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Subregional programme document for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (2018-2022)

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

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I. Programme rationale

- 1. The Pacific Islands subregion¹ includes 14 countries and territories with a total population of 2.4 million people,² inhabiting thousands of islands that cover 15 per cent of the earth's surface. The subregion is not homogeneous, with key differences in geography, size, history, culture, economies and political systems. Fiji is the most populous country, with about 900,000 residents, and Niue the smallest, with about 1,200. The atoll nation of Kiribati is one of the most remote and geographically dispersed in the world, spread over 3.5 million km² of ocean an area larger than the entire Caribbean. In contrast to their small populations and land areas, the Pacific countries are often referred to as 'big ocean states'.
- 2. Only eight of the countries are ranked in the Human Development Index³: Palau (60th), Fiji (91st), Tonga (101st) and Samoa (104th) are in the high category; the Federated States of Micronesia (127th), Vanuatu (134th) and Kiribati (137th) are in the medium category, while the Solomon Islands (156th) is ranked in the low human development category⁴. Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu⁵ are classified as least developed countries.
- 3. The subregion is affected by geographic isolation, ecological fragility, limited resources and a narrow economic base. It is vulnerable to climate change and disasters and exposed to external shocks, with some countries having experienced political instability, civil unrest and frequent changes of government. These wide-ranging economic, social, environmental and political challenges threaten its development and growth pathways, including achievement of the sustainable development goals. Governments in the subregion often lack the resources and capacity to tackle these challenges. Most rely heavily on official development assistance, overseas remittances and imported goods.
- 4. The long-term average growth rates for most countries are estimated to be between 0.7 and 1 per cent, with only Fiji and the Solomon Islands projected to generate per capita gross domestic product growth of more than 1.5 per cent annually⁶. The economic costs of disasters will continue to detract from growth, with average losses falling between 0.5 and 6.6 per cent of gross domestic product annually⁷.
- 5. Progress in the subregion towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals was varied: most countries reduced child mortality and achieved universal primary education; some made progress in maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis and ensuring environmental sustainability; but fewer made gains in reducing poverty and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.⁸ National efforts have been complemented by collective regional efforts, as set out in the Framework for Pacific Regionalism⁹.
- 6. The current subregional programme document precedes the finalization of the UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021, As such, it will be revisited after adoption of the new strategic

¹ UNDP has two offices in the subregion: the Pacific Office in Fiji, implementing subregional, multi-country and country-level programmes in Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; and the office in Samoa, implementing multi-country and country-level programmes in the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau. The Pacific Office in Fiji also coordinates regional initiatives and policy advice in all 15 countries covered by the three UNDP offices in the region (Fiji, Samoa and Papua New Guinea).

² United Nations Population Division; 2016 estimates available on https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DataQuery/

³ Lack of reliable data and small sample sizes prevent some of the countries from completing calculations and present broader challenges to development progress monitoring and evidence-based policymaking.

⁴ UNDP, Human Development Report, 2016

⁵ United Nations Committee for Development Policy, 2016

⁶ Pacific Possible: Long term Economic Opportunities and Challenges for Small Pacific Island Countries, World Bank, 2017

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Pacific regional MDGs tracking report, 2015, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

⁹ Endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum leaders in July 2014.

plan in order to align to its outcomes, indicators, targets and accountability framework. In the same vein, UNDP programme will support organizational response to the Secretary-General's call for repositioning of the United Nations development system, as a follow-up to General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. At a critical juncture in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNDP will continue to support a more comprehensive response to country needs for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals under the auspices of the United Nations Resident Coordinators.

- 7. Most Pacific Island countries have national and sectoral plans but these are generally not well resourced or implemented. Together with partners such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Asian Development Bank and United Nations agencies, UNDP has been at the forefront of assisting countries in designing and implementing national and sectoral development plans, Millennium Development Goals acceleration frameworks, including national and regional reporting, poverty surveys and climate finance assessments. The support highlighted issues such as the paucity of data; inadequate links between planning and budgets; uneven sharing of capacity and resources between sectors and administrative units; and a lack of capacity to effectively manage development finance. The past support enables UNDP to support the countries to improve vertical and policy coherence for the Sustainable Development Goals and create multi-stakeholder partnerships for revenue generation, resource allocations, and implementation with due accountability and transparency.
- 8. The unfinished Millennium Development Goals agenda remains important to UNDP in localizing the 2030 Agenda. In the previous programme cycle, UNDP concentrated its support to the countries on sustainable development goals localization, including the introduction of tools for coordination, planning and budgeting, and data and monitoring. UNDP facilitated national consultations on the goals in Tonga, Palau, Fiji, the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands, and worked in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and other regional partners in the design and implementation of the sustainable development goals 'roadmap' and tracking of regional goals indicators. As stated in the review of the subregional programme document, 2013-2017, UNDP support brought about increased ownership of plans and stronger links to budgets, and strengthened processes to ensure coordinated data collection across ministries, with horizontal and vertical policy coherence. ¹⁰
- 9. Although extreme poverty and hunger are rare, hardship and vulnerability are on the rise in the subregion, with one in five Pacific islanders continuing to live in relative poverty. The proportion of the population in most countries living below the national poverty line has either increased (Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu) or remains unchanged. Multidimensional poverty is high across many countries due to geographic remoteness and lack of access to basic services. Environmental, social and economic factors, including limited land access and productive resources, have increased human mobility, including internal migration. Urbanization and the creation of informal settlements have led to new forms of hardship and scant access to public services. There is an opportunity for rapid improvements in coverage of basic services for these populations, but some of the most vulnerable rural populations are trapped, lacking the resources or opportunity to move. 12
- 10. While some countries in the subregion have made progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women through legal and policy reform, gender discrimination, exclusion and gender-based violence¹³ remain a serious concern. Women comprise only

¹⁰ Subregional programme document review report, December 2016

¹¹ World Bank, Hardship and Vulnerability in the Pacific, 2014.

