

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT



THE PACIFIC

Factsheet dossier

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This dossier contains country factsheets on diaspora engagement in the Pacific. The factsheets were produced during EUDiF's global mapping on diaspora engagement, the full results of which are available via an [interactive map](#) on the project's website.

Statistics included in the factsheets come from UN and World Bank datasets; where data was unavailable for 2021, the 2019 dataset is used, as per the initial publication of the mapping. As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration. We are aware that this does not include all who consider themselves diaspora. In certain cases national statistics are included in the fact sheets.

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Papua New Guinea

Samoa

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Tuvalu

Vanuatu



Diaspora engagement mapping FIJI

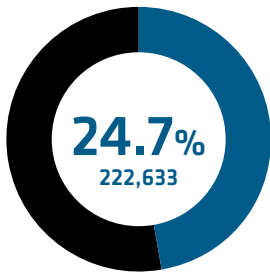
Facts & figures

Emigration

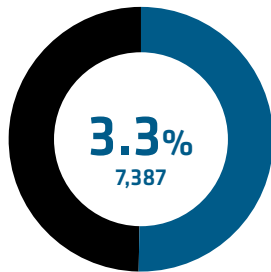
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 47.4%
♀ 52.6%



♂ 50.5%
♀ 49.5%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **7.2%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **312**



Top countries of destination

Australia	79,424
New Zealand	56,344
United States	50,561
Canada	26,268
United Kingdom	6,878



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

By postal vote



Fiji does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 2009 Citizenship of Fiji Act allows Fijian citizens to hold dual citizenship, and allows foreign citizens to claim Fijian citizenship without having to renounce their other citizenships.

2 Fijian Elections Office, *Strategic Plan 2020-2023*, available at www.feo.org.fj/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SP-2020-E-copy.pdf

3 Before each election, the Fijian Elections Office works in conjunction with the Fijian Embassies and High Commissions all over the world to facilitate the registration of Fijians abroad. At the time of elections, Fijians who have registered overseas can apply for a postal vote and receive a ballot at their postal address.

Overview of policy and legislative framework



- 2016** ● **Fiji's Financial Sector Development Plan 2016-2025 (FSDP)**⁴ articulates the key reform areas for the financial system until 2025. The FSDP is composed of 10 strategic objectives and 45 operational recommendations to achieve the government's vision. These recommendations include increasing awareness and encouraging the use of convenient and cheaper remittance channels, as well as to encourage partnerships between money transfer operators and financial services providers to develop and introduce remittance-linked financial products and services.
- 2017** ● **5 and 20 year National Development Plans (NDP) Transforming Fiji**⁵ maps out the way forward for Fiji's national development and mentions remittances as an opportunity for Fiji's economic development. The five year development plan 2017-2021 provides a detailed agenda with specific targets, such as increasing the percentage of remittances sent through mobile money from 3% in 2015 to 10% by 2021.

» Trends:

Since 2017 and the publication of the National Development Plan (NDP) and Financial Sector Development Plan (FSDP), the government of Fiji has made it a priority to improve the attractiveness of the country as a destination for investments to support Fiji in achieving its development aspirations.⁶ The government has made innovation and technology fundamental pillars for achieving its new economic development objectives,⁷ and it refers explicitly to the growing diaspora of Fijians working overseas to justify the need to modernise the national financial system, especially in the area of remittances.⁸ Fiji's Digital Transformation Programme, which includes initiatives such as the BizFiji online portal, is an important tool for attracting investments from the Fijian diaspora in the country.

As part of this effort, the Fijian government also reached out to several of the main Fijian diaspora communities abroad over the past years. In 2019, members of the Fijian community in Melbourne were invited to a networking event organised by the Fiji Consulate General and Trade Commission,⁹ and Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama visited the Fijian diaspora communities in San Francisco¹⁰ and Sydney,¹¹ where he encouraged the Fijian diaspora to invest in Fiji.

The Government is also committed to preserving Fiji's language and culture in its diaspora, as illustrated by initiatives such as the iVolavosa mobile application and the Fijian Cultural Programme (see below).

4 www.rbf.gov.fj/getattachment/a8d8c890-1df5-4dc7-bacf-dc7d0046fdee/Fiji-Financial-Sector-Development-Plan-2016-2025.pdf?lang=en-US

5 <https://www.fiji.gov.fj/getattachment/15b0ba03-825e-47f7-bf69-094ad33004dd/5-Year-20-Year-NATIONAL-DEVELOPMENT-PLAN.aspx>

6 Government of Fiji, Investment Policy Statement, available at: <https://www.mcttt.gov.fj/divisions/trade-unit/investment-policy-statement/>

7 <https://www.mcttt.gov.fj/publications-resources/speeches/minister/hon-ministers-speech-pmiba-launch/>

8 Fiji's Financial Sector Development Plan 2016-2025 (FSDP), available at: www.rbf.gov.fj/getattachment/a8d8c890-1df5-4dc7-bacf-dc7d0046fdee/Fiji-Financial-Sector-Development-Plan-2016-2025.pdf?lang=en-US

9 www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/FIJIAN-ENVOY%E2%80%99S-VISIT-CULTIVATES-STRONGER-COOPERATI

10 www.pmooffice.gov.fj/pm-bainimarama-visits-fijian-diaspora-in-san-francisco

11 www.pmooffice.gov.fj/pm-bainimarama-urges-fijian-diaspora-in-sydney-to-invest-in-fiji-13-09-19



Achievements:

The Fijian diaspora includes a large number of skilled workers and entrepreneurs. Fijian citizens abroad constitute one of the largest pools of highly educated migrants working in OECD countries, with important communities residing in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.¹²

Remittances sent to Fiji have increased noticeably since 2000, reaching 5.5% of GDP in 2019¹³ and helping Fiji accelerating its growth rate over the recent years.¹⁴ As a result, remittances have been the second largest foreign exchange earner for the country since 2004,¹⁵ and their importance for the country's economic development was acknowledged in the Financial Sector Development Plan for the years 2016-2025.¹⁶

In addition, the Government of Fiji successfully reached out to its diaspora to assist with relief and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston, which destroyed over 40,000 homes in Fiji in 2016. Through its embassies and high commissions abroad, the government of Fiji received donations from the Fiji Ontario Association of Canada, the East Hawaiian Fijian Community,¹⁷ the Fijian community in the Solomon Islands,¹⁸ as well as from the Fijian diaspora in the Netherlands and Belgium.¹⁹ Diaspora communities also contributed to the Government's 'Adopt a School' programme which was launched to rebuild schools damaged by the cyclone.²⁰



Obstacles

- **Corruption and political instability:** Members of the Fijian diaspora often cite perceived corruption as a major obstacle to further engaging with their country. Furthermore, the coups in Fiji's recent history has left a sense of political instability that holds back some of the potential investors from the Fijian diaspora.²¹
- **Lack of information:** Because of the digital gap between Fiji and some of the countries where the main Fijian communities are established, the Fijian diaspora faces difficulties in accessing the information needed for engagement, notably regarding overseas voting and business creation. This challenge is currently being tackled by the government through its Digital Transformation Programme.²²

12 *Systematic country diagnostic 2017: Republic of Fiji*, World Bank Group, 2017, available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/529271512123603244/pdf/116491-revised-PUBLIC-ACS.pdf>

13 World Bank, Annual Remittances Data (updated as of Oct. 2019) Inflows, available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaisues/brief/migration-remittances-data>

14 *Financing the SDGs in the Pacific islands: Opportunities, Challenges and Ways Forward*, UNDP discussion paper, 2017, available at: <http://www.sustainablesids.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/UNDP-Financing-the-SDGs-in-the-Pacific-Islands-Opportunities-Challenges-and-Ways-Forward-2017.pdf>

15 Reserve bank of Fiji, Personal Remittances in Fiji, available at: www.rbf.gov.fj/getattachment/Publications/Newspaper-Articles/Fiji-Sun-Remittances-In-Fiji_241216.pdf

16 Fiji's Financial Sector Development Plan 2016-2025 (FSDP), available at: www.rbf.gov.fj/getattachment/a8d8c890-1df5-4dc7-bacf-dc7d0046fdee/Fiji-Financial-Sector-Development-Plan-2016-2025.pdf?lang=en-US

17 www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/FIJIANS-ABROAD-RALLY-TO-ASSIST-TC-WINSTON-VICTIMS

18 www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/PM-RECEIVES-SUPPORT-FROM-FIJIAN-COMMUNITY-IN-SOLOMON

19 www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/GOVERNMENT-COMMENDS-BELGIUM-MISSION-FOR-TC-WINSTON

20 www.adoptaschool.gov.fj

21 *Understanding the Investment Potential of the Fijian Diaspora, Results of the Commonwealth Diaspora Investor Survey Country Report*, The Commonwealth Secretariat, 2018

22 www.pmooffice.gov.fj/hon-pms-speech-at-the-launch-of-the-first-e-passport-enrolment-kit-at-the-fiji-mission-in-london-29-11-19

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Agreement between the Fijian Elections Office and Fiji Airways to inform overseas voters of the voting registration process

MIGRANT RIGHTS & TOURISM

In order to reach out to potential overseas voters traveling with the airline, the Fijian Elections Office entered into an agreement with Fiji Airways in order to use its inflight magazine, FijiTime. As part of this agreement, the Fijian Elections Office was able to include information on the overseas voter registration process to the magazine.²³ The information included dates for registration at various Fijian embassies and High Commissions in the five main countries of destination of the Fijian diaspora, as well as practical requirements for overseas voters.

iVolavosa mobile application and the Fijian Cultural Programme, 2017 and 2019

DIGITAL

The iVolavosa mobile application is an online dictionary for iTaukei language, which is one of Fiji's official languages. The mobile application was launched by the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the iTaukei Trust Fund Board as a tool for the preservation of iTaukei culture. The Fijian diaspora is a key target audience for this service, as it allows to learn the iTaukei language from abroad.²⁴ In addition, in 2019 the iTaukei Trust Fund Board initiated a pilot project in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the University of East Anglia and Fijian communities in the UK to revitalise cultural diplomacy and develop a sustainable Fijian cultural programme in the UK. In the framework of this project, the iTaukei Trust Fund Board is developing an educational resource kit to promote Fijian language and culture.²⁵

BizFIJI online portal business-fiji.com

INVESTMENT

Launched under the Fijian Government's Digital Transformation Programme, BizFIJI acts as Fiji's centralised source of information for new business owners and investors. BizFIJI is a key element of the government's efforts to stimulate investment from its diaspora, and it was presented by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama in its address to the Fijian diaspora in Sydney in September 2019.

Collaboration between the Government of Fiji and IOM in the framework of the project "Engaging with Diaspora for Fiji's Development", 2019-ongoing

NETWORKS & PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, IOM approved the pilot project "Engaging with Diaspora for Fiji's Development" to be implemented in partnership with several government ministries in Fiji, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project aims to assist the government to engage more closely and strategically with Fijian diaspora groups for the development of Fiji. Planned activities include a mapping survey of the Fijian diaspora in Australia, the development of recommendations to the Government of Fiji on strategic engagement with Fijian diaspora communities, as well as the organisation of a diaspora engagement meeting in Suva to strengthen the partnership between the Government and diaspora groups.²⁶

23 www.voicenet.in/Article_Fiji.htm

24 www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/Speeches/HON-PM-BAINIMARAMA-AT-THE-LAUNCHING-OF-THE-IVOLAVO

25 www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/PARTNERSHIP-PROMOTES-CULTURAL-DIPLOMACY

26 <https://uncareer.net/vacancy/consultant-for-the-project-engaging-with-diaspora-for-fiji-s-development-290778>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- At regional level

Pacific Community (SPC) www.spc.int

Fiji 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 preserving Pacific culture.

Pacific Islands Forum www.forumsec.org

Fiji is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, an inter-governmental organisation which 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.

International Organization for Migration www.iom.int/countries/fiji

Fiji became an IOM member state in 2013, and IOM and the government of Fiji signed a cooperation agreement in 2015. IOM established an office in Suva in 2017, and IOM Fiji is implementing the pilot project "Engaging with Diaspora for Fiji's Development", which aims at assisting the government of Fiji to engage more closely and strategically with Fijian diaspora groups as part of its efforts to contribute to national development.

Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) www.pidcsec.org

Fiji is a member of Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC, known as the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference until 2018). PIDC is a regional consultative process which aims at gathering official immigration agencies of the Pacific region and enabling 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.





- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs www.foreignaffairs.gov.fj

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs deals with consular matters and oversees Fiji's missions abroad. As such, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is closely involved in diaspora engagement matters, in particular regarding registration of overseas voters for postal vote. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is involved in the Fijian Cultural Programme and is also working in partnership with IOM Fiji in the framework of the project "Engaging with Diaspora for Fiji's Development."

Office of the Prime Minister www.pmooffice.gov.fj

The office of the Prime Minister is instrumental in the government's efforts to attract investments from the Fijian diaspora. In 2019, the Prime Minister visited the Fijian diaspora communities in Sydney and San Francisco, where he encouraged them to invest in Fiji.

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism www.mitt.gov.fj

The Ministry of Industry, Trade & Tourism is responsible for formulating and implementing policies and strategies to facilitate growth for industries, investments, trade, tourism, co-operative businesses, micro and small enterprises in Fiji. The Ministry manages the BizFIJI online portal, which is a key element of the government's efforts to stimulate investment from its diaspora.

Ministry of iTaukei Affairs (MTA) www.itaukeiaffairs.gov.fj

The MTA is responsible for developing and implementing policies focused on the governance and well-being of the iTaukei people. It has developed the iVolavosa mobile application, which allows its users in Fiji and abroad to learn the iTaukei language.

