

## Joint Programme Document

### A. COVER PAGE

- 1. Fund Name:** Joint SDG Fund
- 2. MPTFO Project Reference Number** *(leave blank / automatically populated in Atlas)*
- 3. Joint programme title:** Innovative and Sustainable Policy and Digital Solutions to Catalyse Enhanced Food and Livelihood Security in Niue
- 4. Short title:** Solutions for Resilience Niue
- 5. Country and region:** Niue, Asia-Pacific
- 6. Resident Coordinator:** Dr. Simona Marinescu ([simona.marinescu@un.org](mailto:simona.marinescu@un.org))
- 7. UN Joint programme focal point:** Ms. Xiangjun Yao, FAO ([Xiangjun.Yao@fao.org](mailto:Xiangjun.Yao@fao.org))
- 8. Government Joint Programme focal point:** Ms. Emi Hipa, Head of External Affairs, Government of Niue

**9. Short description:**

This project proposes to draw on the optimum use of digitalization, nutrition education and the ocean economy to improve income, nutrition and the overall wellbeing of the population of Niue with particular emphases on women and children. Actionable strategies for digitalization and the blue economy will be developed and implemented to positively catalyse the agri-food systems, income and nutrition. Critical to the success of this project is the collaborative partnership between UNDP, FAO, UNICEF and the relevant government ministries to leverage their respective comparative advantages and maximize results from this investment. For example, FAO's ongoing and planned support to the Government of Niue on the development of various agri-food systems statistics, including agriculture census, household income and expenditure surveys, nutrition surveys, etc..., will significantly benefit this project with critical data for monitoring and evaluation. FAO is currently leading the development of a partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to improve data availability in Pacific countries, and Niue is included. Additionally, funded by FAO, the Australian University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) is completing a scoping review of data availability and gaps with practical recommendations over how to fill the gaps. These activities are aimed at contributing to the production of the Pacific version of the global Overview of the situation of food security and nutrition report (referred to as SOFI), but they will also greatly benefit this JP.

This JP partnership will not only serve this project; it will be the basis for expanded collaborations to attract resources and support the population of Niue in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

- 10. Keywords:** *Digital transformation, agri-food systems, nutrition, digital economy, climate change resilience, blue economy, COVID-19 recovery.*

**11. Overview of budget** *(based on the detailed budget in the annex)*

<b>Joint SDG Fund contribution</b>	<b>USD 561,400.00</b>
Co-funding 1 <i>FAO</i>	USD 150,000.00
Co-funding 2 <i>UNDP (in-kind)</i>	USD 59,083.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 770,483.00</b>

**12. Timeframe:**

Start date	End date	Duration (in months)
1 July <u>2022</u>	<u>30 June</u> <u>2024</u>	<u>24 months</u>

**13. Gender Marker: 3**
**14. Target groups** *(including groups left behind or at risk of being left behind)*

List of marginalized and vulnerable groups	Direct influence	Indirect influence
Women	X	
Children	X	
Girls	X	
Youth	X	
Persons with disabilities	X	
Minorities (incl. ethnic, religious, linguistic...)	X	
Rural workers	X	

**15. Human Rights Mechanisms related to the Joint Programme**

- [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (CESCR);
- [Committee on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC);
- Special Rapporteur on the right to development;
- Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- Special Rapporteur on the right to food;
- Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

**16. PUNO and Partners:**
**16.1 PUNO**

- Convening agency:
  - FAO (**Xiangjun Yao**, Sub Regional Coordinator, [Xiangjun.Yao@fao](mailto:Xiangjun.Yao@fao), +685 20710/22127)


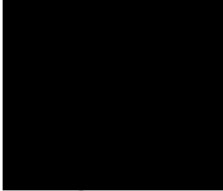

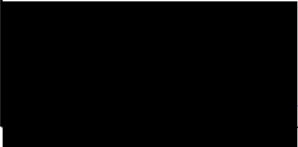
- Other PUNO:
  - UNDP (**Sorensen, Jorn**, Resident Representative, [jorn.sorensen@undp.org](mailto:jorn.sorensen@undp.org), +685 23670)
  - UNICEF (**Vathinee Jitjaturunt**, Deputy Representative, [vjitjaturunt@unicef.org](mailto:vjitjaturunt@unicef.org); +679 9925613)

## **16.2 Partners**

- National authorities:
  - Ministry of Natural Resources (Dr Josie Tamate, Director General of Natural Resources, [Josie.Tamate@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Josie.Tamate@mail.gov.nu))
  - Ministry of Social Services (Mrs Gaylene Tasmania, Director General of Social Services, [Gaylene.Tasmania@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Gaylene.Tasmania@mail.gov.nu))
  - Ministry of Infrastructure (Mr Andre Siohane, Director General of Infrastructure, [Andre.Sohane@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Andre.Sohane@mail.gov.nu))
  - Department of Finance and Planning (Doreen Siataga, Financial Secretary, [Doreen.Siataga@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Doreen.Siataga@mail.gov.nu))
- Civil society organizations and non-governmental organisations:
  - Niue Youth Council Inc. (Inangaro Vakaafi, [niugro@niue.nu](mailto:niugro@niue.nu))
  - Niue Tolomaki Auloa Association (Pui Hopotoa, President, [ntaa@niue.nu](mailto:ntaa@niue.nu))
  - Niue Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Catherine Etuata Papani, Chief Executive Officer, [ceo@niuechamber.com](mailto:ceo@niuechamber.com))
- Private sector:
  - Telecom Niue Limited (Mr. Avi Rubin, Director, Ph. +683 4732)
- Other partners:
  - Niue Island Information, Technology and Communication and Development Council (NiDC) (Andre Siohane, Director General of Infrastructure, [Andre.Siohane@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Andre.Siohane@mail.gov.nu))
  - UN International Telecommunications Union (ITU) (Ashish Narayan, Program Coordinator for the Pacific Islands: [ashish.narayan@itu.int](mailto:ashish.narayan@itu.int))

## SIGNATURE PAGE

Complete the table below, have it signed, scan, and insert it into the ProDoc

<p><b>Resident Coordinator</b></p> <p><i>Date and Signature</i></p> <p>25 May 2022</p> 	<p><b>National Coordinating Authority</b></p> <p><i>Name of institution: Government of Niue</i></p> <p><i>Name of representative: Peleni Talagi, Secretary to Government</i></p> <p><i>Date: 26 August 2021</i></p> <p><i>Signature and seal</i></p> 
<p><b>Participating UN Organization (lead/convening)</b></p> <p><i>Name of PUNO: FAO</i></p> <p><i>Name of Representative: Xiangjun Yao</i></p> <p><i>Date 25 May 2022</i></p>  <p><i>Signature and seal</i></p>	
<p><b>Participating UN Organization</b></p> <p><i>United Nations Development Programme</i></p> <p><i>Name of Officer-in-Charge: Verena Linneweber</i></p> <p><i>Date: 25 May 2022</i></p> <p><i>Signature and seal</i></p> 	

<p><b>Participating UN Organization</b></p> <p><i>Name of PUNO: UNICEF</i></p> <p><i>Name of Deputy Representative: Vathinee Jitjaturunt</i></p> <p><i>Date: 25 May 2022</i></p> <p><i>Signature and seal</i></p> 	
<p><b>Participating UN Organization</b></p> <p><i>Name of PUNO</i></p> <p><i>Name of Representative</i></p> <p><i>Date</i></p> <p><i>Signature and seal</i></p>	

## B. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

**1. Call for Proposal:** Building Resilience and Ending Vulnerability in Small Island Developing States (3/2021)

### 2. Relevant Joint SDG Fund Outcomes

- Outcome 1: Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale.

### 3. Overview of the Joint Programme Results

#### 3.1 Outcomes

- By 2024, food and livelihood security in Niue is enhanced through a ridge-to-reef approach, particularly for women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.

#### 3.2 Outputs

- Output 1: National ICT is policy developed.
- Output 2: National Integrated Ocean Management Strategy is developed.
- Output 3: Digital tools and framework are developed for agri-food systems and nutrition.

### 4. SDG Targets directly addressed by the Joint Programme

#### 4.1 List of targets

Relevant SDGs	Relevant SDG Targets	Baseline	Target (2023)	Means of Verification	PUNO
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	2.1 and 2.2 Prevalence of obesity (%)	women/men (2016): 55/44  Obesity in school-age children and adolescents girls/boys (2016): 26/29	women/men: 50/40  Obesity in school-age children and adolescents girls/boys : 20/24	By reviewing Government, World Bank and UN agencies' nutrition surveys	FAO / UNICEF
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9.c. - Proportion of population covered by a mobile network	Number of mobile connections: 1,575 (99% of total population)	100%	Reports (GSMA, ITU, Telecom Niue)	UNDP
SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities	10.2.1 - Proportion of people living below 50 percent of	People living below NZ\$10,000:  Total: 12.8%		Censuses, Reports (Niue Statistics Office)	UNDP

	median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	M: 13.1%, F: 12.5%  <i>Disaggregated data on age and persons with disabilities: Baseline to be provided before start date of JP</i>			
SDG 14 Life Below Water	14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	Baseline TBD before start of JP.			UNDP

#### 4.2 Expected SDG impact

The Joint Programme seeks to accelerate SDG achievement by developing integrated and enabling policy environments (short-term within the JP duration) for the creation of sustainable, productive and income-secure land and ocean value chains (mid- to long-term beyond the lifetime of the JP). This means that, during its lifetime, the JP will develop i) a gender responsive ICT policy (SDG 9), ii) a gender sensitive integrated ocean management strategy (SDG 14), and iii) inclusive nutrition policy frameworks, including a High Impact Nutrition Intervention (HINI) framework (SDG 2) as key policy mechanisms envisioned to accelerate the delivery of threefold benefits beyond the lifetime of the JP. These include, strengthening i) food and nutrition security (SDG 2) amongst Niue’s population, specifically children, ii) livelihood security (SDG 10) within the primary sector, particularly amongst women, youth, and vulnerable groups, and iii) climate-resilient sustainable resource management, particularly of coastal and marine ecosystems (SDG 14) for ocean-based value chains. The programme aims at enabling Niue to strengthen the nutritional value and sustainability of its food system. The expected SDG impact is premised on the catalytic and multiplier effect of creating a policy environment during the JP lifetime to unlock productive activities, access to markets, job and entrepreneurship creation, sustainable resource management and knowledge transfer, namely across land and ocean primary industries. This logic is underpinned by a causal chain whereby managing ecosystems sustainably will maintain its regenerative capacity to source nutritious produce, which in turn, requires employment for both sustainable resource use and management.

**5. Relevant objective/s from the national SDG framework:** Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-26:

- National Development Pillar "Finance and Economic Development": Sufficient financial resources are secured, and responsible fiscal management is prudent, sustainable and in support of development strategies.
- National Development Pillar "Infrastructure": Sustainable use and management of key infrastructure that is climate proof and resilient.
- National Development Pillar "Social Services": Harmonious and healthy lifestyle in a thriving, educated and safe community that has access to a wide range of quality social services;
- National Development Pillar "Environment and Climate Change": Sustainable use and management of Niue's natural resources and environment for present and future generations;
- National Development Pillar "Private Sector": A prosperous and skilled island nation, underpinned by a thriving and entrepreneurial private sector.

**6. Brief overview of the Theory of Change of the Joint programme**

6.1 Summary:

This Joint Programme (JP) is designed around the core Theory of Change (TOC) that IF multi-sectoral and integrated policy solutions that are gender responsive and evidence-based are established and strengthened, including I) a gender-sensitive digital readiness assessment (DRA) and an enhanced gender responsive ICT policy; II) a gender sensitive integrated ocean management strategy; and III) inclusive frameworks for nutrition across the life-stages, THEN Niue can I) enhance equal access to food and nutrition security; II) strengthen livelihood security and diversification for females and males ; III) promote gender responsive climate resilient value chain development and diversification; and IV) ensure sustainable management and use of marine resources; and HENCE, improve both livelihood, and food and nutrition security, accelerating the progress of related SDGs. The TOC encompasses multiple paths to change across sectors, and identifies women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups as key beneficiaries and catalysts in accelerating the achievement of the relevant SDGs for the core JP elements below:

These outcomes will be achieved through the development and implementation of a gender responsive national ICT policy to positively catalyse the development of agri-food systems value chain, digital economy, climate change management and nutrition.

Through nationwide inclusive digitalisation, the population of Niue, particularly women, children, youth, PwD and other vulnerable groups, as well as government stakeholders and policymakers will have better and equitable access to information, and are, as a result, empowered with the knowledge and digital technology to transform the local agri-food systems value chain, strengthen food security and climate change resilience as well as improve nutrition.

