



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Welcome to the Virtual Pacific Urban Forum 2021!

*Presented by the Pacific Partnership
for the New Urban Agenda*

26 August 2021



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Pacific New Urban Agenda Regional Overview

PP-NUA Working Group
Alex Lee-Emery
Sulki Hwang
Chatnam Lee

26 August 2021

What is the Pacific New Urban Agenda?



The **Pacific New Urban Agenda (PNUA)**, adopted at the Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF 5), presents a shared vision and framework to guide sustainable urban development.

The PNUA calls on all actors at the local, national, and regional levels to accelerate action across four interconnected working pillars:



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- 1) Informal Settlements and Basic Services
- 2) Affordable Housing
- 3) Public Awareness and Engagement



Environment, Resilience and Urbanisation

- 1) Climate Change Mitigation
- 2) Community Adaptation and Infrastructure
- 3) Ecological Protection



Urban Economy

- 1) Land Use and Territorial Planning
- 2) Local Economic Development
- 3) Connectivity and Productivity
- 4) Technologies and Innovation



Urban Governance

- 1) National Urban Policies
- 2) Urban Data
- 3) Empowerment of Local Government
- 4) Tenure Security



Fifth Pacific Urban Forum Recap



The Fifth Pacific Urban Forum (PUF 5) was held in Nadi, Fiji in July 2019.

- Attended by >200 urban practitioners, including representation from 13 Pacific Island Nations.

The Forum aimed to:

- Introduce and increase action toward the implementation, review and monitoring of the Pacific New Urban Agenda;
- Improve the mechanisms for the data collection and knowledge sharing;
- Promote partnerships and awareness of the role of Pacific cities for achievement of national and regional urban policy goals;

The outcomes of PUF5 provided contributions and inputs into global and regional platforms for sustainable urbanisation, including the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting, WUF10 and APUF 7.

Reports and more info available at:

<https://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/info/news/puf.html>



2 Years on from PUF5...

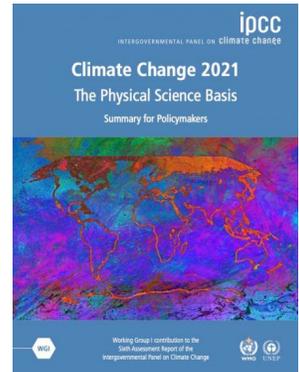


COVID-19

- 8 months after PUF5, COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by WHO (*March 2020*)
- Global and Regional Economic Recession
 - *Travel and Tourism*
 - *Remittances*
 - *Import/Exports*
- Regional Public Health Measures
- Good governance and preparedness are key
- Vaccine access and distribution variable and needs acceleration in the Pacific

Climate Change

- Increasing Intensity of Tropical Cyclones
- Sea Level Rise and Flood Risk
- Ocean Acidification
- Increasing Hot Extremes
 - *Wildfires*
 - *Heat Stress*
 - *Drought*
 - *Ocean Warming*
- Greater need for climate resilient infrastructure and disaster risk reduction
- Climate migration and resettlement planning
- Upcoming COP26 event (*Nov 2021*)



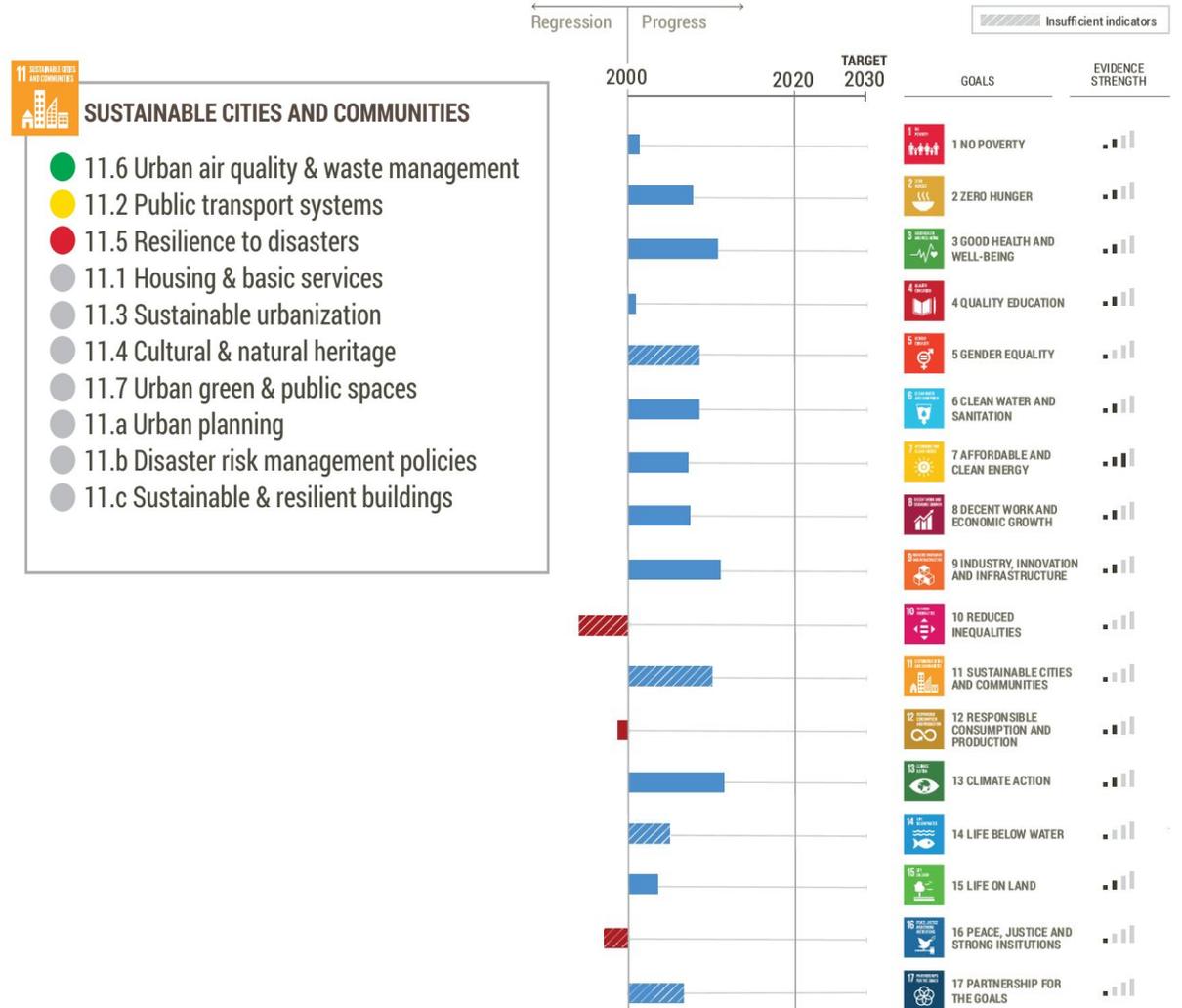
2 Years on from PUF5...