¹² United Nations University and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), On the frontlines of climate change: Migration in the Pacific Islands, 2015

¹³ According to UN-Women (http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/ending-violence-against-women), violence against women and girls

- 7.5 per cent of national legislators. Only Samoa has introduced electoral measures to increase women's national-level representation. Women have lower participation rates in non-agricultural labour despite near gender parity in completion rates of primary and secondary schooling. Consequently, women are overrepresented in the informal sector, where most work is low-paid, part-time and unregulated; labour rights are unprotected; and job security is vulnerable to economic volatility. Although the informal economy in the Pacific is often undervalued, its contribution in some countries is as high as 50 per cent of the average gross domestic product, providing self-employment and livelihoods to more than half the working population. 15, 16, 17
- 11. Youth employment opportunities in the subregion are limited. The average unemployment rate of young men and women in the Pacific is 23 per cent, ¹⁸ compared with the global average of 12.6 per cent. Young women are less likely to be employed than young men. ¹⁹ Women's participation in the labour market is less than a third of total share of employment in Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa and the Solomon Islands²⁰. Most of the employed youth are in the informal sector, with limited opportunities for socio-economic advancement. UNDP studies have shown that investments in capacity-building of youth, creating access to jobs, entrepreneurial opportunities and financial services, have shown manifold returns in improved educational outcomes, crime prevention, and healthier lifestyles. ²¹
- 12. Located on the Ring of Fire, the subregion is among the most vulnerable in the world to climate change, extreme weather and disasters. On average, it experiences three major disasters each year²², with eight countries among the 20 globally having the highest average annual disaster losses scaled by gross domestic product.²³ Over 75 per cent of all reported disasters in the Pacific are climate related.²⁴ Frequent cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis have reversed gains in development progress in the subregion, with many Pacific islanders living in a constant state of recovery. Although women, youth and vulnerable groups are more severely affected by disasters,^{25, 26} gender-sensitive and socially inclusive investments in risk reduction and recovery have been limited. Since most inhabitants reside on the coast, they are highly susceptible to sea-level rise, which threatens the very existence of atoll nations such as Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu.
- 13. Environmental degradation, pollution and waste continue to undermine livelihood opportunities and people's health. Policy coordination, public engagement and legal enforcement to ensure environmental protection and natural resource management are often weak and under-value the contribution of natural resources and environmental

in the Pacific is among the highest in the world, with evidence showing that up to 68 per cent of women in the subregion are affected.

¹⁴ ESCAP, International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA and UNDP, The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A Report on Vulnerability and Exclusion in a Time of Rapid Change, 2014.

¹⁵ Australian Aid, Pacific Regional Youth Employment Scan, January 2016. http://www.plp.org.fj/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/PLP_Pacific-Region-Youth-Employment-Scan_Final.pdf

Asian Development Bank (ADB), Unlocking the Economic Potential of Women in the Pacific. March 2016

¹⁷ ADB, July 2014, Pacific Economic Monitor 2014: The Pacific's Employment Challenges

¹⁸ Secretariat of the Pacific Community employment statistics, 2011

¹⁹ According to an ADB/ILO report, young women's labour force participation rates in 2012 were 31.3 per cent in Fiji, 32 per cent in Samoa, 41.8 per cent in the Solomon Islands and 50.8 per cent in Vanuatu – lower than that of young men, at 57.7 per cent in Fiji, 53.5 per cent in Samoa, 56.7 per cent in the Solomon Islands and 62.8 per cent in Vanuatu.
²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ UNDP strategy for engaging Pacific youth in development, 2013-2017

²² Data, covering 2013-2016, received from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 30 January 2017.

²³ World Bank, Acting Today for Tomorrow, 2012. The eight countries are the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

²⁴ Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An integrated approach to address climate change and disaster management, 2017-2030. 2016

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme, Australian Aid, UNDP, UN-Women, German Cooperation, Pacific Gender and Climate Change Toolkit

health to prosperity. The subregion has the highest fossil fuel dependency of any region.²⁷ While a number of countries have ambitious renewable energy production targets, they are not costed or linked to deployment capacities and known local energy resources. The great majority of people in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu lack access to modern energy services such as for cooking or lighting.

- 14. All the countries elect their governments through democratic elections, although decision-making is influenced by formal and traditional governance systems. Reliance on 'chiefly' systems and religious structures remains widespread. Despite recent successes manifested by credible elections and restoration of democracy in some countries, the subregion faces challenges, including political instability and its impact on peace and development; increasing influence of finance on politics and elections; weak or non-existent local governance structures; poor delivery of government services outside urban areas; and limited connectivity, impeding the delivery of more inclusive forms of development. Nearly half of the Pacific population²⁸ are not yet users of the mobile phone service, with Kiribati and Tuvalu having the lowest mobile subscriptions, at 17.4 and 38.4 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, subscriber rates grew at an annual compound rate of 26 per cent²⁹, with more Pacific islanders accessing the Internet and social media using mobile telephony.
- 15. While the democratic environment is changing rapidly through the rise of social media, increased urbanization, and regional and global economic integration³⁰, those remaining farthest behind are often youth, women and the geographically isolated. In remote and rural areas, women and youth often play a limited role in decision-making and are at risk of further marginalization. Weak governance structures give rise to disputes over land and other matters that often remain unresolved for extended periods.³¹
- 16. Evaluations conducted in the previous programme cycle indicate that UNDP worked effectively to strengthen national institutions, including parliaments, anti-corruption bodies, and rule-of-law institutions.³² Evaluation findings noted the need for increased emphasis on oversight of policy implementation and support to policy development.³³ Support for women's political participation led to an increase in the number of women in parliament, and civil society started to engage more effectively with governance institutions³⁴. UNDP worked to consolidate peace in the Solomon Islands and engaged stakeholders in the country and the subregion to address issues of political instability that affect national development and service delivery.³⁵ UNDP is well positioned to address these concerns as well as emerging governance issues, such as those linked to natural resource management.
- 17. UNDP supported strengthening the economic security of vulnerable women in the informal sector through targeted initiatives and income-generating opportunities. At the policy level, UNDP joined other partners in creating financial inclusion strategies targeting women and marginalized groups in regions without access to financial services. On the supported the formulation of inclusive trade policy frameworks in some countries of the subregion by promoting the role of women in economic development. Among the lessons learned were the need to empower the informal

