



Tuvalu

National Voluntary GCM Review

Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Methodology

The Government of Tuvalu has welcomed the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration's (GCM) comprehensive approach to the governance of migration. The report reflects on the progress made by the Government on the objectives of the GCM and underlines its continued belief in the importance of navigating the challenges and opportunities presented by migration. The report has been timely, as it further serves as an input to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

The report was prepared with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) who appointed a consultant to review the status of GCM implementation in Tuvalu. The review was conducted between 22 April and 12 May 2022. It has been conducted through a desk-based research and online consultations followed by a workshop Government of Tuvalu on 13 May to validate and finalise the findings. The review has sourced data and information from government agencies, media, open publications, and research by international organizations. Research included the review of the relevant policy, practices, and government projects as they relate to the 23 objectives outlines in the GCM. Key documents reviewed for the report include Tuvalu National Labour Migration Policy, Tuvalu National Strategy for Sustainable Development, Tuvalu National Environment Management Strategy, and the National Statistical Report.

National Context

Tuvalu's population is approximately 10,645¹, with about half living on the atoll of Funafuti, which is the capital. It is a constitutional monarchy with a 15-member unicameral parliament elected every four years. Cabinet consists of the Prime Minister, elected by a majority of the members of parliament, and several ministers. The Prime Minister is the head of government. One of the smallest and most isolated countries in the world, Tuvalu is classified as a Least Developing Country (LDC) but has met

¹ [Tuvalu Central Statistics Division | Tuvalu mo te Atua \(gov.tv\)](https://www.gov.tv/tuvalu-central-statistics-division)

the threshold for graduation to developing country status based on its human development indicators and high per capita income. However, Tuvalu has requested a postponement to its LDC graduation because of extreme economic exposure, the immediate threat of climate change and natural disasters.

Tuvalu has few exports and depends on revenues from fishing license fees, overseas remittances, dividends from the Tuvalu Trust Fund, and income from rent of the “dot tv” Internet extension. Remittances from Tuvaluans working on short-term contracts abroad and from those living permanently outside Tuvalu make a large contribution to the Tuvalu economy, in recent years as high as 30% of GNI. By 2015 remittance income accounted for 40% of household income in Tuvalu, second only to wages and salaries. Half of all households (51%) received remittance transfers from overseas, with 77% of Funafuti households receiving remittance income, and 31% of households in the outer islands. Around three quarters of the labour force works in the informal economy, primarily subsistence farming and fishing. Most of the islands are built on coral and are not suitable for crop production beyond household needs.

Poverty in the country has increased in the last decade, particularly in urban areas. Underemployment, particularly of young people, is fuelling urbanisation of the capital, Funafuti. Life expectancy and adult literacy are comparatively high for the region. Tuvalu has achieved gender parity in primary education although there is some concern that fewer boys are accessing secondary and tertiary education levels. Due to its low-lying geography, Tuvalu is at acute risk from natural disasters, including: storm surges, cyclones, and tsunamis. Seawater infiltration has already increased soil salinity, limiting the range of plants that can be grown on the islands. Increased water temperatures and ocean acidification have affected coral ecosystems that serve as fish nurseries, making it harder for Tuvaluans to catch and eat fish. During periods of drought, water security is a critical health issue in Tuvalu.

Tuvalu remains one of the last countries globally with no confirmed cases of COVID-19. A national State of Emergency was declared by the Tuvalu government on 20 March 2020, in place until 26 September 2020. Schools were closed and there were restrictions on public gatherings for three months. Tuvalu is currently operating at a ‘level 2’ alert. International flights are suspended, and borders remain closed to all vessels, except for delivery of essential supplies. A National COVID-19 Taskforce undertook a full assessment and developed Tuvalu’s Talaaliki Plan (worst case scenario) to provide a ‘blueprint for action’. Tropical Cyclone Tino caused extensive damage to Tuvalu’s islands in January 2020, compounding the effects of COVID-19. Tuvalu accessed \$16.7 million in funding from the World Bank Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option mechanism, and the Asian Development Bank’s emergency fund, to respond to the disaster. However, the effects of the state of emergency have been marginal in the country as the Government and public sector who employ majority of the workforce have continued to operate. This has been further bolstered by the fact that remittances from seafarers and diaspora communities have remained steady. There have been significant impacts for businesses, with the Tuvalu government announcing an economic relief stimulus package in response.