Pacific Sustainable Development Recap

- General progress on goals, but the Pacific region is **not on track** to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030.
- Advances in Goals:
 - 3 - Health
 - 9 - Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure
 - 11 - Sustainable Cities
 - 13 - Climate Action
- Concern for Goals:
 - 10 - Reduced Inequalities
 - 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production
 - 16 - Peace, Justice, Institutions
- SDG11 Sustainable Cities in the Pacific
 - Regression in 11.5 Disaster Resilience indicator
- Persistent **data limitations** across the region.
- *UNESCAP 2020 SDG Progress Report*

Snapshot of SDG progress in the Pacific, 2020



Welcome to the Virtual Pacific Urban Forum 2021!



Aims:

- Assess the status of national PUF5 commitments across the Pacific region and hear updates on key urban development priorities and progress from country delegates
- Provide countries with a platform to share updates on their COVID-19 responses and recovery
- Formally launch the PP-NUA with Pacific country partners and regional urban practitioners
- Identify key areas where the PP-NUA and individual members can support and accelerate PNUA implementation

Part 1

- Regional Progress Updates
- Pacific Country Presentations

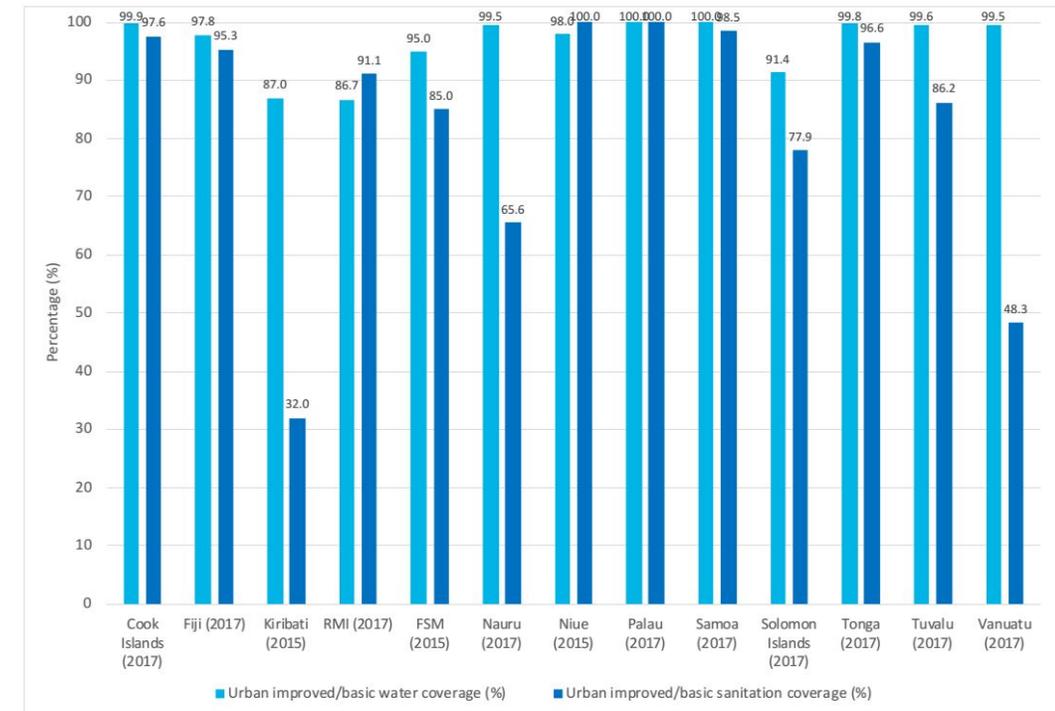
Part 2:

