



May 2014

Edition No. 1

Newsletter



Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) project

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Welcome

Welcome to this first quarterly newsletter of the Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) project.

The PCCM project is a three year programme funded by the EU and implemented jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The key goals are to strengthen Pacific Island countries' ability to address the impacts of climate change on migration, but also to strengthen their capacity to use labour migration as a way to adapt to climate change impacts.

In this edition, meet the new staff in the Project Management Office, learn about our past and upcoming activities and find out how you can keep up to date with future PCCM activities.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition!



The PCCM Project is Launched

The PCCM Project was officially launched at the 43rd SPC Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) Meeting, by the UN Resident Coordinator, Osnat Lubrani, the EU Ambassador Andrew Jacobs and the Head of ESCAP Pacific, Iosefa Maiava on behalf of the three UN agencies.

Mr Maiava noted that the project builds on the need to improve understanding of the link between climate change and migration which is critical for timely and effective policy formulation by governments, particularly to address the specific needs of the most vulnerable groups before the need for relocation becomes imminent.

The project recognizes that migration is not only a last resort coping mechanism to climate change, but can also be a valuable strategy to help diversify

and increase household income and thus improve resilience to the impacts of climate change. Regional labour mobility schemes, such as seasonal worker programs to Australia and New Zealand, can be a way to reduce strain on resources in the Pacific Islands, enabling communities to remain on their land, alleviate unemployment and improve opportunities for on-the-job training.



Left to right: SPC Director-General Jimmie Rodgers, UN Resident Coordinator Osnat Lubrani, EU Ambassador for the Pacific, Andrew Jacobs, Kiribati Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Tessie Lambourne and ESCAP Pacific Office Head Iosefa Maiava



Key Facts on PCCM

Vision:

- To increase protection of individuals and communities that are vulnerable to climate change displacement and migration through national and regional policies; and
- To enable individuals and communities to benefit from well-managed labour migration, particularly as a way of protecting themselves against the risks of climate change impact.

Target countries:

Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Duration:

2013-2016 (3 years)

Implementing agencies:

ESCAP, ILO, UNDP

Key activities:

1. Improving the Knowledge Base on climate change and labour migration

This includes assessing existing knowledge on the impacts of climate change on migration, and how current legislation and policies are placed to address these; and providing recommendations on improving the knowledge base.

2. Institutional strengthening in countries particularly vulnerable to impacts of climate change on migration (Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru)

This includes data collection improvement, gathering information on community attitudes to climate change migration and enhancing countries' capacities to participate in labour mobility schemes.

3. Regional collaboration

This includes development of bilateral and regional labour mobility schemes and potentially a regional framework on climate change and migration

PCCM Project Management Office - Who are we?

Jillian Campbell, ESCAP

Jillian has been acting as the Chief Technical Advisor for the Project since January 2014. She is responsible for managing project implementation until the Chief Technical Advisor is recruited.

Jillian has been working with the United Nations for the past 6 years in programme management and statistical capacity development. While with the ESCAP Pacific Office, she has been promoting the compilation of integrated information for better measuring sustainable development and well-being. Jillian is currently applying her expertise toward the development of a methodology for better understanding individual and community attitudes toward the adaptive capacity of individuals and communities to cope with climate change and migration.

Sophia Kagan, ILO

Sophia joined the Project Management Office as a Migration Technical Officer in September 2013. Sophia is guiding Project activities related to labour migration including strengthening countries' ability to participate in well managed labour migration schemes.

Born a Soviet, raised an Australian and now living in Fiji, Sophia has experienced migration in many forms. Previously based in Beijing as a Labour Migration Officer working on the protection of rural migrants travelling to urban areas (a staggering number of 232 million), she has experience working with government and social partners in developing policy, legislation and training on labour migration. She is fascinated by the issue of labour migration in the Pacific, and its potential to achieve important development goals for Pacific Island Countries.

Update on Project Activities

Project Management Office

With the recruitment of the first two Project Management Officers - the acting Chief Technical Adviser and the Migration Technical Office - the project has swung into action.

In December 2013 and January 2014, the head of the ESCAP Pacific Office, Iosefa Maiava, completed high level inception visits to Tuvalu, Nauru and Kiribati to discuss project priorities.

Following these visits, technical

missions to Tuvalu, Kiribati and Tuvalu were undertaken in February (Tuvalu, Migration Officer), March (Kiribati, CTA and Migration Officer) and April (Nauru, CTA) to develop project workplans and discuss logistical arrangements for project management.

This quarter, we look forward to welcoming three new members of the Project Management Office - National Programme Officers for Tuvalu, Kiribati and Nauru - whose profiles you will read in upcoming editions of the PCCM Newsletter.

Improving the Knowledge Base on climate change and labour migration

A number of publications are due to be produced this quarter, including:

- Regional Report on Labour Migration policies
- Regional Compendium of Pacific Migration Legislation, Policies and Practices.

