

<b>Programme Title:</b>	Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach
<b>Country:</b>	Fiji and Vanuatu

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## II. Programme summary

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**Programme title:**

Engaging Youth in Fiji and Vanuatu in Organic Farming: A Farm to Table Chain Approach

**Sectorial area of intervention and policy objectives**

Inclusive economic growth for poverty eradication

    Create opportunities for decent jobs and secure livelihoods.

    Create better government policies and fair and accountable public institutions.

    Promote inclusive and sustainable business practices.

**Joint programme summary:**

The Joint Programme has the following objectives:

- Create employment opportunities for youth in organic agriculture through a value chain approach and public private partnerships within the key economic sectors of agriculture and tourism.
- Share information and knowledge from Samoa across the Pacific region to facilitate synergies that will

increase employment opportunities for youth within organic agriculture value chains

To achieve the above objectives, the JP will focus on:

a) Promotions of linkages in the tourism and agriculture productive sectors seems to offer the best opportunities for inclusive economic growth in several PICs that will help create economic opportunities; build resilience in rural communities; and improve sustainable development in both sectors. Though agriculture remains for most PICs population the main source of livelihood, its contribution to economic value added chain has generally declined over the last decade, whereas the tourism sector has seen significant growth. Reinforcing linkages and developing synergies between tourism and agriculture should help to achieve the objectives of sustained and equitable growth.

b) Investing in organic agriculture could increase PICs food self-reliance and therefore, contribute to reducing the trend of dependency on food imports, as well as improving nutrition. Worldwide, organic agriculture is growing and the increasing consumer demand for organic commodities provides a viable opportunity for PICs farmers and processors to benefit from this growing international market. Traditional farming practices in Fiji and Vanuatu are very much in line with organic agriculture practices and many communities still have agriculture systems based on “age-old” practices. These methods ensure environmental integrity and for this products to be exportable as “organic” they have to be certified. Organic agriculture provides important opportunities for PICs to export to niche markets a number of high-value, low volume crops, allowing them to enhance economic sustainability.

c) Innovative and South-South Cooperation: A South-South Cooperation approach will be a component of the JP implementation. The programme will benefit from the global perspective of UN agencies, and access to best practices and lessons learned available through UN networks.

d) Partnerships: The JP will combine the different strengths and technical capacities of the UN agencies in Fiji and Vanuatu to deliver as ‘One-UN’. Partnering UN agencies will include UNDP and IFAD.

ii. The JP will be implemented in close collaboration with the line ministries of the Fiji and Vanuatu governments. The partnership approach to the programme delivery will be completed with the addition of substantial local expertise from selected well-established civil society and private sector organisations.

e) Key activities

- Scope, identify and motivate youth in agriculture
- Design and organise production training on specific organic crops
- Develop production plans to service local and export organic crop demand
- Provide on-going extension, quality control and monitoring support to farmers
- Identify and broker agreements with hotels/restaurants, supermarkets/ wholesalers and food processors/food exporters for supply requirements
- Establish skills database with national youth councils, of youth trained and certified as organic producers and match with demand from restaurants/resorts and wholesalers/ supermarkets
- Build the capacity of civil society organisations (FRIEND, FSA) to establish and maintain a shared database of youth trained and certified as organic producers, using communications technology to facilitate more accurate information on supply and market demand from restaurants/ resorts and wholesalers/ supermarkets and to coordinate market information on pricing, demand, supply and new product research
- Establish supply chain from farm to table with relevant organisations and logistics supports
- Promote and showcase niche organic produce in various local and regional events / conferences

**Duration:**

Sunday, November 1, 2015 to Wednesday, February 28, 2018

**UN Lead Agency:**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**UN Participating Organizations:**

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Local Partners:**

Fiji:

Ministry of Youth and Sports

Ministry of Agriculture

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com)

Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND)

Fiji National Youth Council

Fiji Hotel and Tourism Association

Vanuatu:

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-security sectors

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Youth

Farmers Support Association (FSA),

Vanuatu National Youth Council

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POET Com)