²⁷ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Pacific Perspectives on the Challenges to Energy Security and the Sustainable Use of Energy, 2012.

²⁸ "Realizing the Pacific Vision by 2050", Commonwealth Secretariat, 2016. Note: The cited share of the population includes Papua New Guinea.
²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Australian National University, State of the Pacific 2016 Conference, 2016

³¹ United Nations Pacific common country analysis- meta-analysis, 2016

³² Independent assessment of the United Nations Pacific regional anti-corruption project, June 2016, and midterm evaluation of the Fiji parliament support project, November 2015

³³ Taka

³⁴ UNDP Fiji parliament support project annual report, 2016

³⁵ Conference report – Achieving sustainable development goal 16 in Melanesia: "Creating Political and Parliamentary Stability to Catalyse Development", June 2016

³⁶ The Pacific financial inclusion programme is active in six countries: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

economy by removing legal barriers, strengthening capacities of local government agencies, and improving access to financial products and services.^{37, 38} People affected by HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in 11 countries benefited from more equitable access to services through UNDP support as principal recipient for the Global Fund. Collaboration with governments and civil society partners strengthened national capacities to deliver services.³⁹

18. The review of the previous subregional programme recommended that UNDP continue to promote the integration of climate change and disaster risk management as set out in the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific⁴⁰. UNDP engaged in developing the framework by leveraging lessons from its climate change and disaster risk management portfolio. In partnership with the Pacific Island Forum secretariat, UNDP supported Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu in formulating climate finance assessments using the public expenditure review methodology. Those assessments provided the countries with the tools to access and manage climate finance. The UNDP-supported ridge-to-reef approach showed effective integration of policymaking, planning and monitoring, with strong community engagement. UNDP was active in disseminating knowledge and learning related to risk governance and fostering a paradigm shift from managing symptoms of disasters and climate change to addressing the causes of vulnerability and incorporating dimensions of resilience into socio-economic development.

19. UNDP maintained effective partnerships with governments, civil society, regional organizations and development partners using a combination of programming modalities that emphasize national ownership and implementation. These are direct national support, multi-country programming to deliver cost-effective policy advice and technical assistance from a regional platform, and regional programming to help countries take collective action or seek shared solutions to common challenges through South-South cooperation and knowledge sharing. A peer review of country systems in Samoa was recognized as an example of how countries in the Pacific could learn through regional peer-to-peer mechanisms, and adopt and replicate proven solutions. 42, 43

20. This subregional programme document targets the most vulnerable people in the subregion, defined as those living in hardship, exposed to climatic and disaster risks (primarily coastal communities, people living in remote and isolated areas dependent on ecosystems threatened by climate change), and those marginalized by inadequate economic opportunities and poor public service delivery (especially women, youth and internal migrants living in informal settlements). It is estimated that more than 20 per cent of the population is living in hardship. At 3 The underlying vulnerabilities frequently overlap, and are intensified by limited socio-political participation in decision-making at all levels. In addressing the vulnerabilities, UNDP will also focus on enlarging space for civic participation and rights awareness, and empowering communities to shape the decisions that affect them.

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³⁷ Pacific financial inclusion programme midterm evaluation, 2017.

³⁸ Internal evaluation of Markets for Change project, 2015.

³⁹ Western Pacific integrated HIV/TB programme report, 2016.

⁴⁰ Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An integrated approach to address climate change and disaster risk management, 2017-2030. The framework provides voluntary guidelines for national stakeholders to address their vulnerability to climate change and disasters.

⁴¹ Subregional programme document review report, December 2016

⁴² Pacific countries are innovators of peer to peer learning, 3 December 2016, https://pasifik.news/pacific-countries-innovators-peer-peer-learning/

⁴³ Report of the Secretary-General: Implementation of General Assembly Resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system 2016

operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 2016

44 ESCAP, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, The State of Human Development in the Pacific: A report on vulnerability and exclusion in a time of rapid change, 2014

⁴⁵ World Bank, Hardship and Vulnerability in the Pacific, 2014.