- At sub-ministerial level

Fiji embassies, consulates, High Commissions and Trade Commissions abroad

These bodies engage with Fijian diaspora communities on issues such as passport issuance and registration of overseas voters. In addition, they have played an important role in mobilising diaspora communities to support the relief and rehabilitation effort in Fiji in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016. The Fiji High Commission in Australia is also involved in the project "Engaging with Diaspora for Fiji's Development" which is implemented by IOM Fiji.

Fijian Elections Office www.feo.org.fj

The Fijian Elections Office is in charge of organising and monitoring elections in Fiji. In order to allow overseas voters to vote by post in elections, the Fijian Elections Office organises registration sessions at Fiji's missions abroad before all elections.

Department of immigration www.immigration.gov.fj

The department of immigration is part of the Office of the Prime Minister. It is responsible for providing an efficient and effective immigration service and enforce the 2003 Fiji Immigration Act. The department of immigration is working in partnership with IOM Fiji in the framework of the project “Engaging with Diaspora for Fiji’s Development”.

iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB) www.itaukeitrustfund.com.fj

The TTFB was established under an act of parliament in November 2004. Its objective is to foster the advancement of indigenous Fijians and Rotumans by promoting initiatives that will better their standard of living, and enhance cultural traditions and values. The TTFB initiated the Fijian Cultural Programme in 2019, through which it is developing an educational resource kit to promote the Fijian language and culture among its diaspora in the UK.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Communities Fiji Britain (CFB) United Kingdom 2015 cfb.org.uk

Integration activities

CFB was created with the objective to assist Fijians residing in the UK and to prevent their social exclusion. CFB offers advice and practical support to Fijians living in the UK, and its areas of action include family issues, domestic abuse, and liaison with immigration services. The main recipients of CFB’s activities are Fijians serving in the UK armed forces and their families, who represent a significant part of the Fijian diaspora in the United Kingdom.

Fiji Support Network (FSN) United Kingdom twitter.com/FijiSupportNet

Integration activities

The Armed Forces Fiji Support Network aims at providing welfare support to Fijian Service personnel in the UK armed forces, veterans and their families, as well as preserving Fijian cultural heritage. The Fiji Support Network organises summer roadshows in UK army information centres on a yearly basis in order to consult Fijians serving in the UK armed forces on the challenges they face.

French Fijian Support Association France

Integration activities

The Fijian diaspora in France is mainly composed of the approximately 300 professional rugby players who evolve in the country’s various leagues. The French Fijian Support Association, which was created in 2015 and has about 100 members, aims at assisting the integration of Fijian rugby players into their clubs and into French society. Other objectives of the association include the creation of a solidarity fund to help Fijian rugby players on a legal level, as well as assistance to Fijian rugby players in their contacts with French authorities, institutions and administrations.

Marama Alliance UK (MAUK) United Kingdom 2019 maramaalliance.com

 **Integration activities**

MAUK's primary objective is to assist Fijian women as they integrate into life in the UK. MAUK's activities focus on themes such as self-care, resilience, inclusion, professional and personal development, as well as culture and identity. During the Fijian language and culture week 2019, MAUK initiated the campaign "learning my roots" on Twitter, with the objective to promote Fijian language in the UK. The network was created in July 2019, and it organises social and networking events for Fijian women living in the UK.

Pacific Rugby Players Welfare (PRPW) United Kingdom pacificrugbywelfare.com

 **Integration activities**

PRPW was established in 2016 by Samoan, Tongan and Fijian professional rugby players living in Europe to support players and their families in integrating to life in Europe. The association provides its members with family support, training and education opportunities, as well as social events.

Written by: Alexandre Porteret
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Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu



Diaspora engagement mapping

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

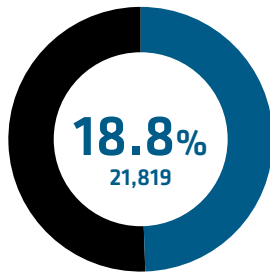
Facts & figures

Emigration

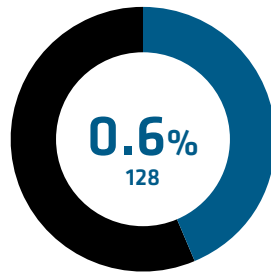
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 49.6%
♀ 50.3%



♂ 43.75%
♀ 56.25%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **5.7%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **23**



Top countries of destination



Guam (US)	11,164
United States	8,708
Northern Mariana Islands	1,123
Palau	410
Marshall Islands	245

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³:

By post



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

The Federated States of Micronesia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Micronesian citizens should renounce citizenship of other nations. If they fail to do so, they become 'nationals' of the Federated States of Micronesia, rather than citizens. Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, http://fsmLaw.org/fsm/code/title07/T07_Ch02.htm

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.

» Trends & achievements

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. Although the government maintains very few institutional relations with the diaspora, the Office of the President has nevertheless actively cultivated international relations over the past few years in order to promote and defend the interests of the Micronesian diaspora in countries of residence. In June 2019, the President met with the governor of Hawaii to advocate for the simplification of driver licensing for Micronesian citizens working there. In August 2020, the Office of the President issued an official statement to express its concern over press articles published by various media outlets in Guam alleging that the increase in Covid-19 cases in Guam was linked to the failure of Micronesian diasporans to comply with Covid-19 guidelines.⁷

Despite the fact that nearly one in five Micronesians live abroad and about 40% of households in the country receive remittances from the diaspora,⁸ the amounts received are relatively low. This has been acknowledged by the government in the SDP 2004-2023, which includes the objective to encourage remittances to the country. In spite of this, no specific programme or policy aimed at channelling diaspora remittances has been implemented since the publication of the SDP in 2004.

The government is committed to strengthening data collection on migration, in particular regarding remittances.⁹ The Census of Population and Housing conducted in 2010 by the Department of Resources and Development, included data on remittances received in each of the four states.¹⁰ However, no further data has been collected during the last decade.

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 Office of the President, Federated States of Micronesia, 'Guam Media Categorizing Specific Micronesian Ethnicities in their Reporting Deeply Concerning to the FSM National Government' https://www.facebook.com/piofsm/posts/3280876955327913?__tn__=K-R

8 Ibid.

9 Federated States of Micronesia Strategic Development Plan 2004-2023

10 Federated States of Micronesia, Department of Resources and Development, 2010 Census of Population and Housing

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.¹¹
- **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.¹² 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.¹³

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



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.^{14,15}

MIGRANTS
RIGHTS

NETWORKING AND
PARTNERSHIPS

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

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid.

14 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/>

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

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

Pacific Community (SPC)

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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 2013,¹⁶ and it published a 2015 Country Profile on Migration in the Federated States of Micronesia.¹⁷

- **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.

¹⁶ IOM, 'Pacific's first Migrant Resource Centre opens'

¹⁷ 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.¹⁸

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.

¹⁸ Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, <http://www.fsmlaw.org/fsm/constitution/>

Written by: Dr Manuel Orozco & Alexandre Porteret
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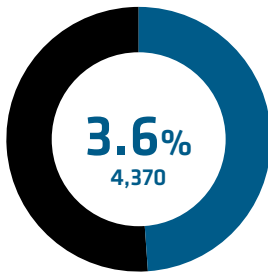


Diaspora engagement mapping KIRIBATI

Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population

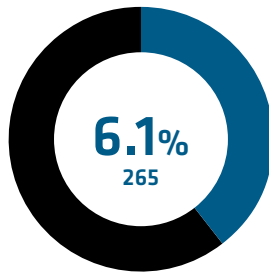


♂ 48.9%
♀ 51.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **9.5%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **19**

% of which in the EU



♂ 39.6%
♀ 60.4%



Top countries of destination



New Zealand	1,575
Fiji	791
Australia	782
Marshall Islands	276
Solomon Islands	259

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Terminology: The term "I-Kiribati overseas" has generally been used in official policies and strategies, although the term "I-Kiribati diaspora" is also used by the government.

Kiribati does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Constitution of Kiribati, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3ae6b4eab.pdf>

² ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, <http://aceproject.org/epic-en/CDCountry?country=KI>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2007 ● The **Act to amend the Provident Fund Ordinance (Cap 78A)**³ allows Kiribati citizens, including those living abroad, to apply to make voluntary contributions to the national provident fund. The government of Kiribati described the Provident Fund as a useful strategy for I-Kiribati working abroad to save for their future, and for their families.⁴
- 2015 ● The **Kiribati National Labour Migration Policy's (NLMP)**⁵ long-term vision is “to provide I-Kiribati with increased opportunities to migrate with dignity by accessing decent work opportunities abroad”. The policy recognises the important role of international labour migration in addressing the lack of local employment opportunities and acknowledges that the permanent relocation of some of its citizens is part of Kiribati’s long-term climate-change adaptation strategy.⁶ The policy aims in particular at increasing work opportunities under seasonal labour schemes in Australia and New Zealand. In this policy, the government formally acknowledges the role of the I-Kiribati diaspora as “an important partner in Kiribati’s strategy to maximise development outcomes”.
- 2016
▼
2019 ● **Kiribati’s Development Plan (KDP)**⁷ aims at promoting better education, better health and inclusive sustainable economic growth and development in the country. Specific goals of the KDP include supporting policies to enhance overseas employment opportunities and promote stronger growth in remittances sent to Kiribati.
- 2016
▼
2036 ● The **Kiribati 20-year vision (KV20)**⁸ is a long-term development blueprint for Kiribati. It includes the objective to increase the number of overseas employment opportunities for I-Kiribati workers by 100% by 2036.

» Trends and achievements

Although relatively small numbers of I-Kiribati live overseas,⁹ the government has made it a priority to encourage its citizens to work abroad. The country’s long tradition of providing workers in the seafaring sector has been recognized by the government as a significant source of employment in Kiribati in recent decades.¹⁰ As a result, remittances have historically been a large source of income in the country. They amounted to 18% of Kiribati’s GDP in 1990, and they still represent more than 9% of the GDP today.¹¹

The government has established very few institutionalised relations with the diaspora residing permanently outside the country, and neither dual citizenship, nor overseas voting are permitted. However, as most of the population of Banaba island in Kiribati was relocated to Rabi island in Fiji during the last century due to the environmental damage caused by phosphate mining, Rabi islanders from the I-Kiribati diaspora are today represented by a member of parliament nominated in Kiribati’s house of assembly, who himself is a Fijian citizen of I-Kiribati descent.¹²

3 Republic of Kiribati, Act to amend the Provident Fund Ordinance (Cap 78A), http://www.paclii.org/cgi-bin/sinodisp/ki/legis/num_act/pfa2007256/pfa2007256.html?stem=&synonyms=&query=Act%20to%20amend%20the%20Provident%20Fund%20Ordinance

4 Government of Kiribati, Kiribati National Labour Migration Policy, 2015, http://www.ilo.int/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_431833.pdf

5 Ibid.

6 ILO Office for Pacific island countries, Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries, November 2019, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_712549.pdf

7 Government of Kiribati, Kiribati Development Plan 2016-2019, <http://www.mfed.gov.ki/sites/default/files/Kiribati%20Development%20Plan%202016%20-%202019.pdf>

8 Government of Kiribati, Kiribati 20-year vision 2016-2036, <http://www.president.gov.ki/kiribati-20-year-vision-kv20/>

9 Development Policy Centre Discussion Paper No. 56, Migration and Labour Mobility from Kiribati, March 2017, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN_ID2937416_code1669161.pdf?abstractid=2937416&mirid=1

10 Government of Kiribati, Kiribati National Labour Migration Policy, 2015, http://www.ilo.int/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_431833.pdf

11 Ibid.

12 Parliament of Kiribati, 'Current Members', <https://www.parliament.gov.ki/current-members>

In order to address the decline in foreign employment opportunities for I-Kiribati seafarers in the past few years (which the government attributes to the global financial crisis, changes in vessel technology with larger ships, and increased competition from Asian nations),¹³ the government started promoting other opportunities for overseas employment, such as the seasonal labour schemes in place in Australia and New Zealand. The government mandated several of its ministries to manage the country's participation in the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) in Australia and Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme (RSE) in New Zealand, and to negotiate with foreign governments in order to pursue work opportunities overseas.¹⁴ Although the number of I-Kiribati workers taking part in the SWP and RSE schemes remains low compared to other Pacific countries, it almost doubled between the years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.¹⁵

The government also pays considerable attention to protecting the welfare of I-Kiribati abroad. The concept of "migration with dignity" is at the heart of its policy on labour migration, and it collaborates with the ILO on issues such as pre-departure training and information for I-Kiribati migrant workers.¹⁶

Obstacles



- **Lack of diaspora rights and services:** Very few rights and services are available to the I-Kiribati diaspora, as illustrated by the fact that only a small part of the diaspora (those on Rabi island, Fiji) is currently represented at the Parliament of Kiribati.
- **Lack of policy and institutional framework** is an obstacle to further diaspora engagement in Kiribati. There is currently no strategy or policy in place for diaspora engagement, and none of the government agencies or authorities have been mandated to manage diaspora issues.
- **Geographic isolation:** Kiribati's geographic isolation and expensive air linkages to the main countries where the diaspora resides, such as New Zealand and Australia, are an obstacle to further diaspora engagement, in particular regarding the temporary return of I-Kiribati diasporans. The additional costs of bringing seasonal workers from Kiribati to Australia or New Zealand are also an obstacle to Kiribati's participation in labour migration schemes in both countries.¹⁷

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Kiribati Language Week in New Zealand 2020

I-Kiribati diaspora communities in New Zealand collaborated with the New Zealand Ministry for Pacific Peoples in the framework of the first Kiribati Language Week, which was launched on Kiribati Independence Day in 2020 under the theme 'Ribanan te Taetae ni Kiribati e Kateimatoa ara Katei ao Kinakira', meaning 'Nurturing Kiribati language promotes our Cultural Identity and Heritage'. The event included publication of Kiribati language cards, animated videos and a bilingual children's book.