1. Developing a gender responsive national ICT policy;
2. Developing a gender sensitive Integrated Ocean Economy Management Strategy; and



3. Digitalizing food production, healthy diet/recipe promotion, nutrition education and strengthening agri-food systems, nutrition and food based dietary guidelines.

#### 6.2 List of main ToC assumptions to be monitored:

- The Government of Niue and its people will remain committed to and engaged in using digitalization to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs;
- The Government of Niue and its people will remain committed to and engaged in enhancing the sustainable management and use of its ocean resources;
- The development of the digital space in Niue will lead to improving agri-food systems, nutrition and health; and,
- The Government of Niue will remain committed to systematically adopt a gender sensitive approach that responds to the needs of, and empowers, women and girls in a cross-sectoral manner.

### 7. Trans-boundary and/or regional issues

Transboundary and/or regional priorities for Pacific Islands Countries and Territories that are relevant to the Joint Programme are: (a) Climate change and disaster risk reduction; (b) Sustainable management and use of oceans; (c) Regional integration (trade, energy, ICT, transport); (c) Integrated assessment and review of SDG progress (e.g. Voluntary National Reviews) and the SAMOA Pathway with an emphasis on enhancing data and statistics;(d) COVID-19: The spread of COVID-19 is the most threatening trans-boundary risk for Niue today. If it breaks out in the country at the scale that is observed in other SIDS like Fiji and Papua New Guinea, this project will be affected; and (e) Pests and diseases for crops and livestock: If there are outbreaks of pest infections for example, from rhinoceros beetles, or diseases like the African swine fever, this this project will be affected.

The following arrangements and resources are available at the regional and sub-regional levels in Asia-Pacific to address transboundary and/or regional issues: (a) regional and sub-regional platforms, frameworks and agreements relevant to the development of policy frameworks in the target countries; (b) regional and sub-regional overviews of transboundary factors and trends and policy guides on health and nutrition, integrated ocean management, and ICTs; (c) methodologies and simulation tools including for the identification of the furthest group behind and multidimensional inequality; and (d) SDGs and SAMOA pathway progress assessment data and analysis.

## C. JOINT PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

### 1. Baseline and Situation Analysis

#### 1.1 Problem statement

Niue is highly dependent on land and sea resources for food, nutrition and livelihood security. Premised on the **resource-dependent nature of Niue's economy**, the Joint Programme (JP) addresses **food and livelihood insecurity** underpinned by three interrelated

development challenges, namely, I) the unrealised potential to transition to an inclusive digital society, II) emerging but still fragmented efforts in integrated ocean management for a sustainable ocean economy, and III) not fully developed policy and practices, and limited access to information on nutrition and food security.

### **I. Unrealised potential to transition to an inclusive digital society.**

The catalytic potential of digital transformation has not yet been fully realised in Niue to drive the revitalisation and diversification of key national sectors, including agriculture and fisheries. While there has been considerable growth in networks and services through the consistent development and deployment of ICT infrastructure that demonstrate a milestone in accelerating digital transformation in Niue, gaps in the digital ecosystem remain unidentified to effectively inform a transition towards an inclusive digital economy and knowledge society<sup>1</sup>. The Manatua Cable, the first fibre-optic cable to connect Niue, landed on the island in December 2020 and went live in May 2021. Prior to the cable, the ICT revolution brought rapid growth of the mobile services sector in Niue, resulting in near-universal reach. As of January 2021, there were 1,575 mobile connections, 1,286 Internet users and 1,000 active social media users in Niue, with market penetration rates of 99%, 80.8% and 62.9% respectively<sup>2</sup>.

However, challenges remain in building a people-centred, inclusive, and development-oriented digital and knowledge society. For example, disaggregated data by gender is not available for Niue; yet there is indication that followed by Arab States, the Asia-Pacific region has the second largest gender gap in internet penetration rates with a 13.3 percentage-point gap between women (41.3%) and men (54.6%) as of 2019<sup>3</sup>. The internet user gender gap has grown by 7 percentage points from 17.4% in 2013 to 24.4% in 2019 across the region<sup>4</sup>. The absence of an assessment on the digital readiness of Niue therefore presents impending threats in effectively addressing and monitoring gender gaps as well as other considerations including digital literacy rates, cybersecurity, affordability, *inter alia*. As a result, it remains the case that access to ICTs and their potential for livelihood empowerment, growth and diversification remain unavailable or unaffordable to many people, proving in slow uptake of digital solutions compounded by the absence of a conducive policy environment.

### **II. Emerging but still fragmented efforts in integrated ocean management for a sustainable ocean economy.**

Niue's ocean economy, being one of the main national resource bases of food and nutrition security, is under threat due to a plethora of factors including climate change, pollution and the unsustainable use of marine resources. Whilst Niue's dependence on fish for income or

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<sup>1</sup> International Communication Union (ITU). (2021). Digital Trends in Asia and the Pacific 2021: [https://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-d/opb/ind/D-IND-DIG\\_TRENDS\\_ASP.01-2021-PDF-E.pdf](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/ind/D-IND-DIG_TRENDS_ASP.01-2021-PDF-E.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Digital 2021: Niue <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-niue>

<sup>3</sup> <https://itu.foleon.com/itu/measuring-digital-development/gender-gap/>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

food is relatively low in comparison to other Pacific islands<sup>5</sup>, subsistence fishing remains the dominant practice where fish and seafood are caught for home consumption. However, low fish density in Niuean waters even with relatively low fishing pressure suggest that other factors, such as cyclones, may be involved. There is limited data on the intensity of subsistence fishing and sustainability of stock. Nonetheless, anecdotal evidence from local fisheries indicates a decline in fish catch and longer hours spent fishing than previously, where reef resources are perceived amongst communities to have declined. In Niue there are specified gender roles in the fish farming in terms of the type of activities and decision where to do fishing, men fish from canoes, dinghies and powered boats while women fish within the narrow reef areas<sup>6</sup>. Women are involved in gleaning shellfish, collecting crabs and other seafood and they use rods or lines for reef fish along the reef areas, while men focus on pelagic fish especially Tuna species and the installation of fishing technology has proposed men to go fishing beyond the narrow reef areas, on the other hand creating gender gap in the fisheries sector. Fishing access agreements are not in the formal regulations; this might create conflicts which are likely to affect men more than women since they farm not close to their reef areas.

Climate change plays a key role in this decline. The rate of sea level rise in Niue has been higher (+2.1mm/year) than the global average and is expected to rise between 5-15cm by 2030<sup>7</sup>. Coupled with rising sea temperatures, intensified ocean acidification is expected to accelerate coral bleaching, threatening key biodiversity and marine stocks, including snails, sea urchins, oysters, clams, scallops and conchs, and consequently, dependent livelihoods. This is particularly detrimental as the reef ecosystem is still recovering from previous bleaching events, recent cyclones, and the continued impact of land-based pollution from excessive use of herbicides and pesticides as well as sewage run-off.

National efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, address pollution and conflict resolution over competing demands in the use of marine resources remain fragmented, hindering equitable access to resources that facilitate regenerative and diversified ocean-dependent livelihoods. In its commitment to preserve its largest natural asset, 40% of Niue's EEZ, with an area of 390,000km<sup>8</sup>, has been declared as the Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area (MPA) through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the Government of Niue and Tofia Niue. With plans to establish a Trust and Endowment Fund by the end of 2021, under the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) project, the country is on its way to achieving a double milestone to channel and catalyse investments for sustained ocean health. Much of the ocean's wealth and potential, however, remains underexplored or untapped, giving rise to conflicting and unsustainable use of resources between ocean-dependent sectors, communities and generations in the absence of an integrated ocean management plan for its entire EEZ, that in turn limits the national source base of food and nutrition security in Niue.

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<sup>5</sup> Niue State of Environment Report 2019: [Niue - State of Environment report 2019 \(sprep.org\)](https://www.sprep.org/)

<sup>6</sup> Vunisea, A. (2005). [Community-based fisheries management in Niue](#), SPC Women in Fisheries Information no. 15.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *ibid.*

### **III. Not fully developed policy and practices, and limited access to information on nutrition and food security.**

The prevalence of malnutrition, mainly high overweight, obesity, and diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as well as anaemia, particularly among children and women, are major public health and nutrition challenges in Niue. Niue is experiencing a growing incidence of diabetes, stroke and cancers, in conjunction with high rates of obesity (61%), hypertension (33.5%) and hyperglycaemia (38.4). A higher proportion of women (81.8%) in comparison to men (76.5%) are overweight or obese, and childhood and adolescence obesity continues to pose a significant challenge, with the proportion of obesity in children aged 5-19 estimated at 59% and 58%, for those aged 10-19. There is no information available on the prevalence of stunting and wasting as well as infant and young child feeding practices in Niue. However, the prevalence of anaemia among children 6-59 months is estimated at 36.3%<sup>9</sup> and among women of reproductive age is estimated at 27.3%<sup>10</sup>. Related to the lack of data, FAO's ongoing and planned support to the Government of Niue on the development of various agri-food systems statistics, including agriculture census, household income and expenditure surveys, nutrition surveys, etc..., will significantly benefit this project with critical data for monitoring and evaluation.

One of the reasons contributing to the high rates of NCDs is the decline of the local agriculture and fisheries sectors, leading to a diet dependence on highly processed imported food. Out-migration, poor soil quality and climate change vulnerability, paired with the narrow economic base of Niue and inability to operate and compete within global markets, has given steady rise to dependence on imports since 2009, when agriculture and fisheries contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined with adverse implications on food and nutrition security, most notably, standing as a major contributing factor of malnutrition in the country. Increasing dependence on low quality, highly processed imported food was made evident by the 2002 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which reported that expenditure on food was the single most important expense, representing 34% of total household expenditure.

The lack of knowledge on nutrition, poor nutrition services, policies and education is another contributing factor, shifting consumer demands and food choices made by Niueans. Although Niue has some forward-looking fiscal policies to discourage unhealthy food choices, making healthy choices easier and cheaper, as well as guidelines encouraging healthy food services in schools, there are no guidelines or regulations on marketing unhealthy food and sugary drinks for children, nor a legal measure or code against marketing of breast milk substitutes. Coupled with policy and regulatory mechanisms, access to knowledge, education and services remain limited.

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<sup>9</sup> [Prevalence of anaemia in children aged 6-59 months \(%\) \(who.int\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Prevalence of anaemia in women of reproductive age \(aged 15-49\) \(%\) \(who.int\)](#)

## 1.2 Target groups

Considering the small size of the population of Niue of less than 2,000 people, the interventions of the Joint Programme will have impact at scale.

Notwithstanding this, there will be particular focus on the following groups from the perspective of Leaving No One Behind:

### 1. Women and girls

A shared development challenge across the Pacific Islands countries and territories, violence against women and girls is believed to be widespread at the community level, however, there is an absence of reliable data indicating its prevalence. Anecdotal evidence about the community response to gender-based violence in Niue shows that domestic violence tends to be managed within the extended family and village, as noted in the 2016 UN Common Country Assessment (CCA).

While no time-use surveys have been undertaken for Niue, anecdotal reports highlight that in the majority of families, women spend more time than men on care for children, the sick and the elderly, and routine household chores. This is the case whether or not both partners work outside the home and/or in unpaid agricultural work. Women have less free time to enjoy leisure activities, engage in community and national decision-making processes, and look after their own health.<sup>11</sup> About 81.8% of Niuean women are classified as overweight or obese (WHO 2016), 22% suffer from hypertension (WHO, 2015).

With prevailing strong gender stereotypes on what constitutes women and men's roles, there is an inequitable participation in the labour force and food production. There is currently a shortage of male nurses and primary school teachers in Niue. Likewise, women are under-represented in some professions and trades. Traditionally in Niue, there has been a clear division of labour in agriculture and fisheries. However, with modern technology and educational opportunities, the rationale for this division of labour no longer applies. The government's vision is for both women and men participating in all aspects of subsistence food production and among other things also supports the development of entrepreneurial skills for women.<sup>12</sup> According to the CCA, approximately 38% of households in the lowest income quintile are female-headed.