- PP-NUA Presentations
- Q&A and Discussion

COVID-19 and Urban Development



- **95% of COVID-19 cases are in urban areas**
 - High population densities
 - Interdependent activities and human interaction
 - High economic costs
- **Informal Settlements are particularly vulnerable**
 - High density and little open space
 - Limited or unreliable access to basic services and shared facilities
 - Limited access to health services and awareness raising
 - Economic limitations, with high reliance on casual labor and informal economic activities
 - Lack of data, mapping and monitoring to inform responses
- **Water and sanitation services and handwashing are essential**
 - Average 93% regional Pacific improved drinking water access
 - Issues: Supply consistency, piped facilities, little to no data on informal settlements





COVID-19 in Pacific Cities



Key Impacts:

- Region has been able to control the risk to public health in many countries.
- Major economic losses in the tourism sector
 - Pre-COVID tourism was about 20-30% of economic activity (up to 85%)
 - Impact assessments suggest >80% of households reporting income losses (risk of >26% increase in household poverty)
- Remittances
 - Delayed and lowered due to unemployment
- Imports/Exports disruptions
 - Increase in food prices and availability impacting food security.

Key Responses:

- Border closure to contain COVID-19
- State of Emergency issued by states
- Public communications and campaigns to raise awareness on COVID-19 and social distancing measures
- Data collection - to keep track of daily cases and profiling of informal settlements
- Public health investment in medical equipment and quarantine facilities
- Food banks and emergency financial support offered to vulnerable populations and SMEs



Social Equity and Urbanisation



Trends

- Regional informal settlement upgrading programmes.
- Promotion of gender equality and action to prevent gender-based violence.
- Affordable housing programme accessibility and support.

Challenges

- Physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner
 - Surveys in 4 PICs reported 40% of women subjected to violence within the previous year.
- Economic instability resulting in increased unemployment and crime
- Household poverty, with less food to eat and children withdrawn from schools
- Need to plan for climate migration/relocation and social security.



Environment, Resilience and Infrastructure



Trends

- Development of resettlement policy plans
- Public investment in climate resilient infrastructure, but significantly more needed
- Connectivity, road and telecommunications investment
- Emerging urban environmental projects (nature-based solutions, tree planting, etc)

Challenges

- Sea Level Rise (SLR) and urban flooding
- Tropical cyclones and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Rolling out retrofitting and adaptation of existing infrastructure
- Lack of advanced waste processing technologies



Urban Economy



Trends

- Urban-related economic activity >50% of GDP
- Promotion of women in the formal and informal economy
 - Grants for women-led SMEs
 - Capacity building and training
- Closure and reduced capacity of city markets

Challenges

- Youth employment opportunities and training/retraining



Urban Governance



Trends

- Digitisation of governance services
- Urban policy development
 - National Urban Policy and Action Plans
 - Building Codes
 - National Housing Policy
- Land registry programmes

Challenges

- Data collection and centralization
 - Urban data sources are fragmented and lack strategic vision

Policy Priorities Going Forward



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Prioritize Informal Settlements and Affordable Housing
- Continue COVID-19 Emergency Support as Needed
- Promote Gender Equality
- Plan for Climate Migration and Mobility



Urban Economy

- Support Small Medium Enterprises
- Ensure COVID-19 Economic Support and Tourism Sector Retraining
- Incorporate Green Growth in COVID-19 Economic Recovery planning



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Invest in Climate Adaptation and Resilience
- Continue improvements in Connectivity, Electrification and closing the Digital Divide
- Plan for Urban Waste Management



Urban Governance

- Greater Data Collection and Centralization
- Develop National Urban Policies, Housing Policy and Building Codes
- Support Cross-Ministry and Cross-Sector Collaboration and capacity building

More Resources



Solevaka Community of Practice

- A Pacific online knowledge and engagement platform
- Find all our partnership resources and reports
- Link: <https://solevaka.org/>

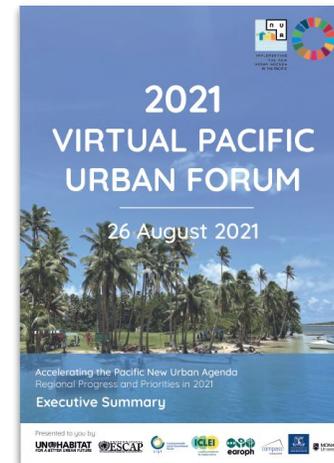
Regional Progress Report

- Executive Summary - *Available this week for participants!*
- Full Report - *Coming Soon*

How you can contribute to the Full Report:

- Post-event case study survey

Also see UN-Habitat, 2020 *'The impact of COVID-19 on Urban Systems, Informal Settlements and the Urban Poor in the Pacific'* and rapid assessments.



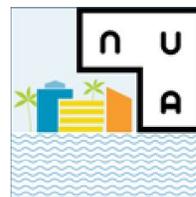


IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

COUNTRY URBAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum

26 August 2021



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Solomon Islands

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Update

*Stanley Wale, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of
Lands, Housing and Survey*

26 August 2021

Solomon Islands: Two years on from PUF5



Urban Population:

- *Total population:* 721, 455 (31% increase from 2009)
- *Urban population:* 184,832 in 2019 (69% increase from 2009; 5.8% annual growth)

Key Urban Policies: Planning and Development Act, Honiara Local Planning Scheme (LPS), Henderson LPS, National Climate Change Policy, National Population Policy, National Youth Policy, Strategy Framework for Youth Development & Empowerment

Governing Bodies: Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Honiara City Council, provincial governments

Trends:

- Rapid urban population growth continues
- Continued reduction of urban green spaces and tree cover in Honiara

Challenges:

- Climate change and environmental degradation
- Economic and housing constraints



Image: Associated Press, 2020

COVID-19 Impacts:

- No community spread of COVID-19
- Indirect (e.g. economic) impacts

COVID-19 Responses:

- State of Emergency legislation
- Stimulus package and other government support

Solomon Islands: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- National Housing Policy development for drafting September 2021.
- Three major housing projects ongoing: Mamara, MLHS project, Pacific Games housing complexes.
- Land registration ongoing, requires accelerated implementation for 2021 title allocations.
- Public service rental scheme under review.



