



Diaspora engagement mapping

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Facts & figures

Terminology: The terms 'Micronesian emigrants' and 'Micronesians abroad' have generally been used in government policies and official communications.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **5.07%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **23.34**

Voting from abroad³:

By post



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from [UNDESA \(2024\)](#) and remittances from the [World Bank \(2024\)](#).

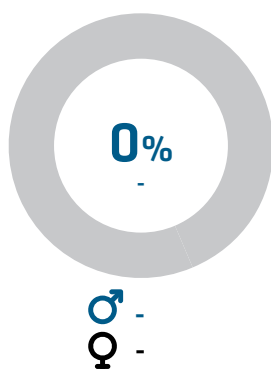
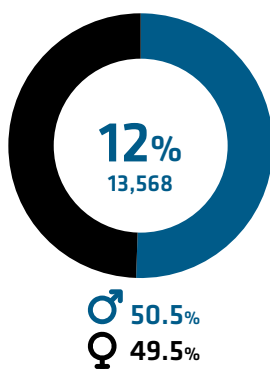
Emigration



% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



Top countries of destination



Guam	11,767
Northern Mariana Islands	1,132
Palau	421
Marshall Islands	247
Guinea	1

¹ In October 2023, President Simina issued Executive Order 23-07, the final step in implementing the Constitutional Amendment for Dual Citizenship. Subsequently, it became possible to hold dual citizenship, based on the citizenship criteria of the Constitution's Article III. The order was applied retroactively.

² Embassy of the Federated States of Micronesia in Washington, D.C., 'Absentee Voting' <http://www.fsmembassydc.org/page/fsm-citizen-information#17>

³ Ibid.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2004** ● **Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2004-2023⁴** aims at achieving growth and self-reliance in the country by 2023. In the SDP, the government acknowledges the important emigration of Micronesians abroad, and it recognizes the potential for remittances to grow and sustain income levels in the country. The plan includes objectives to reduce the factors leading to emigration of productive workers, and to introduce programmes to encourage remittances and return of skilled Micronesian workers and entrepreneurs to the country. The SDP also aims at improving the likelihood of success of Micronesian emigrants through targeted training and regulation of external recruitment programmes.
- 2006** ● **Public Law 14-86⁵** created a new provision within the social security law to allow citizens working abroad to voluntarily contribute to the country's Social Security Administration.⁶
- 2010** ● The **Millennium Development Goals and Federated States of Micronesia Status Report 2010** acknowledges that remittances tend to encourage greater inter-household equality in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- 2024** ● **Strategic 4 Development Plan (SDP) 2024-43.** Following on from its predecessor, SDP 2024-43 seeks to build a unified, resilient and prosperous nation. It was developed with multi-stakeholder consultations, adopted during the State and National Leadership Conference, and now includes a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework to track progress and enable adaptive management. It sets ambitious goals across thematic areas such as education, healthcare, economic diversification, and environmental sustainability.

Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



Government information and advice to the diaspora in the United States

The Micronesian Embassy in Washington D.C. has published key information and advice for the Micronesian diaspora in the United States on a single web page. It includes information on issues such as absentee voting and driving licences, as well as details on the legal status and obligations of Micronesian citizens in the country under the Compact of Free Association.

Independence Day celebrations

The government supports some of the celebrations organised by the Micronesian diaspora for Micronesia's Independence Day in countries and territories of destination. In Guam in 2017, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia took part in some of the celebrations that are organised every year by the Micronesian diaspora.^{7,8}

4 Federated States of Micronesia Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023, <https://fsm-data.sprep.org/dataset/fsm-strategic-development-plan-2004-2023>

5 Federated States of Micronesia's Social Security Administration, Public Law 14-86, fsmssa.fm/files/laws/PublicLaw14-86.pdf

6 Federated States of Micronesia's Social Security Administration, 'Forms', <http://www.fsmssa.fm/forms-2/>

7 The Guam Daily Post, 'FSM community celebrates independence', 6 November 2017. See also <https://eu.guampdn.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2019/11/02/guam-celebrates-fsm-independence-day/4135700002/>

8 Office of the President, Federated States of Micronesia, Opening of the FSM Independence Day celebration in Guam, <https://www.facebook.com/piofsm/videos/740979695984331/>

» Observations

The “Observations” and “Obstacles” sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

Since signing a Compact of Free Association (COFA) between the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States in 1986 - under which citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are free to travel, relocate and work in the United States - nearly all the Micronesian diaspora resides in the United States. Since taking office in 2023, President Simina has made community outreach a key part of his administration, meeting with FSM citizens from multiple cities in the USA in town-hall events.