A stocktake of the Government's gender mainstreaming capacity, undertaken by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in 2015, found that there was a lack of awareness on gender equality challenges, compounded by limited resources and technical capacity to

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<sup>11</sup> Pacific Women, Niue Country Page, 2017, [https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Niue-Country-Page\\_15Oct17.pdf](https://pacificwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Niue-Country-Page_15Oct17.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

address these challenges. Less than 2% of the national budget allocated is to the Department of Women. There is however, high participation of women in the non-agricultural sector (46%), around 48% of women and 46% of men are in paid employment in the public sector, and good representation of women in the National Parliament (25%). On the other hand, women are however under-represented in senior management level in the public service, where only 38.2% of management and decision-making positions are held by them, the rest of women are in middle or lower level positions, however, there is no data to state the percentages. However, there is a 20% gender gap in employment in the private sector by 20%, the private sector employs 27% women compared to 30.4% men and most of the women are in low cadre positions. In the Agriculture sector women play a key role in subsistence agriculture which provides a source of food for consumption for their families, however, there is lack of data on the % of women and men employed in the Agriculture sector. . Overall, 61% of women participate in the labour force (including the formal and informal economy), and there is a gender gap of 8% in the labour force participation rate (male to female). Niue has updated its school curriculum to address gender stereotypes. Girls in Niue tend to be slightly ahead of boys in educational achievement. When it comes to health care, there are free reproductive health services although accessibility remains a challenge, especially for young people.<sup>13</sup>

As noted above, disaggregated data by gender on internet penetration is not available for Niue; however, followed by Arab States, the Asia-Pacific region has the second largest gender gap in internet penetration rates with a 13.3 percentage-point gap between women (41.3%) and men (54.6%) as of 2019<sup>14</sup>. The internet user gender gap has grown by 7 percentage points from 17.4% in 2013 to 24.4% in 2019 across the region.<sup>15</sup> It is assumed that there would be an Internet user gender gap in Niue as well.

Niue adopted CEDAW in 1985.

## 2. Youth

Niue's proportion of the population between 15 and 24 years is 14% (UN Common Country Assessment for the Pacific, 2016), down from 26.9% as per the 2006 census. Unlike other Pacific Island countries and territories where youth represent a significant portion of the total population, Niue is grappling with the migration of its youth population (mainly to New Zealand), with more male migrating than young women. Youth in Niue are well educated. Education is compulsory (up to age 14) and youth have access to higher and tertiary education in New Zealand and at the University of the South Pacific (USP). Young people leaving grade 13 who are not able to continue their education either find employment in the public service or private sector, or they migrate to New Zealand. The main reason for young female and male migration to New Zealand is better employment opportunities and close family ties. There is a challenge on gender data on youth migration. Youth migration has an effect on the

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<sup>13</sup> Pacific Women, op. Cit. All data from Asian Development Bank, Gender Statistics – The Pacific and Timor-Leste, 2016, <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/181270/gender-statistics-pacific-tim.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <https://itu.foleon.com/itu/measuring-digital-development/gender-gap/>

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

economy, the Country is left with elderly population leading to decline in population and labour productivity. Being the largest employer on the island, the Niue Public Service is also the main employer of young people. Few young people are employed by NGOs and the private sector. Youth unemployment is not an issue, due to the overall low unemployment rate in Niue. Challenges specifically faced by youth include the following:<sup>16</sup>

- Lack of organised activities for youth — There are insufficient resources to organise activities that will best suit the interest of young people and inadequate human resource to manage and implement youth activities.
- Lack of motivation — A concern raised by the Taoga Niue Government Department of Culture and Heritage office and the young people is a lack of motivation and interest by youth participating in learning and promoting the Niuean traditions and customs. There is a lack of understanding of Niuean culture that may lead to the extinction of this unique heritage. Young people have a responsibility to maintain and carry forward Niuean culture. However, young people blame their lack of motivation and interest on modern influences demands and competing priorities.
- Inadequate employable skills — Young people entering the workforce from high school do not necessarily have the skills to fully undertake their roles and responsibilities. There is a need to provide mentoring and capacity building for young employees.
- Limited opportunities for young people to diversify careers — Due to limited resources (including human resources) and competing priorities, there are limited opportunities for young people to get into other fields/careers.
- Lack of interests in areas such as agriculture, handicrafts and small income generating activities due to limited market and awareness of opportunities in the informal/private sector. This has discouraged young people from venturing into these sectors.
- Migration — Young people do not feel that migration is a problem as educational and employment opportunities abroad are more attractive. However, migration does affect young people’s development as those responsible for youth development also have other commitments due to the shortage of human resources.

### 3. Persons with Disability

According to the 2011 Census, 69 persons (32 male, 37 female) reported living with disability. With regard to the rights of disabled people in Niue, the government has not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). A National Disability Policy was adopted in 2011. Services for disabled people remain underdeveloped, however, with a significant lack of support available to children with disabilities.<sup>17</sup> There is a need to develop legislation that provides for equal opportunities in vocational training and employment and more specifically on prohibition of discrimination.<sup>18</sup> Disaggregated data is not available on the nutrition and health status of persons with disabilities, nor their mobile and internet penetration rates and digital literacy.

### 4. Older persons

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<sup>16</sup> Youth Policy Labs, Factsheet on Niue, <https://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/niue/>

<sup>17</sup> UNICEF, Situation Analysis of Children in Niue, 2017

<sup>18</sup> ILO, Disabilities and decent work in the Pacific, 2012

While Pacific populations are generally young, countries are seeing increasing proportions of older people above 60 years of age, reaching a comparatively high 18% in Niue. The Country offers pension benefits as unconditional cash transfers for persons 60 years and above, there is the challenge of disaggregated data for the benefits. Despite the social protection, the older population, particularly elderly widows and widowers, with limited social benefits, limited access to basic social services are particularly vulnerable, and at high risk of being left behind. Addressing the health, care and livelihood needs of a rapidly aging population is already beginning to present major challenges for PICT governments, communities and families. This is especially so for those living in rural areas and outer islands. In addition, the provision of intensive and centralized care and treatments for NCD cases – which are more prevalent under the elderly - will increasingly place a heavy burden on government budgets and the principal hospital facilities. Disaggregated data is not available on the nutrition and health status of older people in Niue, nor their mobile and internet penetration rates and digital literacy. Based on global data and trends, it is assumed that they are disproportionately affected by NCDs and have low digital literacy.

### 1.3 SDG targets

1.3.1 List of SDG Targets that will be directly addressed by the Joint Programme:

Goal	Target
<p><b>SDG 2 – Zero Hunger:</b> End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>Target 2.1 - By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.</p>
	<p>Target 2.2 - By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.</p>



<p><b>SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure:</b> Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>	<p>Target 9.c - Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries.</p>
<p><b>SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities:</b> Reduce inequality within and among countries.</p>	<p>Target 10.2 - By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p>
<p><b>SDG 14 – Life Below Water:</b> Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.</p>	<p>Target 14.2 - Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p>

### 1.3.2 Baselines, targets and means of verification

While the targets and indicators relevant for this Joint Programme were selected with consideration of what data is available and can be monitored, it must be noted that data availability to monitor SDG progress is scarce in the Pacific for many of the SDG indicators. The reasons include that data may simply not exist or that it is not being collected; that there are bottlenecks in flow of data from the producer/provider to the indicator custodian agency – often the National Statistics Offices; or that there are similar bottlenecks affection the reporting by country-level authorities to regional or global databases. Information flow bottlenecks may be due to too-heavy data requirements placed on national statistical systems in the Pacific.<sup>19</sup> However, FAO is currently leading the development of a partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to improve data availability in Pacific countries, and Niue is included. Additionally, funded by FAO, the Australian University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) is completing a scoping review of data availability and gaps with practical recommendations over ho to fill the gaps. These activities are aimed at contributing to the production of the Pacific version of the global Overview of the situation of food security and nutrition report (referred to as SOFI), but they will also greatly benefit this JP.

*Refer to Annex 2.2 for the table of baselines, targets and means of verification.*

### 1.3.3 Interlinkages and opportunities for systemic, accelerated change

The objective of the Joint Programme is to accelerate process on the targets listed through integrated programming and emphasis on Leaving No One Behind. There are multiple

<sup>19</sup> UNESCAP, Update on Progress of Pacific against 2030 Agenda ESCAP SDG Gateway, Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, 14-15 December 2020, [https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Session%204.1%20%28ESCAP%29%20-%20SDG%20Progress%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/event-documents/Session%204.1%20%28ESCAP%29%20-%20SDG%20Progress%20Report_0.pdf)

linkages, some of them mutually reinforcing, between the targets related to food and nutrition, employment and productivity and healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems and biodiversity. Progress on the ICT related targets will act as a multiplier.

ICT itself, combined with innovative policies, services and solutions, is an SDG multiplier and a fundamental enabler of economic prosperity across the three pillars of sustainable development, social, economic and environmental. It can be a powerful means of implementation in many significant ways:

- Accelerate upscaling services in health, education, financial services, smart agriculture, and low-carbon energy systems.
- Facilitate institutional learning and access to/management of knowledge.
- Economize resources and reduce the costs of service delivery while upgrading the quality.
- Drive progress in many sectors and improve existing technologies with innovation, connectivity, productivity and efficiency across areas. Top six sectors that will be significantly impacted by ICT are Energy, Manufacturing, Building Infrastructure, Agriculture, Mobility and Health.
- Enhance public information, awareness and engagement.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the spread of ICT and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy. Indeed, ICTs are vital in driving progress towards achieving each and every one of the 17 SDGs. ICTs are already empowering billions of individuals around the world – by providing access to education resources and healthcare, and services such as mobile banking, e-government and social media, among others.

Equally significant is the expected contribution of the Joint Programme to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. There is growing recognition that gender equality can be an accelerator—or a catalytic policy intervention—that triggers positive multiplier effects across the spectrum of development. A body of evidence shows that investing in expanded opportunities for women and girls; promoting their economic, social and political participation; and improving their access to employment and natural resources result in a more productive economy, reduced poverty and inequalities, enhanced human capital and ecosystem, and more resilient societies. Hence, investing in gender equality will lead to faster progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.<sup>20</sup>

#### 1.4 Stakeholder mapping

Stakeholder	Role and/or Relationship with the Project	Relevant Project Component (see workplan in Annex 5)
<b>National Authorities:</b>		
1) Ministry of Natural Resources	The two key departments who will play a key role in this project are I) the department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and II) the Department of Environment. Traditionally, the DAFF covers a broad range of focal areas associated with natural resource use and management, primary industry development and food production (terrestrial and marine), and pest and disease control internally and at borders (plant and animal). The Department of Environment is invested in ensuring the protection of Niue’s terrestrial and ocean resources, with a key focus on waste management. Together, they will play a key role in ensuring the food and nutritional security, resource management, environmental sustainability, among others.	Output 2; Act. 2.1.
2) Ministry of Social Services	The Department of Education, Health and Tāoga Niue will be key stakeholders of the project across interventions, leveraging the expertise in their relevant field to streamline activities in order to	Output 3; Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

<sup>20</sup> UN Women, Gender Equality as an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018

	strengthen existing policy solutions. All Departments will be pivotal in engaging beneficiaries of the project, ensuring access to the support being provided, and ensuring sustainability of solutions.	
3) Ministry of Infrastructure	The central agency responsible for the coordination of e-government in Niue is the Ministry of Infrastructure. An ICT Committee responsible for developing policies for ICT development was established in 1988, when Niue also started to use personal computers and adopt major applications, such as general ledger at Treasury (CPA) and census data processing at the Statistics Office.	Output 1; Act. 1.1.
4) Department of Finance and Planning	Economic planning function for ICT	Output 1; Act. 1.1.
<b>Civil Society Organisations and Non-Government Organisations</b>		
6) Niue Chamber of Commerce and Industry	The Niue private sector is somewhat modest in its size, but it is very important in the island's economy. Main components of the private sector include the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The project can help the private sector in its efforts to work within the constraints required to maintain the quality of the environment on a sustainable basis. It may be possible to set up initiatives of mutual gain as demonstrations.	Output 2; Act. 2.1.
7) Niue Youth Council Inc.	This NGO plays a key role in supporting youth programmes across Niue, advocating for and increasing the visibility of the challenges and needs of unemployed youth.	Across activities to ensure youth is mainstreamed.
9) Niue Tolomaki Auloa Association (NTAA)	Established in 2012, this NGO advocates for people with disabilities (PWDs) and seeks to support PWDs with improving the progress of rights to PWDs in Niue.	Across activities to ensure PWDs are mainstreamed.
14) Blue Nature Alliance (Conservation International)	A global partnership founded and led by Conservation International to catalyse the conservation of 18 million km <sup>2</sup> of ocean over 5 years. Currently collaborating with Tofia Niue to establish a country-driven Public-Private Trust and Endowment Fund to underpin sustainable resourcing for future sustainable development and sustainable development efforts in Niue in perpetuity.	Output 2; Act. 2.1.