13 Government of Kiribati, Kiribati Development Plan 2016-2019, <http://www.mfed.gov.ki/sites/default/files/Kiribati%20Development%20Plan%202016%20-%202019.pdf>

14 Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development (MLHRD), Information & Guide for Kiribati seasonal workers

15 ILO Office for Pacific island countries, Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries, November 2019, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_712549.pdf

16 Government of Kiribati, Kiribati National Labour Migration Policy, 2015, http://www.ilo.int/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_431833.pdf

17 ILO Office for Pacific island countries, Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries, November 2019, https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_712549.pdf

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

Pacific Community (SPC)

Kiribati is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation that 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 preserving Pacific culture.

Pacific Islands Forum

Kiribati 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; 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)

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

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Kiribati became a member of the ILO in 2000. In Kiribati, ILO supported the government in developing the National Labour Migration Policy. It also assisted the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development (MLHRD) in putting in place career counselling and pre-departure trainings for I-Kiribati migrant workers. In 2015, ILO produced the Guide to Overseas Employment for I-Kiribati graduates in collaboration with the MLHRD.

- **National institutions**

Ministry of Labour and Human Resources Development (MLHRD)

The MLHRD is the lead agency responsible for overseeing employment relations and labour administration across different sectors of employment, including labour mobility. It developed the country's National Labour Migration Policy. The MLHRD has the mandate to increase the number of I-Kiribati workers taking part in seasonal labour schemes in New Zealand and Australia.

MLHRD's Seasonal Worker Unit

The Seasonal Worker Unit, which operates within the MLHRD, is responsible for managing and administering Kiribati's participation in the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) in Australia and Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme (RSE) in New Zealand.

MLHRD's Career Counselling & Employment Centre (NCCEC)

The NCCEC was established with technical assistance from the ILO. Its objective is to address unemployment in Kiribati, and its activities include counselling for unemployed workers and linking them with the national and international labour market, notably through the RSE and SWP schemes.

Ministry of Employment and Human Resources (MEHR)

The MEHR's objective is to provide quality technical and vocational educational training programmes to enhance workforce skills, productivity, employability, and to maximise decent work opportunities for I-Kiribati nationally and internationally. The Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT) operates within the MEHR and provides I-Kiribati workers with trainings to help them prepare their interviews in English with overseas employers.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI)

The MFAI is responsible for assisting I-Kiribati citizens abroad. It acknowledged the increasing demand for consular services by the ever-growing number of I-Kiribati living, travelling and working abroad as a challenge to address.

Bank of Kiribati

Part of the ANZ Group, the Bank of Kiribati has been mandated in the National Labour Migration Policy to explore options for improving bank transfer processes and reducing costs of financial transactions for migrant workers.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Kiribati Tungaru Association (KTA) of the UK and the Republic of Ireland 1994 UK & Ireland

KTA is a non-profit organisation, and its main objectives are to bring together families who have lived and worked in or have other links to Kiribati, and to support I-Kiribati visitors while they are in Europe. KTA organises an annual get-together to celebrate Kiribati Independence Day.

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Diaspora engagement mapping MARSHALL ISLANDS

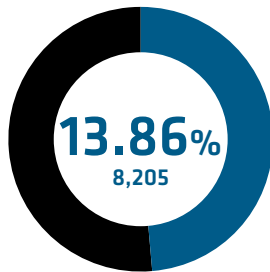
Facts & figures

Emigration

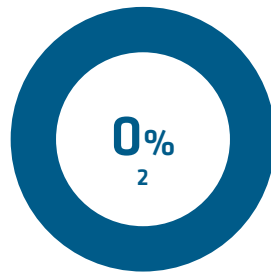
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 48.8%
♀ 51.2%



♂ 100%
♀ 0%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **13.2%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **31**



Top countries of destination



United States	7,761
Guam (United States)	245
Federated States of Micronesia	94
Australia	52
Northern Mariana Islands (United States)	46

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:
By post



The Republic of the Marshall Islands does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 With an exception: A child born abroad of Marshalllese parents who obtains the citizenship of the country of birth is allowed to retain dual citizenship until the age of 17. At 17, the individual has one year to renounce the other citizenship or Marshalllese citizenship will be lost - Immigration Law of the Marshall Islands and the Constitution of the Marshall Islands, dated December 21, 1978

2 Permitted in legislative elections - [Voting from Abroad](#) - The International IDEA Handbook (2007)

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- **1986** The Compact of Free Association (COFA) is a major bilateral agreement governing the relationship between the Marshall Islands and the US. It allows Marshallese people to work and travel to the US freely.
- **2003** The **Strategic Development Plan Framework – Vision 2018** sets out the Marshall Island's vision for 2003 – 2018 with regard to sustainable development. The country's vision at this time included a government view that Marshallese emigrants to the United States would play an important role in the development of the country through remittances.
- **2020**
∨
● **2030** The **National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2020-2030** is a broad consensus on the objectives that have to be met in the next 10 years for Marshallese people. Under the good governance pillar, policies exist which facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of Marshallese people. The NSP also notes the challenge of 'Out migration/brain drain', which presents the issue of young people having migrated to the US or other countries for education choosing not to return to the Marshall Islands.

» Trends & achievements:

The Republic of the Marshall Islands' (RMI) diaspora engagement revolves around the COFA agreement. This agreement has impacted migration, population growth and the connection with migrants abroad, and has been a factor in the formation of Marshallese diaspora and its related activities, including sustainable development through remittances. While dual citizenship is not permitted, citizens of the Marshall Islands are eligible to work in the United States as non-immigrants for an unlimited length of time.³

The COFA agreement has been very beneficial, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the RMI government could help their citizens in the US and several other countries.⁴ They had a major hand in the repatriation of Marshall Islanders, by sponsoring Air Marshall Islands charter flights for people living in America. US\$500 payments were also provided to those citizens caught overseas when borders closed.⁵

The COFA has also affected the population growth rate of the Republic of the Marshall Islands with an average age just under 23⁶ as the agreement has led to many young people migrating, primarily to the US.

Furthermore, the COFA agreement has allowed for greater diaspora engagement. Large-scale celebrations of RMI Constitution Day in Springfield, USA demonstrate the importance of cultural events for the Marshallese diaspora.⁷

3 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, [Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau](#).

4 Johnson, G., (5 October 2020) [Marshall Islands considering repatriating first group from USA](#). RNZ.

5 IOM Rapid Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Labour Mobility in the Pacific Region.

6 IOM Republic of the Marshall Islands IOM Country Strategy 2017-2020. pp2.

7 [Marshallese Community in Arkansas](#).

Obstacles



- **Low prioritisation:** Climate change and rising sea levels are the main issues on which the government is currently focused; its lack of resources does not allow for much attention on other issues.
- **Lack of funding:** The Marshallese Government faces financial constraints that limit support of diaspora engagement activities. Individuals take the responsibility to organise events to bring the community closer in countries like the USA.
- **No incentive to return:** RMI has the highest rate of youth unemployment in the Pacific,⁸ few educational opportunities and a low level of access to healthcare. Moreover, the lingering effects of radiation due to nuclear testing⁹ and rising sea levels constitute significant deterrents for diaspora return.¹⁰

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Marshallese Youth Academy (MYA)

Implemented by the Marshallese Education Initiative (MEI), an Arkansas-based NGO formed in 2013 that promotes the cultural, intellectual and historical awareness of Marshallese people, the Marshallese Youth Academy offers a programme for Marshallese diaspora youth in North West Arkansas. Students under the MYA learn about leadership, receive mentoring, and learn of the importance of Marshallese culture.

⁸ ILO in Marshall Islands.

⁹ Atomic Heritage Foundation: Marshall Islands.

¹⁰ Letman, J., (19 November 2018). Rising seas give island nation a stark choice: relocate or elevate. National Geographic.

Annex:

List of actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At a Regional Level**

Pacific Community (SPC)

RMI is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation that focuses on scientific and technical expertise. SPC's Social Development Programme is involved in managing the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), created in 1972 as a tool for preserving Pacific culture.

Pacific Islands Forum

RMI has been a member of the Pacific Islands Forum since 1987. It is an inter-governmental organisation that seeks to foster cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. Its work covers migration issues, and the forum has organised regional meetings on climate change and migration, as well as workshops for immigration officials from the region.

Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)

RMI is a member of the Pacific Immigration Development Community (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 and enables 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 Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM operates a sub-office in Majuro, in RMI. With the recent admission of the Federated States of Micronesia as a member state, IOM is exploring opportunities to expand its activities across the region, including RMI, into areas such as combating trafficking in persons, labour migration, climate change and cultural orientation.

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Director, DMA Asia Pacific
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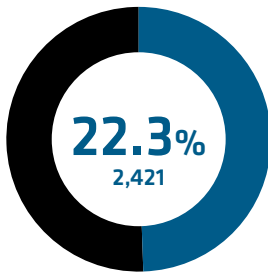


Diaspora engagement mapping NAURU

Facts & figures

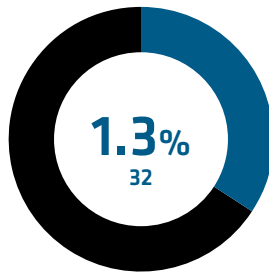
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.7%
♀ 50.3%

% of which in the EU



♂ 34.4%
♀ 65.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP:¹ -
Remittances inflow (USD million): -



Top countries of destination

Kiribati	1,527
Australia	772
South Africa	34
Chile	28
UK	22



Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³
Only in legislative elections



Voting from abroad:⁴

By proxy



Terminology: Nauru does not use the term 'diaspora'. 'Nauru workers overseas' is used in the National Sustainable Strategy 2005-2025.

Nauru does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 World Bank Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)

2 Republic of Nauru, [Naoero Citizenship Act 2017](#)

3 Diaspora are only permitted to vote in legislative elections. Republic of Nauru (2019) [Electoral \(Proxy Voting\) \(Amendment\) Regulations](#)

4 Proxy voting was implemented in 2004. Ibid.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2005
2025
- **Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy** (NSDS) aims to respond to the economic and financial crisis which confronted the country in the early 2000s. It states as a goal: ‘increased job opportunities locally and regionally’. Subsequently, in 2009 the plan was revised to include ‘improve labour market access for Nauruans leading to a higher flow of remittances.’
 - **Nauru Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** is Nauru’s key strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs). A key objective of the policy to develop an economy based on multiple sources of revenue is to increase the total value of total.

» Trends & achievements

Nauru has historically been more a country of immigration than emigration.⁵ For much of the post-Second World War period, non-Nauruans outnumbered Nauruans in the country, with I-Kiribati, Tuvaluan and Chinese workers comprising the bulk of the phosphate mining labour force. Although as many as one in ten Nauruans emigrated over the 2005 – 2015 period, absolute numbers for the Nauruan diaspora are very low compared to other Pacific Island countries.⁶ Very few remittances are sent to Nauru each year, with the 2011 census noting that only 1% of households receive remittances.

Upskilling is crucial if Nauru is to effectively participate in overseas seasonal work schemes, as well as provide other opportunities for its citizens abroad. Seasonal work provides opportunities for skills and income development, and needs to be supported to raise participation rates in the related programmes. Visits between Australian government officials and Pacific representatives have taken place to benefit Nauru locals and its diaspora population through development assistance, trade and other investments.

Obstacles



- **Low prioritisation:** The government does not prioritise diaspora engagement activities and there is no formal policy or institutional framework for diaspora engagement in the country.
- **Lack of funding:** Due notably to its size, Nauru has very few resources, hence the government faces financial constraints that limit its ability to implement diaspora engagement activities .
- **No special migration access:** While Nauruans have access to Australia and New Zealand’s labour mobility programmes, there are no specific arrangements that facilitate permanent migration for Nauruans.⁷ This is in contrast to some of Nauru’s Pacific neighbours, such as Tuvalu or the Federated States of Micronesia, which have benefited from various migration schemes to OECD countries such as New Zealand and the United States that have contributed to the development of significant diasporas over the decades.

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Seasonal Worker Programs



Nauru has signed various seasonal workers programs with New Zealand and Australia, including the RSE (2014), SWP (2012) and PLS (2018). The policies allow industries to recruit workers from Nauru for seasonal work. These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and and earn money to send remittances home to support their families.

5 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_304002.pdf

6 Curtain R, Dornan M. (2019) *Development Policy Centre A pressure release valve? Migration and climate change in Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu*

7 Curtain, R., Dornan, M., (2019) *Dev Policy Blogs: Climate change and migration in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru*

Annex:

List of actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level:**

Pacific Community (SPC)

Nauru 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 preserving Pacific culture. Nauru became a member in 1969.

Pacific Islands Forum

Nauru has been a member of the Pacific Islands Forum since 1971, an inter-governmental organisation which 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.

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- **At national level:**

Labour Sending Unit

The Labour Sending Unit, under the Chief Secretary Department in Nauru, coordinates the screening, recruitment and pre-departure training of workers ahead of their placement in Australia and New Zealand.

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Director, DMA Asia Pacific
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Diaspora engagement mapping NIUE

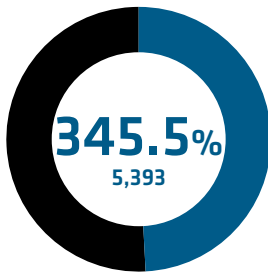
Facts & figures

Emigration

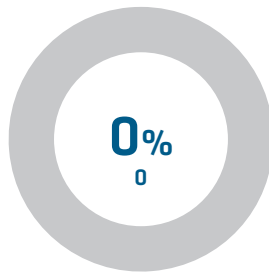
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 49.2%
♀ 50.8%



♂ 0%
♀ 0%



Remittances as a share of GDP:¹ -
Remittances inflow (USD million): -



Top countries of destination

New Zealand	4,485
Australia	1,036
South Africa	32
Chile	20
Cook Islands	14



Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad^{3,4}



Terminology: Niue refers to its diaspora as 'Niueans abroad' or 'Niueans living abroad'.⁵

Niue does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Data for remittances as a share of GDP is not available for Niue.