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

- 21. This subregional programme document includes a strategy aligned with the vision of the Pacific leaders and contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the critical initial phase of localizing sustainable development goals commitments. The UNDP programme forms part of the United Nations Pacific Strategy, 2018-2022, and directly supports the implementation of three of its six development outcomes. The United Nations Pacific Strategy serves as a parent framework for the UNDP programme, and contains more detailed information on country-specific prioritization of support as well as progress monitoring.
- 22. The subregional programme document recognizes the enduring role of UNDP in the region as a provider of global knowledge and tailored development solutions, working in partnership with Governments, communities on the ground, regional organizations and other partners to respond to deep-rooted and emerging development challenges in the Pacific. In fulfilling this role, UNDP will increasingly serve as connector of national, regional and international knowledge and innovation, and will facilitate the scaling up of successful initiatives, including with domestic resources and new forms of partnership.
- 23. The UNDP programme will support the subregion in completing unfinished Millennium Development Goals business and advancing the 2030 Agenda. The sustainable development goals provide a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and an opportunity for integrated development solutions that leave no one behind. UNDP will therefore continue to support transformation of national governance and decision-making processes for effective evidence-based planning that promotes human rights and gender equality and leads to improved resilience and public service delivery. Civil society will be a key partner given its crucial role in enhancing voice and participation.
- 24. UNDP is well positioned to partner with communities and governments across all branches of power to unlock the potential of countries for inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient development. UNDP will promote a whole-of-society approach, with greater involvement of civil society actors and a more prominent role for women and youth to deliver on the ambition of the 2030 Agenda. It will leverage the private sector as a catalytic partner and an investor to scale up development solutions.
- 25. UNDP commits to consistent and regular partnership discussions with stakeholders at the country level to strengthen programmatic complementarities and continually refine its approach to supporting the implementation of national development priorities. Funding partnerships with Australia, the European Union, Japan, and New Zealand will remain essential in areas of shared interest, while new partnerships, such as with global vertical funds, China, India and the Russian Federation, will be further pursued.
- 26. In the spirit of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, UNDP recognizes the potential of regionalism and partnerships among States to address common development challenges and harness mutual support and South-South and triangular cooperation to amplify the gains in poverty reduction, disaster risk management and use of evidence-based policy tools such as development finance assessments. In keeping with the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, UNDP will partner with regional organizations and other development partners to generate, document and apply development solutions in the context of the subregion. UNDP will continue to promote the voice and development experiences of the Pacific in regional and global development forums.
- 27. To support the ambition of the United Nations Pacific strategy to advance the 'delivering as one' agenda, UNDP will promote synergies with other United Nations organizations through targeted, joined-up programmatic actions, joint advocacy, and common approaches to measuring development progress through data and evidence.

28. Building on the country-level consultation within the context of the United Nations Pacific Strategy, the ongoing programmes and indications of continued support from funding partners, UNDP will contribute to three interrelated United Nations outcomes, namely: climate change, disaster resilience and environmental protection; sustainable and inclusive economic development; and effective governance for service delivery.

Outcome 1. Climate change, disaster resilience and environmental protection

29. Regional organizations, governments, the private sector and civil society will be key partners, strengthening integrated climate change and disaster risk management to promote resilient, sustainable development, with an emphasis on sustainable development goals 7, 13, 14 and 15, the Sendai Framework, and implementation of the Paris Agreement. UNDP support will address the root causes of vulnerability and increase resilience through policy advice and community-level action involving women, youth, and other groups. Vulnerability will be addressed by scaling up transformational adaptation initiatives in flood control, coastal zone management, and water and food security, including agriculture and fisheries, with strong community engagement and benefits for women and youth. Resilience will be built through diversification of livelihoods and adaptive capacity for the vulnerable populations, including those living on atolls, along the coast and in urban areas. UNDP work in these initiatives will be guided by the application of a human rights-based approach and social and environmental norms and standards. UNDP will support the Pacific voice in global forums, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in forming partnerships to address the vulnerabilities of the subregion and inform global policy choices.

30. UNDP will provide targeted policy advice and technical assistance at subnational, national and regional levels for mobilizing and managing public and private, domestic and international climate finance. This will include exploring innovative financing options such as micro-insurance and crowdfunding, especially in post-disaster contexts. UNDP will support the implementation of nationally determined contributions, including increasing access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services, expanding the share of renewable energy, and creating incentives for public and private investment in energy efficiency. UNDP global mitigation efforts will derive the cobenefit of slowing down ocean acidification and improving overall ecosystem health in the Pacific.

31. In partnership with the both development and humanitarian actors, UNDP is well positioned to address issues surrounding the humanitarian-development nexus. UNDP will promote greater continuity and synergies between humanitarian response and midto longer-term development initiatives to strengthen early recovery, recovery and resilience. UNDP will achieve this through risk-informing development, including a cross-cutting risk governance approach, mainstreaming climate and disaster risks within the overall framework of integrating sustainable development goals into subnational and national development strategies and planning processes. These will include action at the local level through risk-informed, gender-sensitive development plans and strengthened coordination for their implementation that involves the communities. To prevent loss of life and productive assets, UNDP will strengthen disaster preparedness and promote regional collaboration in climate monitoring, early warning systems and use of geospatial technology for actionable risk information. UNDP will work with regional and national private sector associations and directly with the private sector to engage strategically and holistically before, during and after emergencies, increasing the scale and effectiveness of business engagement in a coordinated manner. In a disaster context, UNDP will continue to provide community infrastructure, essential public services, gender-sensitive early recovery for the restoration of livelihoods, and disaster waste management while strengthening early recovery networks. The recovery support will harness UNDP resources and capacities across all outcome areas and inform the design of development interventions.

32. UNDP will contribute to poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience through integration of the management of land, water, forest, biodiversity and coastal resources. This will be achieved through innovative climate-resilient, culturally appropriate ridge-to-reef approaches, such as people-centred design and drone mapping. In keeping with the cross-cutting theme of promoting blue/green economies, UNDP will help unlock the economic and social benefits of community-based conservation in protected areas, promote ecotourism, and support access to finance for biodiversity and ecosystems management. It will strengthen the management of coastal biodiversity by promoting sustainable fisheries and livelihoods, focusing on the economic empowerment of women and youth. UNDP will build on its past support to scale up sustainable waste management initiatives, focusing on behavioral change towards reducing and recycling waste, and innovative treatment options in small island contexts. It will support advocacy campaigns involving communities as agents of change, help countries develop appropriate policy incentives, and promote social entrepreneurship, especially among youth.