<b>Private Sector</b>		
15) Telecom Niue Limited	An incorporated company in Niue striving to provide sustainable and responsible telecommunication infrastructure. Telecom is the sole provider of mobile and fixed telephones and is owned 100% by the government.	Output 1; Act. 1.1.
<b>UN Organisations</b>		
16) FAO	See section B2.5. Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement.	Output 3
17) UNDP	See section B2.5. Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement	Output 1 and Output 2
18) UNICEF	See section B2.5. Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement	Output 3
<b>Other Partners</b>		
19) Niue Island Information and Communication Development Council	In 2009, Niue established the Niue Island Information, Technology & Communication and Development Council (NiDC). NiDC is a multi-stakeholder group chaired by the Minister of Post and Telecommunications and the main policy actor in Niue's ICT landscape.	Output 1; Act. 1.1.
20) UN International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	A specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for all matters related to information and communication technologies.	Output 1; Act. 1.1.

## 2. Programme Strategy

### 2.1. Overall strategy

The proposed Joint Programme seeks to complement the efforts of the Government of Niue to accelerate SDG achievement through the creation of an enabling policy and knowledge environment that is conducive to on-the-ground activities aimed at strengthening nutrition, food and livelihood security, particularly for women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.

In the context of a resource-dependent society, the digital economy has a catalytic role in transitioning away from traditional market structures to support the revitalization of sustainable local production and consumption, more so since the onset of COVID-19 socio-economic recovery. This, in turn, has a twofold objective to: i) reduce the dependence on imports, and subsequently contribute to GDP growth through local market development and employment, particularly amongst women and youth, and ii) enhance access to, and

awareness on, locally-grown produce that phases-out reliance on food imports and improves nutrition. The long-term sustainability of the primary sectors, however, can only be achieved when socio-economic benefits from resource use are not at odds with the integrity and regeneration capacity of the ecosystems upon which these activities depend. As a result, realising the full potential of the blue economy, including the diversification of ocean-based activities to broaden Niue's narrow economic base, requires the integration of policy and knowledge to ensure ocean resource management is at the centre of all market interventions.

Through a collaborative effort with relevant Government and other national counterparts, as well as specialised UN agencies, the Joint Programme will leverage the Participating UN Organisations' (PUNOs) comparative advantage and technical expertise across the interrelated enabling pillars of I) Digital Transformation, II) Blue Economy and III) Digital Systems and Tools for Agri-Food Systems and Nutrition, to enhance the nutrition, food and livelihood security of Niueans, especially the most vulnerable and those left furthest behind.

## **I. Digital Transformation**

UNDP, with technical support from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), will support the Government of Niue with the development of a two-step, **gender responsive and multi-sectoral national ICT policy** focusing on an ICT enabling environment to provide cost-effective ICT and guide the course of digital developments. Guided by UNDP's Digital Strategy which serves as blueprint for digital transformation, UNDP in close collaboration with Government counterparts will co-lead the undertaking of a Digital Readiness Assessment (DRA), a tool comprised of a nationwide survey that ensures a consultative and gender sensitive approach is followed to map Niue's digital strengths and weaknesses across the five pillars of UNDP's digital transformation framework, namely government, infrastructure, regulation, business and people. The functional analysis provided by the DRA will identify strategic entry points at accelerator fix points, bottlenecks and gaps. In turn, it will inform the second step, which envisions the development of a gender responsive national ICT policy through a whole-of-government approach, based on Niue's digital strategy that is currently in development. Informed by the DRA, UNDP will also assist the Government with consultations around, and in support of, the annual review of the National Digital Transformation Strategy to assess the status of the roadmap implementation. Therefore, this intervention has a threefold objective to: i) provide a gender responsive legal and regulatory framework with governance, monitoring and mitigation mechanisms for emerging risks of, and barriers to, digital growth, ii) deepen the utilisation and equal access of ICT across public and private sectors as a catalyst for research and innovation in ICT products, applications and services to foster entrepreneurship, industry diversification, creativity and innovation for sustainable development, with a dedicated focus on agri-food systems for improved local production, consumption and nutrition and iii) ensure equity, inclusion and protection of all users in accessing and engaging in the digital world. This process will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure (ICT Committee) of the Government of Niue, Niue Island Information, Technology and Communication and Development Council (NiDC) and other relevant Ministries with digital-related plans and/or responsibilities within the ICT sector.

The DRA and national ICT policy will directly support the creation of a safe and inclusive enabling environment for digital communities to thrive through strengthened access to and affordability of ICT infrastructure, systems and tools (SDG 9.c). This policy foundation will also unlock new opportunities for the revitalization and diversification of key economic sectors, including agriculture and fisheries and the acceleration of the ocean economy by leveraging catalytic and innovative digital tools, which in turn, will enhance food and livelihood security throughout these primary sectors.

## **II. Blue Economy/Ocean Management**

UNDP will leverage its comparative advantage and technical expertise to support the Government of Niue with the development of a two-step gender sensitive **Niue Integrated Ocean Management Strategy (NIOMS)** for the country's entire EEZ. First, a scoping study of Niue's multisectoral ocean economy will be conducted, including a gender sensitive diagnostic analysis, based on the stocktake of existing ocean-based economic activities, including gender issues, conservation efforts and governance, policy and legal arrangements. This first step will highlight and recommend inclusive blue economy opportunities and interventions, including blue growth enabling environment requirements. In turn, the scoping study will then inform the second step, which seeks to develop a **roadmap** with a clear action plan and implementation strategy for integrated ocean management and blue growth. This intervention has a threefold objective to: i) enhance inclusive governance, management, forecasting and monitoring of marine ecosystem health and ocean resources, ii) strengthen gender responsive marine-based livelihoods and food security through an ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approach; and iii) unlock and catalyse recovery-oriented income-generating entrepreneurship, employment and diversification opportunities, particularly in food value chains, for females and males across all vulnerable populations. Building on the UNDP-supported, GEF-funded Ridge to Reef (R2R) and the Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) projects, the NIOMS will take on a collaborative and consultative effort through the Public-Private Partnership between the Government of Niue and Tofia Niue, the Blue Nature Alliance, Niue Chamber of Commerce and relevant ocean-dependent private sector and community counterparts, to ensure national ownership, capacity development and sustainability.

The NIOMS will directly contribute to accelerating the achievement of SDG 14 through the sustainable management, use, protection and climate resilience-building of marine and coastal ecosystems (14.2), in alignment with Aichi Targets 6 and 11. As a result, it will strengthen equal access to economic and natural resources for enhanced food and nutrition security (SDG 2.1), including for women, which through a gender lens will integrate focus areas on women's reef gleaning and tourist attraction operations, many of which are women-owned and also major female employers (SDG 10.2). Additionally, the strategy will support mapping of productive activities, job and entrepreneurship creation opportunities, and growth of MSMEs across ocean-dependent sectors, particularly focused on food value chains and prioritising women and youth as target beneficiaries and catalysts of SDG-responsive markets.

## **III. Digital Systems and Tools for Agri-Food Systems and Nutrition**

FAO is already working with the government of Niue on an agriculture census via a USD\$150,000 investment. FAO will draw on this ongoing investment and comparative advantage to work with the government and partners to develop, implement and promote gender sensitive policy and digital solutions to strengthen local agri-food systems and nutrition that will contribute to the overall reduction of NCDs in Niue, adopting a linear approach to deliver on the through the following strategy :

First, FAO will collaborate with the relevant partners to implement the digital transformation strategy, currently under development by the Government of Niue, in the agri-business sector. The implementation will focus on digitising agriculture extension information related to plant production and protection, weather alerts, marketing, access to finance and inputs with the principle of leaving no one behind. Additional components of the gender sensitive digitalization process will cover nutrition and food safety by digitising information related to food handling, processing, labelling, good manufacturing and packaging practices. FAO will also digitalize and implement the national food-based dietary guidelines that it had developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

Second, FAO will develop and undertake an awareness campaign to sensitise females and males across all vulnerable population over the potential of digital tools to catalyse nutrition and agri-food systems, which can further accelerate the achievement of the relevant SDGs. These two steps are expected to contribute to the reduction of NCDs in Niue, specifically amongst women and children, which in turn, support the country's own productive capacity

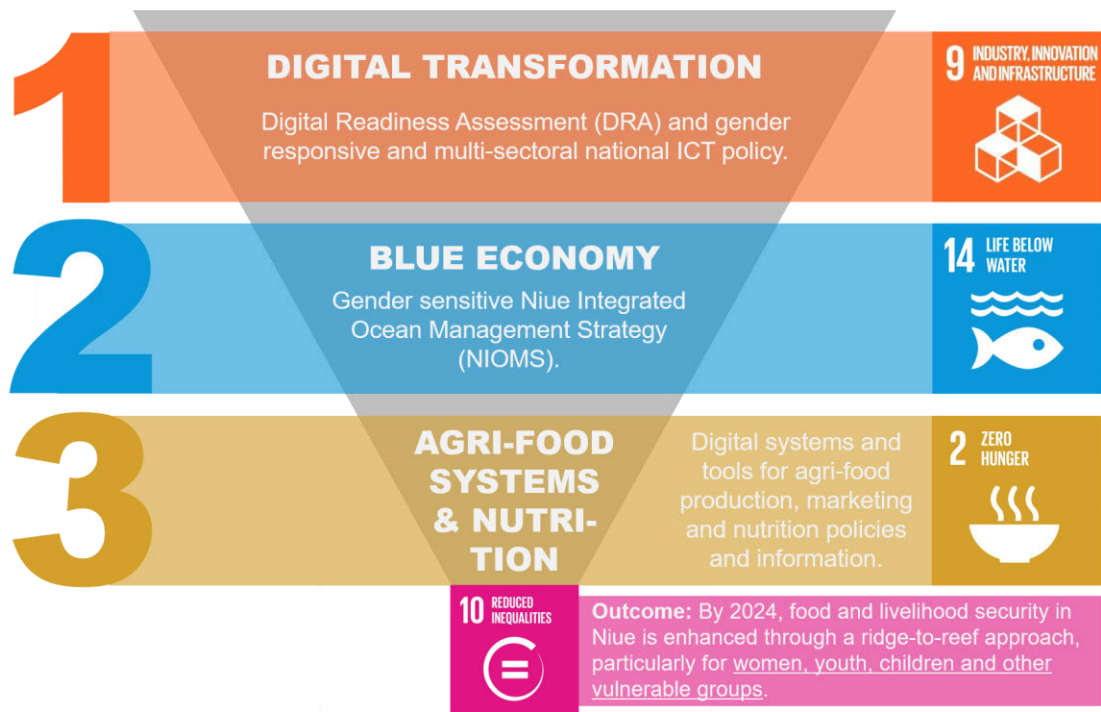
To address the high burden of anaemia and overweight/obesity among children, adolescent, women and men, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to Ministry of Social Services, Department of Health Niue in reviewing of policies and programs, and to understand the gaps, including gender-specific needs, in existing policies, strategies and standards, as well as in developing high impact interventions frameworks aiming to reduce the high rates of anaemia and overweight/obesity across the different life-stages. Technical assistance will also be provided to assess school nutrition environment. Support will be continued in implementation of the High Impact Nutrition Intervention (HINI) Framework – to reduce anaemia, as well as overweight/obesity among children, women and adolescents. This will include training of health workers, health system strengthening through integration of these high impact nutrition interventions into different services delivery platforms. The school nutrition assessment will look into nutritious food in schools, environment for healthy food and physical activity, micronutrient supplementation and nutrition education within the curricula. This will also be complemented by the digitisation and promotion of healthy recipes, targeted at children, adolescents and women in partnership with Pacific Islands Food Revolution.

## 2.2 Theory of Change

This Joint Programme (JP) is designed around the core Theory of Change (TOC) that IF gender responsive, evidence-based, multi-sectoral and recovery-oriented integrated policy solutions are established and strengthened, including I) a national ICT policy; II) a national Integrated Ocean Management Strategy; and III) inclusive frameworks for nutrition across the life-stages, THEN Niue can I) enhance equal access to food and nutrition security; II) strengthen



livelihood security and diversification for females and males; III) promote gender sensitive climate resilient ecosystem-based value chain development and diversification; and IV) ensure sustainable management and use of marine resources; and HENCE, improve both livelihood and food security through sustained and sustainable ecosystem services, accelerating the progress of relevant SDGs identified. In this regard, a 3-staged funnel approach, as illustrated below, is followed to create an enabling digital and policy environment that targets the achievement of enhanced food, nutrition and livelihood security, whereby I) digital transformation is understood, and thereby leveraged, as a means to unlock, diversify and realise the full potential of II) sustainable and ecosystem-based marine resource use for III) agri-food value chain development in Niue, particularly of underexplored marine-based economic activities.