2 Niue Island (tourism website)

3 Tahela Aualiitia. ABC News. (1 June 2020) *Niue's national election sees the end of Premier Toke Talagi's 12-year term.*

4 The International IDEA Handbook: Voting from Abroad (2007)

5 Food and Agriculture Organization: FAOLEX Database: *Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-2026.*

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1974** ● Under the **Niue Constitution Act 1974**,⁶ Niue is self-governing in free association with New Zealand. New Zealand provides necessary economic and administrative assistance to Niue, as well as assistance with foreign affairs, defence and security if requested by the Niue government. Under New Zealand law, all Niueans are New Zealand citizens.
- 2009** ● The **National Youth Policy 2009-2013** developed an activity to encourage young Niueans to return, called NEVAT (Niue experience of Vaka Atu Toa). The scheme provides an opportunity for young New Zealand-born Niueans to explore the Niuean culture and lifestyle for three months.
- 2016** ● The **Niue Government National Strategic Plan 2016-2026** aims to encourage Niueans abroad - and others - to live on Niue. The population strategy plan is to retain people to enjoy the lifestyle on Niue. It aims to reach 80% of the remuneration in New Zealand, in order to make employment in Niue more competitive. The plan states that Niueans living abroad are important and the cultural bridge with those living in Niue will continue to feature and will complement efforts in other sectors to rebuild Niue's population.
- 2019** ● The **Statement of Partnership** signed by the Governments of New Zealand and Niue on 26 April 2019 sets out the principles and priorities under which they cooperate, coordinate and partner in shared priority areas. There is a specific objective of relevance to diaspora engagement: "People - protecting Niue's taoga (culture) and growing Niue's human capital."

» Trends & achievements

Niue, the third least populated country in the world,⁷ has experienced a population decline greater than that of any other independent state in the world. Due to the country's free association with New Zealand,⁸ Niueans are automatically citizens of New Zealand. More than three-quarters of all Niue-born live overseas, mainly in New Zealand. At the last census in 2018, 30,867 ethnic Niueans were resident in New Zealand,⁹ of which 83% were born in New Zealand.

Faced with depopulation, the government has long sought to encourage return migration and immigration,¹⁰ over diaspora investment. Niue has always attached more policy significance to return migration than any other country in the region.

The issue of return migration is a contentious topic for many Niueans in New Zealand and Niue.¹¹ A number of employment schemes have been developed to attract them. Another initiative was bank loans from the Niue bank, made available for people to renovate their homes. There are other housing schemes, such as renovating houses that are then rented to tourists in partnership with the government. However, these schemes have had little impact on the number of Niueans returning home. The population of Niue reached its highest in 1966 at 5,194,¹² but had fallen to 1,611 by 2011. In 2017, the population increased slightly to 1,719. The UN estimate for 2020 is 1,626.¹³

6 New Zealand Government: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: [About Niue](#).

7 Worldometer: [Countries in the world by population](#) (2020)

8 University of South Wales. IOM: [ANZ-Pacific Migration Governance System](#).

9 New Zealand Government. Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa: [2018 Census data for Niuean Ethnic Group](#).

10 Prof John Connell (14 July 2008) Niue: [Embracing a Culture of Migration](#)

11 Lee, H., Tupai Francis, S., [Migration and Transnationalism: Pacific Perspectives](#). Australian National University E-Press.

12 Niue Government: [Statistic Niue Office: Population](#)

13 World Population Review: [Niue Population](#)

Remittances to Niue have never been significant, both as measured by receipts, and by the willingness of Niueans to send money. From the late 1970s, Niueans were the least likely Polynesian group in New Zealand to send remittances, since they perceived that the family in Niue were unlikely to remain there.¹⁴ Remittances currently make up a small part of the income of many households but may increase in times of crisis.

Obstacles



- **Little incentive to return:** As Niueans can live in New Zealand as citizens, there is little incentive for return to Niue, as employment is scarce and the Niue atoll has limited natural resources.¹⁵ The “physically easier and relaxed lifestyle”¹⁶ found in New Zealand may be the principal ‘pull factor’ for Niuean migration, as well as a disincentive for potential returnees, particularly skilled ones. Cyclones occasionally devastate the island’s infrastructure, which also acts as a deterrent for residing in Niue.
- **Lack of funding:** The government faces financial constraints that limit the support of diaspora engagement activities.
- **Lack of remittance data:** The Niue Government collects limited data on remittances, which hinders the possibility of understanding remittance flows into the country; remittances sent from New Zealand with a value under NZD\$1,000 are not registered.
- **Lack of a dedicated policy on diaspora engagement:** Niue has not yet established a policy on diaspora engagement, or an institution tasked with coordinating efforts to engage with its diaspora population. Unless efforts and funds are spent on developing an institution, Niue faces a massive obstacle with diaspora engagement.
- **New Zealand superannuation restrictions:** During a 2018 meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Niue Premier Toke Talagi had raised the issue of the portability of pensions. Niueans are only eligible for New Zealand superannuation if they lived and worked in New Zealand for the last five years of their working life - leading to many moving away from Niue, often for good.¹⁷ This becomes a barrier for Niueans to return back home as they have already set their lives up in another country. Staying for 5 years could mean they have bought properties or have other commitments, like children’s schooling, that prevent them from returning. The absence of pension portability presents a major financial and logistical obstacle for return.

14 Connell, J., Brown, R.P.C., Asian Development Bank: *Remittances in the Pacific an Overview*.

15 Lee, H., Tupai Francis, S., *Migration and Transnationalism: Pacific Perspectives*. Australian National University E-Press.

16 The impact of Transnationalism on Niue

17 Henry Cooke: Stuff News. *Niue gets \$5.75m from NZ, Premier asks for pension portability*.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



EDUCATION

[Australia Awards Scholarships \(AAS\)](#)

The Australia Awards Scholarships offer international scholarships and fellowships funded by the Australian Government. The awards provide citizens of Niue with the opportunity to obtain a qualification at an Australian tertiary institution. Scholarships are available from bachelor's degree level to PHD.

CULTURE

[Niue Language Week](#)

New Zealand's Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP) organises Niue language week. This annual celebration brings together Niuean diaspora communities living in New Zealand every October.¹⁸ Activities include Niuean arts and crafts, cooking, and using the Niuean language to pray, sing hymns and to learn Niuean dances.

¹⁸ <https://www.mpp.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Niue-Language-Week-Calendar-of-Events.pdf>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level:**

Pacific Community (SPC)

Niue is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation that focuses on scientific and technical expertise. SPC's Social Development Programme is involved in managing the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), created in 1972 as a tool for preserving Pacific culture. Niue became a member in 1980.

Pacific Islands Forum

Niue 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. 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)

Niue is a member of Pacific Immigration Development Community (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 and enables 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.

- **At national level:**

Niue Government

The Niue Government is responsible for determining the strategy to encourage Niueans living overseas to return.

Written by: **Jonathan Capal**,
Director, DMA Asia Pacific
Edited by: **EUDI**
November 2020
Updated October 2021



Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union





Diaspora engagement mapping PAPUA NEW GUINEA

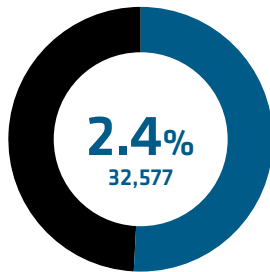
Facts & figures

Emigration

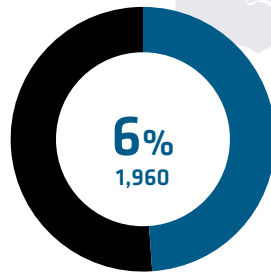
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 50.99%
♀ 49.01%



♂ 49.05%
♀ 50.95%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **0.0%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **2**



Top countries of destination

Australia	28,802
United Kingdom	1,536
New Zealand	1,438
Solomon Islands	552
Canada	249



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

By post



Terminology: "Papua New Guineans living abroad" is the term generally used in official government communications, although the term "diaspora" is used in certain policy documents.

Papua New Guinea does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 The PNG government amended the Citizenship Act in 2016, granting its citizens the ability to apply for dual citizenship with a limited number of countries: Australia, Fiji, Germany, New Zealand, Samoa, United Kingdom, United States, and Vanuatu. See http://www.parliament.gov.pg/uploads/acts/16A_42.pdf and <http://www.pnghighcomm.org.uk/consular-services/dual-citizenship/>.

2 Government of Papua New Guinea, Organic Law on National and Local-level Government Elections, Section 98 http://www.paclii.org/pg/legis/consol_act/olonolge519/

3 The Commonwealth, Papua New Guinea National Election, June-July 2017, <https://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/PNG%20COG%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2010** ● The **Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030** includes facilitating stronger links with the Papua New Guinean diaspora abroad among its strategic objectives, especially through dual citizenship or permanent residency status. The strategic plan establishes a link between this objective and the country's ability to tap into its human and financial capital.
- 2020** ● The **Papua New Guinea-Australia Comprehensive Strategic and Economic Partnership** provides an overarching framework for deepening bilateral cooperation with Australia and is underpinned by a commitment to achieving concrete outcomes by 2030. The partnership recognises the mutual benefits of improved labour mobility for both countries and commits to increasing the number of Papua New Guineans participating in the Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme in Australia in the future.

» Trends and achievements

With a diaspora estimated at only 30,000 people of a population of almost 9 million, little importance has been given to issues of diaspora engagement in Papua New Guinea since the country became independent. Although the government has historically had very few institutionalised relations with its diaspora, in the last decade it has started to increase efforts in the field of diaspora engagement. The government amended the Citizenship Act in 2016 to allow dual citizenship with Australia, thus securing the rights of the diaspora in Papua New Guinea (in particular those linked to land ownership) and facilitating the return of the diaspora to the country.⁴ The government is also keen on developing a database of its diaspora abroad, and the High Commission of Papua New Guinea in Canberra has invited the diaspora to share information about Papua New Guinean groups and associations active in Australia.⁵ Similar initiatives were put in place by the Papua New Guinea High Commission in London, which published a 'Registration form for friends of PNG' for persons interested in being involved and in maintaining contact with the PNG community in the country.

During the last decade, the government has made it a priority to encourage its citizens to work abroad, and to benefit in particular from the opportunities offered by regional mobility mechanisms such as the Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP) and Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) in Australia, or the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme (RSE) in New Zealand. Papua New Guinea is participating in the three labour migration schemes,⁶ and in 2019 the government established a PNG Labour Mobility Unit (LMU) with the objective of increasing the number of workers sent to Australia and New Zealand each year. The government also supported its diaspora when it expressed its frustrations over an Australian visa policy that was perceived to be too restrictive, echoing the demands of the diaspora during an official visit of the Australian government in 2013.⁷

Finally, the government is actively seeking to promote Papua New Guinea as an investment destination for Australian companies,⁸ and it has included potential investors from the Papua New Guinean diaspora in Australia in its promotional efforts.⁹ The government has also recently announced its objective to encourage the flow of remittances into the national economy, with the stated aim of receiving more remittances from workers abroad than development aid.¹⁰

4 See <https://ica.gov.pg/press-releases/2013/constitutional-amendments-to-allow-dual-citizenship> and <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-investment-climate-statements/papua-new-guinea/>

5 High Commission of Papua New Guinea in Canberra, 'PNG Citizens' <https://pngcanberra.org/png-citizens/>

6 See <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/research-and-statistics/research-reports/recognised-seasonal-employer-rse-scheme> and <https://www.employment.gov.au/participating-countries-and-contact-points>

7 ABC News, 'PNG PM calls for easier Australian visa access', <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-05-10/png-pm-criticises-australia-over-visas/4680944>

8 See <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/press-conference-hon-james-marape-mp-prime-minister-papua-new-guinea> and <https://ap-news.com/article/4cf7ddb14f9b4258a5122b29edb2ddfa>

9 Devpolicyblog, 'Flying the PNG flag in Canberra', <https://devpolicy.org/flying-the-png-flag-in-australia-20180724/>

10 PNG Labour Mobility Unit, <https://www.pngworkers.org/png-lmu>

Obstacles



- **Limited services to the diaspora:** The low prioritisation of diaspora engagement by the government of Papua New Guinea results in very few services and little information available to the diaspora. For instance, passports of Papua New Guineans living abroad cannot be renewed at diplomatic missions; documents about to expire must therefore be sent to the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority in Port Moresby.¹¹
- **Lack of policy and institutional framework:** No policy or strategy on diaspora engagement has been developed in Papua New Guinea, and there is currently no government institution with a specific mandate on diaspora affairs.
- **Poverty and lack of opportunities:** High poverty and unemployment rates in Papua New Guinea form an obstacle to diaspora engagement and return of skilled Papua New Guineans.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



PNG Labour Mobility Unit

Through its new website, the Labour Mobility Unit provides information to potential seasonal workers on how to apply to seasonal labour schemes in Australia and New Zealand, as well as details of current recruitment processes in each of the country's provincial administrations, which are responsible for selecting and recruiting workers. Final approvals are given by the government through the Labour Mobility Unit, with the objective to send 8,000 workers to Australia and New Zealand each year.

LABOUR MOBILITY

Prime Minister James Marape's visits to the diaspora¹²

In recent years, visits by the Prime Minister James Marape to Australia and New Zealand provided opportunities for government authorities and business groups to connect with the Papua New Guinean diaspora. During a visit to Canberra in 2019, PM Marape encouraged the Papua New Guinean diaspora to apply for dual citizenship under the 2016 Citizenship Act, and invited Papua New Guineans living abroad to engage back home.¹³

NETWORKING

¹¹ Papua New Guinea High Commission in London, 'Revalidation of Passports', <http://www.pnghighcomm.org.uk/consular-services/revalidation-passports/>

¹² Theinterpreter, 'Marape's blueprint for change in a fast vanishing honeymoon',

¹³ Devpolicyblog, 'Flying the PNG flag in Canberra', <https://devpolicy.org/flying-the-png-flag-in-australia-20180724/>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

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Pacific Islands Forum

Papua New Guinea 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.