Outcome 3. Sustainable and inclusive economic development

- 33. UNDP will help countries address a range of policy and institutional bottlenecks to ensure more inclusive service delivery, focusing on issues facing women, youth and vulnerable groups. UNDP will draw on its comparative advantage and experiences in supporting the implementation of Millennium Development Goals acceleration frameworks to support localization of sustainable development goals 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17. At the country level, UNDP will target the alignment of national and sectoral plans and multi-year results-based budgets, exploring all potential sources of revenue through development finance assessment aimed at optimizing and increasing the collection and use of finance for national priorities. UNDP will assist the countries in identifying innovative technological solutions to build national data ecosystems for evidence-based policymaking using disaggregated data. UNDP will work closely with United Nations and regional partners engaged in data generation, such as UNFPA, UNICEF and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, through national and sample surveys. The data will be used to track progress towards national priorities and their links to regional and global development priorities, identify groups to be targeted and for the analysis and formulation of evidence-based policy formulation and Sustainable Development Goals acceleration frameworks. In keeping with goal 17, the support will foster South-South and triangular cooperation and implementation of the Pacific sustainable development goals roadmap, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the SAMOA Pathway and other regional and international instruments and partnership mechanisms.
- 34. UNDP will work with regional organizations, governments, private sector, civil society and United Nations partners to strengthen institutional arrangements and change behaviours to promote equal influence and participation of women and youth in priority-setting and implementation of activities at all levels. Countries will be encouraged to establish measures that ensure the consistent engagement of communities in rural areas and outer islands, faith-based groups and the private sector in the design and delivery of essential public services. As part of an integrated, risk-informed development approach, UNDP will help countries and communities integrate risk assessment and adaptation measures into planning processes at all levels to address vulnerabilities.
- 35. Responding to the changing face of poverty and hardship in the Pacific, UNDP will promote the concept of blue/green economies to help countries establish an enabling environment for private sector initiatives that create jobs for women, men and youth, recognizing the vast economic benefits of marine and land ecosystems while ensuring their sustainable management. To that end, UNDP will scale up successful initiatives such as organic farming, fisheries, ecotourism and farm-to-table business models, especially targeting marginalized urban youth. Building on past support to the informal

sector, UNDP will promote opportunities for employment, incomes and matching investment in social enterprises that tackle community-based improvement projects such as resilient village infrastructure and waste management. To promote access to finance, UNDP will scale up a range of inclusive financial services targeting low-income women and men in rural areas.

Outcome 5. Effective governance for service delivery

36. In support of sustainable development goal 16, UNDP will promote national efforts to sustain peace and stability, working with governments and parliaments to develop innovative mechanisms to increase their interaction and consultations with marginalized groups, in particular women and youth. To address the issues of geographic remoteness, access and voice, UNDP will promote interactive community-to-government solutions through digital communications between people and their elected and appointed officials. To promote goal 5, UNDP will continue to work with national institutions, civil society and other key partners such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UN-Women and Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development. UNDP's comparative advantage in working in the political sphere will allow it to work with other stakeholders to advocate for legal and policy reforms to increase the number of women candidates in national and local elections. To address cultural and social barriers to women's political participation, UNDP will work with political parties, role models and male champions to encourage behavioral change and community support, especially among youth, to realize the benefits of gender-inclusive decision-making. Those efforts will be complemented by support for electoral awareness and civic engagement, focusing on the role of civil society.

37. Governments, parliaments, civil society and the media will be key partners in increasing the transparency of institutions and the accountability of decision-makers in issues of public concern such as youth unemployment, natural resources management, and the transparent use of climate finance. To further the implementation of United Nations Convention against Corruption commitments, UNDP will support the development of anti-corruption policies and institutions and strengthen the oversight responsibilities of legislatures, the role of parliamentary committees, and the functions of independent constitutional offices. It will work with youth and community organizations to create networks and partnerships to increase demand for social accountability.

38. In building responsive government institutions, UNDP will work at both national and subnational levels to promote conditions for peace, strengthen capacities, and reform systems for improved service delivery to geographically isolated areas. In partnership with the United Nations Peacebuilding Office, UN-Women and key partners, including civil society, UNDP will empower youth and women in the Solomon Islands by providing forums for policy dialogue with decision-makers, and improving conflict resolution skills. It will assist countries in the Pacific to improve public services by promoting effective, inclusive governance for sustainable health outcomes. While a number of partners, such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNFPA, are working directly with Ministries of Health or other specific Ministries, UNDP will build on past and ongoing work to partner with public and private sector actors in a broad whole-of-society approach to foster policy action and coordination beyond the health sector so as to address the social, economic, environmental and political factors that determine the burden of non-communicable diseases. Using its comparative advantage and implementation capacities, UNDP will strengthen national systems to provide equitable access to services for people affected by HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria through improved financial management, procurement systems, monitoring and evaluation, and civil society engagement.

39. UNDP will support the promotion of peaceful, inclusive societies by working with governments, justice and security sector institutions, and civil society, to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice. Building on successful UNDP experiences in the subregion, priority will be given to measures for effective delivery of justice outcomes, enhancing legal aid provision, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and expanding access to justice to remote areas, with a focus on women, youth and vulnerable groups. UNDP has been implementing innovative approaches to take central government services out to populations in remote and rural areas, and will scale up support to this successful centre-to-periphery service delivery by mobile teams. UNDP support will address ongoing and emerging issues such as early access to justice, grievances over land and property, risks related to extractive industries, management of natural resources, and the use of rapidly increasing climate finance.

