



Socio-economic impact assessment- COVID-19

UNESCAP

25th November, 2021



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

Scope of the assessment

- As tasked by Forum Economic Ministers at their meeting August 2020, the assessment includes health, education, economic impacts, gender-based violence, and emerging social issues.
- CROP Taskforce co-chaired by PIFS and SPC is complementary to the work by the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce and the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway-COVID-19.
- Methodology considered both quantitative and qualitative approaches utilizing available resources.
- Aligned to existing regional policies, processes and mechanisms that support long term planning.



Thematic areas



1. Health and wellbeing

- Medical services and supplies
- Sexual and reproductive health
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Water sanitation and hygiene



2. Economic recovery and resilience

- Impact on tourism
- Impact on fisheries
- Impact on trade
- Labour mobility



3. Adaptive learning and employment pathways

- Impact on education
- Skills development
- Resourcing and capacity
- County contingency planning



4. Inclusive social protection systems

- Formal and non-formal social protection
- Women and children
- Impact on persons with disabilities
- Impact on young people



5. Sustainable livelihoods and food systems

- Food insecurities and livelihoods
- Agriculture
- Coastal fisheries
- Domestic migration



Broad observations

- **Ensure vulnerable and marginalised groups are engaged in policy and decision-making processes**
(Includes women, youth and persons with disabilities)
- **Collaborative effort for disaggregated data and support to National Statistics Offices.**
(gender, geographical area, persons with disabilities)
- **Strengthen psychosocial support and mental health measures**
(community wide-spread impacts of COVID-19 and its affects on mental wellbeing)
- **Traditional knowledge and practices during the crisis**
(strengthening food security through enhancing traditional practices such as communal farm, stock piling techniques and food sharing).
- **Increased engagement with Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, diaspora communities and the private sector**
(Support provided to communities through outreaches providing food and other forms of assistance.)



Key recommendations

Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Prioritize containment, prevention and vaccination rollout❑ Strengthen coordination to support regional frameworks and public health policies❑ Strengthen policies, plans and programs to ensure the Pacific NCD Roadmap is implemented
Adaptive learning and employment pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Support regional education frameworks for early childhood education, inclusive education, equality in learning pathways and the digital economy for all learners❑ Identify technical needs to inform priority areas of study at national and regional level to inform education policy reforms and labour market policies
Inclusive social protection systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Research social protection systems within the context of climate change, disaster risks and COVID-19.❑ Revisit social protection systems to protect vulnerable groups and inform design of long-term social protection policies that are gender responsive and support both the formal and informal sectors
Sustainable Livelihoods & Food Systems for the Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Assess resourcing to ensure food sovereignty and robust food systems for strategies towards building back Pacific economies.❑ Strengthen governance and management of natural resources and investments in agriculture, fisheries and domestic food supply for long term sustainability❑ Recognise the complementary value of traditional knowledge, skills and expertise alongside technical and scientific knowledge.



Next steps

- Led by the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce work on a monitoring dashboard is underway.
- Analysis of broad economic and social indicators will further support policy advice for Members



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