Urban Economy

- Ongoing review of land rents, drafted land valuation roll.
- Review of Lata/Tulagi local planning schemes.
- Drafted constitution of S.I. Planners' Association.
- Review of Honiara Local Planning Scheme underway with ADB GIS support.
- East and West Honiara highways upgrading due to be complete 2023.
- Submarine cabling and telecoms development.



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Climate Resilient Honiara Project entering implementation stage.
- UN-Women gender forum supported action on climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- Climate change resettlement policy - to Cabinet end of 2021. Pilot sites - Walande, Aruligo, Titiana, Nukuaisi.



Urban Governance

- National Urban Policy draft endorsed by cabinet - shift towards climate change management and resettlement.
- Reclassification of peri-urban areas with aerial data collection (LiDAR).
- UNDP-funded land recording to establish walking boundaries for >200 tribal groups.
- Greater Honiara Urban Development plan to be resubmitted to Prime Ministers Office.

Climate Resilient Honiara



Project Aims:

- Improving climate and disaster resilience at community, ward, and city level in Honiara
- Involves 'hard' and 'soft' climate interventions: WASH and evacuation facilities, drainage, capacity building
- Working with UN-Habitat

Project Results:

- Built capacity of community members (including women, youth and people with disabilities) in climate change, disaster risk reduction and food security
- Engaged with central and local government to raise awareness about climate change

Next steps:

- Implementation phase – engineering interventions proposed for each community; urban greening; organic farming; supporting development of a Habitat for Humanity shelter guide
- Project scheduled to be complete December 2022

For more info see: [Climate Resilient Honiara Facebook page](#)



Images credit: John Clemo, 2021



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

TUVALU

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates
*Lototasi T. Morikao, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of
Local Government and Agriculture*

26 August 2021

Tuvalu: 2 Years on from PUF5

Urban Population: 6,320 (60.2%)

Key Urban Policies: Tuvalu NSSD – TE KETE 2021 - 2030

Island Strategic Plans 2021 -2024

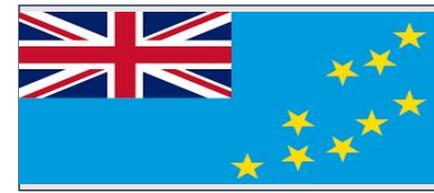
Governing Bodies: Government of Tuvalu

Trends:

- Internal Migration
- Better opportunities
- Better Services

Challenges:

- Overcrowding
- Water and Sanitation
- Climate Change and sea level rise



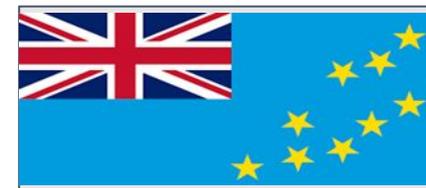
COVID-19 Impacts:

- Borders lock-down
- Health services
- Sea and air transports

COVID-19 Responses:

- Talaaliki Plan (COVID19 Alert & Response Plan)
- COVID19 Task Force – Chair by Hon PM
- National and DPs Responses

Tuvalu: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Completion of the 4th Annual Review for Tuvalu Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan 2017 – 2026; the policy has 6 specific goals
- Additional half acres on all islands for Agriculture development and lease by the government
- National Strategy for Healthy Local food supply



Urban Economy

- Outsourcing of some of the government service to the private sector
- Provision of loans to local farmers with low interest rate



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Application and Management of ESIA's on development projects in the country
- Useable land after completion of the borrow-pits project
- Building of harbour facilities in the outer islands to ensure reliable services
- Tuvalu Priority Infrastructure Investment Plan 2020-2025

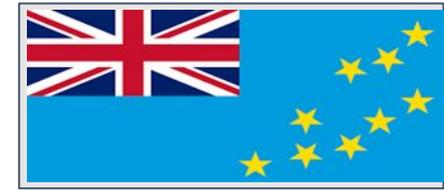


Urban Governance

- Formulation of the National Climate Mobility Advisory Committee
- National Infrastructure Steering Committee – advises Tuvalu Cabinet on government major infrastructure

Preparing the Funafuti Water and Sanitation

(formerly Tuvalu Integrated Urban Resilience Project)



Project Aims:

Reduce vulnerability to climate hazards and invest in adequate water and sanitation services.