An event on knowledge building in the area of climate change and migration is currently planned for June 2014. All details will be disseminated on the Facebook PCCM page.



Institutional strengthening in countries vulnerable to climate change migration

A number of technical cooperation activities are also planned for this quarter.

In July, a regional workshop for statisticians on the collection and analysis of labour migration data will take place in Nadi. The workshop is designed to help National Statistics Officers to be better prepared for gathering information which can assist policymakers.

A survey on community attitudes to climate change-induced migration will also commence in Kiribati in August 2014.

Regional activities and collaboration

The PCCM Migration Officer attended a number of regional meetings on labour mobility to identify how the PCCM could help to improve the negotiation and implementation of labour mobility schemes. The meetings included:

- the Pacific Labour Sending Countries (PAILS) Forum in Samoa in October 2013;
- the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) Regional Labour Mobility Meeting in Nadi in October 2013.

PCCM in the Spotlight



Check out the PCCM Facebook page for the most up-to-date information on the project!

www.facebook.com/PacificCCM



Find out why migration is an important method of adapting to climate change in PCCM article in the Lowy Institute's blog, the Interpreter (April 28, 2014)

www.lowyinterpreter.org



Why are Pacific Island women missing out on the benefits of temporary labour migration? (7 May 2014)

<http://devpolicy.org/temporary-migration-where-are-the-women-20140507/>



The PCCM Migration Officer was a guest speaker in the SPC RRRT (Regional Rights Resource Team) graduate law course on human rights law, outlining why rights-based migration was important in the Pacific.

The Gender Dimension - The decision to migrate

Each newsletter will present a different gender dimension. The current issue focuses on gender differences in the ability of men and women to choose to migrate.

By 2050, an estimated 200 million to 1 billion people will migrate due to climate change. Climate change induced migration can be loosely grouped into three types: (1) individuals who make a premeditated decision to migrate because of climate change related factors (e.g. decreased availability of/access to food, water, economic opportunities, etc.); (2) planned relocation; and (3) unplanned climate change displacement.

Gender is an issue that cuts across all three types of climate change migration. Women and men will experience different migration push-pull factors because they face different pressures and constraints. They will also face different challenges if a spouse migrates.

Migration as an adaptation strategy

Voluntary migration and planned relocation can both be considered as climate change adaptation measures. Planned relocation may be necessary in some instances; however, managing the impacts of planned resettlement is very complex and can create social tension in the relocated communities. For example, in the case of the planned resettlement of an i-Kiribati and Tuvaluan community to Rabi and Kioa communities in Fiji respectively, many families still feel unsure of where they belong.

Voluntary migration can potentially be seen as a climate change adaptation strategy for three reasons: (1) migration can reduce population pressure and thus increasing environmental sustainability in climate change affected areas; (2) migration can be a means of income diversification for climate change affected communities and may also increase income generation through remittances (some of which may be spent on further climate change

adaptation measures); and (3) creating migration opportunities, such as migration for employment (i.e. labour migration), can provide people with an opportunity to migrate voluntarily – especially in areas where people may be subject to displacement in the future (i.e. forced migration).

The term “voluntary” implies that individuals and families make a choice. But how does gender impact on the way this decision is made? Are women and men equally able to “choose” to migrate?

The migration decision

When food security, water security, land security and human health become threatened (or are perceived to be threatened), this may “push” people toward making a decision to move. Both women and men will be forced to make decisions on whether their life, and the life of their loved ones, will be better or worse if they migrate.

The way a decision is made for women and men is influenced by their cultural context, the different impacts experienced, and the different migration opportunities available to them.

There has been much research suggesting that women are likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change as women-headed households

may be more likely to live in climate-change affected areas and women are also more likely to be employed in climate-sensitive sectors, such as subsistence agriculture. Women are likely



to bear the greater burden of climate change impacts on food and water security and family welfare in view of their traditional roles within the household.

i-Kiribati former female migrants who previously worked as temporary migrants on cruise ships

However, despite the fact that women are likely to be the most adversely affected by climate change, they may have the fewest opportunities to migrate. In fact, often the people “most exposed to environmental stressors – particularly farmers, herders, pastoralists, fishermen, and others who rely on natural resources and the weather for their livelihoods– may be the least able to move very far away” (Betts, 2010, Global Governance). Moreover, women’s access to land, property and finance is severely constricted in many Pacific countries, which in turn further limits their ability to migrate.

In the Pacific, men have more opportunities than women for labour migration, including circular migration (for example, through seasonal worker schemes and in the sea faring industry), as men tend to have less care-taking and other responsibilities which keep them at home. Additionally, cultural biases in countries result in migration being seen as an undesirable option for women are often less able to make migration decisions independently, particularly

without the support or approval of their husband or father.

Changing the migration push-pull factors for women

To improve the capacity of women to pursue migration opportunities, both the “pull” factors related to migration decisions and the decision making process for women need to change.