Currently, there is both a high internal migration (primarily to Funafuti) and international migration of Tuvaluans. Internal migration trends in Tuvalu are like other Pacific Island countries involving movement of people from outer islands to urban centres driven by the search for better employment and lifestyle opportunities. As a result of internal migration from the outer islands, Funafuti Atoll has become increasingly urbanized over the last 25 years and is under severe population pressure. The

2012 census found that 57% of the country's population now live on Funafuti, compared to 47% in 2002². Inward migration to its small, finite land area has driven population density to 1948 persons/km² (2012). This combination of increasing urbanisation coupled with environmental change risks pushing many Tuvaluans into poverty or hardship, or even displacement. This in turn also fuels international migration which has been rising steadily. More people emigrate from Tuvalu each year than arrive to reside permanently. Aggregate migration between 2002 and 2015, excluding 2006, has seen a net outflow.

Pulled towards the labour schemes of Australia and New Zealand, higher emigration reduces population pressure, especially in Funafuti. However, it has also caused a severe case of brain drain in Tuvalu. The loss of skilled labour has been particularly acute (from the medical profession, teachers, other professional ranks, experienced senior public servants), leaving gaps in the labour force that are becoming increasingly difficult to fill from within the remaining labour force. For doctors, teachers, and other professionals, labour shortages are mostly filled by specialist recruits from other PICs, Australia, New Zealand, and the ROC. At present, the international migration pattern is split between migration-for-work – often short-term (temporary), requiring workers to return home – and permanent emigration, but predominated by the former. For the foreseeable future, emigration will likely continue at present rates, prompted by lack of development, the search for greater economic opportunity, and to a lesser extent that threat of climate change and sea level rise, and the loss of land.

Policy and Enabling Environment

The Ministry of Ministry of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs has the responsibility for the design of migration policy. The Tuvalu Customs Revenue and Border Protection Service oversees migration policy enactment. In addition, the interministerial Development Coordinating Committee meets every two weeks and looks at a variety of issues including migration. Tuvalu's Te Kakeega III (TKIII)³ or National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020 aimed at mitigating the adverse impacts of internal migration and urbanization and capitalizing instead on opportunities offered by human mobility for realizing the country's short and long term development goals. It aligns with the goals of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and is the country's eighth national development plan. It has been followed by *Te Kete* or the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 which will guide Tuvalu's development efforts in achieving the National Vision – "A Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu."

Developing new opportunities for work (temporary and long-term) in other countries in and outside the Pacific region as well as re-establishing openings for employment of Tuvaluans seafarers on overseas shipping lines⁴ is a major priority for the Government of Tuvalu. To facilitate this, and to take

² Tuvalu (2016). Te Kakeega III National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 to 2020. Government of Tuvalu. URL: [https:// www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf)

³ [cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf) (adb.org)

⁴ Opportunities for overseas labour migration from Tuvalu have lowered in the past decade, with fewer than 220 Tuvaluans employed as seafarers, seasonal workers, or on other temporary employment contracts during 2014. This compares with around 500 in 2008 (376 seafarers, 99 seasonal workers, and 25 other temporary workers overseas). Since the onset of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008 numbers of seafarers employed

advantage of several initiatives to foster greater collaboration between groups of countries in the region in the search for and supply of labour to overseas markets, the Government of Tuvalu developed its National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP) 2015. The policy was developed in collaboration with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Office for Pacific Countries, supported by the EU-funded Pacific Climate Change and Migration Project (PCC-MHS).

Following a two-year consultation process with government, private sector, non-government organisations (NGOs), and Kaupule planners, and with technical support of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) and African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Project, Tuvalu also developed the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS). The NEMS 2015-2020 set a solid policy platform for long term planning and action to respond to priority environmental issues.

In the last quarter of 2021, ESCAP closely worked with the Government of Tuvalu to prepare a National Trade Development Strategy, in partnership with the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for Trade-Related Assistance for the LDC. The new Trade Policy Framework recognizes the importance of developing exports and strengthening domestic markets in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and labour mobility.