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Papua New Guinea 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.

Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG)

The Melanesian Spearhead Group is an intergovernmental organisation composed of the four Melanesian countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The MSG requested a technical intervention from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) through its ACP-EU Migration Action Programme, and is currently working on the development of a Remittances Policy, which has yet to be finalised.¹⁴

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Papua New Guinea became a member of the ILO in 1976, a year after it gained independence. With financial support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the ILO worked with Papua New Guinea to implement the programme "Strengthening Labour Migration Management in Papua New Guinea and Nauru in the context of the Australia Seasonal Worker Program" from 2013 to 2014. The programme was designed to help the governments of Papua New Guinea and Nauru to prepare workers better for their departure abroad and upon their return.¹⁵

¹⁴ Melanesian Spearhead Group, Melanesian Tok issue 10, <https://www.msgsec.info/wp-content/uploads/newsletter/Melanesian-Tok-Issue-10-Jan-Apr-2020.pdf>

¹⁵ ILO in Asia and the Pacific, 'Seasonal work brings year-round benefits', https://www.ilo.org/asia/media-centre/articles/WCMS_241674/lang--en/index.htm



- **National institutions**

- At sub-ministerial level

PNG Labour Mobility Unit 2019

The PNG Labour Mobility Unit operates as an independent unit within the Department of Treasury. Its objective is to sharpen the focus on labour mobility as a source of jobs and revenue for Papua New Guinea citizens, and it is responsible for facilitating Papua New Guinea's participation to the Seasonal Worker Programme and Pacific Labour Scheme in Australia, as well as the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme in New Zealand.

Immigration and Citizenship Authority (ICA)

The ICA is responsible for managing Papua New Guinea's borders in relation to the movement of persons into and out of the country. Its mandate includes issuing and renewing passports for Papua New Guinean citizens.

Diplomatic missions of Papua New Guinea abroad

Diplomatic missions provide diplomatic, consular, and visa services, in addition to information on tourism, investment, trade and commerce opportunities in Papua New Guinea. They are also involved in data collection initiatives on behalf of the government.

Department of National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM)

The role of DNPM is to lead, plan, coordinate and facilitate appropriate national and international initiatives that address and promote equitable and sustainable development of Papua New Guinea. It elaborated the Papua New Guinea Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Wantok Support Charity 2011 UK

- ☑ **Integration activities**
- ☑ **Development activities**

The Wantok Support Charity is a UK-based charity, founded by Papua New Guinean nationals living in the UK, whose mission is to improve the lives of the citizens of Papua New Guinea. Additionally, they provide support services for individuals and families who have settled in the UK. Services include healthcare, education, and environmental issues.

Written by: **Alexandre Porteret**
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Diaspora engagement mapping SAMOA

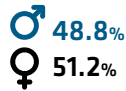
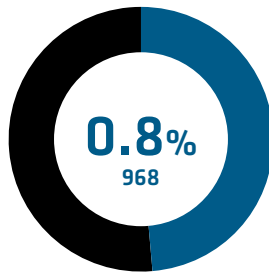
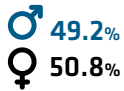
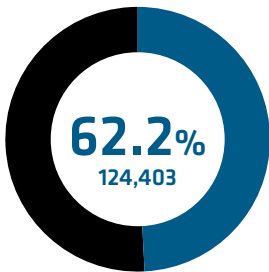
Facts & figures

Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



Remittances as a share of GDP: 18.7%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 150



Top countries of destination



New Zealand	54,108
Australia	32,173
United States	20,201
American Samoa (United States)	15,830
United Kingdom	345

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Terminology: the term 'Samoans overseas' has been commonly used in official government communications in recent years, although the term 'diaspora' has also been in use since 2019 since the creation of the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit.

Samoa does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Following the 2016 Amendment, the Citizenship Act states that a person born outside of Samoa will now be considered a citizen by descent if, at the time of their birth, the individual has at least one parent or grandparent that is a Samoan citizen. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/samoa-citizenship-act-amended-to-allow-second-generation-samoans-overseas-to-claim-citizenship/>; Part 3, Renunciation or Loss of Citizen, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4211de254.pdf>

2 ACE Electoral Knowledge Network, 'Samoa', http://aceproject.org/regions-en/countries-and-territories/WS/default?set_language=en

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2016 ● The **Samoa Labour Migration Policy** establishes a link between the movement of Samoan nationals abroad and remittances sent to the country, and recognizes the value of remittances sent by Samoans overseas during past crises. The policy also acknowledges the role played by remittances flows in the Samoan economy, and in particular in addressing poverty in the country and helping households to provide schooling for their children.
- 2016
▼
2020 ● **Samoa's National Employment Policy** encourages Samoans to work overseas and emphasizes a specific point on 'Increasing Opportunities and improving coordination for Seasonal Workers and Samoans working abroad.'
- 2016
▼
2020 ● The **Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS)** includes increasing labour mobility as one of its strategic outcomes.

» Trends and achievements

Samoa has one of the largest overseas diaspora in the Pacific, and the government has intensified its efforts in the area of diaspora engagement in recent years. In 2016, it amended the Citizenship Law to ease the conditions of citizenship in favour of descendants of Samoans born abroad. The government created the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit, which started communicating with Samoan communities abroad and called on Samoan diaspora celebrities and professional athletes [via Twitter](#) to support the country in December 2019, when Samoa was grappling with a severe measles outbreak.

Samoa is highly dependent on remittances, which are the country's largest form of foreign exchange earner.³ Remittances account for roughly 20 percent of Samoa's GDP annually, making Samoa the sixth largest remittance receiver worldwide.⁴ The Government recognizes the significance of remittance income to Samoa's economy and seeks to develop strategies for leveraging remittances for development, notably by establishing products and services for migrant workers to encourage savings, investments and business creation.⁵ The diaspora has demonstrated a strong capacity to support both the Samoan government and relatives living in the country during times of crisis. After the 2009 Samoa earthquake and tsunami, 90% of disaster-affected households in the country received international remittances, 72% of these were sent within a week after the event.⁶ During the measles outbreak that hit Samoa in 2019, Samoan diaspora communities liaised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade through its diplomatic missions abroad in order to present financial donations that were later transferred to the Government Accounts for Measles.⁷

The Samoan government places great attention on encouraging its citizens to work overseas, especially through seasonal labour migration programmes.⁸ Samoa is now a signatory to five labour mobility schemes (two with Australia and three with New Zealand)⁹ and has been one of the most represented nationalities among the workers taking part in these programmes in recent years.

3 Samoa Observer, 'Proposed drop in cost of money transfers spells savings for Samoans'

4 IOM, [Remittances and disaster: Policy implications for disaster risk management](#)

5 Government of Samoa, [Samoa Labour Migration Policy](#)

6 IOM, [Remittances and disaster: Policy implications for disaster risk management](#)

7 Press Release: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade - Donations from our Auckland Diaspora for the Measles Outbreak](#)

8 Samoa's National Employment Policy 2016-2020

9 Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, [Annual report for period ending 30 June 2019](#)

Samoa diaspora communities are also actively engaged for the preservation of their cultural heritage in their host countries. In New Zealand, the Samoan diaspora works with government authorities in the framework of an annual Language Week that aims to promote the Samoan language, which is the third most spoken language in the country (behind English and Māori).^{10 11}

Obstacles

- **High cost of remittances:** The cost for sending remittances to Samoa from the main OECD countries where the Samoan diaspora resides is relatively high, and cost variations between different money transfer operators for the same remittance corridors remain significant.¹²
- **Lack of economic opportunities:** Poverty and unemployment (especially among youth) are major development issues in Samoa. This is an obstacle to diaspora engagement, in particular with regard to the return of Samoan diasporans who mainly live in OECD countries where wages are higher and unemployment remains low.
- **Lack of policy and institutional framework:** The absence of a dedicated policy and institutional framework constitutes a major obstacle to diaspora engagement in Samoa. The government is currently addressing this challenge through the establishment of the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Government of Samoa's Work Ready Pool (WRP)¹³

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour has developed a Seasonal Employment Unit (SEU) which is responsible for supporting the various seasonal employment schemes to which Samoa is a signatory. To this end, the SEU has set up a Work Ready Pool (WRP) of workers to manage all recruitments of Samoan workers for seasonal labour migration programmes abroad.

Diaspora celebrities and international athletes

The government of Samoa has taken to targeting celebrity diaspora in its communications on social networks, notably through the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit's Twitter and Facebook accounts. Several celebrities from the Samoan diaspora were called upon to send videos of encouragement when the country was hit by a measles outbreak in 2019; some were received and the senders were thanked personally by Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi for the support they provided during the crisis.¹⁴ Celebrities from the diaspora also occupy an important place in the video developed in 2020 by the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit for the Samoan diaspora around the world.¹⁵

LABOUR MIGRATION

COMMUNICATION;
HUMAN CAPITAL

10 New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, [Twitter](#)

11 [Samoa Language Week 2020 Calendar of Events](#)

12 See <https://devpolicy.org/the-persistently-high-cost-of-pacific-remittances-20151117/> and <https://www.samoaoobserver.ws/category/article/49192>

13 Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, 'Seasonal Employment Schemes'

14 [Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit, Twitter](#)

15 [Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit, Twitter](#)



HUMANITARIAN AID;
RETURN

Temporary return agreement for crisi-response

After the 2009 earthquake and tsunami, the Samoan and New Zealand Governments concluded an agreement that permitted Samoan migrants in New Zealand to return temporarily to Samoa and stay in the country for one month to support relief and recovery efforts, without losing their jobs in New Zealand.

According to the affected households, this initiative provided great emotional support and contributed in facilitating 'informal' remittance and in-kind transfers to Samoa.¹⁶

HUMANITARIAN AID;
REMITTANCES

Remittance-fee waive in crisis response

After the 2009 tsunami in Samoa, Western Union adopted a 'no fees policy' on remittance transfers to the country. This initiative contributed to encourage the Samoan diaspora to remit more in order to support the recovery process, as well as to utilise more formal channels on the long term.¹⁷

16 IOM, Remittances and disaster: Policy implications for disaster risk management
17 Jenna Pairama, Loic Le De, Remittances for Disaster Risk Management: Perspectives from Pacific Island Migrants Living in New Zealand

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

Pacific Community (SPC)

Samoa is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation that focuses on scientific and technical expertise. SPC's Social Development Programme is involved in managing the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), created in 1972 as a tool for preserving Pacific culture.

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- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC)

The MPMC is responsible for strengthening policy and programme coordination across the different government ministries and agencies. It maintains close relationships with the Prime Minister's office and cabinet ministerial offices, and it oversees the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit.

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL) 2003

The MCIL promotes labour and employment relations, including foreign employment. It oversees the Seasonal Employment Unit.



- At sub-ministerial level

Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit 2019

Created under the MPMC, the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit's mandate is to "strengthen the connection, partnership and fellowship among the Samoa Diaspora and Samoans residing in Samoa".¹⁸ The Unit started communicating on social media in December 2019, while Samoa was grappling with a severe measles outbreak. Since its creation, the Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit has been visited and supported by several diaspora celebrities, including international athletes from the diaspora.¹⁹

Seasonal Employment Unit (SEU)²⁰

Operating within the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour (MCIL), the Seasonal Employment Unit (SEU) is responsible for providing administrative support for the seasonal employment schemes that Samoa has been executing in partnership with the governments of New Zealand and Australia.²¹ The SEU manages Samoa's Work Ready Pool (WRP), which is the only source of recruitment of Samoan workers for seasonal employment schemes abroad.

Embassies and honorary consulates abroad

Samoa's diplomatic missions abroad have played an important role in mobilising the diaspora during times of crisis, particularly during the measles outbreak that hit the country in 2019.²²

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Pacific Rugby Players Welfare (PRPW) 2016 UK

☑ Integration activities

PRPW was established in 2016 by Samoan, Tongan and Fijian professional rugby players living in Europe to support players and their families in integrating to life in Europe. The association provides its members with family support, training and education opportunities, as well as social events.

18 Government of Samoa, 'Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit'

19 Samoa Diaspora Relations Unit, Twitter, https://twitter.com/Samoas_Diaspora

20 Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, 'Seasonal Employment Schemes'

21 Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, [Annual report, 1 July 2016- 30 June 2017](#)

22 Press Release: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade - Donations from our Auckland Diaspora for the Measles Outbreak](#)

Written by: Alexandre Porteret

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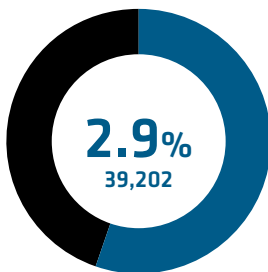


Diaspora engagement mapping TIMOR-LESTE

Facts & figures

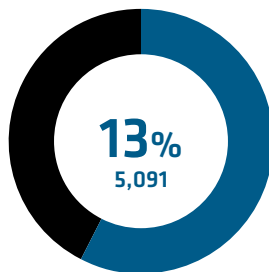
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 55.3%
♀ 47.7%

% of which in the EU



♂ 57.7%
♀ 42.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **8.7%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **155**



Top countries of destination



Indonesia	23,524
Australia	10,368
United Kingdom	2,996
Portugal	1,746
Greece	209

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:³

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: Official government communications most often use the terms “Timorese diaspora” or “compatriots in the diaspora”.^{4,5}

Timor-Leste does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Article 29 of the Nationality Act

2 Election Experts Mission to Timor Leste (European Commission, 2018)

3 Eight polling stations were established across four countries in the 2018 election to allow overseas voting – Porto, Portugal; Seoul, South Korea; Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; London, Oxford and Dungannon, UK - Election Experts Mission to Timor-Leste

4 Timor-Leste and Portugal solidify close relations through investment opportunities (Government of Timor-Leste, 2011)

5 Program of the Eighth Constitutional Government

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2011** ● The **Program of the Eighth Constitutional Government** states that the Timor-Leste Government is especially committed to strengthening ties with Timorese diaspora, and that legislation is to be adopted to ensure the provision of public services to the diaspora through the embassies and consulates of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. It will introduce support mechanisms and consular protection to Timorese citizens residing abroad and improve the mechanisms for the dissemination of information.
- 2017** ● The **Timor-Leste National Employment Strategy 2017 - 2030** aims at increasing employment from labour migration schemes to Australia and South Korea. Recommendations include expanding destination countries and working schemes for Timorese workers abroad including in New Zealand, South East Asian countries, other Portuguese speaking countries and the Middle East, and making better use of the skills and expertise brought back by overseas workers to Timor-Leste. Reference is also made to the 50,000 workers based in countries such as Indonesia and the UK, (not part of government labour schemes) who represent a potentially important source of skills and knowledge if they have incentives to return.
- 2018** ● The **Workforce Development Strategy (WDSTL)** supports the objectives of promoting prosperity, reducing poverty and enhancing stability through improved access to quality assured technical education and training, which matches the needs of the private sector. The goals of WDSTL are to improve human resource capacity in targeted areas; and to foster linkages between Australia and Timor-Leste at the individual, organisational and country levels.

