

# 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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## 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE MOBILITY



First Joint Working Group Meeting that was co-chaired by Dr. Taupo Tausi, Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs, Government of Tuvalu.



### Brief Recap

- At the conclusion of the Regional Policy Dialogue in 2020, the PCCMHS implementing partners were requested by participating Pacific governments to work with the PIF Secretariat to identify a clear process and modalities for the development of a regional framework on mobility. Pacific governments called for a coordinated and harmonized regional approach to highlight the importance of an issue they have recognised as a common national challenge.

### JWG Established

- To support this, a joint-working group to support the development of a regional framework on climate mobility was established under the umbrella of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) technical working group on human mobility.

### Who?

- The JWG is co-chaired by the Government of Tuvalu and the Government of Fiji, as outgoing and incoming Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum.
- IOM, PIFS, ESCAP, OHCHR, ILO along with CROP agencies the Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Pacific Immigration Directors Community (PIDC) are members of the JWG. The JWG looks to expanding the membership of Forum members in the coming months.
- The JWG will seek technical expertise and strategic advice from the wider PRP TWG-Human Mobility and the Technical Advisory Group established under the PCCMHS programme.



## Secretariat

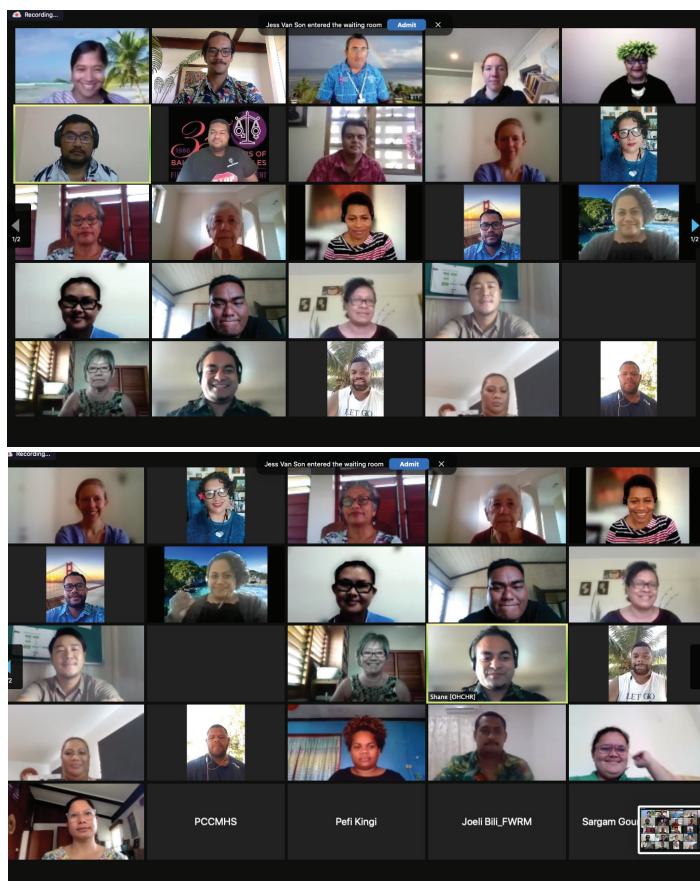
- PIFS and IOM will serve as the Secretariat to the Joint Working Group. They shall work in close coordination with ESCAP and the PCCMHS members to support the co-chairs oversee the objectives of the JWG.

## Objectives of the JWG?

- The climate mobility Joint Working Group serves to support the development of a robust and practical draft regional framework that aligns with existing national policies and regional frameworks, to address the key issues.



## 2. PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY CONCLUDES REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON CLIMATE MOBILITY



Regional Civil Society Consultation on Climate Mobility

- The Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) programme recently (22-23 June) hosted a virtual regional civil society consultation on climate related mobility. The online consultations that were organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided an opportunity for civil society representatives from around the Pacific to

review the human security implications of climate change related migration, displacement and planned relocation, share experiences about how climate related mobility is impacting communities and talk towards the development of a regional based solution.