III. Programme and risk management

- 40. This document outlines the UNDP contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the programme and operations policies and procedures and the internal control framework. In accordance with Executive Board decision 2013/9 all direct costs associated with project implementation should be charged to the concerned projects.
- 41. To ensure national ownership, the subregional programme is nationally executed by the 14 Pacific countries and territories. Choice of implementation modalities, including national or direct implementation, will be determined by assessments of necessary capacities, comparative advantage and sustainability criteria. In national implementation contexts, the harmonized approach to cash transfers will be used to manage the associated risks. UNDP will provide support services to implementing partners as needed, and all related costs will be directly charged to the projects in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures. In agreement with governments, UNDP will pursue direct implementation to enhance the flexibility and efficiency of development support in challenging operating environments. Cost recovery from projects will be used to maintain the necessary human resources and monitoring capacities.
- 42. UNDP will promote a regional service delivery model with appropriate tailoring of a regional offer to country-level circumstances. Regional projects will frame shared development issues and seek locally appropriate solutions to ensure the cost-effectiveness of UNDP support, promote South-South links and knowledge-sharing within the subregion, and address the risks associated with disjointed programming in a diverse multi-country context. The capacities of the Pacific office in Fiji and the Samoa multi-country office will be increasingly pooled to deliver programme and policy advisory services at country, multi-country and subregional levels.
- 43. The UNDP programme promotes an evidence-based analysis of the interdependence of sectoral and thematic issues to ensure an integrated approach that identifies solutions and targets to unlock progress across a range of development goals. This approach will encompass people-centred programme design, social and behavioral innovation, and the use of appropriate technologies and data. It will be supported by multi-disciplinary teams drawing on contributions from UNDP, United Nations and development partner experts, think-tanks, academia and communities.
- 44. Increasing demand for UNDP services carries the risk of straining organizational response capacities. UNDP will review its operations and identify ways of responding to demands without affecting programme quality or delivery. To strengthen programmatic coherence, UNDP will work across programmes and themes to provide integrated development solutions. Interdisciplinary teams will work on issues such as youth, local service delivery, risk governance, and financing for development.

- 45. Resource mobilization efforts will focus on ensuring the sustainability of the programme with a diverse donor base. Regular UNDP resources will be strategically allocated to leverage other resources, while efforts to attract new sources of finance, such as from domestic resources and new bilateral partnerships will be further pursued to mitigate the risk of reductions in regular resources.
- 46. To strengthen local technical capacity, innovation, knowledge management and the scaling-up of actions, South-South and triangular cooperation will be promoted across countries in Asia and the Pacific and among small island developing States facing similar challenges. South-South cooperation mechanisms will include pooling of country capacity for deployment within the subregion, regional knowledge-sharing and mutual support initiatives, and small island developing States outreach, focusing on scaling up and innovation.
- 47. To mitigate environmental and social risks, projects will undergo systematic reviews to ensure that risks are monitored and managed and safeguards are in place. Integrated, flexible and innovative design that meets UNDP quality standards, systems of data collection, evidence-based results reporting and communication will be emphasized. Lessons learned during implementation will be addressed, and successful initiatives will be scaled up.
- 48. With the high risk of disasters in the Pacific, UNDP will have in place a crisis preparedness and response action plan and a business continuity plan. These will enable UNDP to respond to crises expeditiously and effectively, and to operate with minimum interruption. In the event of emergency, UNDP will use fast-track procedures to efficiently manage emerging demands for support. In designing projects, a risk-informed approach will be used to allow reprogramming for early recovery following disasters.
- 49. UNDP works on sensitive policy issues, with potential risk to perceptions of its impartiality, one of its greatest assets. To mitigate that risk, UNDP will develop and continually adjust its programme-specific risk management strategies based on political economy analysis. This approach will build on the existing UNDP-Department of Political Affairs peace and development advisory capacity in the subregion, and will help the organization anticipate and manage programmatic risks associated with political instability in some Pacific countries.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

- 50. Monitoring and evaluation will build on lessons learned from the review of the subregional programme document, 2013-2017. The success of UNDP work in the region is directly linked to its capacity to harmonize and align with the United Nations as a whole, through effective monitoring, data collection and knowledge management. UNDP programme monitoring and evaluation forms an integral part of the United Nations Pacific strategy results framework, including reporting and quality assurance actions. UNDP will contribute to the development and monitoring of relevant United Nations outcome group workplans to ensure coordination, joint programming and harmonized results-based management approaches. Joint monitoring and evaluation and national results-based management capacity development will be supported in coordination with governments and United Nations partners.
- 51. UNDP will strengthen its monitoring and assurance capacities through a results-based management framework that harmonizes monitoring and reporting across the UNDP Pacific office in Fiji and the Samoa multi-county office. A whole-of-Pacific approach is required given focus on harmonized framework to cash transfers, necessitating a common operational framework and tools in collaboration with United Nations partners and Government Public Financial Management systems. UNDP results

and resources framework draws on the indicators in the strategic plan, 2014-2018, as well as select sustainable development goals indicators. The framework will be adjusted to reflect the integrated results and resources framework of the UNDP strategic plan, 2018-2021.

- 52. UNDP will strengthen monitoring and evaluation practices to generate data and evidence through periodic reviews, midterm and final evaluations, and fully costed evaluations covering all outcome areas, including full evaluations of large-scale projects. As noted in the subregional programme document review, UNDP needs to establish clear baseline data and systematic multi-country data aggregation and monitoring practices. This will be accomplished through joint project reviews and regular field visits with partners; use of project governance mechanisms; and strengthened quality and use of evaluative evidence. Direct project costing will be mobilized to meet the cost of results monitoring.
- 53. The gender marker will be used to track gender-related allocations and expenditures across the entire programme and improve funds allocation for gender equality and women's empowerment. Monitoring actions will be complemented with a results tracker to profile and communicate results attributable to UNDP. Adequate resources for communications and outreach will be earmarked in each programme.
- 54. Building on UNDP experiences with poverty and other survey instruments, options for innovative data collection through modern technology will be pursued to track progress towards the sustainable development goals, as well as UNDP contributions to development results. In collaboration with other United Nations organizations through the Data Monitoring and Evaluation Group, and with the secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNDP will contribute to the sustainable development goals indicator monitoring and coordination framework for the Pacific. In association with national partners and other regional organizations, UNDP will support strengthening the capacities of national statistical systems to collect high-quality data, disaggregated by sex and other variables, for monitoring the goals. Use of national data and monitoring and evaluation systems will be maximized.
- 55. Using its subregional presence and policy expertise, UNDP will continue to provide thought leadership and develop knowledge products on a range of topics, such as localization of the sustainable development goals; women in politics; parliamentary development; risk governance; resilience; and climate finance, as well as on enabling factors such as regional cooperation and innovation to maximize development impact in small countries with limited human and financial capacities. Special consideration will be given to undertaking research on the role of traditional governance systems in modern societies.