Tuvalu has ratified the following international conventions:

- United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 – ratified in 1986
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 – Ratified in 1995
- Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women – Ratified in 1999
- Convention of Law of the Sea – Ratified in 2002

Progress on GCM objectives

Given its remoteness and population size, various GCM objectives are not represented in the Tuvalu's efforts to manage migration, partly because they are not relevant but also due to capacity constraints. This review has identified the relevant objectives towards which policies and programmes have contributed and has reported on their implementation.

Objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin

Tuvalu also launched its National Climate Change Policy 2020-2030, *Te Vaka Fenua o Tuvalu*, which has been developed to respond to the needs of Tuvaluan people. The policy advances national priorities set out in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 *Te Kete*, some of which contribute towards addressing regional and international commitments on climate change. Responding to the issue of displacement due to climate change and sea level rise, the climate policy emphasises on increasing opportunities for the people in international labour mobility schemes as an adaptation strategy, develop a national action plan that provides durable options for people, and

offshore have fallen to their lowest levels since the 1990s when Tuvaluans still had access to employment in Nauru and to a work permit scheme in New Zealand.

communities affected by climate-induced displacement, advocate and support the establishment of international legal frameworks on the rights of person displaced by climate change.

Rising sea levels due to climate change has led to food and water insecurity in the country, forcing people to move. As part of its adaptation strategies, the Government is investing in projects to support communities to grow food crops in raised gardens to avoid water salinity and contamination. Moreover, in the last decade, to deal with water insecurity, Tuvalu has also been building water storage and reservoir to catch and store rainwater as it has no ground water or river water sources.

Building on the momentum of previous development plans, TKIII focused on new key priorities including climate change, environment, migration and urbanization, oceans and seas. Given that labour migration has played a major role in the development of Tuvalu's economy for over 50 years, TKIII is informed by the NLMP, and it also had a strong focus on generating training and employment opportunities, both domestically and overseas. Developing Tuvalu's outer islands, to increase local economic opportunity and stem internal migration, posed challenges as economic investment in the outer islands is often seen by the people as an opportunity to earn money for internal relocation and international migration. However, the Government of Tuvalu remained committed to outer island development, believing that life and opportunity can be improved if the right incentives, and the physical and socioeconomic infrastructure, are in place. Under TKIII, the government put its weight behind building, improving, and upgrading outer island infrastructure, as recommended in the National Population Policy 2010-2015, and emphasised by each outer island community during public consultations for TKIII.

Recognising environment based challenges and development pressures including population growth, rural-urban migration, infrastructure development, global warming and natural disasters, Tuvalu's NEMS aims to support the government in protecting, managing, and using the environment on a sustainable basis. It sets a solid policy platform for long term planning and action to respond to priority environmental issues which are addressed by the Ministry of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs through the Department of Environment (DoE). The strategy will enhance the government's efforts to mainstream the environment into national development planning, as well as provide a framework to assist government commitments to the "SAMOA Pathway", the Sustainable Development Goals and targets under the Rio+20 and other relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) the Government of Tuvalu has ratified. The strategy aims "To strengthen capacity and institutional frameworks for environmental planning and monitoring, management and sustainable development." The strategy set the direction for the Department of Environment (DoE) to work in a systematic way and in collaboration with local, regional, and international partners to address environment challenges that contribute towards migration pressures.

Objective 4: Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation

The Department of Immigration and the Attorney General's office are the key departments responsible for documentation. Citizens need to submit identity proof like birth and marriage certificates to apply for and receive their passports. Non-citizens also have a path to residency in the country.

Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

Tuvalu adopted a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to labour migration through its National Labour Migration Policy (NLMP). The policy was designed to provide a coherent strategy for promoting overseas employment and protecting the welfare of Tuvaluans abroad, within the broader context of generating decent and productive employment opportunities. The objective of the NLMP is to assist Tuvaluans to access temporary and permanent employment in overseas markets by matching skills to labour demand while equipping workers with the skills and experience they need. Whilst it does not comprehensively address climate change induced migration, the NLMP tied together Tuvalu's plans for educating our population, with a better understanding of what opportunities exist abroad to help ensure a cohesive plan for how to create work for Tuvaluans. It also focussed on engaging diaspora communities in other countries, which can participate in integrating future migrants into different countries and contribute to development back in Tuvalu.