The TOC encompasses multiple paths to change across sectors, and identifies women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups as key beneficiaries and catalysts in accelerating the achievement of the relevant SDGs for the core JP elements below:

1. Develop gender responsive national ICT policy;
2. Develop gender sensitive integrated ocean management strategy;
3. Digitalise inclusive food production and nutrition education and strengthen agri-food systems, nutrition and food-based dietary guidelines.

The TOC is based around the following assumptions:

- The Government of Niue and its people especially women, youth, children and other vulnerable populations will remain committed to and engaged in the use of digitalization to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs;
- The Government of Niue and its people especially women, youth, children and other vulnerable populations will remain committed to and engaged in enhancing the sustainable management and use of its ocean resources;
- The development of the digital space and improved equal access to information in Niue will lead to improving agri-food systems, nutrition and health.

### **I. Digital Transformation**

With the arrival of the Manatua Cable, it is expected that Niue’s business sector will be enhanced, creating unprecedented opportunities for the country in a time where the global COVID-19 pandemic has forced the government and people to rely heavily on virtual meetings and online portals to conduct their day-to-day business. However, as digital connectivity and more common use of ICTs become the norm, it also gives rise to the potential increase in the digital divide, particularly amongst the most vulnerable and especially women, as well as emerging risks such as disinformation, cyber-security and data privacy. Therefore, IF a gender sensitive digital readiness assessment is conducted and a national ICT policy is established that is inclusive, gender responsive, multi-sectoral and evidence-based, THEN a safe and inclusive enabling environment for digital communities to thrive will be created, strengthening access and affordability to ICT. As a result, key economic sectors, including agriculture and fisheries, will THEN have a foundation from which they can unlock new opportunities for their revitalization and diversification, making use of the new policy environment to build more inclusive, ethical, and resilient digital economies.

### **II. Blue Economy/Ocean Management**

It is anticipated that Niue’s economic sectors will continue to rely heavily on its ocean resources for both livelihood and food security. However, the future health and productivity of these resources are unclear due to the accelerated degradation of ocean ecosystems and food chains as a result of climate change and human activity. In this context, IF an integrated ocean management strategy that is inclusive, gender sensitive and multi-sectoral is developed, THEN the benefits of a blue economy to promote sustainable economic growth and alleviate unemployment, food insecurity and poverty will be realised. Indeed, this strategy aims at guiding the country on how to realise the full potential of ocean resources across its EEZ in a sustainable manner, while accelerating inclusion and participation of targeted groups, particularly of women and youth. While this strategy will directly consolidate the use of resources for increased food security in the country, it also contributes to the diversification of the country's narrow economic base, broadening opportunities for all. Furthermore, the strategy aims at capturing and leveraging important intangible ‘blue’ resources, such as traditional knowledge and practices, carbon sequestration, and coastal resilience, contributing to the mitigation of climate change impacts whilst ensuring no one is left behind. Finally, increased sustainable management and use of its ocean resources will allow the population of Niue to have improved access to healthy and affordable ocean food sources.

### **III. Health and Nutrition**

IF forward-looking policies and guidelines are formulated and if fiscal policy measures on healthy food are established and IF their implementation/enforcement is strengthened; IF children, women and adolescents have access to high impact nutrition intervention services; and IF healthy and nutritious diets are effectively promoted among children, adolescents and women; THEN children, women and adolescents will have improved practices of eating healthy, nutritious and diverse diets; and HENCE their nutrition status will be improved.

Additionally, it is assumed that the development of a digital transformation strategy, currently under development by the Government of Niue, will lead to enormous opportunities for improving agri-food systems, nutrition and health. In order to realise this assumption, IF ongoing and proposed digital policy solutions can be leveraged to digitise food production and nutrition education, THEN the reach of critical messaging will be increased, while also providing access to essential information for the various strata of the population, HENCE, the people of Niue, in particular women, youth and children, will be empowered with knowledge and skills that have the potential to catalyse change related to challenges of NCDs.

### **2.3 Expected results and impact**

The overarching goal of the Joint Programme is to unlock, realise and leverage the full potential of inclusive digital transformation and the blue economy as catalytic enablers of enhanced food, nutrition and livelihood security in Niue that contribute to the reduction of vulnerabilities faced by women, children, youth and other vulnerable groups. This will help the Government of Niue to unlock the multiplier effects of cross-cutting drivers that accelerate efforts to achieve the selected SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including gender equality, digital inclusion, ocean health, sustainable food production and enhanced nutrition. The theory of change outlined above encompasses multiple pathways to transformational change across sectors, and identifies women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and older persons as key beneficiaries and catalysts in accelerating the achievement of the relevant SDGs.

A collaborative approach that leverages multi-sectoral partnerships will be adopted in the implementation of the Joint Programme to ensure that the solutions put forward transcend the whole of society and are sustainable and scalable beyond the lifetime and scope of the project, whereby the strong policy and knowledge base developed for digital transformation and the blue economy can be efficiently leveraged as catalytic enablers of other important sectors

The Joint Programme results framework has one Outcome and three Outputs:

**JP Outcome 1:** By 2024, food and livelihood security in Niue is enhanced through a ridge-to-reef approach, particularly for women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.

**JP Output 1:** Gender responsive National ICT policy is developed.

**JP Output 2:** National inclusive Integrated Ocean Management Strategy are developed.

**JP Output 3:** Gender sensitive Digital tools are developed for agri-food systems and nutrition.

The development and implementation of the national ICT policy will contribute to JP outcome largely by increasing and facilitating access to information for improving livelihoods. The development and implementation of the Integrated Ocean Management Strategy will contribute to the outcome by facilitating the creation of environmentally friendly jobs, while the digitization of agri-food systems and nutrition education information will enhance the production of climate smart and nutrition sensitive vegetables and fruits, and encourage the population to make healthy food choices. All of these outputs are interlinked as a key component of the partnership.

The three PUNOs will jointly deliver the outputs and overarching outcome, in partnership with the relevant national stakeholders in Niue and in line with the Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-26 and the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022. Outcome progress will be monitored through the indicators associated with the selected SDG targets. The JP Output 1 indicators are specific to the Joint Programme and have been outlined in Annex 2.

The objective of the Joint Programme is to accelerate process against the targets listed through integrated programming and emphasis on Leaving No One Behind and Building Back Better. There are multiple linkages, some of them mutually reinforcing, between the targets related to food and nutrition, employment and productivity and healthy coastal and ocean ecosystems and biodiversity. Progress on the ICT related targets will act as a multiplier. It is expected that positive change against the targets will be detectable by the end of the 2-year Joint Programme through indicator monitoring. There are clear synergies among the SDG targets, insofar as targets related to employment and income as well as access to digital information will have a positive impact on the targets related to food security and nutrition in the short term. Progress against the targets related to responsible consumption and production and sustainable ocean health will also have an impact on household income and food security, but this will become manifest only in the medium to long-term.

By the end of Joint Programme:

- Niue's national ICT policy, once implemented, will widen equitable and safe access to and participation of all Niueans, especially women, youth, persons with disability and persons of older age, in the global information and knowledge society, thereby offering access to opportunities that enhance their wellbeing, civic engagement and livelihoods.
- Niue's inclusive Integrated Ocean Management Strategy, once implemented, will strengthen the sustainable management of marine resources which are the primary driver of key economic sectors including tourism and fisheries, producing tangible benefits for the population especially women, youth and other vulnerable population;
- Niueans, especially women and children will have access to and use knowledge to improve their nutrition status, leading to a decrease in the incidence of overweight, obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes; and,
- Small scale farmers and fishers will have equal access to a suite of digital smart farming tools, increasing their agricultural output and resilience to the impacts of climate change and disaster.

SDG Goal	SDG Target	SDG Target Indicator	Expected progress by the end of the JP
2	2.1	<b>2.1.2:</b> Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Decreased prevalence of food security
	2.2	<b>2.2.2:</b> Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Decreased incidence of overweight and obesity
9	9.c	<b>9.c.1:</b> Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	Increased access and affordability to ICT
10	10.2	<b>10.2.1:</b> Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	Increased income level of the poorest households
14	14.2	<b>14.2.1:</b> Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	Increased proportion of Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area managed using EBA

Upon completion of the programme, it is expected that the Government of Niue will sustain the benefits achieved through implementation of the national strategies and policy frameworks that were developed jointly with them during the programme implementation. Capacity of the government to sustain the JP results, which are also part of the national development agenda, is sufficient. The digital tools introduced in the area of food production and nutrition will be self-sustaining. Furthermore, the three PUNOs will leverage their ongoing projects in Niue to leverage and build further on the JP results.

## 2.4 Financing

With a total budget of USD 561,400, the resources from the Joint SDG Fund will enable improved and more targeted support to the Government of Niue to establish more resilient and sustainable approaches through SDG policy solutions for both human and environmental health across sectors, including but not limited to agriculture and fisheries. The JP leverages existing initiatives and established partnerships, both completed and ongoing, such as the NOW Project and GEF5 R2R, complementing and building on the significant advances already made by the Government of Niue to accelerate achievement of the SDGs.

As previously mentioned, Niue recently gained connectivity to the state-of-the-art fibre-optic technology of the Manatua Cable, expected to transform the speed, capacity, resilience and affordability of telecommunications for Niue's people. With a national Digital Transformation Strategy under development, accelerating progress towards inclusive sustainable development, resources are strategically budgeted to actions that will streamline ICT and strengthen the existing policy framework while bridging gaps to ensure digital developments are inclusive, gender-sensitive, cost-effective and sustainable. Furthermore, it will guide the course of digital development through the adoption of a series of fundamental reforms across the 5 pillars: Infrastructure, Government, Regulation, Business and People. The programme will leverage cost-effective corporate tools, including the UNDP Digital Readiness Assessment, making available SDG fund resources for additional interventions that will enhance the support provided to the Government of Niue.

Similarly, investing in the development of Niue's Integrated Ocean Management Strategy (NIOMS) is an ever more timely intervention due to the increasing realisation within Niue of multiple threats to its ocean resources, including over-exploitation of marine resources, marine pollution, climate change and ocean acidification. This is expected to trigger increased national momentum towards a better system of protection and sustainable use of its ocean resources, promoting twin advantages of realizing economic social benefits while at the same time improving environmental sustainability and climate resilience. It will seek to provide the basis to articulate Niue's strategic thinking as to how a thriving ocean economy that not only creates sustainable employment in the future can be fostered but ensures the sustainable management of the resources upon which so many livelihoods depend. It is envisioned that key priorities and interventions will be identified across sectors from which additional resources can be mobilised for their implementation, also providing an important communication tool from which awareness can be increased across Niue of the benefits of the ocean to the national economy. Due to its complementarity with the ongoing NOW and GEF5 R2R projects, both having laid a foundation of interventions which will catalyse the development of the NOIMS, the JP will seek to streamline the related sustainability strategies such as the development of a public-private Trust and Endowment Fund of the NOW project, which integrates forms of both public and private sustainable financing, to support the longevity of recommendations that will be formulated.

## **2.5 Partnerships and stakeholder engagement**

The JP will rely on the institutional ownership and leadership of the Government of Niue, which has already been initiated through the consultative approach that was carried out to define and integrate the country's priorities during the framing of the Expression of Interest, as well as in the development of the JP Project Document. This approach will be strengthened by a

whole-of-society approach and will remain key in ensuring leadership and ownership at the community and national level remain after all interventions have been completed, a core target of the United Nations in country capacity development that are expected across all projects and programmes. The proposal strategically aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration launched in June 2021.

For example, the development of the national ICT policy and dietary guidelines as well as the integrated ocean management strategy will be developed through a participatory approach, inclusive of all relevant stakeholders across Niue. Conducting multi-stakeholder workshops will seek to foster PPPs to include CSOs/CBOs, private sector and Government entities in the process and consultations, whilst leveraging expertise at the regional and global level to support the government in determining each relevant course of action.

The lead agency, FAO, will leverage its new initiative – SIDS Solutions Platform – a knowledge exchange space that can facilitate investments and expertise by incubating, promoting, and scaling up local solutions of innovation and digitalization to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. It will also complement current investments and seek to attract additional resources from the Global Agriculture Food Security Programme (GAFSP) to FAO and IFAD in Niue for innovation and digitalization. FAO is invested in the development of food based dietary guidelines in Niue, which implementation can only benefit from digitalization. FAO in partnership with other UN agencies recently invested in nutrition education in gyms, this can only benefit from expansion and digitalization in Niue.