Annex. Results and resources framework

Regional priority: Pacific people, societies, economies, cultures and natural environments are resilient to changing conditions and extreme events resulting from climate change, climate variability and geological processes, to enhance the well-being of the people and to promote their sustainable development (*Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)*

Sustainable development goals (SDGs) 7, 13, 14, 15

United Nations outcome 1 involving UNDP: By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened.

Strategic plan outcome 5. Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change.

United Nations Pacific strategy outcome indicators, baselines, targets	Data source and frequency of data collection, and responsibilities	Indicative country programme outputs (including indicators, baselines, targets)	Major partners/partnerships/ frameworks	Indicative resources by outcome (\$ thousands)
outcome indicators, baselines,	data collection, and	Output 1.1. Scaled-up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented. Indicative indicator 1.1.1. Dollar amount mobilized with support from UNDP for climate change adaptation and mitigation (including energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy access) Baseline (2017): 160 million (adaptation), 15 million (mitigation) Target: 300 million (adaptation), 80 million (mitigation) Source: Project documents, reports, evaluations. Indicative indicator 1.1.2. Number of UNDP project beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex, with reduced vulnerability or increased resilience (Green Climate Fund Board indicator) Baseline (2017): 210,000 (male); 190,000 (female) Target: 300,000 (male); 300,000 (female) Source: Project reports, evaluations Indicative indicator 1.1.3. Number of countries with policy instruments for renewable energy, energy efficiency, or energy	frameworks Ministries of Finance and Planning, Natural Resource and Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Agriculture National development finance institutions Select provincial and local authorities Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), University of the South Pacific, Forum Fisheries Agency Research and academic institutions Live and Learn, World Conservation Society, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, other civil society organizations.	
		access introduced as a result of UNDP interventions Baseline (2017): 0 Target: 8 Source: Project reports, evaluations.	Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund Asian Development Bank, World Bank United States Agency for International Development, German Cooperation,	

Output 1.2: Effective risk-informed development plans, disaster preparedness and recovery mechanisms in place at the national, sector and subnational levels.

Indicative indicator 1.2.1. Number of newly endorsed development policies and plans at the national, sector and subnational levels that mainstream climate and disaster risks

Baseline (2017): 0

Target: At least 28 at national level, including sectoral; 140 at subnational level

Source/frequency: Development policy and plans; national disaster risk management and climate change policies and plans (annual)

Indicative indicator 1.2.2. Number of countries with formalized recovery preparedness mechanisms in place

Baseline (2017): 2 **Target:** 10

Source/frequency: Post-disaster needs assessments, disaster recovery framework, government policy documents (ad hoc)

Output 1.3. Solutions developed at national and subnational levels for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services and waste.

Indicative indicator 1.3.1. Number of UNDP project beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex, with access to sustainably managed natural resources (e.g., fisheries), ecosystem services (e.g., ecotourism), and waste

Baseline (2017): 160,000 (male) 140,000 (female)

Target: 200,000 (male) 200,000 (female) **Source:** Project documents, project reports, evaluations

Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Russian Federation, and other development partners

United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme, World Meteorological Organization, OCHA, World Health Organization (WHO), UN-Women and other United Nations Organizations

Guiding partnership frameworks: SAMOA Pathway, Framework for Pacific Regionalism, FRDP.

Regional priority: Sustainable development that combines economic, social and cultural development in ways that improve livelihoods and well-being and use the environment sustainably (FRDP)

SDGs: 1, 5, 8, 10, 17

United Nations outcome 3 involving UNDP: By 2022, people in the Pacific, in particular youth, women and vulnerable groups, benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic development that creates decent jobs, reduces multidimensional poverty and inequalities, and promotes economic empowerment.

Strategic plan outcome 1. Growth and development are inclusive and sustainable, incorporating productive capacities that create employment and livelihoods for the poor and excluded.

Indicator: Number of PICTs in which the proportion of men, women, youth and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, according to national definitions, has decreased, based on the latest available data Baseline (2017): 0

Target: 8

Indicator: Number of PICTs in which the percentage of the population with access to formal financial services has increased, based on the latest available data

Baseline (2017): 0

Target: 5

Data source: Household income and expenditure survey Frequency: Every 4 to 6 years Departments of Planning, Ministries of Finance

Annual national development reports, sector annual progress reports, SDG tracking reports Frequency: national and sector reports (annual), SDG reports (every 3 to 5 years)

Data source: Labour force survey reports

Output 3.1. National and local institutions enabled to put in place evidence-based, risk-informed and gender-sensitive policies, guiding participatory planning and budgeting processes and aligned with SDGs.

Indicative indicator 3.1.1. Number of countries that use nationally relevant SDG targets and indicators, including age and sex disaggregated data, to monitor the performance of national and subnational plans and budgets

Baseline (2017): 4

Target: 14

Source/Frequency: National and sector sustainable development strategies (every 3-5 years); national and sectoral reports (annual); national SDG tracking reports (every 3 years).