Funded by ADB

Project Results:

- Created an enabling environment for the ensuing investment project.
- Investment scope identified and detailed engineering design completed.
- Project ready for implementation and delivery

Project Next Steps:

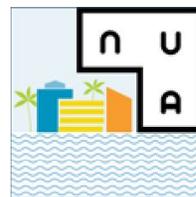
- The feasibility studies will provide the design approach and principles for detailed engineering designs and surveys to be delivered under the PRF
- Ministry of Finance as the executing and implementing agency for the project





IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

**Thank you! and
Fakafetai lasi**



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Vanuatu

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates
*Jeffrey Kaitip, Acting Director, Department of Urban
Affairs and Planning*

26 August 2021

Vanuatu: 2 Years on from PUF5

Urban Population: 22.4% (total 301,695)

Key Urban Policies:

- National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2030
- National Urban Policy (*under development*)

Governing Bodies:

- National Government (1)
- Local Government Councils (6)
- Municipal Councils (3)
- Area Councils (72)

Trends:

- Increase in rural / urban migration
- Increase number of urban squatters
- Foreign land grabbing

Challenges:

- Urban unemployment
- No systematic approach to regulate housing prices
- Lack of affordable suitable land and government subdivision program



COVID-19 Impacts:

- Tourism remains severely impacted – being a major economic driver of Vanuatu – number of returning residence increasing
<https://vnso.gov.vu/index.php/en/statistics-by-topic/tourism>
- No confirmed cases in Vanuatu

COVID-19 Responses:

- The National Disaster Management Office takes lead on the overall coordination of the COVID 19 operation with the Health Cluster leads the medical aspects of the operation
- State of Emergency is currently on-going with directives pertaining the SoE regulations and the latest Council of Ministers (COM) decision on the Stimulus package

Vanuatu: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Sub-division policy recently launched by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
- The National Housing Corporation (NHC) is a statutory body with the mandate to execute government policy on housing



Urban Economy

- Pandemic economic response plans – central government issuing stimulus packages to help SMEs and small locally owned businesses
- Women engagement in small business through roadside markets and selling handicrafts
- Public-Private Partnerships (government subsidies - 70/30, 60/40) on agriculture and fisheries sector to encourage innovative entrepreneurship for locals who wish to start a small business.



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Displacement policy fulfils an obligation of the Vanuatu Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy by providing holistic approach
- Vanuatu National Disasters Management Office's (NDMO) education and awareness programs devolve climate change and disaster preparedness to the community level



Urban Governance

- New dedicated Department of Urban Affairs and Planning recently launched, mandated to deliver a range of basic urban services.
- Legislative review and amendment of Municipalities [CAP.126], Physical Planning Act [CAP.193], Foreshore Development Act [CAP.90] and development of National Urban Policies.

Newly Formed Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP)



Vision:

To achieve stable, sustainable and prosperous urban and foreshore development in Vanuatu.

Mission:

To develop conducive policies, legislations, planning frameworks and promote administrative and technical support, for the development and growth of urban and foreshore development that achieves vibrant, inclusive, resilient, adaptive and high quality services and environment for all.

Project Results

- New dedicated Department of Urban Affairs and planning recently launched on 28th April 2021
- Procurement of new DUAP vehicle

Project Next steps

- Recruitment of New Officers
- Development of DUAP website in progress





IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Cook Islands

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates
*Mia Teaurima, Director Of Pa Enea Governance,
Office of the Prime Minister*

26 August 2021

Cook Islands: 2 Years on from PUF5



Urban Population (Rarotonga): 13,007 (74.6%) – *last census 2016*

Key Urban Policies: National Sustainable Development Agenda2020+ (NSDA2020+), Economic Development Strategy (EDS), Community Sustainable Development Plans (CSDP), Water, Climate Change

Governing Bodies: OPM, MFEM, Island Governments, Ministry of Health,



Trends:

- Emigration
- High cost of living

Challenges:

- Labour shortage
- Climate Change impacts

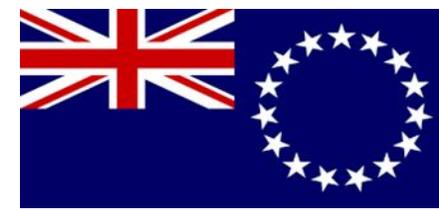
COVID-19 Impacts:

- Loss of employments
- Increase in National Debts

COVID-19 Responses:

- Subsidies provided by Govt to those who loss employments.
- Pfizer vaccination of up to **98%** of national population

Cook Islands: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Energy tariff and loan interest payment waiver provided by National Government in response to covid19 pandemic.
- Online recruitment platform developed through Ministry of Internal Affairs to help those unemployed as a result of the covid19 pandemic.



Urban Economy

- National Government stimulus financial packages offered to innovative business initiatives.
- Increased in online business activities as a result of the covid19 pandemic



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Ongoing strengthening of key infrastructure projects such as roads & bridges.
- Increased in climate change resilience and adaptation programmes through non-government organizations.
- Strive for 100% renewable energy continues.



Urban Governance

- Community Sustainable Development Plans (CSDPs) to emphasize employment creation initiatives to retain population.
- Updated the Infrastructure Act to allow improved provision of services.
- Updated the National Environment Act

Infrastructure Improvements in Rarotonga



Overview and Objectives

Infrastructure improvements/upgrades such as roads, bridges, water intakes/distribution network, drainage, airports.

Objectives: strong and climate proof infrastructure, strengthen capability against extreme weather, safe and clean water, compliance, provide employment opportunities, address emigration.

Project Results

- Safer roads
- Improved stream water flow to open waters reducing impact on flooding around town.
- Improved portable water quality even during heavy downpours
- Safe and compliant airport operations

Project Next Steps

- These are ongoing projects
- Specific islands are targeted to strengthen key infrastructures in this financial year.