- The consultations gathered over 40 virtual participants from 8 Pacific Countries across the region to continue discussions on a regional process in support of responses to climate related mobility. This included regional organizations, members of academia, faith-based organizations, youth climate champions and advocates for LGBTIQ groups from around the Pacific.
- Through this, the PCCMHS programme aims to ensure that civil society perspectives inform the development of a regional state-led response, as the civil society consultations also aims to cultivate a shared understanding and common approach to climate related mobility in the Pacific.
- In opening, Solomon Kantha, IOM Chief of Mission in Fiji, stated that this will be an *“opportunity to examine climate related mobility trends in the Pacific, understand where the key legal and policy gaps exist, discuss what policy makers and Governments need to consider and search for suitable protection pathways going forward at a regional level to safeguard the rights of all Pacific Islanders who need to move because of the impacts of climate change”*.
- Day one of the consultations laid out experiences that were shared by communities who have been impacted by climate related mobility. In particular, under session one, presenters had highlighted the need to protect the social and cultural fabric of relocated communities along with the need to protect ancestral land, language and rights for families who need to relocate in the future.
- Pacific civil society leader, Pefi Kingi of PacificWin spoke of the need to develop *“regional frameworks that create safe pathways, uphold human rights and focus on the preservation of cultural identity for future generations”*.
- Under sessions two participants were also able to get a comprehensive overview of where the key legal and policy gaps were in the climate related mobility landscape before exploring human rights-based solutions.
- Day two of the consultations provided a space for civil society members to develop key advice and messages towards government officials and policymakers before discussing the role of CSO's in raising the issue of

climate related mobility and exploring the different pathways that could be used to amplify issues relating to climate mobility around the Pacific region.

- Currently, a summary report for the regional civil society consultations on climate mobility is being developed and it will be available on the PCCMHS portal once it is complete. The report will capture contributions raised by participants and identify recommendations for the regional framework on climate mobility.
- Some key messages arising from the consultations were:-
  - Participants emphasized the need to develop a regional framework that addresses the issues of climate related mobility in the Pacific region by creating safe migration pathways for migrating communities, upholds the human rights of migrant communities in the Pacific and recognises the need to preserve and respect cultural identity.
  - Inclusivity is paramount when developing a regional framework that addresses climate related mobility. Capturing the needs and voices of marginalised communities from women's, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) and People with Disability (PwD) groups is a vital aspect of policy development that seeks to protect safeguard the rights of those most at risk to the impacts climate change.
  - Traditional practices, language and ancestral land should be protected for displaced communities through the proper implementation of regional policy and the establishment of tools that look to preserve cultural heritage.
  - Youth involvement should be considered as a long-term investment towards the future. This will enhance the Pacific youth's capacity who one day will become region-grown experts and drivers in climate mobility that can best represent the various interests and priorities of their communities and the region.



### 3. TUVALU SEAFARERS' COMPLETE REFRESHER TRAINING



Tuvalu Seafarer refresher course training in session.

- The International Labour Organization alongside IOM have 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. The first cohort graduated on 21 June 2021 and the second cohort is currently in training with the hopes of completing by the end of July.
- 32 seafarers are currently undergoing the intense 4-week training that is facilitated by the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute which looks at upskilling attendees on fundamental training that is required on vessels such as to basic first aid, personal survival techniques, fire prevention and security. According to Meafou Leneuot Brian of the Department of Labour, *"Many seafarers registered for this course and were happy for the opportunity to renew existing maritime certifications."*
- In addition, this course is intended to ensure that seafarers are aware of the hazards of working on a vessel and enables them to properly respond appropriately to emergencies. More importantly, the skills acquired will support seafarers to comply with international and national sea time requirements.
- Employment for seafarers in Tuvalu has plateaued as the impacts of COVID-19 has limited movement around the region and stopped workers from finding work on international and regional based vessels. This seafarer refresher course training will provide seafarers with the fundamental skills that are needed on overseas vessels and provide a great platform for job security in the future.



- “As a key part of ILO’s mandate, we will continue supporting skills development to improve the employability of workers, productivity of enterprises and the inclusiveness of economic growth in Pacific Island Countries,” said Martin Karimli, Director of the ILO Pacific Office.