Regional initiatives such as the Pacific Labour Migration Framework, which is designed to facilitate the movement of workers in the Pacific region, and trade and investment pacts such as the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus, and other initiatives, will make it easier for job seekers to better access employment opportunities in the region. The Labour Scheme Recruitment Policy of 2011 supports recruitment of Tuvaluan workers for labour schemes.

Tuvalu is also a member of the New Zealand Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme, Australian Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) and the Australian Pacific Labour Scheme which allow seasonal agricultural workers and semi-skilled workers to work in New Zealand and Australia, respectively, and are governed by memorandums of understanding. The country has developed a Special Portability Agreement with New Zealand (and 21 other Pacific countries) with regard to pensions, which allows those who qualify for New Zealand pensions to continue to receive these from Tuvalu.

Through technical support from IOM, the Government of Tuvalu has implemented projects to enhance migration pathways - "Building Capacity of Migrant Workers and Governments in the Pacific Region to Harness the Remittance Potential of Labour Migration" and "Pacific Adaptation through Labour Mobility in the low-lying atoll states of Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu" which led to the development of a Labour Mobility Information System (LMIS) to enable access to skills development portals which can provide information on job availability as well as worker portfolios.

Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work

The Government of Tuvalu acknowledges the importance of a robust regulatory framework to protect the rights of national workers employed in Tuvalu and abroad, and to ensure their access to decent and productive employment opportunities. The Tuvalu Overseas Seafarers' Union (TOSU) is a member of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) whose mandate is to protect the rights of workers and improve conditions for seafarers by ensuring there is adequate regulation of the global shipping industry.

Ministry of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs is directly responsible for managing Tuvalu's participation in the seasonal worker programmes under bilateral labour agreements with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand respectively. Recruitment is managed in accordance with the 'Labour Scheme Recruitment (LSR) Policy (2011), "which provides guidelines for the recruitment of Tuvaluan workers for labour schemes in New Zealand, Australia or any other country Tuvalu can send workers to."

Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

The Government has a strategy with specific measures to aid immigrants during crisis and post-crisis phases in the country. Tuvalu has a national disaster committee mandated to provide support to all people at times of crises. The National Disaster Relief Coordination Unit (NDRC) under the Climate Change and Disaster Policy Unit is responsible for incorporating disaster risk reduction into sector policies and programmes. Tuvalu has established a local financing mechanism called the Survival Fund (TSF) to finance recovery and rehabilitation from climate change impacts and natural disasters. The Government has a national Disaster Risk Reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters. The National Climate Change Policy and the National Strategic Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management are currently under revision to align with the draft National Migration Policy.

The Government also launched Tuvalu Agriculture Strategic Marketing Plan (TASMP) 2016-2025 to increase the resilience of the Tuvalu people in relation to climate change by fostering a sustainable domestic trading platform for local food and other local produce, mainly traditional handicrafts. The formulation of this TASMP is a result of the European Union funded and the Pacific Community (SPC) implemented Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project.

The Government is seeking the establishment of an international legal framework allowing for the re-establishment of Tuvalu within another country in the event that present-day Tuvalu becomes uninhabitable due to the effects of climate change. Additionally, there is the expansion of the Special Pacific Access 5 Category (resident visas for New Zealand) and establishing professional training programmes in key identified occupations to allow for employment in neighbouring countries if climate change migration is necessary. The TKIII also has measures regarding displacement and strategies for dealing with internal climate-induced migration.

Objective 10: Prevent, combat, and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

Tuvalu has legislation on trafficking in persons (TIP) and human smuggling under the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime Act of 2009. The Immigration and Customs agency is responsible for combatting human trafficking. However, to date there is no strategy addressing this topic in a comprehensive way.

Objective 11: Manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner

The Tuvalu Customs Revenue and Border Protection Service is tasked with customs and border security. Staff receive training in the country and abroad. A basic operational mechanism managed by the Immigration Division is in place to monitor visa overstays. The Immigration Regulations of 2014, under section 18 of the Immigration Act, set out the requirements and conditions for entry and residence in Tuvalu, and outlines the application process for entry and residence permits to manage borders and movement of people in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner.

