants from civil society organisations, NGOs, youth groups, women's groups, LGBTQI community, faith-based organisations, regional institutions, and community leaders across 8 countries attended the meeting, exceeding the expected output targets.

Some of the key messages from the discussions are as follows: .

- Participants called for safe migration pathways, that uphold the human rights of migrant communities in the Pacific, and that recognise the need to preserve and respect cultural identity.
- Inclusion is paramount; the voices of marginalized communities and those most at risk to the impacts of climate change should be properly included throughout the regional process.
- Youth involvement should be considered as a long-term investment towards the future.
- Civil society organizations play a critical role in ensuring that governments remain accountable on regional commitments, and in ensuring that information is free flowing between affected communities and policymakers.

The full report is available [here](#).

## Establishment of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Climate Mobility

- Following the RPD, a Joint Working Group on Climate Mobility (JWG) was established in March 2021. The JWG, co-chaired by the Governments of Fiji and Tuvalu, with 9 member countries, CROP and UN agencies, aims to oversee the development of a draft regional framework and to seek opportunities for endorsement by Pacific Island Leaders. PCCMHS agencies, IOM, ESCAP and PIFS serve as the secretariat for the JWG.
- The JWG is a result of efforts from the PCCMHS programme and will aim to link programme outputs to inter-governmental policy processes. The JWG workplan follows a phased approach. In 2020, the JWG focused on increasing understanding and awareness of governments and other stakeholders on climate related mobility and collecting perspectives on the content of the regional framework.
- Throughout 2022, the JWG will engage on drafting the regional framework on climate mobility. As part of this process, the JWG will consider the issues arising from the national and regional consultations to inform the first draft document, ensuring that Forum members are consulted along the way. Finally, the JWG will identify and assess the entry points through which the JWG can formally present the draft framework into Pacific Island Forum processes.



## National, Community and Provincial Consultations Occur Across Pacific Island Nations

- In 2021, National consultations were organized by IOM in coordination with government counterparts in 10 Pacific Island Countries. These included Nauru (15-16 June), Fiji (20-21 July), Tonga (17-18 August), Tuvalu (7-8 September), Vanuatu (8 September), Papua New Guinea (21-22 September), Kiribati (22-23 September), Federated States of Micronesia (19 October), Republic of the Marshall Islands (26-27 October) and the Cook Islands (19 November). Across all countries, approximately 400 representatives contributed to the consultations. Outcome reports have been finalized for Nauru, Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Vanuatu, FSM, and Tonga and reports are currently being drafted for the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and RMI. These outcome reports represent country level perspectives, including climate change and mobility trends, existing practices to address emerging challenges, gaps and opportunities for regional collaboration. Together, they will seek to inform the regional framework.



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*Pacific Islands face the unique challenge of having to protect the lives, livelihood and dignity of people who are forced from their traditional homes by climate change. Whether it be internal movement or movement across borders, we need to consider the trauma of people leaving their homes, their source of livelihoods, their cultural heritage and more.*

Hon. Voreqe Bainimarama  
Prime Minister, Republic of Fiji Islands at the Fiji National Consultation | 20-21 July 2021

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- In addition to these national consultations, IOM led community consultations in Funafuti and Vaitupu on July 17, 2021. Together, the 85 participants discussed the links between climate change impacts and human security, mobility trends, and the potential for community relocation as an adaptation strategy. The participants were of diverse age groups, representing women, youth and people with disabilities. Inputs from the community consultations in Tuvalu helped inform the National Climate Change Policy, 'Te Vaka Fenua' launched in December 2021.
- The policy includes the “Priority Outcome 3: Managed human mobility and protection of national sovereignty” which focuses on “Protecting the security of our people and our way of life from the risks of climate change is a necessity not a choice. The rights of people displaced by climate change must be safeguarded, along with Tuvalu’s perpetual ownership of and access to land and ocean territories.” Actions include the development of national durable solutions plans, as well as the increased legal frameworks for people affected by climate change.



- In Papua New Guinea, IOM conducted a field mission to Buka, the provincial capital of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB) between 22-28 June 2021 along with the Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA). Meetings with key informants highlighted the experiences of affected communities, noting the drivers of displacement, as well as challenges faced by provincial government authorities in supporting displaced communities. The results from the provincial consultation served to inform relevant policies in PNG. In February 2022, Papua New Guinea (PNG) amended their climate change (management) act to include Section 74A, 74B and 74C to provide for the relocation of at risk-communities through the development of relevant relocation guidelines and standard operating procedures (Annex 3). At the regional level, the act also considers how Papua New Guinea may accept persons that are at risk of permanent displacement from other Pacific small island countries. A policy on internally displaced people is also being developed in PNG.