### III. Programme budget

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**Total amount requested from the SDG-F:**

1 000 000.00

**Total contribution through matching funds:**

1 540 000.00

Aggregate amount requested and broken down by Agency:

**Name of Agency:**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

**Amount:**

1 000 000.00

Aggregate matching funds amounts and broken down by source:

**Short explanation of strategy:**

Fiji:

The Government of Fiji's Ministry of Youth has been actively engaging development partners in youth development and are keen to support initiatives on rural youth employment. The on-going programme of IFAD in collaboration with POETComm to build capacity of young farmers in organic agriculture for climate resilience will complement the proposed "Farm to Table" project and will help in using its resources but also assist in mobilizing additional resources.

Vanuatu:

The Government of Vanuatu's Ministry of Agriculture recently launched a new Agriculture policy with special emphasis on organic farming and rural youth. The Ministry is keen to support resource mobilization for the Farm to Table initiative as it is one of the key mandates. Additionally, UNDP is in discussion with key stakeholders of the recently concluded Vanuatu Community Resilience Project to extend and enhance

its impact by including Food to Table (F2T) initiative. It is anticipated these strategies, including the recovery plan for post cyclone initiatives will help in the required resource mobilization.

<b>Name of source:</b> IFAD	<b>Amount:</b> 1 000 000.00
<b>Name of source:</b> EU	<b>Amount:</b> 440 000.00
<b>Name of source:</b> UNDP	<b>Amount:</b> 100 000.00

#### Aggregate amount requested and broken down by UNDG Harmonized Budget Category

	<b>SDG-F Budget</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
<b>Staff and other personnel costs</b>	115 000.00	620 000.00
<b>Supplies, Commodities, Materials</b>	246 000.00	60 000.00
<b>Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation</b>	136 000.00	70 000.00
<b>Contractual services</b>	279 000.00	310 000.00
<b>Travel</b>	92 000.00	110 000.00
<b>Transfers and Grants Counterparts</b>		
<b>General Operating and Other Direct Costs</b>	62 000.00	370 000.00
<b>Total Programme Costs</b>		
<b>Indirect support costs (not to exceed 7%)</b>	70 000.00	
<b>Grand TOTAL</b>	<b>1 000 000.00</b>	<b>1 540 000.00</b>

## IV. Programme description

### Background and rationale:

While highly diversified, Pacific Island Countries (PICs) share common challenges that impede their efforts to achieve balanced economic growth and sustainable food security. Major constraints comprise small size, geographic dispersion, vulnerability to natural hazards and vulnerability to external economic conditions. The Pacific Region is facing many region-wide challenges, including the impact of climate change, a pressing need to generate livelihoods and populations that are more and more consuming imported, highly refined foods, accompanied by decreased local food production and consumption. The consequences are an imminent public health crisis and risks of environmental collapse.

### Problems to address

Youth Unemployment in the Pacific Young people make up a significant proportion of Pacific society, and more than half of the population is under the age of 25. At least one in five people are 'youth' by the narrow UN definition of 15-24 years old, and youths comprise one third of the adult working population (DESA, 2012, UNICEF and SPC, 2011). Average youth unemployment rates in the Pacific are very high at 23% (ILO, 2013) compared to a global average of 12.6%. Young people in the region are 6 times less likely to secure jobs than older workers (ILO, 2013). Youth unemployment rates range from 62% in RMI, 46% in

Solomon Islands and 8.9% in Vanuatu. (SPC). For young men in the Pacific, the unemployment challenge is especially severe. With slow economic growth, and the increasing youth population in the Pacific, a high dependency ratio has been created contributing to enormous burdens on the relatively small economies of the Pacific (SPC, 2011).