#### 4. TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP: 2021 BRIEFING



Technical Advisory Group meeting in March 2021

- The Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR) hosted a virtual Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting in late March 2021. The purpose of the briefing was to update the TAG on PCCMHS progress has made to date and to seek the expert opinions of members on the achieved activities and possible pathways for the life of the programme (and beyond).
- The TAG thanked Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan for her contributions and guidance towards the PCCMHS programme and wished her excellency the best in her role as president of the Human Rights Council. Moreover, the TAG welcomed five new members: -
  1. Mr. Bruce Burson: Manager, Refugee and Protection, NZ Immigration and Protection Tribunal, and Legal and Policy Consultant on Human Mobility.
  2. Mr. Rae Bainteiti: Climate Change Youth Advocate from Kiribati.
  3. Ms. Andie Fong Toy: Labour mobility expert from Fiji.
  4. Dr. Christina Newport: Climate mobility expert from Cook Islands.

5. Mr. Mark Stege: Climate Change advisor, atoll adaptation specialist and community leader from the Marshall Islands.

- An important development from this year’s meeting was the agreement that key messages collected by the TAG as part of the programme needed to be flexible and could change over time especially when it comes to climate change impacts and migration.
- The TAG team also supported the proposal for a phase II to the PCCMHS programme by agreeing that there is notable increase in momentum in climate mobility and the TAG stands ready to support all agencies including a broader role in the drafting of the framework.
- The next TAG meeting will be held in the third quarter of 2021.



#### 5. IOM AND GOVERNMENT PARTNER TO ADDRESS CLIMATE MOBILITY IN BOUGAINVILLE



Community Consultations with Ursula Rokova from the Carteret Islands, PNG.

- IOM conducted a week long consultation (23-28 June 2021) on climate change and mobility with Government authorities and local communities in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville (AROB).
- Conducted in close co-operation with the National Disaster Centre (NDC) and Department for Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA), the consultation sought to gauge views from

the identified stakeholders such as Government, community leaders and displaced community members in AROB about climate change related mobility, covering migration, displacement and planned relocation efforts to inform resilience and adaptation measures, and policy discussions on internal displacement.

- The consultations involved the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), Community Service Organizations and local communities of Haku and Kuraio, and Carteret islanders displaced to Tinputz because of the rising sea level. In addition, IOM Papua New Guinea colleagues also received inputs from NGO Tulele Paise and selected government representatives including Regional Member for Bougainville Hon. Peter Tsiamalili Jnr, Community Government Secretary – Mr. Puara Kamariki and Disaster and Climate Change Coordinator Lt. Col. John Imaka (Rtd).
- Hon. Tsiamalili highlighted the importance of taking immediate actions in support to communities negatively impacted by climate change noting, *“It is important that efforts are put in place including through applying local solutions to improve the resilience of Bougainvilleans in addressing the effects of climate change”*
- *“Food security is a serious challenge because limited farming land and high salinity in the island soil,”* noted Ms. Ursula Rokova from Carteret Island. *“Currently 10 families have moved from Carteret Island to Tinputz and more families are willing to move due to food security concerns,”* noted Ursula Rokova from Carteret Island.
- IOM, DPLGA and NDC team also discussed the ongoing policy discussions for internally displaced persons by the Government and partners. These community consultations will also serve to inform a regional approach amongst Governments to address the adverse impacts of climate mobility.



## 6. NAURU WRAPS UP NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON CLIMATE MOBILITY



Day one of National Consultations in Nauru with community leaders, civil society organisations and respective stakeholders.

- IOM recently hosted national consultation on climate related mobility in Nauru. The consultation was held on 15 and 16 June provided an opportunity for participants from a multitude of various sectors to come together and continue discussions towards how climate mobility was impacting Nauru.
- Day one of the consultation allowed for community leaders, civil society organisations and other respective stakeholders to share perspectives and experiences towards how the climate change is impacting the livelihoods of communities as it was highlighted that 80% of the population is located on the coastline and are at risk of being exposed to both slow onset and sudden onset hazards.
- In addition, civil society representative from EcoNauru also stressed on the need to plan for the relocation of residential housing and key infrastructure to higher ground due to increasing encroachment of climate hazards such as the rise in sea level, periodic tropical cyclones and storm surges.
- Day two of the consultation allowed for government officials to look at addressing the issue of climate mobility through the proper implementation of policies at the national and regional level. More specifically, there was consensus for national priorities to be integrated into regional platforms to ensure for a more coordinated and harmonised cooperation within the region.



Day two of National Consultations on Climate Mobility in Nauru with government officials.



- The scarcity of land in Nauru was an issue that kept arising throughout the two days. There is general consensus that both Government and community leaders need to work closely to identifying safe pathways for internal planned relocation in protecting the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable to the risks of climate change.
- A report for the national consultations on climate mobility in Nauru is being finalized and will be shared with all key stakeholders in due course.



## 7. PCCMHS mentioned in “Good Practices in South-South & Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS” publication



- The United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) produces a series of good practices publications that highlight Southern good practices presented by the Member States, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and other development partners.
- Two activities under the PCCMHS programme were nominated and highlighted as a demonstration of good practice in south-south and triangular cooperations for SIDS.



- The PCCMHS programme also received a notable mention of support by the Hon. Mr Andrew Yatilman, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Emergency Management of the Federated States of Micronesia during the launch of the publication.



## 8. UPCOMING EVENTS UNDER PCCMHS

### a. National Consultations

- IOM is leading national consultations in 13 Pacific Island Countries to capture national perspectives and positions on change related migration, displacement and planned relocation.
- The objective of this Pacific-wide national consultation process is to cultivate a shared understanding and common approach to climate mobility at the national level among different government agencies, particularly in contexts where the mandate for addressing climate mobility remains fragmented. These national consultations will also incorporate civil society and community perspectives.
- IOM has facilitated and prepared towards national consultations in Fiji in July and Tonga, Tuvalu and Papua New Guinea in August.
- The PCCMHS programme continues to progress towards hosting national consultations in Kiribati, FSM, RMI, Vanuatu, Samoa and Solomon Islands in 2021.

### b. Community Consultations in Tuvalu continue *What it is?*

- Community consultations in Tuvalu will aim to explore how communities and, where relevant, vulnerable cohorts within communities – experience climate change, their coping and adapting measures and capacities and any non-economic losses and damages.
- IOM is leading this activity by working with relevant local government authorities, community leaders, youth, and women's groups, as well as churches, to ensure broad participation so that specific and unique challenges faced by more vulnerable demographics are presented and discussed.
- Community consultations will explore what are the views of the communities on the impacts of climate change on human security and migration,

i.e., voluntary movements both to main islands and overseas, displacement as well as planned relocation.

- The main discussion points and conclusions from the community consultations will be captured in reports that will also be disaggregated based on vulnerable groups.

### Currently ongoing

- Community consultations in both Vaitupu and Funafuti have recently completed. During these consultations, attendees shared views towards the impacts of climate change towards human security as well as its link to migration, displacement and planned relocation.



Funafuti Community Consultation at the Tomasi Puapua Convention Centre (TPCC)

- In addition, community members spoke of the increase in intensity of weather patterns such as tropical cyclones that were experienced recently and how these events could threaten food security, compel community members to relocate and overall cause a significant risk to community livelihoods in the future.
- The communities of Vaitupu and Funafuti intend on exhausting all means of climate adaptation in order to become more resilient to the impacts that are brought about by climate change.
- These community consultations are supported by the Department of Climate Change, Government of Tuvalu.



Vaitupu Community Consultation at the Anipule II Community Hall

### c. People-Centred Activities in Tuvalu and Kiribati

- ILO continues working with the implementation of the People Centered Activities (PCAs) in Tuvalu and Kiribati including preparing a report that collates information on the terms that international labour standards indicate are required and recommended for inclusion in standard employment contracts for the government of Tuvalu and Kiribati.
- The report also summarises the International labour standards concerning the content of each term; and labour standards in law and policy in two major countries of destination for workers from Kiribati and Tuvalu: Australia and New Zealand.
- This report is now finalised with key sections being translated into Tuvaluan and iKiribati.

### d. Review of Seasonal Workers Scheme

- ILO is 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.
- ILO will be hosting 3 validation workshops scheduled from 28-30 July to present the updated seasonal workers schemes review report, its findings and recommendations to key stakeholders from the Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand. The aim of the workshop will be to discuss and validate the report's recommendations.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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