To address the high burden of anemia and overweight/obesity among children, adolescent and women, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Services, Department of Health in Niue to understanding the gaps in existing policies and programmes, and hence in developing high impact interventions and frameworks to reduce the high rates of anemia and overweight across the different life-stages. Technical assistance will also be provided to review/update the anemia prevention guidelines/protocol, and to develop guidelines on marketing of unhealthy food and non-alcoholic beverages against children, including Breast Milk Substitute (BMS). Once the HINI framework is identified, technical and financial support will be provided to the Department of Health to support its implementation. This includes the training of health workers, integration of these HINI into existing different services delivery platforms and promotion of health eating across the life-stages. This will be complemented by digitization of healthy and nutritious Pacific recipes for children, adolescents and women and promoting these digitally among them.

UNDP, guided by its upgraded SIDS Offer which includes the Blue Economy and Digital Transformation as two of its pillars, will leverage its comparative advantage at the regional and national level, to provide strategic and catalytic support across the programme. With its experience gained from past and ongoing projects in Niue as well as across the region and globally, UNDP will bring in existing corporate tools, such as the Digital Readiness Assessment, providing a cost-effective solution to supporting the government in exploring and accelerating digital transformation by identifying its digital strengths and weaknesses, while leveraging existing frameworks such as UNDP Digital Transformation Framework, to map these across the five pillars of I) government; II) infrastructure; III) regulation; IV) business; and V) people. This tool has proven to ensure participatory dialogue is achieved, the first step to

providing an enabling environment to the co-design and co-delivery of interventions. UNDP past and existing partnerships with ITU will be leveraged for the implementation of digital interventions across sectors, providing enhanced expertise to the Government of Niue in support of their digital transformation. Finally, this JP will benefit from lessons learned and best practices of ongoing partnerships of UNDP with both government ministries and departments, as well as NGOs and CBOs in Niue, from its existing projects such as the GEF 5 Ridge to Reef project, ensuring that all stakeholders are strategically placed to support the programme achieve the desired outcome. This in-country experience of UNDP has also provided the basis from which new partnerships will be established under the JP, for example, with stakeholders of the NOW Project. Relevant JP interventions will be streamlined with both existing policy and on-the-ground activities to strengthen and accelerate benefits of the two projects, in this case, enhancing the sustainable management and use of Niue's ocean resources.

### 3. Programme implementation

#### 3.1 Governance and implementation arrangements

This Joint Programme proposal is a collaborative effort between FAO, as the lead agency, UNICEF and UNDP, and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). Leadership and ownership of the Government of Niue and national partners will be critical throughout all stages of the programme to ensure sustainability of the inclusive, gender sensitive and evidence-based policy interventions proposed, in order to accelerate the achievement of the relevant SDGs. This is a single project and not a combination of several projects. The following actions will therefore ensure that the actions from partners will contribute to the singular success of the project:

A **high-level Steering Committee (SC)** will be established for the four Joint UN SDG Fund-funded programmes in Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau to enhance SIDS resilience and vulnerability, comprising government representatives, civil society stakeholders and the RCO. The SC will have country-specific segments, with the Niue segment being co-chaired by a senior Government official and the UN Resident Coordinator; the SC shall convene at least twice a year to review progress and provide overall guidance.

A **Technical Committee (TC)** will also be established to provide secretariat services to the Joint Programme, including the formulation of progress reports and provision of technical advice to the SC. The TC will bring together expertise in digital transformation, gender, disability, youth, agriculture, fisheries, nutrition, and blue economy, as well as finance systems, governance and communications. The TC will be co-chaired by FAO and a Government of Niue representative, with UNICEF, UNDP and the RCO contributing to this committee through direct participation in consultations and the provision of technical and financial assistance to ensure coherence and the resolution of bottlenecks.

Each PUNO will be responsible for the implementation (including procurement of goods and services), monitoring and evaluation and communications of their activities. However, a Joint



Programme Coordinator will be hired and sit with the lead agency, FAO, and will undertake the following roles and responsibilities:

- Overall project planning, coordination, management, monitoring and reporting. This includes providing all required information compiled from each PUNO to the TC, and the data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary;
- Risk management, including updating of risk log as per PUNO recommendations; and
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budget.

### **3.2 Monitoring, reporting, and evaluation**

Reporting on the Joint SDG Fund will be results-oriented, and evidence based. Each PUNO will provide the Convening/Lead Agent with the following narrative reports prepared in accordance with instructions and templates developed by the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat:

- *Annual narrative progress reports*, to be provided no later than one (1) month (31 January) after the end of the calendar year, and must include the result matrix, updated risk log, and anticipated expenditures and results for the next 12-month funding period;
- *Final consolidated narrative report*, after the completion of the joint programme, to be provided no later than two (2) months after the operational closure of the activities of the joint programme.

The Convening/Lead Agent will compile the narrative reports of PUNOs and submit a consolidated report to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, through the Resident Coordinator.

The Resident Coordinator will be required to monitor the implementation of the joint programme, with the involvement of Joint SDG Fund Secretariat to which it must submit data and information when requested. As a minimum, joint programmes will prepare, and submit to the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat, 6-month monitoring updates. Additional insights (such as policy papers, value for money analysis, case studies, infographics, blogs) might need to be provided, per request of the Joint SDG Fund Secretariat. The joint programme will adequately allocate resources for monitoring and evaluation in the budget.

Data for all indicators of the results framework will be shared with the Fund Secretariat on a regular basis, in order to allow the Fund Secretariat to aggregate results at the global level and integrate findings into reporting on progress of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs will be required to include information on complementary funding received from other sources (both UN cost sharing, and external sources of funding) for the activities supported by the Fund, including in kind contributions and/or South-South Cooperation initiatives, in the reporting done throughout the year.

PUNOs at Headquarters level shall provide the Administrative Agent with the following statements and reports prepared in accordance with its accounting and reporting procedures, consolidate the financial reports, as follows:

- Annual financial reports as of 31st December each year with respect to the funds disbursed to it from the Joint SDG Fund Account, to be provided no later than four months after the end of the applicable reporting period; and
- A final financial report, after the completion of the activities financed by the Joint SDG Fund and including the final year of the activities, to be provided no later than 30 April of the year following the operational closing of the project activities.

In addition, regular updates on financial delivery might need to be provided, per request of the Fund Secretariat.

After completion of a joint programme, a final, *independent and gender-responsive*<sup>21</sup> evaluation will be organized by the Resident Coordinator. The cost needs to be budgeted, and in case there are no remaining funds at the end of the joint programme, it will be the responsibility of PUNOs to pay for the final, independent evaluation from their own resources.

The programme will be subject to a joint final independent evaluation with an established arrangement for managing the joint evaluation. The final evaluation will be managed jointly by the PUNOs as per established process for independent evaluations, including use of a joint evaluation steering group and dedicated evaluation managers not involved in the implementation of the joint programme. The evaluations will follow the United Nations Evaluation Group's (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System, using the guidance on Joint Evaluation and relevant UNDG guidance on evaluations. The management and implementation of the joint evaluation will have due regard to the evaluation policies of the PUNOs to ensure the requirements of those policies are met; and with use of appropriate guidance from PUNOs on joint evaluation. The evaluation process will be participative and will involve all relevant programme's stakeholders and partners. Evaluation results will be disseminated amongst governments, donors, academic institutions and stakeholders of civil society (including workers' and employers' organizations) and a joint management response will be produced upon completion of the evaluation process to be made publicly available on the evaluation platforms or similar of the PUNOs and through the UNEG database.

### **3.3 Accountability, financial management, and public disclosure**

The Joint Programme will be using a pass-through fund management modality where UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will act as the Administrative Agent (AA) under which the funds will be channelled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each PUNO receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

Each PUNO shall assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent of the Joint SDG Fund (Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office). Such funds will be administered by each UN Agency, Fund, and Programme in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures. Each PUNO shall establish a

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<sup>21</sup> [How to manage a gender responsive evaluation, Evaluation handbook](#), UN Women, 2015

separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.

Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations recovered through programme support costs will be 7%. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs.

Funding by the Joint SDG Fund will be provided on annual basis, upon successful performance of the joint programme.

Procedures on financial transfers, extensions, financial and operational closure, and related administrative issues are stipulated in the Operational Guidance of the Joint SDG Fund.

PUNOs and partners must comply with Joint SDG Fund brand guidelines, which includes information on donor visibility requirements.

Each PUNO will take appropriate measures to publicize the Joint SDG Fund and give due credit to the other PUNOs. All related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications, provided to the press or Fund beneficiaries, will acknowledge the role of the host Government, donors, PUNOs, the Administrative Agent, and any other relevant entities. In particular, the Administrative Agent will include and ensure due recognition of the role of each Participating Organization and partners in all external communications related to the Joint SDG Fund.

### 3.4 Legal context

<b>Agency Name</b>	<b>Agreement Title</b>	<b>Agreement Date</b>
FAO	Country Programming Framework (2018-2022)	2018
UNDP	Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA)	28 June 1963
UNICEF	Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA)	8 September 1997

## D. ANNEXES

### Annex 1. List of related initiatives

Name of initiative/ project	Key expected results	Links to the joint programme	Lead organization	Other partners	Budget and funding source	Contract person <small>(name and email)</small>
Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) Project	<p>1. Marine Spatial Planning and Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement a coastal marine spatial management plan (Coastal MSMP) of the 0-3nm traditional use zone around Niue (now identified as a special management area (SMA)) – under the Nukutuluea MSMP.</li> <li>- Assist the government with the implementation of the Nukutuluea MSMP (EEZ wide) and Niue Moana Mahu MPA.</li> </ul> <p>2. Compliance Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and assist government with the implementation of an EEZ Compliance Strategy to underpin the integrity of the Nukutuluea MSMP and Niue Moana Mahu MPA.</li> </ul> <p>3. Increased Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assist Niue to establish and implement the recommendations in the Sustainable Financing Strategy. This includes a financing mechanism and activities to ensure the sustainability of capacity and effort beyond the project life; maximise economic development opportunities from sustainable ocean focused activities including with the private sector and market Niue’s efforts internationally as relevant.</li> </ul>	<p>Niue’s Integrated Management Ocean Strategy will leverage and complement the NOW project to accelerate Niue’s economic growth and improve livelihoods and jobs through the sustainable use of ocean resources, while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystem.</p>	<p>Government of Niue and Tofia Niue</p>	<p>Ocean 5 / National Geographic Pristine Seas / GLIPSA / Global Fish Watch / Blue Nature Alliance</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Brendan Pasisi,  <a href="mailto:NIUEOCEANWIDE@GMAIL.COM">NIUEOCEANWIDE@GMAIL.COM</a></p>

	- Promote MSMP and LSMPA based on Niue's achievements under the NOW project at relevant key regional and international fora.					
GEF5 Ridge to Reef (R2R) Niue – Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for Biodiversity Conservation and for the Enhancement of Ecosystem Services and Cultural Heritage in Niue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation.</li> <li>- The project also covers the creation of a marine protected area at Beveridge Reef which, while distant from Niue Island, is expected to be confirmed as a source of recruitment of various marine species for Niue's coral reefs and coastal environment through favourable ocean currents.</li> </ul>	Niue's Integrated Management Ocean Strategy will build upon and complement legal and regulatory frameworks and policies established in GEF5 R2R Niue. These provide the basis/enabling environment from which the roadmap will be established.	Government of Niue (Ministry of Natural Resources) and UNDP	Village councils, Tāoga Niue, Chamber of Commerce.	USD 4,194,862 (GEF)  USD 200,000 (UNDP in-kind)  USD 10,868,600 (GoN in-kind)	Dr. Josie Tamate, Director-General, Ministry of Natural Resources, <a href="mailto:josie.tamate@mail.gov.nu">josie.tamate@mail.gov.nu</a>

## Annex 2. Overall Results Framework

### 2.1. Targets for Joint SDG Fund Results Framework

**Joint SDG Fund Outcome 1:** Integrated multi-sectoral policies to accelerate SDG achievement implemented with greater scope and scale

Indicators	Targets
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	2022	2023
1.1: integrated multi-sectoral policies have accelerated SDG progress in terms of scope <sup>22</sup>	0	4

**Joint SDG Fund Output 3: Integrated policy solutions for accelerating SDG progress implemented**

Indicators	Targets	
	2022	2023
3.1: # of innovative solutions that were tested <sup>23</sup> (disaggregated by % successful-unsuccessful)	0	2
3.2: # of integrated policy solutions that have been implemented with the national partners in lead	0	1
3.3: # and share of countries where national capacities to implement integrated, cross-sectoral SDG accelerators has been strengthened	0	1

**Joint SDG Fund Operational Performance Indicators**

- Level of coherence of UN in implementing programme country<sup>24</sup>
- Reduced transaction costs for the participating UN agencies in interaction with national/regional and local authorities and/or public entities compared to other joint programmes in the country in question
- Annual % of financial delivery
- Joint programme operationally closed within original end date
- Joint programme financially closed 18 months after their operational closure
- Joint programme facilitated engagement with diverse stakeholders (e.g. parliamentarians, civil society, IFIs, bilateral/multilateral actor, private sector).
- Joint programme included addressing inequalities and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind".
- Joint programme featured gender results at the outcome level.