## OBJECTIVE 2

*Migrants and communities in the Pacific Island Countries benefit from safe labour migration as a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy*

*The second objective of the PCCMHS programme aims to support governments with information, tools, and resources to strengthen governance of labour migration policies and programmes. These programme activities increase the capacity of governments and non-government stakeholders to ensure that labour mobility is safe, regular and inclusive.*

### Seasonal Worker Scheme (SWS) Summary Report Published

- On 17 December 2021, the ILO published a report analyzing the seasonal workers schemes of key migrant-receiving nations in the Pacific from a rights-based perspective. The objective of the research report is to provide an overview of how seasonal worker schemes in Australia and New Zealand align with international labour standards – both binding and non-binding – and to provide constructive recommendations for areas where the schemes could be more consistent with these standards. Further, the research report reviews seasonal worker schemes for their levels of inclusiveness, including participation of women and women with disabilities.
- Three validation workshops with stakeholders in Pacific Island countries of origin, Australia and New Zealand were held in July 2021 to share the report results and recommendations.
- In 2022, the findings and recommendations outlined in the summary report will be expanded upon in a more detailed technical report.

The full report is available [here](#).

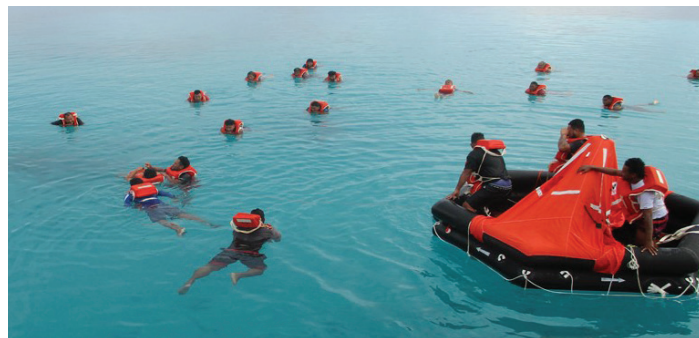
### Targeted People-Centred Activities in Tuvalu and Kiribati

- The ILO has progressed with implementation of the People-Centred Activities (PCAs) in Tuvalu and Kiribati including a report that collates information on the terms that international labour standards indicate are required and recommended for inclusion in standard employment contracts. The report includes targeted information for the agriculture, hospitality, fisheries and seafarers industry.
- The PCCMHS programme supported the development of a reintegration national action plan in Kiribati that aims to support returned migrant workers from abroad. The Kiribati reintegration national action plan has been accepted by the key stakeholders including workers' and employers' representatives. Implementation of selected priority activities in 2022 is underway.
- The ILO alongside IOM has supported the Department of Labour, Government of Tuvalu to facilitate seafarer refresher course trainings programmes. The seafarer refresher course training provided Tuvaluan seafarers with an opportunity to undertake skills development, renew relevant maritime certifications and prepare seafarers for future work on the high seas.



## Development of a migration preparedness manual for Marshallese communities

- IOM has produced a draft ‘migration preparedness manual’ with a view to support an informed process for decision making and migration preparedness amongst Marshallese communities. This manual has been designed with inputs from the RMI Government and stakeholders in Majuro.
- The manual intends to support a structured environment to identify important considerations related to migration and identify options for accessing accurate and impartial information. The manual is rooted in a Pacific approach of storytelling- in the Marshall Islands, “bwebwenato”, and aims to encourage conversations amongst community members. This manual- and the trainings- will not attempt influence the decision-making process of Marshallese citizens on their individual decision to migrate, it merely complements the existing pre-departure orientation activities conducted in RMI by existing local stakeholders.
- Part I of the manual aims to guide facilitators on how to lead interactive migration preparedness workshops. Part II, Module A addresses the countries of origin with a focus on adult responsibilities in migration. Module B targets youth of communities of origin with a focus on how climate change can affect their migration decisions.
- In 2022, IOM will conduct pilot trainings on the manual, incorporating the feedback before it is finalized.



