



Joint Programme 2023 Annual Progress Report

Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Tokelau

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2023

JP title: Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation; Transforming education; Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;

Gender Marker: Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

Engine Room Activities: Shift in policy and regulatory frameworks; Building capacity at scale;

Total estimated expenditures: USD \$167,039.35

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): \$148,869.00

Executive Summary

The Tokelau government has proceeded with the development of the Early Childhood Education Policy with a costed implementation plan and setting up of ECD multisectoral coordination mechanisms. Initially the ECD policy was intended as an addendum to their social protection framework, however it was decided to make it a standalone policy. This was to ensure complete focus on multisectoral ECD, involving multiple departments collaborating to ensure development outcomes for all young children of Tokelau. The Department of Education working together with relevant departments, leads the work with the support of a national ECD coordinator providing technical support. The work will also establish a multisectoral coordination mechanism to enhance the ECD policy development and implementation. The ECD Policy will be completed by end of the programme in September 2024.

Raising an educated, skillful and healthy population of young people in Tokelau through the Government commitment in ECD is enhanced by adequate availability of natural and nutritious food. Recognising the need by the Government for prioritise food security and nutrition through sustainable agriculture, this JP enabled the establishment of Community Vegetable Gardens in Fakaofu, Nukunonu and Atafu. The vegetable garden initiative in turn strengthens and improve agriculture productivity and resilience of households in the communities and to raise awareness on the value of nutrition. The vegetable garden subsidises reliance on imported food and minimise the impact on food, fuel and prices due to global crisis.

The vegetable garden initiative is enhanced by the Atoll Ecosystems and Oceans Management Strategy as the foundation for resilient systems for health, nutrition and food security, also being developed under this JP. The atoll ecosystems and ocean management strategy takes a gender sensitive and sustainable approach at the same it integrates traditional and intergenerational knowledge in the mapping of the ecosystems and social resilience interface for Tokelau. This strategy aims to be completed before the programme ends in 2024.

The three key results of the JP aligned to contribute to achieving Outcome 2: People, of the UN Pacific Cooperation Framework that envisions 'more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition, and social protection systems, by 2027. Output 1 and 2 are aligned with Goal 3 of the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2016-2020 - Strengthen the health and cultural vibrancy of Tokelays people to support human development and improved well being and Output 3 resonates with namely Goal 4: Sustainability: SS1 Economic sustainability for Tokelau into the future and Goal 5: Climate change: CC1- A well maintained and managed environment for Tokelau and CC2- Resilience to the impacts of climate change and related hazards. It also contributes to the fulfilment of SDG 1,2, and 12.

Annual Progress

Overall progress against 3 key results in 2023:

- Provision of technical support has enabled the development of the Standalone multisectoral national ECD policy, shifting from addressing ECD only through social protection framework. This shift in policy framework is critical for Tokelau. As ECD refers to holistic development of children across health, nutrition, education, social protection and safety, a multisectoral ECD policy is most relevant. This shift in approach to giving ECD priority, creates room to change national budgets to ensure ECD investments are made across all sectors.
- FAO in liaising with EDNRE continues to support vegetable gardens for each atoll. This included shipment of inputs for the vegetable gardens from Samoa to each atoll and consultations with Council of Elders in each atoll. Construction of the vegetable gardens are continuing with initial work in Fakaofu completed. Seedling were raised and planted for cabbages, tomatoes and cucumber in November/December and matured vegetables harvested during January and distributed to the community elders. Work is in progress for Nukunonu and Atafu and gardens expected to be completed as per workplan during the first quarter of 2024. A joint mission planned with UNICEF will provide the opportunity for FAO to support the work on the ground and conduct trainings.

- To date the inception workshop and preliminary consultation/data collection with key Tokelau Government counterparts were conducted in Samoa and then this was followed by the in-country mission to Tokelau to conduct consultations to conduct community stakeholder consultations on the atolls of Fakaofo, Atafu and Nukunonu. As a result of workshops and community consultation a draft Sustainable Blue economy roadmap and action plan has been developed and the identification and mapping of resilient blue economy initiatives for each atoll communities has also been completed. A final validation mission is planned for the Quarter 1 to be conducted with FAO/UNICEF planned mission.

Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:

- Tokelau recently opened its borders with COVID-19 outbreak which has caused minor delays as well as Government reprioritizing its efforts towards containment.
- Some delay in launching of the Joint Programme due to competing priorities of the Government. Second half of 2022 was quite busy for government stakeholders due to budget planning and formulation for next fiscal year. The Joint Programme was launched in Quarter 3 of 2022.
- Operational issues earlier on also hindered implementation such as recruitment of technical assistance.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

Gender Marker and activities undertook for gender equality

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services); Policy dialogues, advocacy (e.g. direct inputs to national policies, strategies, laws, including women's and girls' rights groups in coordination mechanisms);

SDG Transitions Acceleration

- The ECD policy-tool promotes integrated policies planning and financing, which is inclusive, gender-responsive, and ensures no child is left behind. This policy has multi-sectorial contributions across various SDGs, specifically SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 17. For instance, the ECD coordination mechanism brings stakeholders from various sectors together, such as health, education, nutrition, social protection, WASH, child protection, planning, and finance.
- The vegetable garden initiative supports the domestic food production for food security. The coordination involves households, youths, women groups, students. The initiative improves agriculture production and resilience, and healthy diets.
- Sustainable Blue economy roadmap and action plan will provide Tokelau with the tools to accelerate progress in achieving specifically SDG target 14.2 and 14.7, with strong potential for transformative change. As a result, it will strengthen equal access to economic and natural resources for enhanced food and nutrition security (SDGs 1, 2 and 5), including for women, youths and PWD, which through a gender lens will integrate focus areas on women's reef gleaning.

Annual Reporting on Results

Exit strategy, scaling, sustainability and next steps

UNICEF: The Tokelau Government is committed to implement multisectoral ECD programming across the country and once the policy is in place Government will undertake implementation. There is strong demand for multisectoral ECD in Tokelau which was reflected Government advocating for a standalone ECD policy which will then enable them to have budget for ECD. The national ECD coordinator, though currently supported through the JP funding will continue beyond the JP and this post will be absorbed by Department of Education. The multisectoral coordination mechanism which is being set up with representations from all key ministries will continue to function and supported by national ECD coordinator and this coordination mechanism will continue to support policy implementation. UNICEF Education and ECD programme have partnership with Tokelau Government and the work on ECD will also be supported further through that partnership.

Sustaining the vegetable gardens will become a community commitment and ecosystems and oceans management will be better managed with the availability of the Oceans Management Strategy.

Measuring and reporting on impact

n/a

Overview of progress toward Financial Instrument(s)

Completed transactions

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

Multi-stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder groups you closely partner with, as part of your JP approach

National Government; Civil Society Organizations; Sub-national Governments;

Brief description of the nature of engagement. Outline the main outcomes and achievements resulting from the partnerships.

The Government and CSO partners are the national implementing partners.

One of the key achievements is the convening of the consultations and workshops at the government and community levels.

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders

Financial leverage

Financial resources leveraged

n/a

Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event
No, but planned in late 2024	Yes, in 2023

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events for the above question.

The RCO has yet to organize the Steering Committee meeting for the SIDS Joint Programmes.

JP contribution to SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy,	Produced financing, costing,	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the	Improved effectiveness (value for	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or	Structured new financial
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and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	management of programmes/schemes	money; i.e. social impact of \$1 spent) of spending	developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No	No	No	No	No

Briefly explain how and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
No	No	No	No

Provide any other comments or descriptions on how your JP contributed to cross-cutting issues and principles.

Beneficiaries

Number of beneficiaries

200

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number
50	20	30	0

Please briefly explain how people benefited from the joint programme

The number of beneficiaries reported here include government officials and service providers and people from the 3 atoll islands of Tokelau. The government officials and service delivery benefitted immediately with through consultations and workshops where their capacities and knowledge were enhanced and able to conceptualise policies that contribute to safeguarding their ocean resources and maximizing livelihood support from ocean resources.

With over 100 people that were part of the Consultations on the development of the Blue Economy Roadmap led by UNDP have been exposed to the knowledge of risks to their marine and coastal environments and they had the

opportunity to input sharing their cultural experiences and knowledge to design a more relevant roadmap.

These are the same communities consulted on the Tokelau vegetable garden projects led by FAO and have become educated on adequate supply of nutritious food on an atoll with limited conditions.

The key officials involved in the UNICEF ECD consultations and programmes have benefited in knowledge and capacity strengthening to roll out a child development initiatives that encompasses all factors including nutrition, health, and education.

Did your JP support the localization of SDGs by moving SDG actions to the local level and enhancing abilities of local and regional governments to promote the SDGs?

Provide information of how your JP supported localization of the SDGs as outlined above:

Communications

Voices from the field

Tokelau's Minister for Health and Finance, Alapati Tavite highlighted how his government's priorities cover multiple sectors.

"While the priority interventions in this joint programme focus on nutrition, programmes in other sectors like agriculture, social welfare, early child development, and schooling are envisioned to address several underlying determinants of nutrition," said Mr. Tavite.

"An additional focus on the atoll system and ocean management will strengthen equal access to economic and natural resources for enhanced food and nutrition security. That's what this workshop focuses on – the latter part of this work." Tokelau's Minister for Health and Finance, Hon. Alapati Tavite

Declaration

We hereby confirm that the information provided in this update is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the Joint Programme.