Some hard facts on Youth:

Fiji:

- Each year over 17,000 new entrants join the labour market, of which approximately 10,000 are mainly secondary school leavers.
- Of the 30,000 people registered at the National Employment Centre, slightly more than 1,000 are degree holders, and 11,000 have some form of Tertiary qualification. (Fiji Times 2014).
- In 2012 youths not in the labour force comprised of 44.3%, i.e 156,692 (total youth population of 353,444). 59.6% of unemployed youths were female.
- More than 40% of the unemployed youth had been unemployed for three years or longer (Fiji Times May17, 2012 quoting Ministry of Youth and Sports)
- Of the 1,493 offenders admitted in Fiji prison, approximately 50% are made up of youth population. (Fiji Live March 03, 2014)
- Of the 493 cases of Latest HIV/AIDS figures and 1,741 sexually transmitted diseases, the majority of victims are youth. (Fiji live March 03, 2014)
- Violence in schools, including sexual related violence and bullying increased from 188 to 287 between 2009 and 2011.

Vanuatu:

- Majority of the population is very young, with 43% under 15 years of age.
- Education system is producing around five times more school leavers than the number of jobs available annually.
- Government estimates show that less than 700 new jobs are created while close to 3,500 students leave school each year, thus leaving 2,800 without jobs. Should the formal sector absorb these new entrants, employment would have to grow at more than 10 per cent per year.
- The three key policy areas of intervention in the existing national youth policy were educational and entrepreneurial pathways, personal development and public participation.

Agriculture sector – as a career option for youths

While Youth Unemployment is increasing, Agriculture Production is decreasing. The Pacific is facing an aging farming population. The average age of a Pacific farmer is around 55 years.

Agriculture is not being seen as a viable career option and is often viewed as the job for ‘drop outs’. The Pacific Youth and Agriculture Strategy noted that when surveyed, students and youth who lived in urban areas were more inclined to use words like ‘dirty job’, ‘embarrassment’, ‘shame’, in their answers when asked to share their views of why young people did not engage in agriculture. The views of those living in rural areas on why young people were not taking up agricultural activities indicated lack of access and support from their enabling environment. These are perceptions of youths in the Pacific, in an environment where unemployment and underemployment, urban drift and associated social issues and lack of livelihoods opportunities are key issues.

Linking Youth to Productive Sectors in the Pacific

The two productive sectors of agriculture and tourism seem to offer the best opportunities for inclusive economic growth in several Pacific Island Countries and therefore the promotion of linkages between tourism and agriculture should help create economic opportunities; build resilience in rural communities; and improve sustainable development in both sectors. In spite of the fact that agriculture remains for most

countries in the region the main source of livelihood for the majority of the population, its contribution to economic value adding has generally declined over the last decade, whereas the tourism sector has seen significant growth. It has become the “life blood” for several of the small island fragile economies. Policy makers face a double-sided challenge, which is to ensure that tourism growth is sustainable and that the benefits produced from increased visitor numbers are maximized in country value-added and that any increased wealth is shared with poorer rural communities.

Reinforcing linkages between agriculture and developing synergies between tourism and agriculture should help to achieve the objectives of sustained and equitable growth. Nonetheless, it is important to ensure that interactions between tourism and agriculture result in synergies which are mutually reinforcing and not in competition for key productive resources.

#### Joint Programme’s linkages to regional/national initiatives

The Pacific Youth and Agriculture Strategy noted that for young people to see agriculture as a viable career option, the rewards that agricultural enterprises can generate to meet individual, family and community needs must be emphasised. Promotion of the principles of organic agriculture and training in organic production focused at young farmers, and linked to viable market chain development can show the rewards of a career in agriculture encouraging youth to engage in, and revitalize this sector.

This JP directly addresses the following objectives in the Pacific Youth and Agriculture Strategy:

2.1 Develop and strengthen youth oriented agricultural extension services

3.2 Strengthen and support informal and non-formal training and learning in agriculture.

The Framework for Action on Food Security in the Pacific 2011- 2015:

Theme 2 Strategy 4: Strengthen the capacity of farmers to improve food quality (including organic agriculture) and safety through incentives and training partnerships.

Theme 2 Strategy 6: Promote sustainable management of land, freshwater, agro biodiversity and marine resources.