### OBJECTIVE 3

*Contribute to the evidence-based on good practices in reporting on climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement, and planned relocation with particular focus on the role of the human security framework.*

## Pacific perspectives on climate mobility reflected at COP26

- Throughout 2021, high-level advocacy events occurred that aimed to integrate the topic of climate mobility into regional and global meetings such as the Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 26th Conference of Parties- COP26.
- On 9 November 2021, ESCAP organized a [COP26 Side Event, hosted by the Government of Tuvalu and the Government of Fiji](#), titled “Building a comprehensive regional approach to climate mobility”. This event brought together over 70 participants from a range of sectors. It showcased the work of the PCCMHS programme and acted as a strong reminder of the need for bold action to be taken to address climate-related mobility. One of the most influential messages came from the Minister for Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs for Tuvalu, Simon Kofe, who televised his statement knee-deep in water to express the reality of sea-level rise in Tuvalu.



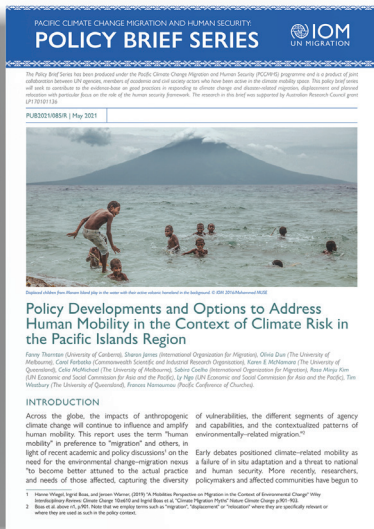
*Climate change and sea level rise are deadly and existential threats to Tuvalu and low-lying atoll countries. In Tuvalu, we are living the realities of climate change... We cannot wait for speeches when the sea is rising around us. Climate mobility must come to the forefront. We must take bold, alternative action today to secure our tomorrow*

COP26: Tuvalu Minister Simon Kofe delivering his speech for the COP-26 side event in the sea to demonstrate the climate change impact. Source: Tuvalu Ministry for Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs



This speech gained significant coverage from news outlets such as The Guardian, SBS and ABC News (Australia), CNN (United States), Reuters (UK), The Fiji Times, Observer (Oman) The Quint and NDTV (India). In response to this speech given at the COP26 Conference and Hon. Minister Kofe's advocacy on this issue, the Minister has been nominated for a Nobel Prize for his work highlighting climate change issues.

- On 24 September 2021, the PCCMHS Programme hosted a workshop [Youth4Pacific: Pre-COP Gathering](#) that aimed at raising awareness about climate-related mobility amongst youth participants. More than 20 participants joined the workshop. The event aimed to collaborate and unify youth advocacy and engagement in the lead up to the COP26 Conference and sought input on opportunities for regional cooperation.



## Policy brief outlining policy development and options to address climate mobility published

In 2021, the first policy brief, "Policy development and options to address human mobility in the context of climate risk in the Pacific islands region" was drafted by the Transformative Mobilities team with the support of an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant.

The policy brief details evidence of the multiple pathways by which mobility in the context of climate change is integrated into or supported by policy tools. Further, it considers what kinds of dedicated policy has been emerging to address this challenge. This paper will contribute to the evidence-based on good practices in responding to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement and planned relocation with particular focus on the role of the human security framework.

## Upcoming Activities and Publications in 2022

- [National Consultations in Solomon Islands, Niue, and Palau](#) will take place in the first half of 2022. These consultations will aim to inform the regional framework on climate-related mobility, by identifying national perspectives on climate-related migration, displacement and planned relocation.
- [Regional webinars and consultations will be organized in April 2022 and June 2022](#) to present the scoping of the regional framework and the draft document for feedback and consultation amongst Pacific Governments, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.
- [Pre-departure orientations](#) are scheduled to take place in Tuvalu and first-aid trainings for seasonal workers scheduled to take place in Kiribati, alongside migration preparedness sessions in the Marshall Islands. These will support migrant workers before they depart for work and life abroad.
- [Two policy briefs on "Navigating human security and climate mobility in the Pacific Sea of Islands" and "Climate Change and Labour Mobility"](#) will be finalized in June 2022.

For more information on the PCCMHS Programme activities in 2021, please access our [March Quarterly Update](#) and our [July Quarterly Update](#).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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