» Trends & achievements

The government of Timor-Leste has deployed efforts over the past years to strengthen the political rights of the Timorese diaspora. The Program of the Eighth Constitutional Government states that the National Parliament passed legislation that allowed Timorese diaspora to register in the electoral register in 2017 and 2018. Political participation, in addition to being a fundamental right recognised for all Timorese citizens, is also an important instrument for strengthening the ties of the Timorese abroad to the national community.

Timorese workers have been going abroad since independence in May 2002.⁶ The diaspora in UK is allegedly to be as high as 20,000.⁷ Their importance to the Timorese economy is indicated by the fact that the Prime Minister personally visited Timorese workers in Northern Ireland and made official communication on the issue with the British and Portuguese governments the week following the Brexit vote.^{8,9} The Timorese in Portugal generally have Portuguese passports and are therefore harder to identify as Timorese. The data on UK-based Timorese diaspora also suggests that most Timorese who use their Portuguese passports to enter Europe, do not settle in Portugal. With a majority leaving Timor-Leste to earn money and find work, Timor-Leste benefits from a large remittance inflow from the diaspora population.

6 DevPolicyBlog, '[Timor-Leste remittances update](#)'

7 DevPolicyBlog, '[Remittances and diversification in Timor-Leste](#)', <https://devpolicy.org/remittances-and-diversification-in-timor-les-te-20191106/>

8 DevPolicyBlog, '[Identity and opportunity for Timorese migrant workers in the UK](#)'

9 Institute of Development Studies, '[Brexit and Timorese workers in the UK](#)'

There are two types of labour mobility pathways available to Timor-Leste. One pathway is completely unmanaged with no government support at either end of the pathway. The other, through the Australian and South Korean seasonal worker schemes, is highly managed with strict government controls imposed by both the sending and receiving country. Timor-Leste is now the third largest labour sending country for the SWP and sends the highest percentage of female workers.¹⁰¹¹

Obstacles



- **Lack of a dedicated policy and institutional framework:** The lack of a dedicated diaspora-engagement policy and institutional framework is a major obstacle to diaspora engagement for Timor-Leste.
- **Lack of opportunities:** The lack of employment options in Timor-Leste deters Timorese diaspora members from returning. Labour opportunities in Australia, Indonesia, South Korea, Portugal and the UK provide scope for Timorese to earn a higher income and gain valuable work experience. Many of Timor-Leste's young educated population move overseas for career development, further limiting the potential to grow the national Timorese economy.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Migration Profile development 2018

Since 2018, with support from the IOM,¹² the Government of Timor-Leste is developing a Migration Profile that will facilitate the identification of key migration issues and opportunities. The Migration Profile is being supported by an Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group (TWG) with representatives including the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Justice.

In addition, the IOM is currently developing a study on the characteristics, competences and motivations of the Timorese Diaspora in the UK and Indonesia.

DATA

Seasonal Worker Programs (SWP)

Timor-Leste has entered into agreements with the Australian and South Korean seasonal worker programs. Under the [South Korean Employment Permit Scheme](#) (2009), Timor-Leste workers sent to South Korea are eligible to work in three areas: agriculture, manufacturing related industries, and fisheries. Timor-Leste, in partnership with Australia, is also part of the [Seasonal Worker Programme](#) (2012) and [Pacific Labour Scheme](#) (2019). Since joining the programme in 2012, almost 3,000 Timor-Leste workers have helped to fill labour shortages in rural and regional Australia while gaining skills and supporting their families back home.¹³

LABOUR
MIGRATION

10 Timor-Leste joins the Pacific Labour Scheme (Minster for Foreign Affairs Australia, 29.03.2019)

11 DevPolicyBlog, 'Another bumper year for the Seasonal Worker Programme'

12 IOM, 'Timor-Leste to Develop First Migration Profile with IOM Support',

13 Timor-Leste joins the Pacific Labour Scheme (Minster for Foreign Affairs Australia, 29.03.2019)

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional Level**

International Organization for Migration

IOM Timor-Leste supports the Government in attaining its longer-term development goals outlined in Timor-Leste's Strategic Development, and in accordance with the [2030 Agenda](#) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through the provision of technical assistance and advice to further strengthen institutional capacity. Since 1999, IOM has been working closely with Timor-Leste to develop coherent and well-coordinated migration governance and border management systems to ensure efficient migration management for Timorese citizens, visitors, immigrants, irregular migrants, and asylum seekers.

- **National institutions**

Timor-Leste embassies, consulates, and High Commissions overseas

These bodies engage with Timor-Leste diaspora communities on issues such as passport issuance and registering to vote.

Centro Treino Integral e Desenvolvimento, Baucau

The Integral Training and Development Centre is the government branch from which Timorese workers can receive training that may assist with future work opportunities overseas.¹⁴

Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment Policy (SEPFPOE)

Under the coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, aims at promoting job creation and vocational training. It processes Timorese candidates, and has placed a Labour Attaché in the Embassy in Canberra to facilitate the Timor-Leste engagement in the Australian Seasonal Worker Program.¹⁵

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Associação de Amizade Timor-Leste Portugal

- ☑ **Integration activities**
- ☑ **Development activities**

The organisation aims to strengthen the presence of several Portuguese institutions in Timor, meeting the expectations of the new generations of Timorese and contributing to the perpetuation of the cultural and affective links that have united generations. They carry out a set of activities in diverse areas, from culture to sports, in East Timor.

¹⁴ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, [Timor-Leste Workforce Development Strategic Review](#)

¹⁵ Government of Timor-Leste, ['Government facilitated Seasonal Worker Program with Australia a success'](#)

East Timor Community in England and Northern Island UK

Integration activities

The significant Timorese diaspora community in the UK is supported through a Facebook page with over 500 followers. The community group is a communication hub for the community, sharing information about Timor-Leste, their community within the UK and other information such as job opportunities for Timorese people in the UK. [f]

Académicos Timorenses de Coimbra 1998 Portugal

Integration activities

A student organisation that aims to support Timorese students in their integration in Coimbra.

ETAP - East Timorese Association in Peterborough UK

Integration activities

ETAP is a not-for-profit organization with the objective of supporting the Timorese people in Peterborough. The organisation is involved with helping settlement of new Timorese migrants, and its support role to the diaspora community includes promotion of cultural and sporting activities. [f]

Oxford Timorese Community Association (OTCA) UK

Integration activities

The aim of the group is to identify and address community needs and work together with individuals and groups in the community to provide help to Timorese in Oxford and promote East Timor's culture and values. [f]

TIMOR-DIÁSPORA 1985 Portugal

Integration activities

Timor-Diaspora is member of the World Diaspora Organization (WOD) Network. It is a platform that provides a space for each Timorese citizen to contribute to the memory and history of the island through all kinds of publications, including articles, books, images and videos.

Uma Timor – Salurik Portugal

-  Integration activities
-  Development activities

The association promotes Timorese culture as well as providing support to Timorese communities abroad, independently of any political and religious doctrine. Members of the organisation want to show their integration in Portugal and that they are valuable to society. At the same time, they want to pass on their experiences and skills to Timor-Leste, as they continue to be proudly Timorese. [f]

Written by: : Jonathan Capal,
Director, DMA Asia Pacific
Edited by: EUDI^F
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Diaspora engagement mapping TONGA

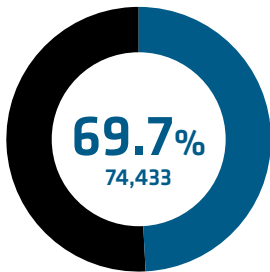
Facts & figures

Emigration

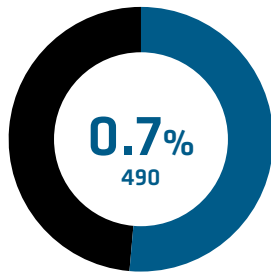
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 49.2%
♀ 50.8%



♂ 51.6%
♀ 48.4%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 37.7%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 194



Top countries of destination



New Zealand	23,940
United States	21,221
Australia	13,002
Fiji	1,359
American Samoa	1,289

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³



Tonga does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 www.ago.gov.to/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1915/1915-0006/NationalityAct_2.pdf

2 <https://matangitonga.to/2017/10/16/overseas-tongans-must-be-tonga-vote-november-16>

3 Tongans living overseas must travel to Tonga in order to vote, as there is no procedure for overseas voting. *Reports of the Commonwealth Observer Group: Kingdom of Tonga National Parliamentary Election, 16 November 2017*, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2017

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2007** ● **Nationality (re-admission) regulations⁴** enable any person who ceased to be a Tongan subject prior to the enactment of the Nationality (Amendment) Act 2007 to apply to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for a certificate of re-admission to Tongan Nationality.
- 2015** ● **Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDFI) 2015-2025⁵** recognises the role of remittances for domestic development and sets out a number of concrete objectives, including improved collaboration with the Tongan Diaspora. The TSDFI recognises that effective collaboration between the diaspora and population resident in Tonga is important for the quality of life of both groups. It qualifies the understanding of the ways in which people resident in Tonga and overseas interact and the support of this interaction as strategic objectives. Other objectives of the TSDFI include encouraging the development of financial, communications and transport services which facilitate exchange between Tongan residents and the Tongan diaspora.



Trends:

With well over half of all Tongans living and working abroad,⁶ notably through seasonal working programmes such as the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme⁷ in New Zealand, Tonga's economy is highly dependent on remittances from its diaspora. In 2019, Tonga counted its highest share of remittances as a percentage of its gross domestic product worldwide, 38.5%.⁸

As a result, the Government of Tonga has made it a priority to improve collaboration with the Tongan diaspora, as reflected in TSDFI. The government is deploying targeted efforts to encourage the flow of remittances into the country's economy,⁹ notably through initiatives such as the 'Ave Pa'Anga Pau' remittance voucher (see Spotlight section).

In addition, the Tongan diaspora is becoming increasingly important for the country's tourism and trade industries, as well as for the development of the local economy, as the majority of visitors to the country is made up of diaspora Tongans visiting friends or relatives.¹⁰ Therefore, the Government is also working to increase trade in services channelled through Tongan visitors and investors in the country, and several key ministries such as the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development have been mandated to strengthen their engagement with the Tongan diaspora in the years to come.¹¹

4 www.ago.gov.to/cms/images/LEGISLATION/SUBORDINATE/2008/2008-0100/NationalityRe-admissionRegulations2007_1.pdf

5 www.finance.gov.to/tonga-strategic-development-framework

6 United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2019). Trends in International Migrant Stock

7 The RSE is a labour market arrangement between New Zealand and several Pacific countries which allows the horticulture and viticulture industries to recruit workers from overseas for seasonal work. Tonga has been involved in the scheme since it was launched 13 years ago, and more than 16,000 Tongans participated in the RSE since 2007. www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/research-and-statistics/research-reports/recognised-seasonal-employer-rse-scheme

8 Knomad, www.knomad.org/data/remittances

9 *Corporate Plan & Budget 2019/2020 - 2021/2022*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10 *Touring Pacific Cultures*, Australian National University Press 2016

11 *Corporate Plan & Budget Summary 2019/20 - 2021/22*, Ministry of Tourism, and *Corporate plan for 2019/2020 - 2021/2022*, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development



Achievements:

Tonga has succeeded in strengthening its collaboration with the Tongan diaspora by implementing several favourable policies and initiatives since the last decade. The government allowed Tongans overseas to retain their Tongan citizenship when becoming citizens of another country,¹² which helped preserve diaspora Tongans' land rights in Tonga¹³ and allowed them to take part in national elections.

In addition, the Government effectively encouraged the flow of remittances into Tonga's economy by working to reduce remittance costs, notably through its collaboration with the World Bank Group and the government of New Zealand.

The Government of Tonga has also succeeded in placing a strong emphasis on the preservation of Tongan culture and heritage in its relations with the Tongan diaspora. This issue was at the heart of community dialogue activities organised in Tonga's consular missions,¹⁴ and is also reflected by the involvement of Tonga's missions abroad in celebrations organised by Tongan diaspora communities on the occasion of Tonga Day.¹⁵

Obstacles



- **Corruption and lack of opportunities:** Perceived corruption in Tonga is one of the main sources of concern been expressed by the Tongan diaspora during dialogue activities organised with the government.¹⁶ A lack of economic opportunities in the country and low wages, especially compared to the main countries of residence of the Tongan diaspora, are also barriers to diaspora engagement.¹⁷
- **High cost of remittances:** The cost for sending remittances to Tonga is relatively high, in particular for the New Zealand-Tonga and Australia-Tonga corridors.¹⁸ In addition, only a limited number of remittance service providers are active in Tonga.¹⁹ Government initiatives such as the 'Ave Pa'Anga Pau' remittance voucher could contribute to addressing this challenge.