It also addresses the following POETcom Strategic Plan objective:

3.1. Increasing Farmer knowledge through next generation awareness and extension/communication capacity development.

UNDP Pacific Centre in collaboration with SPC and The Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Committee (POETCom) has been organizing sub regional workshops and training to engage youth in Organic Farming. The overall objective of these workshops and practical field training is to enhance livelihood opportunities for youth in organic agriculture through training of trainers and extension providers from organic associations in sustainable organic production methods. These agricultural extension providers provide ongoing mentoring and support to young farmers and link youth agricultural enterprises, existing organic certification and market chains.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in collaboration with POETCom and SPC is implementing a 3 year programme to build capacity of young farmers in organic agriculture for climate resilience. This project builds on an earlier IFAD collaboration which developed pilot models for integrated organic and fair trade initiatives in the Pacific. This programme also provides support for POET Com’s regional services in organic certification, organic training and knowledge management.

#### Alignment with UNDAF and Regional Plans

Fiji and Vanuatu have existing National Youth Policies and included in national development plans. Part of UNDP’s mandate is to support these two governments in the implementation of their national development

plans.

From 2005 to 2010 the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 drafted by SPC was supposed to be the regional guiding document for all youth work, including work undertaken by governments and UN agencies.

However, the

Strategy never evolved into meaningful programmatic interventions due mainly to insufficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; lack of funding for implementation; low levels of awareness of and buy-in to the Strategy; and inadequate capacities at SPC to operationalize it. Upon review of the strategy, the conclusion was drawn that the actors in youth development in the region can benefit from a structured guiding document. Following this, a Pacific Youth Development Framework was proposed. UNDP is a member of the Steering Committee for the development of this new Pacific Youth Development Framework under the lead of SPC. The Framework “will serve to add value and inform national efforts to address current and future challenges in youth development while providing guidance and direction to regional cooperation efforts to advance youth development in the context of social and economic development in the Pacific region.” SPC and the Steering Committee members are well aware of the shortcomings of the Strategy 2010, and care will be taken to ensure that they are addressed in the new Framework.

Another critical alignment is with the Pacific Leaders who in their 2011 Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué “acknowledged the need for greater action in mainstreaming youth issues nationally and regionally, increasing employment and other meaningful opportunities for youth, and including the voice of youth in decision making.” Leaders also endorsed the Key Guiding Principles contained in the UNDP/PIFS Urban Youth in the Pacific report on youth crime and violence.

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-17 for the Pacific region (excluding Papua New Guinea), identify youth as a marginalized group for whom expanded opportunities in economic and social spheres are needed.

The UNDP Sub-Regional Programme Document (SRPD) 2013-17 for the Pacific Centre, and Fiji Multi-Country Offices (MCOs) identifies women and young people as two marginalized and disadvantaged groups and states that the issues confronting them will inform the UNDP Pacific Programme for this programme period. According to the SRPD, UNDP would focus in particular on developing leadership and governance skills of young people and facilitating opportunities for them to effectively express their voice.

More recently the Secretary General has placed great importance on targeted engagement with young people across the world rather than young people being indirect or incidental beneficiaries of UN programming. This is evidenced by the following:

- The creation by the Secretary General of a new UN Special Representative for Youth to engage young people and spearhead the efforts of the whole UN.
- His call to give youth a voice in their governments and create programmes that address their priorities, warning that if they failed to do this they risked creating a “lost generation.”
- The inclusion of youth empowerment as one of the five major priorities in his Action Agenda for his second term.

In response to the Secretary General’s Five-year Action Agenda, which highlights the engagement of youth in social, economic and political development, the UNDP Administrator has designated a UNDP organizational focal point for youth and steps are on the way to design a UNDP-wide strategy on youth.

### **Mainstreaming of gender and women’s empowerment:**

The development of organic farming in the Pacific has been greatly facilitated and supported by women and organisations with a focus on women’s economic empowerment such as the Foundation for the Rural



and Integrated Enterprise & Development (FRIEND) in Fiji, which works with women in rural and marginalized communities to alleviate poverty through social and economic empowerment. FRIEND's programs are based on a participatory process, encouraging communities to take ownership of their own development to escape from the poverty cycle and improve their living standards. The JP will aim to further enhance engagement with and target more women as key leaders and influencers of change.

