

Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCMHS)



Climate change and migration: Improving migrant labour rights and working towards climate preparedness through dialogue and South-South and triangular cooperation

CHALLENGE

Pacific communities are affected by a range of sudden-onset and slow-onset hazards that are either made more intense, accelerated by or caused by climate change. This contributes to voluntary migration flows, but at the same time, increases displacement both internally and across borders.

Labour migration can contribute to climate resilience by increasing earnings which can be invested in better housing, savings and investment in small businesses. Nevertheless, challenges faced include lack of decent work during recruitment and employment, low levels of financial awareness and literacy (resulting for example in an estimated AUD 11.4 million (approximately US \$8.8 million) in superannuation contributions not transferred as of mid-2019), adverse social impacts on families and communities left behind and a lack of policy and programme frameworks for reintegration.

To adapt to the impacts of climate change, some governments are supporting the movement of climate change-affected communities. At the International Labour Organization (ILO) Tripartite High-Level Forum on Climate Change and Decent Work in the Pacific (July 2019), Pacific Island countries acknowledged that well governed labour migration has the potential to deliver a triple win, as well as promote climate resilience. However, the Forum recognized that labour migration should be a choice and is not a substitute for creating decent jobs in countries.

TOWARDS A SOLUTION

The adverse impacts of climate change compound existing challenges in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and have placed additional burdens on their national budgets and their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



NOMINATED BY

International Labour Organization (ILO), Country Office Suva

COUNTRIES/REGIONS/TERRITORIES

Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS TARGET(S)

8.8, 10.7, 17.18

RELEVANT PRIORITY AREA(S) OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Climate change; Social development; Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities; Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all; Means of implementation, including partnerships

SUPPORTED BY

ILO Partnership for Development (PARDEV), International Trade Centre Turin, Country Office Suva

IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

ILO, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

PROJECT STATUS

Ongoing

PROJECT PERIOD

February 2019 – January 2022

URL OF THE PRACTICE

<https://bit.ly/2Sq0PHB>



The programme “Enhancing protection and empowerment of migrants and communities affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region”, in short, PCCMHS (Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security) has three objectives:

Objective 1

Pacific communities and governments demonstrate strengthened capacity and coordination through a human security-based response to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement and planned relocation.

Objective 2

Migrants and communities in the Pacific Island Countries benefit from safe labour migration as a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy.

Objective 3

Contribute to the evidence base on good practices in responding to climate change and disaster-related migration, displacement and planned relocation, with particular focus on the role of the human security framework.

The programme goal is to contribute towards the protection and empowerment of communities that are adversely affected by or at-risk of being affected by climate change and disasters in the Pacific region, focusing specifically on climate change-related migration, displacement and planned relocation. The programme is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), along with ILO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS).

In 2020, under this programme, labour mobility training was organized for government officials from 11 Pacific Island Countries and Territories: an E-Academy on labour migration (e-LMA) was held from 9 November to 18 December 2020 with 47 participants from the 11 countries. This course offered participants a unique opportunity to benefit from a diversified training package that included exploring fair and effective labour migration governance, linkages between migration and sustainable development and instruments and mechanisms for protecting the rights of migrants and their families. The training also enabled participants to share experiences and ideas with peers from other Pacific countries who were dealing with labour migration governance issues relating to climate change and, relatedly, increased South-South and triangular cooperation in the region.

A key area of work under the programme was a regional review of seasonal worker schemes. Data collection is complete and, once validated, the results of the review will be shared with civil society organizations and employer and worker organizations in the region. Furthermore, consultations are planned with receiving states (Australia, New Zealand) and social partners to share the study results and promote compliance with international labour and human rights standards, including ratification of core migrant worker conventions. The reviews will make specific recommendations on how South-South and triangular cooperation can promote compliance with international labour and human rights standards.

The programme will continue to facilitate regional cooperation by involving all 11 ILO Pacific Member States, as well as worker and employer organization members from across the region, employing South-South and triangular cooperation approaches.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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