12 www.ago.gov.to/cms/images/LEGISLATION/PRINCIPAL/1915/1915-0006/NationalityAct_2.pdf

13 *Migration, remittance and development Tonga*, FAO, 2011

14 www.mic.gov.to/news-today/press-releases/5137-cultural-diplomacy-a-tongan-youth-overseas

15 www.mic.gov.to/news-today/press-releases/6408-completion-of-a-successful-community-dialogues-and-consular-visit-by-the-high-commissioner-of-tonga-to-australia

16 www.mic.gov.to/health-a-ncds/community-health-a-development/2948-prime-minister-and-minister-of-health-hold-meeting-with-utah-tongan-community

17 *The Tongan Diaspora in Australia: Current and Potential Links With the Homeland*, Australian Research Council Linkage Project, 2012

18 The World Bank, Remittance prices worldwide

19 *Strengthening diaspora engagement and remittances in the Kingdom of Tonga*, IOM, 2017

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



'Ave Pa'Anga Pau' remittance voucher, 2007, avepaanga.co.nz

REMITTANCES

Ave Pa'Anga ("Send Money Securely" in Tongan) is a cashless remittance voucher which was developed by the World Bank Group and the Tonga Development Bank (TDB), with support from the governments of Australia and New Zealand. This instrument, which facilitates sending remittances to Tonga at a lower cost, allows recipients in Tonga to access remittances from TDB branches in the country.²⁰ TDB is also making use of the remittance voucher as part of a loan programme to help Tongan migrant workers engaging in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme in New Zealand to pay for local costs of the programme before their departure.

Readmission of former citizens to Tongan nationality, 2007

MIGRANTS RIGHTS

The adoption of the Nationality regulations in 2007 marked an important milestone for former subjects who lost their Tongan nationality by becoming citizens of another country at a time when dual citizenship was not allowed. Through these regulations, any person who ceased to be a Tongan may apply to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for a certificate of re-admission to Tongan Nationality. The Government of Tonga made application forms available on the various websites of its missions abroad,²¹ and readmission ceremonies have been organised for successful applicants in several of Tonga's missions abroad since 2007.²²

Tonga Day celebrations across the world

CULTURE & IDENTITY

The Government of Tonga celebrates Tonga National Day (or Tonga Constitution Day) on 4 November each year²³ to commemorate the adoption of its first constitution in 1875. Over the years, this event has become an opportunity to celebrate and promote Tongan culture and identity around the world, with a number of major celebrations and events being organised by the Tongan diaspora each year in cities such as Sydney,²⁴ Portland,²⁵ and Honolulu,²⁶ sometimes with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' consular missions abroad.²⁷

20 www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/news_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/news+and+events/news/impact-stories/tonga-remittances

21 www.tongaconsul.com/forms

22 www.mic.gov.to/news-today/press-releases/6408-completion-of-a-successful-community-dialogues-and-consular-visit-by-the-high-commissioner-of-tonga-to-australia

23 www.parliament.gov.to/about-our-parliament/calendars/public-holidays/10

24 www.abc.net.au/radio-australia/programs/pacificmornings/tonga-day-sydney/11685256

25 www.oregonmetro.gov/news/tonga-day-creates-welcoming-place-share-culture

26 www.staradvertiser.com/2016/11/15/food/experience-a-taste-of-tonga-at-national-day-fete/

27 www.mic.gov.to/news-today/press-releases/6408-completion-of-a-successful-community-dialogues-and-consular-visit-by-the-high-commissioner-of-tonga-to-australia



ACP-EU Migration Action Programme technical intervention on strengthening diaspora engagement and remittances in Tonga, 2017 acpeumigrationaction.iom.int/tonga

Following a request submitted by the Tongan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) through its ACP-EU Migration Action Programme, a technical assistance intervention was carried out in 2017 on the topic of diaspora engagement and remittances in Tonga. The intervention led to the publication of a baseline assessment on remittances in Tonga, and it resulted in the formulation of a series of operational recommendations on the following three topics:²⁸

REMITTANCES

- Encouraging the flow of remittances, including options for lowering the cost of sending remittances;
- Facilitating opportunities for the investment of remittances in local development initiatives;
- Strengthening engagement with the Tongan diaspora.

²⁸ Strengthening diaspora engagement and remittances in the Kingdom of Tonga, Dissemination report for the Technical Assistance Intervention in Tonga, IOM, 2017 https://acpeumigrationaction.iom.int/sites/default/files/tonga_dissemination-pages.pdf

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level**

Pacific Community (SPC) www.spc.int

Tonga 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 preserving Pacific culture.

Pacific Islands Forum www.forumsec.org

Tonga is a member of the Pacific Islands Forum, an inter-governmental organisation which seeks to foster cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. Its work covers migration issues and 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) www.pidcsec.org

Tonga is a member of Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC – which was known as the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference until 2018). PIDC is a regional consultative process which aims at gathering official immigration agencies of the Pacific region and enabling the heads of the participating states' immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and foster cooperation. Others objectives of PIDC include modernising national immigration legal frameworks in the region.

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) www.twitter.com/TongaMfa

The MFA is responsible for promoting and protecting the interests of the country and its citizens abroad. The MFA manages migration issues through its Immigration Division (MFAID), and oversees Tonga's consular missions abroad.

The MFA's Corporate Plan & Budget for the years 2019-2022 specifies that the Ministry actively engages to improve collaboration with the Tongan diaspora, with the objective of encouraging remittances and increasing trade in services channelled through Tongan visitors and investors in the country.²⁹ In addition, the MFA commissioned a technical assistance to IOM's ACP-EU Migration Action, which resulted in the publication of a report on the development potential of diaspora engagement and remittances in Tonga in 2017.

²⁹ Corporate Plan & Budget 2019/2020 – 2021/2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

National Reserve Bank of Tonga www.reservebank.to

The National Reserve Bank of Tonga is the central bank of Tonga. It is responsible for regulating the issue and supply of domestic and international currency, as well as promoting monetary stability and economic development in the country. The National Reserve Bank monitors remittances sent to Tonga and it publishes economic releases on this issue on a regular basis.³⁰

Tonga Development Bank (TDB) www.tdb.to

Tonga Development Bank's mission is to promote the economic and social advancement of Tonga through banking products and professional services. With support from the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation and the governments of Australia and New Zealand, TDB developed the 'Ave Pa'Anga Pau' remittance voucher, which allows the Tongan diaspora to send remittances to Tonga at a lower cost.

Ministry of Trade and Economic Development (MTED)

Previously known as the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries (MLCI), the MTED manages the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme on behalf of the Government of Tonga. As part of this scheme, the MTED is supporting the selection of Tongan workers and their preparation, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the programme.³¹ In its Corporate plan for 2019/2020 – 2021/2022, the MTED has been tasked of conducting market researches on the Tongan diaspora in Australia and New Zealand, as well as to develop a strategy to harness diaspora investments and remittances for inclusive economic development.³²

Ministry of Tourism www.tourismtonga.gov.to

The Ministry of Tourism is responsible for developing tourism in Tonga. It developed the website 'Tonga-Holiday.com', which promotes Tonga as a holiday destination. Considering the role played by the Tongan diaspora in the country's tourism industry, the work of the Ministry of Tourism is becoming increasingly relevant to diaspora engagement in Tonga. The Ministry of Tourism's Corporate Plan & Budget for the years 2019-2022 specifies that the Ministry must contribute to the TSDFII's objective of improving collaboration with the Tongan diaspora.³³

- At sub-ministerial level

Tonga Embassies and High Commissions

Embassies and High Commissions abroad are engaging with the Tongan diaspora through community dialogue activities.³⁴ Tonga's consular missions abroad organise readmission ceremonies for successful applicants to the 2007 re-admission regulations, and they take part in the Tonga Day celebrations which are organised each year by the Tongan diaspora in various cities around the world.

30 *Remittances for September 2019*, National Reserve Bank of Tonga, 2019

31 *Migration, remittance and development Tonga*, FAO, 2011

32 *Corporate plan for 2019/2020 – 2021/2022*, Ministry of Trade and Economic Development

33 *Corporate Plan & Budget Summary 2019/20 – 2021/22*, Ministry of Tourism

34 www.mic.gov.to/news-today/press-releases/6408-completion-of-a-successful-community-dialogues-and-consular-visit-by-the-high-commissioner-of-tonga-to-australia

Tonga Statistics Department www.tongastats.gov.to

The Tonga Statistics Department aims at supporting government efficiency, effectiveness and organisational decisionmaking by providing high quality statistics. The Statistics Department collects data on visitors to the country, including the Tongan diaspora visiting friends or relatives under the designation of “VFR tourists”.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Deutsch-Pazifische Gesellschaft (German Pacific Society) Germany 2004 deutsch-pazifische-gesellschaft.de

The German Pacific Society association organises conferences, meetings, exhibitions, cultural events and gatherings with Pacific Islanders in Germany and Europe. An estimated 30 Tongans living in Germany are participating in the society’s activities.³⁵

Pacific Rugby Players Welfare (PRPW) United Kingdom 2016 pacificrugbywelfare.com

Integration activities

PRPW was established by Samoan, Tongan and Fijian professional rugby players living in Europe to support players and their families in integrating to life in Europe. The association provides its members with family support, training and education opportunities, as well as social events.

³⁵ *The German-Tongan Diaspora Since 1932*, Kasia Renae Cook, University of Auckland, 2017

Written by: **Alexandre Porteret**
Edited by: **EUDiF**
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the European Union





Diaspora engagement mapping TUVALU

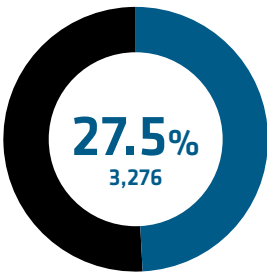
Facts & figures

Emigration

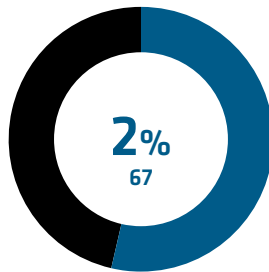
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 49.3%
♀ 50.7%



♂ 53.7%
♀ 46.3%



Remittances as a share of GDP: -
Remittances inflow (USD million): -



Top countries of destination



New Zealand	1,515
Russia	581
Fiji	419
Kiribati	302
Australia	211

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Terminology: The term “Tuvaluan diaspora” is used in government policies and official communications.

Tuvalu does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

¹ Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Tuvalu: Whether a person who holds a Tuvalu passport can sponsor his or her spouse for citizenship and/or residence in Tuvalu (8 January 2003)

² The International IDEA Handbook: Voting from Abroad (2007)

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2015** ● The **National Labour Migration Policy** aims to provide Tuvaluan citizens with support for opportunities to work abroad. Specific objectives include facilitating the movement of citizens, reducing the cost of remittances and engaging and encouraging inter-agency cooperation and capacity building. The Tuvaluan government acknowledges the importance of the diaspora and states the desire to engage with the Tuvaluan population abroad in the NLMP, yet no specific dedicated strategy has been developed.
- 2016** ● **TE KAKEEGA III - National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020** seeks to achieve a greater level of security and prosperity for all Tuvaluans and to develop and maintain good relations with countries all around the world. Under this programme the government of Tuvalu hopes to expand overseas employment for suitably qualified individuals through private, bilateral and multi-lateral means. There is also a focus on increasing remittance transfers directly through temporary overseas employment schemes, and indirectly where government policy and initiative can influence temporary or permanent migration opportunities.

» Trends & achievements

Tuvalu actively engages with its diaspora, particularly through the labour migration programmes it participates in. The country has a long tradition of labour migration, notably through seafaring and participation in seasonal worker schemes, with labour migration increasing steadily in recent years.³ The government has identified the Tuvaluan diaspora as a key asset in its efforts to assist Tuvaluans seeking employment opportunities and in integrating abroad. It has also recognized the role played by the diaspora in providing information to island Tuvaluans on education and work opportunities which are often hard to access in the islands.

Tuvalu seafarers are supported through a formal mechanism whereby they can remit a portion of their base salary to friends and family in Tuvalu; they also make a mandatory contribution to the Tuvalu National Provident Fund (TNPF – Tuvalu’s largest financial institution, which collects a contribution from employees to then invest on their behalf).⁴ Tuvalu migrant workers have had immediate success with the Pacific Labour Scheme since its launch in 2018, with workers able to earn up to ten times their usual salary by working in industries under the scheme,⁵ whilst gaining valuable skills that could be utilized upon their return. This enables overseas workers to support their families, and to earn enough money from their time in Australia to build new family homes.

The strength of support from the Tuvaluan government to its diaspora has been evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the government closely monitoring stranded workers’ wellbeing, and assisting workers scheduled to leave Tuvalu that had been unable to do so due to border closures. The pandemic has increased the official diaspora outreach conducted by the government.

³ Immigration New Zealand: [RSE Statistics](#).

⁴ The NPF provides contributors with access to funds for children’s education, medical expenses and some retirement provision.

⁵ Zivic, M., SBS News. (10 November 2018) [Australia’s new labour scheme for Pacific Islanders gets underway](#).