<sup>22</sup>Scope=substantive expansion: additional thematic areas/components added or mechanisms/systems replicated.

<sup>23</sup>Each Joint programme in the Implementation phase will test at least 2 approaches.

<sup>24</sup> Annual survey will provide qualitative information towards this indicator.

- Joint programme undertook or draw upon relevant human rights analysis, and have developed or implemented a strategy to address human rights issues.
- Joint programme planned for and can demonstrate positive results/effects for youth.
- Joint programme considered the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Joint programme made use of risk analysis in programme planning.
- Joint programme conducted do-no-harm / due diligence and were designed to take into consideration opportunities in the areas of the environment and climate change.

## 2.2. Joint programme Results framework

Result / Indicators	Baseline	2023 Target	2024 Target	Means of Verification	Responsible partner
<b>Outcome 1: By 2024, food and livelihood security in Niue is enhanced through a ridge-to-reef approach, particularly for women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.</b>					
<b>Outcome indicator 1: Proportion of Niue using digital tools for agri-food production and nutrition education, disaggregated by land- or ocean-based sector, gender and age group.</b>	To be determined by DRA and scoping study for the NIOMS.	≥10%	≥30%	JP Outputs and Reporting (UNDP)	UNDP
<b>Outcome indicator 2: % increase in sales of locally produced food in Niue.</b>	To be determined by baseline study.	0%	≥10%	Agricultural Census and JP Reporting	FAO
<b>Output 1: National ICT Policy is developed.</b>					
<b>Output indicator 1.1: % internet penetration rate, disaggregated by gender and age group.</b>	79.6% (January, 2021) <sup>25</sup>	≥80%	≥85%	Reports (GSMA, ITU, Telecom Niue)	UNDP

<sup>25</sup> The baseline is not available disaggregated by gender and age group, but the target will be disaggregated accordingly.

Output indicator 1.2: % mobile penetration rate, disaggregated by gender and age group.	97.5% (January 2021) <sup>26</sup>	≥97.5%	≥98%	Reports (GSMA, ITU, Telecom Niue)	UNDP
Output indicator 1.3: % social media penetration rate, disaggregated by gender and age group	61.9% (January 2021) <sup>27</sup>	≥62%	≥65%	Reports (GSMA, ITU, Telecom Niue)	UNDP
Output indicator 1.4: gender-responsive and multi-sectoral national ICT policy developed.	0 (August 2021)	1	1	JP Reporting.	UNDP
Output 2: National Integrated Ocean Management Strategy is developed.					
Output indicator 2.1: # of blue economy opportunities mapped and recommended, disaggregated by sector and gender.	4 <sup>28</sup> (August 2021)	4	6	JP Reporting and Reports (MNR)	UNDP
Output indicator 2.2: integrated ocean management strategy developed.	0 (August 2021)	0	1	JP Reporting	UNDP

<sup>26</sup> The baseline is not available disaggregated by gender and age group, but the target will be disaggregated accordingly.

<sup>27</sup> The baseline is not available disaggregated by gender and age group, but the target will be disaggregated accordingly.

<sup>28</sup> These include coastal fisheries, offshore fisheries, marine tourism and marine conservation.

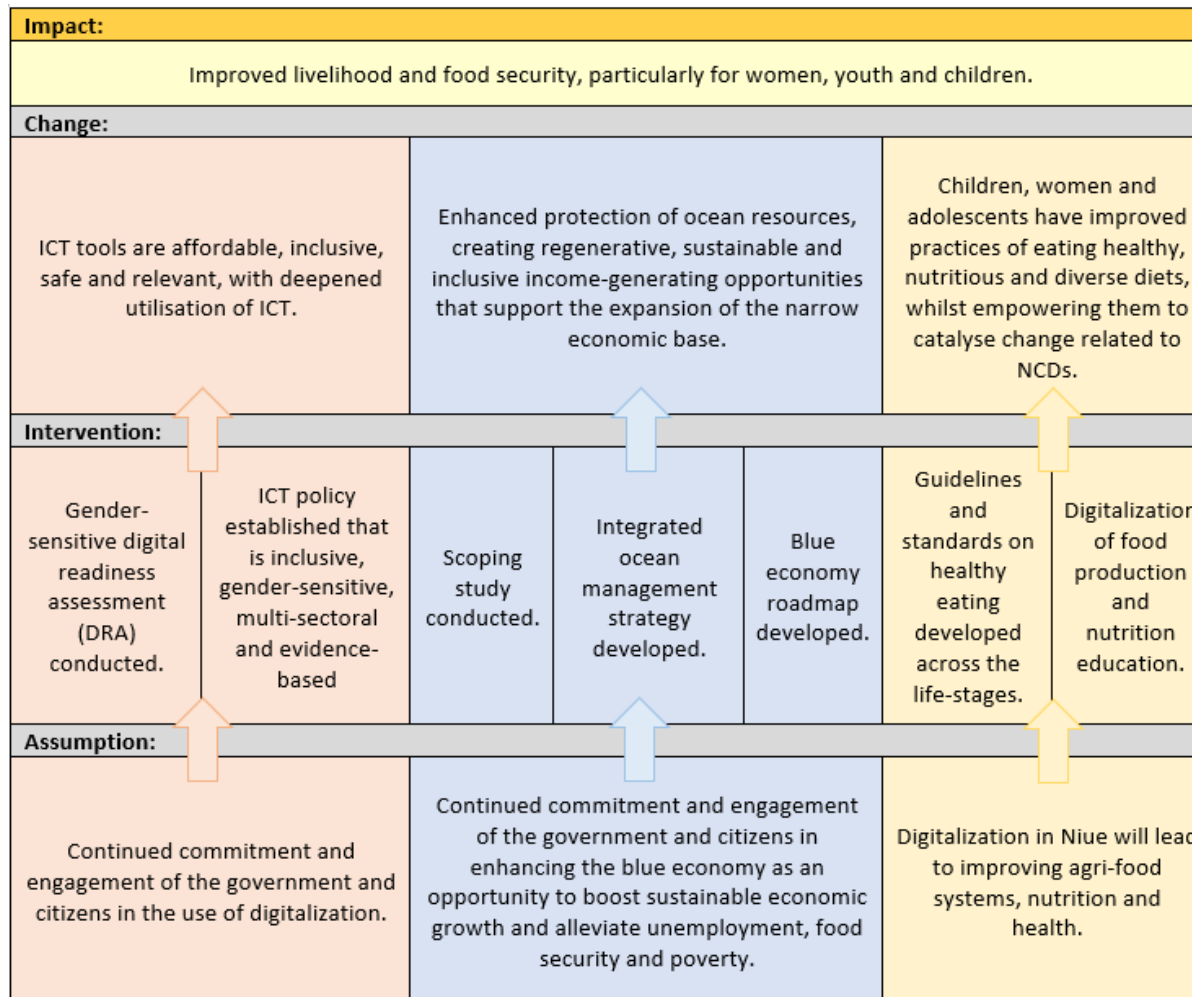


Output 3: Digital tools are developed for agri-food systems and nutrition.					
Output indicator 3.1: gender sensitive national food based dietary guidelines developed, digitalized and implemented.	0 (August 2021)	0	1	JP Reporting	FAO
Output indicator 3.2: Policy and advocacy briefs are produced and disseminated to help Niue in setting out status of overweight and obesity in children, drivers, gaps, opportunities and barriers to policy and program implementation	0 (August 2021)	0	1	JP Reporting	UNICEF
Output indicator 3.3: High Impact Nutrition Intervention (HINI) framework is developed and endorsed for implementation.	0 (August 2021)	0	1	JP Reporting	UNICEF
Output indicator 3.4: Healthy recipe developed, digitized and	0 (August 2021)	1	1	JP reporting	UNICEF

promoted to children, adolescents (boys and girls) and women and men.					
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Goal	Target	Indicator	Expected progress by the end of the JP
2	2.1	<b>2.1.1:</b> Prevalence of undernourishment	Decreased prevalence of obesity among adult men and women
		<b>2.1.2:</b> Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Decreased prevalence of food security
	2.2	<b>2.2.2:</b> Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Decreased incidence of overweight and obesity
8	8.5	<b>8.5.2:</b> Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Decreased unemployment rate among men, women, youth and PWDs
10	10.2	<b>10.2.1:</b> Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	Increased income level of the poorest households
14	14.2	<b>14.2.1:</b> Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches	Increased proportion of Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area managed using EBA

### Annex 3. Theory of Change graphic



## Annex 4. Gender marker matrix

Indicator		Score	Findings and Explanation	Evidence or Means of Verification
N°	Formulation			
1.1	Context analysis integrates gender analysis	<b>3</b>	<p>Existing policy analysis indicates clearly that there is widespread malnutrition, with the prevalence of adult obesity for women/men is 55/44%; and overweight in school-age children and adolescents is 60% (WHO, 2016).</p> <p>The context analysis completed by incorporating gender issues especially access to in ICT sector, highlighted the gender gap in the ICT for Asia Pacific region and the analysis mentioned gender gap in ICT as one of the key challenges for attaining sustainable ICT for all in Niue.</p> <p>The highlighted the linkages to agricultural production with health outcomes plus linkages between good policies for food consumption for men, women and children and these challenges have resulted into poor health outcomes more especially for women and children for example high cases of malnutrition among children and obesity</p>	<p>By reviewing existing policy analysis Niue National Strategic Plan 2016-26:</p> <p><a href="https://itu.foleon.com/itu/measuring-digital-development/gender-gap/">https://itu.foleon.com/itu/measuring-digital-development/gender-gap/</a></p> <p>International Communication Union (ITU). (2021). Digital Trends in Asia and the Pacific 2021:</p> <p>WHO-GHO 2019 Agriculture Census of 2009,</p>

		<p>among children and women according to the WHO-GHO report.</p> <p>The gender analysis highlights gender gaps in education, political participation, participation in formal and informal sectors and high cases of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls, health sector issues of access to reproductive health by youths and women, and this information is disaggregated by sex. In addition, gender stereotypes hinder women's participation in key professional jobs and inadequate capacities on mainstreaming gender by government staff. The analysis further highlights the challenge of female headed households especially with access to income and this information is disaggregated by sex.</p> <p>The analysis highlights the issues that affect female and male youth especially migration, inadequate skills, limited access to employment in private and government sectors and lack of interest of youth in other sectors of the economy like agriculture, handcrafts and other income generating activities.</p> <p>The analysis also discusses issues affecting People with Disability and Older persons</p>	
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			<p>especially limited access to basic social services and inadequate data on the PWD and Older persons.</p> <p>gender analysis has been enhanced with the comments from the assessor to include, gender and marine resource management, women’s participation in agriculture sector, gender labor participation in the private sector, youth migration, social protection for the elderly,</p>	
1.2	Gender Equality mainstreamed in proposed outputs	2	<p>Gender has been mainstreamed in the proposed outputs and the proposed JP aims to accelerate SDG achievement through integrated multi-sectoral policy and strengthening the enabling environment for gender- responsive post-COVID recovery and resilience building through the following strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Development of a gender- sensitive digital readiness assessment (DRA) and a national ICT policy</li> <li>II. An inclusive and gender-responsive Intengrated Ocean Management Strategy</li> <li>III. Inclusive frameworks for nutrition across the life-stages</li> </ol> <p>This section has been strengthened ensuring gender is mainstreamed in all the outputs.</p>	<p>By reviewing existing policy analysis</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>End of project report and evaluation</p> <p>SDG reports mechanism such as VNR reporting by the countries</p>