On the “pull” side, more opportunities can be created for women to access targeted training. Additionally, a strong policy framework which protects women who migrate can act as an important “pull” factor (and is also necessary for protecting human rights).

Changing the decision making process for women is more complex. People make decisions based on their culture,

their environment and their life experiences up to that point. Shifting the way that people make decisions requires concentrated efforts in addressing mindsets and managing behaviour change. According to the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations at the recent UN General Assembly Debate on Culture and Sustainable Development, “Culture is not static. It is very dynamic. It evolves and reflects constantly. It gives new perspectives and new experiences. We have seen this for example in how the role of women has changed in various societies over the years and having a deep cultural and societal impact, a positive impact, I would say very strongly.”

Behavioural change is necessary to empower women in all aspects of life, eliminate gender-based violence,

reduce gender biased attitudes and enhance the capacity of women to make independent decisions.

The Pacific has some of the lowest rates of gender equality and women’s empowerment. As such, gender equality in migration decision making will not occur overnight. However, documenting and publicising family and societal benefits that women migrants provide has the potential to contribute to a change in behaviour, thus improving the ability for women in the Pacific to live their full potential and maximise their contribution, including through migration.

Gender Dimensions in upcoming newsletters
...The life of the migrant and “being left behind”.

Waiting for a sea change?

Being away from your family for almost a year at a time, and travelling to distant corners of the globe away from the comforts and routines of daily life, might not sound like a particularly enticing prospect for a young person. But in Tuvalu, there are hundreds of men and women dreaming of just such an opportunity – one which will provide them and their families with the remittances that form a significant proportion of income for many Tuvaluan families. Remittances from seafarers form approximately 30 percent of the gross national product of Tuvalu and in some families a single sailor’s wage can support 25 family members. Remittances are used for education and healthcare can also provide an important diversification strategy for natural disasters which may strike the family living in Tuvalu.

Walter is one of the newest graduates of the Tuvalu Maritime Training Institute where he completed 18 months of training to become a seafarer. He speaks with longing in his voice about the prospect of getting a contract. But

anecdotal evidence suggest that he will have to wait at least 2 years before he gets his wish.. if at all.

Peak employment for Tuvalu’s seafarers was from 2000 to 2005 with up to 700-800 seafarers employed. Recruitment has, however, fallen considerably since to a current level of about 100. No doubt part of the reason is the global financial crisis which hit the seafaring sector, particularly in German countries, which recruited the vast majority of Tuvaluan seafarers.

Although some are confident that the economic climate will eventually change, bringing up the numbers of seafarers back up, most in the industry do not think waiting for a sea change is enough.

The PCCM project will work with departments of labour in Kiribati and Tuvalu, on a proactive approach to increasing market access to temporary labour migration, including in sectors such as the seafaring sector. This may involve helping governments

to collect and analyse data on potential destination markets, understanding the requirements of different labour migration schemes and providing technical advice on how to take advantage of opportunities.



Tuvalu Seafarers' Union
Members

How is labour migration relevant to climate change?

There is evidence to suggest that migration offers important opportunities for enhancing the security of Pacific island communities, particularly in the following ways:

a. Remittance provision:

Remittances are a significant source of income, and therefore can help meet basic needs when natural resource-base livelihoods are less productive – due to environmental change or natural disaster.

b. Skills, knowledge and technology transfer:

The periodic or permanent return of migrants can move new social capital into homeland communities by increasing the transfer of ideas, innovations, knowledge, information

and skills. For example, return migrants can increase financial literacy skills or increase understanding of climate change adaptation responses elsewhere.

c. Reduced pressure on resources at origin:

Migration can act as a 'pressure release valve' reducing demands on resources in sending countries, particularly where these may be compromised by both environmental degradation and increasing population pressure.

While job opportunities should first of all be created where people are and migration should be a matter of choice, the fact of high unemployment in numerous Pacific Island countries, particularly amongst young women

and men, has long created the need for international labour migration opportunities, particularly temporary labour migration opportunities.

Thus, improving labour mobility for Pacific Islanders can both address climate change vulnerability through increased household and community resilience, as well as improve overall development in home communities.



Thanks for your interest in the PCCM Project!

To subscribe to our newsletter, please email Jillian Campbell at campbell7@un.org

Selection of recent publications on climate change and migration

Gibson & McKenzie (2014) **Development through seasonal worker programs : the case of New Zealand's RSE program**

<http://documents.worldbank.org/>

- Outlines the development impact of temporary labour migration for Pacific Islanders in New Zealand



Ober (2014) **Migration as Adaptation**

<http://climatemigration.org.uk/migration-as-adaptation-new-briefing-paper/>

- Outlines ways in which migration can act as a positive adaptation strategy to the impacts of climate change

World Bank (2014) **A regional companion to the World Development Report 2014: Hardship and Vulnerability in the Pacific Island countries**

<http://documents.worldbank.org/>

- Emphasizes the opportunity for voluntary migration as an adaptation strategy to managing risk in Pacific Island countries