Indicative indicator 3.1.2. Number of countries with systems in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality, women's empowerment and inclusion of marginalized individuals and communities

Baseline (2017): 0

Target: 5

Source/frequency: Project reports (annual); evaluations.

Output 3.2. Green/blue economic policies in place to support private sector initiatives that create sustainable and environmentally friendly jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for women and youth.

Indicative indicator 3.2.1. Number of countries with policies, systems or institutional measures in place at the national and subnational levels to generate and strengthen employment and livelihoods

Baseline (2017): 1

Target: 5

Source/frequency: Project reports (annual); evaluations

Indicative indicator 3.2.2. Number of green/blue businesses started and jobs created disaggregated by age, sex and geographical location (rural/urban)

Baseline (2017): 0

Target: 50 new businesses and 300 jobs (in 5 pilot countries)

Ministries of Finance and Planning, national statistics offices and line ministries

National development finance institutions

Select provincial and local authorities

CROP agencies: PIFS, SPC, Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre, Pacific Island Private Sector Organization

Research and academic institutions

Asian Development Bank, World Bank

Australia, European Union, Japan, New Zealand, and other development partners

United Nations Capital Development Fund, ESCAP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, ILO, UN-Women, FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development

Guiding partnership frameworks: SAMOA Pathway, Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Regular 5,788,666

Other 26,000,000

Source/frequency: Project reports (annual); partner surveys	
Output 3.3. National financial inclusion policies and strategies in place and implemented to expand access to financial services for rural and low-income women and youth.	
Indicative indicator 3.3.1. Number of countries adopting national financial inclusion policies and strategies with specific gender, rural and youth approaches Baseline (2017): 5 Target: 6 Source/frequency: Project reports (annual); partner surveys (quarterly)	
Indicative indicator 3.3.2. Number of women and men enrolled in formal financial services, disaggregated by locality Baseline (2016): 478,484 male; 339,809 female Target: 678,484 male; 678,484 female Source/frequency: Project reports (annual); partner surveys (quarterly).	

Regional priority: Embrace good governance, the full observance of democratic values, the rule of law, the defence and promotion of all human rights, gender equality, and commitment to just societies (Framework for Pacific Regionalism). **SDGs** 5, 16

United Nations outcome 5 involving UNDP: By 2022, people and communities in the Pacific will contribute to and benefit from inclusive, informed and transparent decision-making processes, accountable and responsive institutions, and improved access to justice.

Strategic plan outcome 2. Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democracy and governance.

Indicator: Number of PICTs with established and implemented anti-	National governments (collected annually by UNDP Pacific	•	National governments Sub-national governments	Regular 5,786,667	
corruption policies Baseline (2016): 1 Target: 7	Office) Electoral Commissions, Inter- Parliamentary Union Parline Database (collated annually by UNDP Pacific Office), surveys, pacwip.org statistics Ministries of Justice, corrections services (collated annually by	Office) Electoral Commissions, Inter- Parliamentary Union Parline Database (collated annually by UNDP Pacific Office), surveys, pacwip.org statistics Ministries of Justice, corrections	marginalized groups in national and subnational decision-making bodies that are more representative Indicative indicator 5.1.1. Proportion of women (to men) participating as candidates in national elections Baseline (2016): 10.6 per cent Target: 25 per cent Data source: Electoral management bodies, Integrity and law enformation and subnational decision-making bodies that are more representative Indicative indicator 5.1.1. Proportion of women (to men) participating as candidates in national elections Baseline (2016): 10.6 per cent Target: 25 per cent Data source: Electoral management bodies, Integrity and law enformation and subnational decision-making bodies that are more representative Legal aid commission participating as candidates in national elections Electoral Commission Parliaments Electoral Commission Parliaments	Integrity and law enforcement agencies Auditors general Ombudsmen's offices	
Indicator: Number of PICTs in which the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has increased, based on the latest available data Baseline (2017): 0 Target: 14				Parliaments Electoral Commissions Judiciaries Police services	
Indicator: Number of PICTs in which the unsentenced detainees as a	,	Indicative indicator 5.1.2. Number of countries with increased participation by	PIFS		

Civil society organizations proportion of overall prison population citizens in Parliament work through giving Pacific Ombudsman Alliance has decreased, based on the latest evidence to Parliament committees, available data. disaggregated by gender Media organizations Baseline (2017): 0 Baseline (2016): 0 Political parties Political party commissions **Target:** To be determined Target: 6 **Data source**: Project reports and surveys World Bank Output 5.2. Increased transparency and European Union, Governments of accountability in governance institutions and Australia, Japan and New Zealand formal and informal decision-making processes. UN-Women, WHO, United Nations **Indicative indicator 5.2.1**: Number of Office on Drugs and Crime countries in which Parliaments are more effective in their oversight functions Guiding partnership frameworks: **Baseline (2017):** 0 SAMOA Pathway, Framework for Target: 7 Pacific Regionalism Data source: UNDP assessments/surveys (midterm and end-of-cycle) **Indicative indicator 5.2.2.** Number of countries that address more than 60% of gaps identified in UNCAC reviews **Baseline (2016):** 0 Target: 7 Data source: UNCAC review reports (once per country approx. every five years), national policy documents (mid-term and end-of-cycle) Output 5.3. More women and men benefit from strengthened governance systems for equitable service delivery, including access to justice. **Indicative indicator 5.3.1.** Number of project beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex and rural/urban localities, with access to legal aid services **Baseline (2016):** 1,117 (male); 1,815 (female); 80% rural and 20% urban Target: 6,000 (male); 9,000 (female); 80% rural and 20% urban **Data source:** UNDP project reports (annual) **Indicative indicator 5.3.2.** Number of countries implementing effective multisectoral approaches to non-communicable diseases Baseline (2017): 0 Target: 7 **Data source:** Ministries of Health (annual)