For more information see: <https://ici.gov.ck/projects/>



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Papua New Guinea

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates
*Ted Lulu, Executive Director | Research & Strategy
Division, National Capital District Council*

26 August 2021

Papua New Guinea: 2 Years on from PUF5

Port Moresby City Focus:

Port Moresby is the capital of PNG and the largest city in the South Pacific outside Australia and New Zealand.

Population: 364,145 (2011 census), unofficial estimates >1 million

Key Urban Policies:

Port Moresby Towards 2030 - Strategic Urban Development Plan launched in 2020, aiming to sustainably develop Port Moresby's infrastructure and social services.

Governing Bodies:

NCDC, Dpt. of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, Dpt. of Environment and Conservation, Dpt. of Works, Climate Change Office

City Trends:

- Funding for major road infrastructure in all key entry points to the city.
- Environmental sustainability focus, tree planting initiative.
- Settlement upgrade schemes.

City Challenges:

- Human rights issues and court challenges on eviction exercises to settlers along road infrastructure corridors.
- Community response and action to adapt to change.
- Law and order.



COVID-19 Impacts:

- Total cases / deaths - 17,823 / 192
- 35% of PNG households reported job losses; 75% of SMEs severely impacted by lockdown

COVID-19 Responses:

- National Pandemic Act 2020 and establishment of national and provincial control centres to address COVID-19.
- Revitalized provincial radio stations to achieve the PNG COVID-19 Communications Strategy.
- Provincial hospital program to upgrade health facilities.

Papua New Guinea: National PUF5 Progress



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Gender-Based Violence Parliamentary Committee
- Duran Farm Housing project to develop 2,500 allotments to address housing shortage in Port Moresby
- UNICEF programme to register all children under five under civil identity registry



Urban Economy

- Creation of special economic zones aiming to attract foreign investments.
- Launched National Digitization Transformation Policy to improve access to communication and technology.
- Digitization of land titles and formation of an online land management and payment system.



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- PNG Electrification Programme aiming to connect 70% of houses by 2030
- 'Connect PNG Program' investing in road, air, and maritime infrastructure. Includes 100 roads to be linked in all regions and a trans-islands highway.
- New monitoring and surveillance system for illegal logging exports and ban all log exports by 2025.



Urban Governance

- National Housing Policy 2021-2031 being drafted.
- Decentralization reform to empower provincial governments
- Three City Authorities have been established since 2019 to support local delivery of municipal services.
- District Facility Audits in 2019 to monitor the effectiveness of administrative reform and operational efficiency.

PNG Urban Local Government Association



Project Overview

- PNG ULGA was established by 29 Urban Local Governments in PNG and NCDC with technical assistance from CLGF Pacific Office and Australian Local Government Association.
- It served as a national mouthpiece for the Urban Local Governments and Municipalities particularly NCDC, in promoting best practices.
- The platform was used to facilitate exchange programs and sister city agreements with cities and towns in Australia and PNG.
- Due to funding and resource constraints it naturally ceased to operate until now. Its operations were previously funded with membership fees by Urban LGs and grants.



PNG Urban Local Government Association



Project Aims:

- 2021 to revive and reestablish the defunct PNG Urban Local Governments Association.
- To have an active voice through the platform to advocate for effective urban governance in all urban centers in PNG.
- Department of Provincial & LLG Affairs and NCDC to provide initial resources like office space and skeletal Admin staff

Project Next Steps:

- PNG National Urban Forum to be held in November 2021
- Appoint Interim Chairman and Executive
- Put in place a Secretariat through resourcing
- Establish a form of Local Government and Council Ward system as community government in Port Moresby early next year
- Establish a database system called Ward Record Book collecting all socioeconomic data within the Council Wards for planning and to make informed decisions



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

FIJI

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates
*Suruj Prasad, Principal Research & Policy Officer,
Ministry of Housing & Community Development*

26 August 2021

Fiji: 2 Years on from PUF5



Urban Population: 494,252 (55.9%)

Key Urban Policies:

Public Rental Board Subsidy, Housing Assistance Relief Trust, Housing Assistance to Fire Victims, Housing Assistance for Persons living with Disability, First Home Ownership and First Land purchase Initiative, Housing Authority of Fiji affordable housing initiatives

Governing Bodies: Ministry of Housing & Community Development, Housing Authority of Fiji & Public Rental Board



COVID-19 Impacts:

- Increasing trend of COVID-19 cases
- Active cases - 19,062 (23/08/2021) (MoH)
- 94% businesses adversely affected by COVID-19 (FBOS)
- 87% of the businesses reported declines in business income (FBOS)

COVID-19 Responses:

- COVID-19 response operation in conducting awareness, screening, facilitating isolation and quarantines.
- Development of Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on urban systems in Fiji, with particular focus on informal settlements
- Curfew progressively uplifted and businesses opening with increasing vaccination and strict measures
- Wider vaccination plan - so far 40% pop. fully vaccinated

Fiji: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Informal Settlement Upgrade Programme.
- Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), Phase III in progress – Lami Informal Settlement Analysis and Strategy aiming for replication.
- First Home Initiative Programme.
- Rural Housing Assistance Program.
- Social Housing Assistance Policy (Subsidies).
- Debt Relief Programme.



Urban Economy

- Engagement with key stakeholders such as Min of Lands, Min of Eco, Rural & Maritime Dev & Office of the Solicitor General.
- Pandemic has shifted services towards an online/virtual platform.
- Land leases are facilitated by Ministry of Lands for State Land and iTaukei Affairs Board for Native land.