1.3	Programme output indicators measure changes on gender equality	2	The proposed project output indicators include specific indicators that measure changes in gender equality and women's empowerment in the women's and children health outcomes with a focus on the programme's intention to improve the agri-food systems value chain, nutrition, health and the environment, resulting to better wellbeing for women and children.	By reviewing existing policy analysis Regular M& E JP reports
2.1	PUNOs collaborate and engage with Government on gender equality and the empowerment of women	2	The JP was developed in partnership with UNICEF, FAO and UNDP, who engaged in a dialogue with the Government of Niue through a consultative approach that was carried out to define and integrate the country's priorities during the framing of the Expression of Interest, as well as in the development of the JP Project Document. The Ministry of Social Services, Department of Health and other key government departments and CSOs are part of the integrated SDG policy solution interventions. The project builds on the existing functional partnership of the PUNOs with the ministries of health, education and agriculture, centred on a shared focus on gender.	By reviewing the project document Regular JP M&E reports Agendas and minutes of regular SC and TC meetings
2.2	PUNOs collaborate and engage with women's/gender equality CSOs	2	This project proposes to work with civil society groups, private sector, and nutrition and health centers. These constituencies have a strong focus on gender.	Number of consultations with GEWE CSOs

				Meeting minutes with the private sector and Government entities
3.1	Program proposes a gender-responsive budget	3	<p>Given that the proposal was developed with the principle of leaving no one behind, focusing on SDG5 and mainstreaming women’s empowerment across all the outputs and M&amp;E indicators will help track the gender related results of the JP outcomes.</p> <p>More than 40% of the budget addresses nutrition for women and children.</p> <p>Activity 1.1 and 2.1 will contribute at least 30% of the budget toward GEWE the focus is on mainstreaming gender into the ITC policy and marine ocean management while activity 3.1 to 3.5 will contribute 40% of the budget towards GEWE, if women, men and children have good nutrition, it will lead to better health outcomes, children will perform better in school, women and men will be healthy and get time to engage in productive and reproductive activities and male involvement is key in the process especially awareness creation for better gender equality outcomes</p>	<p>40% on the health sector programming will be go to women and children given that they are the most vulnerable as per the situation analysis of WHO report.</p> <p>activity 1.1 and 1.2 will contribute at least 30% of the budget towards GEWE the focus is on mainstreaming gender into the ITC policy and marine ocean management, while activity 3.1 to 3.5 will contribute to 40% of the budget towards GEWE, if women and children will have good nutrition, it will lead to better health outcomes, children will perform better in school, women and men will be healthy and get time to engage in productive and reproductive activities and male involvement is key in the process especially awareness creation for better gender equality outcomes.</p>
<b>Total scoring</b>		2.3		



## Annex 5. Budget and Work Plan

### 5.1 Budget per UNSDG categories

UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES	PUNO 1 (FAO)		PUNO 2 (UNDP)		PUNO 3 (UNICEF)		PUNO 4		TOTAL	
	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contribution (USD)
1. Staff and other personnel	50,000	150,000	0	59,083	30,000		0		80,000	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	31,280		0		7,500	0	38,780			
Consultation and training Workshops	0		0		0	0	0			
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	0		0		0	0	0			
4. Contractual services	114,666		110,000		52,686	0	277,352			
5. Travel	20,000		7,000		7,500	0	34,500			
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	0		33,000		40,000	0	73,000			
7. General Operating and other Direct Costs	8,041		10,500		2,500	0	21,041			
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	<b>223,987</b>				<b>160,500</b>		<b>140,186</b>		-	

8. Indirect Support Costs (Max. 7%)	15,679		11,235		9,813		-		36,727	
<b>TOTAL Costs</b>	<b>239,666</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>171,735</b>	<b>59,083</b>	<b>149,999</b>		-		<b>561,400</b>	<b>209,083</b>
<b>1st year</b>	<b>119,833</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>85,868</b>	<b>29,542</b>	<b>74,999</b>				<b>280,700</b>	<b>104,542</b>
<b>2nd year</b>	<b>119,833</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>85,867</b>	<b>29,542</b>	<b>75,000</b>				<b>280,700</b>	<b>104,542</b>
<b>Budget Notes</b>	GoE and DPC refers to M&E and Comms		GoE and DPC refers to M&E and Comms	Provided as an in-kind contribution only, including 5% M&E and Comms allocation	GoE and DPC refers to M&E and Comms					

Normally, more than twice this budget would be required to “excellently” achieve the goals of this project - but thanks to the various partnerships that are built - the current budget will be optimized to still deliver the planned results. This is the strength of this SDG joint proposal.

**5.2 Budget per SDG targets**

SDGs	SDG TARGETS	%	USD
SDG 2	2.1. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	26	200,000
	2.2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	43	330,000
SDG 9	9.c. Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries.	12	97,075
SDG 10	10.2. By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	2	13,408
SDG 14	14.2. Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	17	130,000
TOTAL		100	770,483

The SDG targets and the associated budgets are perfectly aligned. The prevalence of diet related diseases in Niue justifies the allocation of more than 50% of the budget to advancing SDG 2.

### 5.3 Work plan

Outcome 1		By 2024, food and livelihood security in Niue is enhanced through a ridge-to-reef approach, particularly for women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups.																	
Output	Annual target/s		List of activities	Time frame								PLANNED BUDGET				PUN O/s involved	Implementing partner/s involved		
	2022	2023		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Overall budget description	Joint SDG Fund (USD)	PUNO Contributions (USD)	Total Cost (USD)				
Output 1: Gender responsive national ICT is policy developed.	93,205	-	Activity 1.1. Consult and conduct a Digital Readiness Assessment and develop a DRA-informed gender responsive national ICT policy.											Consultation and training Workshops	10,000	0	10,000	UNDP	ITU, Ministry of Infrastructure (ICT Committee), NIDC
				X	X	X	X							Contractual services	35,000	0	35,000		
														Travel	5,000	0	5,000		
														General Operating and other Direct Costs (incl. 3.8% M&E and Comms)	3,500	39,705	43,205		

Output 2: Gender sensitive National Integrated Ocean Management Strategy is developed.	99,838.62	26,539.38	Activity 2.1. Consult and conduct a gender sensitive scoping study of Niue's multisectoral ocean economy and develop an inclusive, evidence-based Niue's Integrated Ocean Management Strategy, inclusive of a roadmap with a clear action plan and implementation strategy.		X	X	X	X	X						Consultation and training Workshops	8,000	0	<b>8,000</b>	UNDP	MNR, Tofia Niue, Blue Nature Alliance, Niue Chamber of Commerce, private sector	
Output 3: Digital tools are developed for agri-food systems and nutrition.	35,186		Activity 3.1. consult and complete a policy and Program Review on Nutrition across the life stages	X	X	X	X							Recruitment of expert/firm, Desk review, stakeholder consultations, drafting and validation - as necessary	35,186	0	<b>35,186</b>	UNICEF			Niue Department of Health
														Contractual services	75,000	0	<b>75,000</b>				
														Travel	2,000		<b>2,000</b>				
														Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	15,000	0	<b>15,000</b>				
														General Operating and other Direct Costs (incl. 6.5% M&E and Comms)	7,000	19,378	<b>26,378</b>				

		and develop policy and advocacy briefs														
20,000	10,000	Activity 3.2. Consult and develop a High Impact Nutrition Intervention Framework			x	x	x	x			Desk review, Recruitment of expert/firm, Stakeholder consultations, drafting and endorsement	30,000	0	<b>30,000</b>	UNICEF	Niue Department of Health and Department of Education
	40,000	Activity 3.3. Consult and support the implementation of HINI					x	x	x	x	Transfers and Grants to Ministry, Training and other support monitoring of activities	40,000	0	<b>40,000</b>	UNICEF	Niue Department of Health
15,000	20,000	Activity 3.4. Consult and promote healthy diets through interpersonal communication, use of social and mass media including through			x	x	x	x	x	x	Development of recipes, digitization and promotion through social media, mass media (Television ) and Interpersonal communication	35,000	0	<b>35,000</b>	UNICEF	Media, Pacific Kids Food Revolution, Niue Department of Health

		recipe digitization.										n , using MoH channels					
50,000	30,663	Activity 3.5. Undertake consultations to produce and digitalize guidance on agri-food systems, value-addition and extension services.	x	x	x	X						Consultations over the power of digitalization to catalize agri-food systems, development and implementatin of an e-agriculture strategy, development and roll our of an app for agri-food systes	80,663	50,000	<b>130,663</b>	FAO	Niue Department of Health, DAFF
50,000	30,692	3.6. Undertake consultations to develop and digitalize guidance on nutrition education information and services.			x	x	X					Consultations over the power of digitalization to catalize nutrition, development and roll out of a digital app for nutrition education	80,692	50,000	<b>130,692</b>	FAO	Niue Department of Health, DAFF

	20,000	20,270	3.7. Digitize and support the implementation of the national food based dietary guidelines.	X	X	X	X	x	x	x	x	Roll out of the nutrition strategy developed by MoH and FAO via implementation in schools, hospitals, etc...	40,270	50,000	<b>90,270</b>	FAO	Niue Department of Health, DAFF
	20,000	10,000	3.8 Conduct an awareness campaign.			x	x	x	x	x	x	Educational campaigns focused on promoting the developed apps	30,000	0	<b>30,000</b>	FAO	Media
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E):</b> Monitoring is integrated in the project activities as ongoing. Evaluation will be at the end of year 2. The budget is part of direct costs because we believe that the M&E cannot be divorced from the project activities.																	

## Annex 6. Risk Management Plan

The following potential risks faced by this Joint Programme have been identified as the following:

- Global or domestic climate, economic, and / or fiscal shocks that will divert government and PUNO attention and priority away from the Joint Programme (context risk)
- COVID-19 poses massive risks in terms of quality and timeliness of delivery, considering impact on the effectiveness of various implementation activities.
- Unintended effects on costs and prices, project cost over-runs, and misutilization of funds or resource capture at national or sub-national levels (fiduciary risk)



The contextual risk of a global or domestic climate, economic or fiscal shock is calculated to be a medium risk. The impact of the risk would be that PUNO and government attention would be diverted away from the implementation of the Joint Programme. In the event of this happening, mitigation measures will include discussions and negotiations with government and implementing partners on flexibility of implementation as well as include an assessment and potential revisions to the programme in response to any such changes in the implementing environment.

The programmatic risks are deemed to be low-level risks. Mitigating measures have been integrated into the implementation of the programme in two main ways. First, the risk of opposition or manipulation of the programme by vested interest groups will be reduced as a way to ensure political commitment to the programme, and numerous stakeholders will be involved in the consultations during programme implementation.

The potential fiduciary risk relates to unintended effects on costs and prices, project cost over-runs, and misutilization of funds or resource capture at national or sub-national levels. This is deemed to be a low risk. This will be mitigated by the development and implementation of careful financial planning, milestones, and reporting in order to ensure financial accountability and accurate expenditure throughout the programme. A programme coordinator will also be put in place to oversee the implementation of the JP.

The programme would be implemented bearing in mind UN principles related to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and will also assess and document the levels of risk throughout the programme implementation at the end of Year 1 in order to evaluate and revise the risks and mitigation strategy as appropriate.

Risks	Risk Level:  (Likelihood x Impact)	Likelihood:  Certain - 5 Likely - 4 Possible - 3 Unlikely - 2 Rare - 1	Impact:  Essential - 5 Major - 4 Moderate - 3 Minor - 2 Insignificant - 1	Mitigating measures	Responsible Org./Person
Contextual risks					
Global or domestic climate, economic and/or fiscal shocks will divert government and PUNO attention and priority away from the JP.	Medium	2	3	Discussions and negotiations with government and implementing partners on flexibility of implementation. Assessment and revisions of the	FAO, UNICEF, UNDP

				programme in response to any relevant changes in the implementing environment.	
Health risk of COVID-19	High	4	4	Discussions and negotiations with government and implementing partners on flexibility of implementation.	FAO, UNICEF, UNDP
Programmatic risks					
Political opposition, coordination gaps and overlaps in mandates and programs.	Low	1	2	<p>Working in partnership with government; establishment of a high-level steering committee and technical committee.</p> <p>Regular review of the Project in light of what it can achieve within the 24-month timeframe.</p> <p>Regular reporting to the RCO as focal point of Government counterparts.</p>	FAO, UNICEF, UNDP
Institutional risks					
Mis-coordination and lack of effective cooperation between PUNOs for the implementation of the JP	Medium	3	2	Project Coordinator to be appointed by Lead Agency to serve as liaison between PUNOs.	FAO, UNICEF, UNDP

				<p>Ongoing communication and joint programming of activities in the field and ensure JP messaging consistent across PUNOs.</p> <p>Ensure regular involvement of RCO throughout for support in high-level coordination and cooperation between JPs.</p>	
Fiduciary risks					
<p>Unintended effects on costs and prices, project cost over-runs, misutilization of funds or resource capture at national or sub-national levels.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>Careful financial planning, milestones and reporting developed to ensure financial accountability and accurate expenditure throughout the programme. Programme manager in place to oversee the functioning of the JP.</p>	<p>FAO, UNICEF, UNDP</p>