The focus on vegetable, herb and fruit production as well as value added products for the hospitality industry was selected to ensure inclusion of women in the agricultural production side as well as in value addition. Typically, traditional crop production – root crops and coconut - are the work of men, and often plantations are a distance from the home or village. Inclusion of a broader range of products that can be grown closer to the home, involve 'lighter' manual labor, or are processed at home, opens opportunities for women's engagement and for women to establish their own enterprises that leads to building business skills as well as production skills.

The project will ensure 50% of beneficiaries are women. 50% of all structures and governance or decision making bodies established through the project such as organic certification committees or production clusters will have 50% representation of women. Apart from UNDP's gender strategy, the implementing partner POET Com is initiating the development of a conceptual framework on Pacific women's economic empowerment that will be used to monitor the impacts of the project on women in this area.

The implementing partners at national level in Fiji, the Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprise Development Inc. (FRIEND), work to address livelihood needs of vulnerable groups and have extensive experience through existing and past programmes on the inclusion of women in their programmes and activities. This organization has contributed to the development of the JP design through consultation and advice and lessons learned from a pilot F2T project in Samoa have been incorporated. FRIEND will be instrumental in ensuring women's participation in implementation and is a recognized leader in the field of women's economic empowerment in the Pacific region and is currently involved in efforts to include women's groups in Vanuatu to be part of their programme.

### **Sustainability:**

Organic Farming and environmental benefits

The focus on organic agriculture as the production method is central to considering and addressing environment and climate change issues in the JP design. Organic Agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.

Organic systems are more resilient to climate change and extreme weather events. For example, organic farms survive cyclone damage much better, retaining 20-40% more topsoil and sustaining smaller economic losses than their neighbors. Organic systems also improve water uptake and retention, and reduce soil erosion, thereby helping to overcome land aridity/desertification. This also protects coastal fisheries and inland water ways from siltation and run off. A 2003 study found that, during drought years, organic farms can have yields that are 20-40% higher than conventional farms.

Studies have shown that organic systems use 50% more agricultural species per farm. Organic agriculture sustains biodiversity by promoting:

- Farmyard and green manuring which restores nitrogen content of soil, building up organic matter and providing food for soil invertebrates (eg. Earthworms)
- Minimum tillage which reduces physical changes made to the soil that results from over

ploughing and so avoids harmful impacts on soil life caused by physical destruction, drying out, erosion, depletion of food and increased exposure to predators.

- Protection of soils through mulching and / or ground covers which boost beneficial biological activity.
- Mechanical weeding which contributes to greater abundance of non-crop flora in cultivated lands and indirectly supports large population of beneficial insects.
- Intercropping and under-sowing which are effective in reducing/eliminating weeds, increase crop yields, increase vegetation structure and diversity therefore provide more invertebrate food resources for birds and mammals.
- Crop-rotation which functions as a tool for pest management and soil fertility, improving populations of beneficial insects as well as increasing crop diversity.
- Mixed-crop farming which increases habitat diversity in localised environments.

All crops and production systems in the project will be in accordance with the Pacific Organic Standard. Compliance with the standard will be monitored through participatory guarantee systems and 3rd party organic certification.

Measurable outcomes will be:

- number of farms organically certified;
- number of agricultural species on farms;
- number of farms practicing composting;
- number of farms practicing water conservation.

Ensuring sustainability of results

The programme will be sustained following the end of the JP implementation by establishing successful and sustainable business models where market pull creates incentive for young farmers to continue to produce and sell their products. The JP will also build capacity in the national implementing agencies to enable them to expand organic certification and production training to new growers as market demand increases or new markets are found.

Approximately 50% of core and non-core budget will be allocated to climate change related activities. I. e. all activities related to organic production and certification. As with all agricultural activities, impacts from climate variability due to climate change is a risk.

Production methodology used in the project will be best practices in organic farming to enhance resilience to drought, heavy rains and so on. