



Pacific Islands

Protecting and Empowering Migrants and Communities Affected by Climate Change and Disasters in the Pacific Region

Background information

The small island states of the Pacific region are extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change which increases the risk of flooding, storms, and extreme weather events. Rising sea levels also cause coastal erosion and salinity intrusion destroying the livelihoods of those dependent on agriculture and fishing. Moreover, the region is at significant risk of geophysical hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. Limited disaster preparedness and capacity to respond further exacerbate the impacts of disasters. As a result, both forced and voluntary climate-induced migration are on the rise, increasing the vulnerability of affected groups. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by these threats with limited economic opportunities at home, lack of access to existing regulated labour migration schemes, and exposure to personal insecurity at their destinations. Regional and national policies and frameworks increasingly refer to the nexus between climate change and migration, calling for action to address both issues in an integrated manner. As such, this programme advocates a rights-based regional framework for well-managed labour mobility as an opportunity for both sustainable development and climate adaptation.

Goals and objectives

The overall goal of the programme is to protect, and empower communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific Islands, focusing on climate-related displacement, migration, and planned relocation. Objectives of this programme include: (i) strengthening Governments' capacities and coordination through a regional rights-based response; (ii) promoting safe labour migration as part of a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy; and (iii) developing and contributing to the evidence base on good practices in responding to climate and disaster-related displacement.



DURATION

February 2019 — July 2022



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

IOM, ESCAP, ILO, OHCHR



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)



BENEFICIARIES

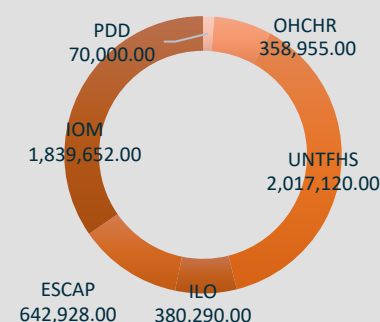
420,000



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 5,308,945

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

This programme targets communities in the Pacific adversely impacted by climate change, particularly 11,000 people in Tuvalu, 53,000 in the Marshall Islands, 270,400 in Vanuatu, and 86,000 in Fiji. Beneficiaries of the programme are migrants and displaced people (and those potentially at risk of displacement), trapped populations, worker and employer organizations, civil society, and regional organizations. Particular attention will be paid to women and vulnerable groups within communities such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The programme also involves relevant Government departments and ministries at the national and regional levels.

Applying the Human Security approach

This programme addresses the interconnected issues of climate change and economic security through initiatives that facilitate safe labour mobility and the diversification of livelihoods. The human security approach puts vulnerable people at the centre and assesses the linkages between insecurities and advocating a comprehensive but differentiated approach based on a region-specific context. As such, the programme promotes a top-down protection framework in partnership with Governments and civil society while contributing to bottom-up empowerment measures by supporting vulnerable people affected by climate change with access to safe labour mobility as an adaptation strategy, as well as working at the community level to promote skills development, financial literacy, and education.

The programme offers an opportunity for implementing partners to address climate-related displacement, migration, and planned relocation by promoting an alternative framework from the traditional national security approaches which have historically been used to manage migration. These past methods are ill-suited to regional initiatives that rely on collaboration between diverse state and non-state partners. Furthermore, this catalytic programme is positioned as a critical component of the United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022 which identifies climate-change related migration as a development priority of its Pacific member countries. It also builds on the momentum from the regional Pacific Climate Change Migration (PCCM) project and findings from this human security programme will further contribute to other efforts addressing displacement, migration, and planned relocation in the region.



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