Responding to the need for improved data for evidence-based policies on migration governance, between October 2024 and July 2025, the IOM supported the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Palau with migration research reports and workshops. The results aim to prioritize policy gaps and recommendations to inform a future migration policy drafting process, with a subsequent diaspora engagement policy development process slated for 2026-2027.

Obstacles



- **Lack of policy and institutional framework:** There is no strategy or policy for diaspora engagement in the Federated States of Micronesia, and none of the government departments have been mandated to deal with diaspora issues in the country.
- **Lack of concrete initiatives to implement the SDP 2004-2023:** Although several objectives relevant to diaspora engagement in Micronesia are included in the SDP, few concrete initiatives have been put in place to achieve these objectives. For example, the SDP targeted external recruitment programmes to improve the chances of success of Micronesian emigrants. However, the Federated States of Micronesia are currently not a signatory to any of the major seasonal work schemes that exist in Australia and New Zealand, unlike most of its Pacific neighbours.
- **Lack of diaspora rights and services:** The Micronesian diaspora has few rights and services. In addition, due to the prohibition of dual citizenship in the Federated States of Micronesia, nearly one-third of Micronesian diasporans in the United States in 2012 had renounced their Micronesian citizenship in order to become US citizens.⁹
- **Lack of data:** With the most recent figures collected by the government on migration dating from 2004 and those on remittances from 2010, data collection remains a challenge in the Federated States of Micronesia.¹⁰ This is an obstacle to further diaspora engagement, as it impedes the formulation of appropriate and evidence-based policies in this area.
- **Unemployment and lack of economic and educational opportunities:** The country's high unemployment and underemployment rates and the lack of economic and educational opportunities in the Federated States of Micronesia are obstacles to further diaspora engagement, in particular regarding the return of skilled Micronesian diasporans to the country.¹¹

⁹ IOM, Migration in the Federated States of Micronesia, Country Profile 2015

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)



Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Pacific Community (SPC)

The Federated States of Micronesia is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation which focuses on scientific and technical expertise. SPC's Social Development Programme is involved in managing the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), which was created in 1972 as a tool for pre-serving Pacific culture.

Pacific Islands Forum

The Federated States of Micronesia is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, an inter-governmental organisation that seeks to foster cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. Its work covers migration issues, as the forum has organised regional meetings on climate change and migration, as well as workshops between immigration officials from the region.

Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)

The Federated States of Micronesia is a member of the PIDC (known as the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference until 2018). PIDC is a regional consultative process that gathers official immigration agencies of the Pacific region to enable the heads of the participating states' immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and foster cooperation. Other objectives of PIDC include modernising national immigration legal frameworks in the region.

International Organisation for Migration

IOM is present in the Federated States of Micronesia, where it is currently implementing a Disaster Mitigation, Relief and Reconstruction Programme with funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). IOM opened a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in the country in 2013,¹² and it published a 2015 Country Profile on Migration in the Federated States of Micronesia.¹³

- **National institutions**

Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Embassies, Consulates, and Missions

The Department of Foreign Affairs is responsible for conducting relations with foreign governments, regional and international organisations, and overseeing the country's embassies, consulates and missions abroad. The department communicates with Micronesian citizens overseas through the websites of its embassies.

¹² IOM, 'Pacific's first Migrant Resource Centre opens'

¹³ IOM, Migration in the Federated States of Micronesia, Country Profile 2015

Office of the President

Through its Public Information Office, the Office of the President informs Micronesian citizens at home and abroad of official government news and notices. Some of the communications published by the Office aim to defend the interests of the diaspora, such as the declaration adopted in August 2020 to express the Office's concerns over press articles published by various media outlets in Guam about the Micronesian diaspora.

Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia

The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia has the ability to regulate emigration in the country. However, no related regulation or legislation has thus far been passed by the Congress.¹⁴

Department of Resources and Development

The department is responsible for supporting and managing the development of the country's economy and the utilisation of its natural resources in line with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP). It conducted the Census of Population and Housing in 2010, which included data on remittances received in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Since nearly all the Micronesian diaspora resides in the United States, at the time of writing, there were no Micronesian diaspora organisations identified in Europe.

Read more about diaspora organisations
in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora
organisation](#)"



¹⁴ Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, <http://www.fsmlaw.org/fsm/constitution/>

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