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements (FRIS).
- Rural & Maritime CAT4 Cyclone Resilient House plan.
- Development of CAT5 2 bedroom and 3 bedroom house plans for settlements in the Urban and peri-urban areas.
- Fiji's updated NDC (Dec 2020) includes two critical provisions: (i) multi-hazard risk assessments and “planning and development of climate-resilient human settlements” and (ii) strengthened housing stock and “climate resilient upgrading of informal settlements”.



Urban Governance

- Review of National Housing Policy – which will also include a provision on informal settlement upgrading.
- Development Lease – upgrade of informal settlements resulting in access to basic utilities and issuance of 99-year lease titles to occupying residents.
- In progress of capturing data for informal settlements.

Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements (FRIS)



Project Overview:

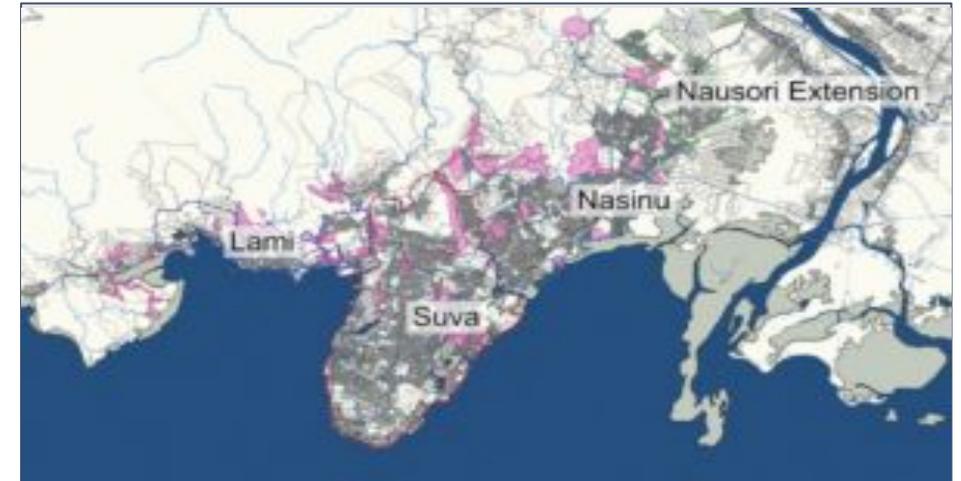
Implementing support for the most vulnerable communities in Fiji to build adaptive capacity against climate change and disaster risk. A total of 16 communities, identified as vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, were selected for the Project. These communities are in the four participating local councils - Lautoka, Sigatoka, Nadi and Lami.

Project Results:

- Increasing climate resilience of selected informal settlements;
- Working on community, municipal % national level:
 - Vulnerability and Risk Assessments.
 - Targeted interventions that can be scaled up across the country/region.
- Coordination and knowledge management and sharing as well as data collection on/ mapping of informal settlements.

Project Next Steps:

- AOC extended until 30 June 2022
- Commencement of capital works programme
- Grant agreements with Councils extended to continue services of Resilience Officers





IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

KIRIBATI

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates
Regina Rotitaake, *Senior Urban Management Officer*, Local
Government Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs

26 August 2021

KIRIBATI: 2 years on from PUF5

Kiribati consists of 33 coral and reef islands of which 21 are inhabited. Three island groups (i) Gilbert islands, (ii) Line Islands and (iii) Phoenix Islands.

South Tarawa (in Gilbert Grp) & Kiritimati in Line Islands are the key urban centers.

Total population: 110,136 (2015 census)

Urban Population: 57%

Key Urban Policies: Kiribati National Urban Policy, Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy, General Land Use Plan

Governing Bodies: Office of President, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and Urban Councils of BTC, TUC and KUC



COVID-19 and Recovery

- Zero covid-19 case to date
- Border remain closed and preventive measures are being implemented
- Kiribati National Covid-19 Response Plan 2020
- Government Financial and Economic Stimulus Packages
- Covid-19 vaccine roll out ongoing

KIRIBATI: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Participatory Slum upgrading program Phase III – 2 pilot communities
- Introduction of the new National sublease policy in 2019 where no one is left behind.
- Urban renewal plan in Betio to replace informal settlement in some areas of Betio - Korobai village, the BTC camp and Angaieta.
- Resettlement policy to relocate people need land to the state land in the Line islands
- Support funds for unemployed (Ages of 18-59), Senior citizens allowance (60+ yrs) and disabilities allowance
- Livelihood & Resilience support funds (small grants)
- Disaster funds (Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recover)



Urban Economy

- Implementation of a Detail Land Use Plan for commercial zones
- Development of strategic commercial areas in Bairiki and Betio to boost local economy
- Provision of small-scale business loans for unemployed youths through Min. of Commerce
- Road rehabilitation to improve and ease mobilization on South Tarawa
- Labour mobility through Overseas Labour Schemes (Pacific Labour Scheme, Seasonal Worker Program, Recognized Seasonal Employer and Sealord)



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- Housing development Phase II on South Tarawa through Kiribati Housing Corporation
- South Tarawa water supply project
- Completion of South Tarawa Water Distillation project
- Strengthening urban resilience to disaster risks affecting urban communities
- Coastal protection through suspension of the sand and gravel mining in designated mining sites in Betio and Bonriki
- The National Long-term Coastal Policy to guide foreshore development
- Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for climate resilient and adaptation programs