Objective 14: Enhance consular protection, assistance, and cooperation throughout the migration cycle

Tuvalu has five missions overseas providing consular services and support to its citizens and migrants.

Objective 15: Provide access to basic services for migrants

Generally, immigrants have access to primary and secondary education, as education is compulsory for primary years (class 1 – 4) and is paid for by the Government in most cases. An exception are the children of migrants employed by the Government or a foreign institution. The Education (Compulsory Education) Order from 1984, revised in 2008, is a key piece of legislation. Tuvalu, furthermore, offers free healthcare to all citizens. Family reunification permits are available according to the Immigration Regulations of 2014. However, the conditions for these could be specified more clearly. Permits to enter and reside in Tuvalu are granted for one year, and they can be extended. There is a path to citizenship, in which immigrants are able to become citizens after seven years of residency according to the Citizenship Act of 1979, revised in 2008.

Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications, and competences

Tuvalu participates in international schemes with common qualification frameworks, such as the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PRQS), whereby if a course is included on the Register it is recognized across the region. In addition to the PRQS there is the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF) which serves as a meta-framework for countries that do not have qualifications authorities. These countries are able to benchmark their national qualifications to the PQF. Tuvalu is a member country of the University of the South Pacific (USP) and hosts the campus for computing and social sciences. USP is open to international students, although they may face higher fees.

Attaining recognised skills and qualifications in Tuvalu is challenging, with limited access to both vocational training and tertiary education. With regards to vocational education, the following sources of training currently exist:

- Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI)
- Vocational training at secondary schools
- The University of South Pacific Extension Center (Center for Vocational Programs)
- Fiji National University (FNU) Franchise
- Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC)

The Tuvalu National Culture Policy Strategic Plan 2018-2024 encourages development of arts, entrepreneurship, and enhancement of its cultural production to create employment opportunities for the youth, although access to resources remains a key challenge. Several development partners have now begun investing in youth skills development across a wide range of vocational careers that will enable Tuvaluan youth to participate in skilled work across the Pacific.

Objective 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

The Government is developing a foreign policy to promote diaspora engagement in the development of Tuvalu. Moreover, the scholarship opportunities and vocational training provided helps citizens to develop relevant skills that will enable them to establish themselves and contribute effectively in their destination countries.

Objective 20: Promote faster, safer, and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

The transfer of remittances and associated high costs have been an inherent challenge for migrants within and outside Tuvalu. To this end, IOM has been supporting the Government of Tuvalu to implement a project entitled “Building Capacity of Migrant Workers and Governments in the Pacific Region to Harness the Remittance Potential of Labour Migration”. Consultations with senders and receivers have pointed towards the lack of financial awareness including knowledge on available international service providers. Through the project, IOM has supported the Government of Tuvalu to develop a financial literacy guide.

Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration

There is no specific legislation relating to the reintegration of returnee labour migrants in Tuvalu. The NLMP recognizes this need however, specific packages are yet to be developed to enable sustainable reintegration. IOM’s research suggested developing a reintegration framework focusing on starting small businesses with access to finance and business development services, supporting peer-to-peer exchanges, enabling skills circulation and transfer of knowledge from migrant workers.

To this end, IOM is supporting the Government of Tuvalu through the implementation of a project entitled: “Supporting the Development of a Labour Mobility Reintegration Strategy in Tuvalu” which includes writing the Tuvalu Labour Migration Reintegration Strategy building upon the international best practices for reintegration outlined in IOM’s Reintegration Handbook as well as findings from ILO’s report ‘Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries.’ IOM is also implementing a project to build the capacity of migrant workers and governments in the Pacific to harness the remittance potential of labour migration. The project will enhance the Government of Tuvalu’s understanding of remittance flows and practices, as well as enhance their capacity to enable a conducive environment for migrants to plan for and utilise remittances.

Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration

Tuvalu participates in regional consultative processes. The country is a member of the Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC), which is a forum for immigration agencies in the Pacific to discuss and foster cooperation with the aim of strengthening systems throughout the region. It has 23 participating states and meets annually. Tuvalu has also been playing the role of being a regional leader as the chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (2019 – 2020). Additionally, the Pacific Labour Arrangement has been established as part of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus between Tuvalu (and a number of other Pacific countries), Australia and New Zealand. The Agreement complements the existing schemes and aims to increase the benefits of the labour-sending countries, as well as establish the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting to discuss further initiatives, such as the upcoming Australian Pacific Labour Scheme. As a part of its Pacific Step-Up plan, Australia in partnership with Tuvalu aims at advancing technology, remote specialist expertise as well as investing in government and local community organisations.

Tuvalu is a participating state in the Global Forum on Migration and Development and a member of the IOM. Tuvalu participates in multilateral fora such as the United Nations General Assembly and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Tuvalu has proposed a UN resolution to create a legal framework for people displaced by climate change however the resolution has not yet been tabled at the UN system. Tuvalu is one of the 43 nations on the Climate Vulnerable Forum. A

regional Pacific project – Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security (PCCMHS) implemented by IOM in partnership with several development agencies includes developing a regional framework focussed on migration in the South Pacific island countries including Tuvalu.

Tuvalu is also a part of a global coalition called the Rising Nations Initiative (RNI) along with island states to preserve the statehood of countries facing existential threat as result of the climate crisis and protect affected nations, their populations and their rich heritages. The RNI will be established as either a not-for-profit initiative of the United Nations Foundation or as an independent initiative facilitated by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). It will be structured around three pillars: Research, Partnerships and Advocacy.

Potential for further development

As a Small Island Developing State, Tuvalu faces a multitude of challenges including financial, human, and structural barriers in the successful implementation of the GCM objectives. Capacity building of key stakeholders, improved coordination, and increased financial input is pertinent to support the Tuvalu's migration governance. Like other Pacific countries, there is a considerable lack of data to inform policy and programming in Tuvalu. Efforts will be directed at strengthening data availability and ensuring that the collection and analysis of data is expanded beyond data currently available to identify key migration issues and inform future implementation activities.

Despite the high volume of migration within and from the country, Tuvalu has no specific national legislation or strategy to manage migration. Although the Tuvalu Central Statistics Division publishes migration data on an annual basis, available migration data is limited to visitor arrivals. There is also no website clearly outlining visa options. Neither is there a formal system for applying for specific visa types prior to arrival. Visas can be obtained only on arrival for visitors from countries with a reciprocity agreement. Tuvalu has no border information management system either. Strengthening border management is a potential area to better manage migration and enhance GCM implementation.

Collaboration with civil society, the private sector and the diaspora in agenda-setting and implementation of migration-related issues is limited. Tuvalu does not have an institution or body tasked with coordinating efforts to engage with its diaspora. Given the high rates of migration outflows from Tuvalu, enhancing diaspora engagement is a priority for the government.

There are limited communication systems in place to receive information during a crisis and how to access assistance. The climate change and national disaster committees were established to address these issues however, they still operate on an ad-hoc basis. Given its vulnerability to climate change it will be valuable to enhance climate resilience of the people and the country through targeted measures.

Means of Implementation

Tuvalu's implementation of the GCM is takes place through the ongoing partnership and engagement with international organizations, Pacific regional bodies, civil society, and foreign aid. The Government has been supported by the international community including UN agencies, World Bank, and foreign

government partners to implement the policies and programmes mentioned in the review. Moreover, the government frameworks and policies are funded from Tuvalu government's own dedicated budget.

Going forward, to strengthen GCM implementation, Tuvalu would require assistance from the various development partners in terms of financing, partnerships, enhanced data collection and management as well as capacity building.

Next Steps

The National Voluntary Review highlights efforts of the Government of Tuvalu to effectively address migration issues at the national level. Tuvalu aims to strengthen its institutional mechanisms and partnerships to enhance implementation of the GCM and in extension promote safe, orderly, and regular migration. Strengthening multilateral, regional, and subregional cooperation arrangements is vital to national-level implementation of policies and programmes.

The Government will also continue to actively participate in relevant activities as they relate to the implementation of the GCM. The Government will send a delegation to the International Migration Review Forum in May 2022 and stands ready to participate in any other further national review exercises. Tuvalu looks forward to engaging in the Forum and to using the opportunity afforded by the IMRF to illustrate its experience, expertise, and insights, as well as receive recommendations to strengthen its GCM implementation.