Obstacles



- **Lack of funding and resources:** The Tuvalu government faces financial constraints that limits support for diaspora engagement activities.
- **Significant costs for Tuvaluan emigrants:** There are significant upfront costs for workers participating in both the Australia and New Zealand worker schemes. This means many people do not leave as they don't see the benefit of working overseas and remitting when faced with such high initial travel and employment costs. Remittances sent by Tuvaluan workers may, in the early stages of their time overseas, be limited due to the cost burden they face.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Government visit to the Tuvaluan diaspora in Kioa Island, Fiji 2017

Following the end of World War II, the island of Kioa in Fiji was purchased and settled by Tuvaluan emigrants.⁶ Today, the population of the island is nearly entirely of Tuvaluan descent and the government of Tuvalu formerly engaged with the Tuvaluan diaspora community of Kioa by sending an official delegation to visit the island.

PACER Plus 2017

Pacific labour mobility arrangements were established as part of the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER Plus) between Tuvalu, Australia and New Zealand. The agreement complements the existing seasonal worker schemes and aims to increase the benefits of the labour-sending countries, as well as establish the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting to discuss further initiatives.

Tuna Australia Scholarships to Tuvaluan Seafarers 2019

Under the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) scheme, Tuna Australia (an association of Australian fisheries) recruits Tuvaluan fishermen for three-year placements in Australia to address labour shortages. The skills learnt during their time working under the Tuna Australia PLS scheme, will help to support the Tuvaluan commercial fishing industry when the workers return home.

Seasonal Worker Programs

Tuvalu has signed various seasonal worker programs with New Zealand and Australia, including the PAC (2002), RSE (2007), SWP (2012) and PLS (2018). The policies allow industries to recruit workers from Tuvalu for seasonal work. These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and earn money to send remittances home to support their families.

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIPS

HUMAN CAPITAL; PARTNERSHIPS

HUMAN CAPITAL; LABOUR MIGRATION

⁶ <https://www.fijitimes.com/how-the-tuvaluans-settled-on-kioa/>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At a Regional Level**

Pacific Community (SPC)

Tuvalu is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation that focuses on scientific and technical expertise. SPC's Social Development Programme is involved in managing the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), created in 1972 as a tool for preserving Pacific culture. Tuvalu became a member in 1978.

Pacific Islands Forum

Tuvalu has been a member of the Pacific Islands Forum since 1978. It is an inter-governmental organisation which seeks to foster cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. Its work covers migration issues and 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)

Tuvalu is a member of the Pacific Immigration Development Community (known as the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference until 2018). PIDC is a regional consultative process which gathers official immigration agencies of the Pacific region and enables 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.

- **At a National Level**

Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI)⁷ 1978

Following independence in 1978, the Government, with support from international donors, established the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute (TMTI) which has remained the anchor of the country's engagement with international labour migration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour⁸ (MFATTEL)

MFATTEL is the lead agency responsible for regulating labour migration. It manages Tuvalu's participation in the seasonal worker programmes under bilateral labour agreements with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand respectively.

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuvalu_Maritime_Training_Institute [Accessed 10.2020]

⁸ <https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/tuvalu-ministry-foreign-affairs-trade-tourism-environment-labour> [Accessed 10.2020]

- At sub-ministerial level

Tuvalu Labour Department

The department serves as a focal point for government outreach with its labour mobility workers living and working in Australia and New Zealand.

Written by: : Jonathan Capal,
Director, DMA Asia Pacific
Edited by: EUDiF
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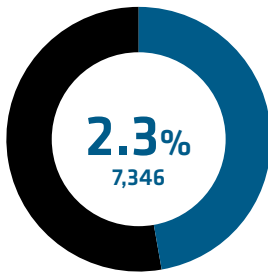


Diaspora engagement mapping VANUATU

Facts & figures

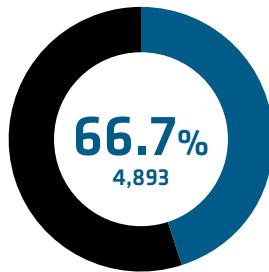
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 47.3%
♀ 52.7%

% of which in the EU



♂ 45.2%
♀ 54.8%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 8.8%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 76



Top countries of destination



New Caledonia (France)	3,802
Australia	1,565
France	813
Colombia	221
French Polynesia (France)	218

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³
Only in legislative elections



Voting from abroad:⁴

By proxy



Terminology: The government and civil society use the concept of diaspora. The term 'Ol man Vanuatu' is used to describe diaspora amongst Ni-Vans (an abbreviated form of Ni-Vanuatus, meaning Vanuatuans). The broader Melanesian term (including Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands) 'Wantok' is sometimes used.

Vanuatu does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Vanuatu Government: [Citizenship's Office and Commission](#).

2 Amendments in 2013 and 2014 have ensured that dual citizenship is available for Vanuatu citizens. Any application for regaining citizenship by Vanuatu nationals, is pursuant to Section 18 of the Citizenship Act (CAP 112).

3 Citizens residing abroad can only vote for legislative and sub-national legislation.

4 Voting from abroad is only via proxy. It was first implemented was 1982, following Vanuatu's independence in 1980. [Representation of the People Commencement 1982](#)

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2013** ● **Immigration Act 2010** was **amended in 2013** to grant long-term visa 'Part A, subclass 131' to anyone whose parents are Ni Vanuatu or of Ni Vanuatu descent or anyone who has been residing in Vanuatu for the last 12 months as of 2013.⁵
- 2019** ● The **National Labour Mobility Policy** has the key aim of coordinating actions in order to arrive at a labour mobility industry in Vanuatu that complies with international standards and produces economic returns and social benefits for the people of Vanuatu. The intent is to achieve this through strengthening Vanuatu's governance structure, enhancing the agricultural sector, increasing job opportunities and encouraging skills development for Ni-Vans.⁶

» Trends & achievements

The Government of Vanuatu has made a push for greater diaspora engagement in recent years, notably by involving the country in seasonal worker programs with Australia and New Zealand, and by trying to collect more data on the Ni-Vanuatu diaspora. Facilitating and driving down the costs of remittances has also been a key priority for the government, as illustrated by the country joining the Global Call-To-Action on Remittances during COVID-19.⁷ Vanuatu has put in motion a pathway for online remittance services to help significantly lower costs over the next few years (see Spotlight section), and it participated in the process for developing a regional Melanesian remittances policy for the Melanesian Spearhead Group (with support from the IOM ACP-EU migration action). Furthermore, the government of Vanuatu strengthened the rights of the Ni-Vanuatu diaspora by allowing dual citizenship in 2013.

The National Labour Mobility Policy was developed to improve governance and operation of labour mobility schemes. Its focus is on better recruitment processes and worker protection.⁸ By 2019, Ni-Vans were the largest group working in New Zealand under the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme - with 5,130 workers - and in Australia under the Seasonal Worker Program (SWP). Between 2007 and 2019, 37,347 RSE visas had been processed under the scheme.⁹ Vanuatu has been the most successful Pacific country in terms of developing and expanding a strong base of workers. Moreover, Vanuatu is also a member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Skills Movement Scheme, which aims to facilitate the temporary movement of nationals among the member states for the purpose of employment.

Data collection is a priority for the government. The Vanuatu National Statistics Office uses visitor details sourced from port and airport arrivals/departures. These are published monthly and the government is planning to include more diaspora questions in the next mini-census.

Obstacles



- **Lack of a dedicated policy and institutional framework:** Vanuatu has not yet established a policy on diaspora engagement, or an institution tasked with coordinating efforts to engage with its diaspora population.

5 Vanuatu Government: Department of Vanuatu Immigration and Passport Service: [Permanent Residency Visa](#).

6 Horticulture New Zealand. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade: [RSE Conference: Vanuatu's Labour Mobility Policy Presentation](#).

7 Knomad: [Remittances in Crisis - How to keep them Flowing](#).

8 Workers are hired through licensed labour recruitment agents across Vanuatu and pre-departure training and subsequent support is provided through labour sending units and the Vanuatu Department of Labour.

9 It is common for workers to return for five or more seasons in a row.

- **Lack of data collection:** The government collects limited data, which hinders the development of evidence-based diaspora engagement policies. Vanuatu has no border management information system, nor does it publish data on migration regularly outside of the census (approximately every 10 years). The 2009 Vanuatu census included questions on internal migration. The 2020 census will include a question focused on whether the census respondent has received any remittance income within the previous twelve months.
- **High cost of remittances:** Remittance transfers via banks are expensive. Money Transfer Operator remittances are more popular among those who remit, but there are limits on transaction value. This leads to large informal remittance flows, with many Ni-Van seasonal workers flying home with cash and exchanging it for local currency, Vatu, with legal or informal foreign exchange providers in Port Vila. The government is addressing this issue by supporting initiatives like Vodafone Vanuatu's M-Vatu initiative (see Spotlight section).
- **Lack of funding:** The government faces financial constraints that limit the support of diaspora engagement activities.

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



ACP-EU Migration Action¹⁰ June 2014 – August 2019

In Vanuatu, technical assistance through the ACP-EU migration action (implemented by the IOM) focused on visas, remittances, trafficking and smuggling. The initiative supported writing a Melanesian remittances policy for the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG, see annex) in 2019. Although it has not yet been formally validated due to a refocus of priorities for the MSG related to COVID-19.

Building the capacity of migrant workers and government to harness the potential of remittances

Implemented by IOM, this project aims to increase understanding of remittances flows and practices in Vanuatu 2020–2021. Planned activities include developing training for migrants on remittances and financial literacy.

Vodafone and Digicel to extend Mobile Money services to international remittances 2021

Vanuatu's two mobile network providers, Vodafone (M-Vatu¹¹) and Digicel Mobile Money, should, in 2021, make their mobile wallets available for international money transfer. This will provide seasonal workers with the ability to easily send small amounts of money home, at low cost, to rural locations where their families are often based.

National Labour Mobility Summit¹² 2018

The meeting in March 2018 provided an opportunity to take stock of the Vanuatu government's successful efforts to export labour services to horticulture industries in Australia and New Zealand. Recommendations included developing a National Labour Mobility Policy for the country. The summit also highlighted the need for the development of a programme for integration of returning workers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,
REMITTANCES

REMITTANCES,
HUMAN CAPITAL

REMITTANCES

POLICY

10 IOM: UN Migration. [Vanuatu](#).

11 Newsroom (1 November 2019) Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme. [Mobile Money Service now available in Vanuatu](#).

12 Matthew Dorman: [Devpolicy Blog. Vanuatu Grapples with Seasonal Worker Success](#).

Annex:

List of actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **At regional level:**

Pacific Community (SPC)

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Melanesian Spearhead Group Skills Movement Scheme (SMS)

The MSG, established in 1986, is a regional organization comprising the four Melanesian states: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji.

The SMS was launched on 30 March 2012 to facilitate the temporary movement of skilled MSG nationals within the MSG countries for the purposes of taking up employment without compromising national laws and policies on health and safety, minimum working conditions and border requirements.

Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) 2008

Since its establishment, PFIP has helped over two million low-income Pacific Islanders access formal financial services and financial education. It is jointly administered by the UN Capital Development Fund (UN-CDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and receives funding from the Australian Government, the European Union and the New Zealand Government. The Programme operates in several Pacific countries, including Vanuatu. In Vanuatu, its work includes support for the [National Financial Inclusion Strategy 2018-2023](#), and support for increasing access to digital finance in Vanuatu. Recently, PFIP has been supporting Vodafone Vanuatu with the development of its M-Vatu mobile money product.¹³

- **At national level:**

V-Lab Business Development Programme 2020

Launched in June 2020, V-Lab is a Joint program with the Department of Labour to promote entrepreneurship and innovation amongst seasonal workers (with the support of Australian Aid).

¹³ Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme: [Mobile Money in Vanuatu](#).

Department of External Trade

Vanuatu's Department of External Trade has played a key role in the development of the National Labour Mobility Policy.¹⁴ The Department has been a critical focal point for regional stakeholders understanding of Vanuatu labour mobility policy as it adapts to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact on labour mobility movement.

National Bank of Vanuatu (NBV)

NBV has been keen to make remittances cheaper for Ni-Vans,¹⁵ through the use of online and mobile banking platforms specifically including features for seasonal workers.¹⁶ These include a foreign exchange calculator and preferential foreign exchange rates that help seasonal workers when they are trying to calculate what their remittance recipient may receive in Vatu.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Corporation and External Trade (MOFAICET)

MOFAICET co-developed the National Labour Mobility Policy, which enhanced the agricultural sector, provided better governance structure, increase job opportunities and encouraged skills development for Ni-Vans.

- **At sub-ministerial level:**

Department of Labour and Employment Services

The Employment Service Unit (ESU) was established in the Vanuatu Department of Labour (DoL) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2006. It manages the labour mobility programmes which include the Recognised Seasonal Employers (RSE, New Zealand) and Seasonal Workers Program (SWP, Australia) and also the Pacific Labour Mobility Scheme (PLS, Australia). It also co-developed the National Labour Mobility Policy with the Department of External Trade.

Vanuatu embassies, consulates, High Commissions and Trade Commissions abroad

These bodies engage with Vanuatu diaspora communities on issues such as passport issuance.

14 Anita Roberts: Daily Post. [National Labour Mobility Policy Launched](#). (21 December 2019)

15 Ajay Jagannath: Devpolicy Blog. [Remittances: Moving People Move Money](#). (10 February 2020)

16 National Bank of Vanuatu: [IsiNet and Mobile Banking](#).

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association des Etudiants Vanuatais en Nouvelle-Calédonie (AEV-NC)


Integration activities

AEV-NC is a community organisation focused on Vanuatu students living and studying in New Caledonia.

[]

Comité des 40 ans de Vanuatu en Nouvelle Calédonie

Integration activities

Comité des 40 ans de Vanuatu en Nouvelle Calédonie is a Facebook page focused on celebrating Vanuatu's 40th anniversary amongst the Ni-Vanuatu diaspora in New Caledonia. The Facebook page has remained active since the July 2020 celebrations. []

Written by: **Jonathan Capal**,
Director, DMA Asia Pacific
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