Urban Governance

- Kiribati National Urban Policy that set out government actions towards sustainable urban development
- Formulation of Urban Council Strategic Plans which outlines development priorities of councils in line to mandates
- Implementation of the General Land Use Plan that guides land development in various zonings of urban area (commercial, residential, civic etc)
- National Urban Taskforce established to coordinate urban development programs

Solid Waste Management Project (SWaMP) Phase II



Project Overview:

- 5 year (2016-2020) project, funded by NZ Gov't
- Aim to improve and strengthen solid waste management at the three urban centres of Betio, Teinainano and Kiritimati

Project Results:

- Landfill management
- Improved public litter
- Improve service deliveries – urban waste collection
- Improve cleanliness on Tarawa and Kiritimati

Project Next steps:

- Design of phase III





IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

Virtual Pacific Urban Forum Updates

*Robert Goodwin, PMU Program Manager, Department of
Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure*

26 August 2021

Federal States of Micronesia: 2 Years on from PUF5

Urban Population: 24,150 (23%)

Key Urban Policies:

- Strengthening the delivery of basic services through increased investment in social infrastructure (education, health, watsan)
- Enhancing the resiliency of urban-rural transportation linkages through an expanded program of investment in transportation infrastructure
- Improving the urban environment through new programs to address climate change, building regulations and energy efficiency in public buildings

Governing Bodies:

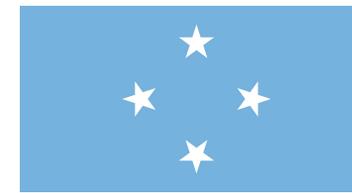
- National Government Departments (Health, Education, Environment, infrastructure, etc)
- State Government Departments (Housing, Lands, Public works, etc)
- Town Councils and Municipal Governments (delivery of basic urban services)
- National and State-wide Utility Companies (telecom, power, water)

Trends:

- Low growth rate in urbanization
- Continuing high rates of out-migration
- Declining economic opportunities due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
- Improving access and reliability of urban basic services

Challenges:

- Addressing economic and social inequities
- Expanding investments in climate resilient infrastructure, housing and urban renewal
- Expanding social programs and economic opportunities



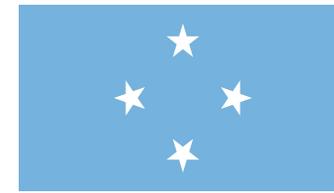
COVID-19 Impacts:

- Significant reductions in economic activity, government revenues, household income and employment
- Slow down in development projects
- Higher costs of imported commodities

COVID-19 Responses:

- Implementation of economic stimulus and social protection programs
- Aggressive vaccination program

Federal States of Micronesia: PUF5 Progress and Achievements



Social Equity and Urbanisation

- Development programs being implemented to integrate disadvantaged communities into mainstream economic activities (e.g. coconut processing plant in Chuuk)
- Progressive expansion of services from urban areas to rural and outer island settlements.
- Establishment of social protection community-based grants for covid awareness programs



Urban Economy

- Funding mobilized from World Bank to improve primary road network and strengthen urban-rural economic linkages
- Projects to expand renewable energy, digital connectivity and water and waste water services in progress
- Loan program established to support women-headed business ventures
- Social programs ongoing to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the unemployed and the most vulnerable households
- Establishment of tourism sector mitigation fund
- Tax Reform commission established to expand the revenue base for social and economic programs



Environment, Resilience, Infrastructure and Urbanisation

- First “State of the Environment Report” launched in 2018 which includes a road map for improving the urban environment
- Implementation of FSM Infrastructure Development Plan, 2016-2025 ongoing
- State-level action plans in place since 2017 for disaster risk management and climate change
- Project launched to develop FSM Building Code which will seek to ensure standards of resilience in the built environment.



Urban Governance

- Ongoing reforms and institutional development of Utility Companies
- Town Councils and Municipalities engaged in the administration of economic and social protection programs...
- Stakeholder participatory approaches being implemented to improve the governance of infrastructure projects

Preparation of the FSM Building Code



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Project overview and objectives:

The FSM currently has no Building Code to provide standards and guidelines for the design and construction of buildings. The Project will prepare an FSM-wide Building Code along with draft legal and institutional instruments for the adoption and enforcement of the Code and the training of local inspectors, builders and contractors

Project Results:

- Establishment of a Technical Working Group to oversee the process...
- Diagnostic survey in progress to assess the current situation
- Stakeholder consultations and awareness raising in progress...
- Consultations initiated with development partners to secure funding for technical studies...

Project Next steps:

- *Complete situation analysis and prepare workplan* and resource requirements for the development of the Building Code...
- Prepare concept notes and project proposals to seek funding for detailed technical studies...
- Undertake a technical assessment of a random set of buildings to provide baseline information



Climate Resilient Road Improvement Project



Project overview and objectives:

The project will enhance the climate resilience of the primary road network on the 4 main islands and establish more effective institutional arrangements for the management of the road system. Funding is being provided by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Key Development Objectives:

- Ensure sustainable access to social and economic services
- More effective integration of the rural areas with the urban economy

Project Results:

- Funding of US\$540 million mobilized from the World Bank
- Project Implementation Unit established
- Vulnerability assessment and preparation of a climate resilient road strategy in progress.

Project Next steps:

- Complete Vulnerability Assessment and Scoping for investment phase
- Start procurement process for engagement of Consultants for technical assistance activities and design and supervision of infrastructure works





IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

Thank you!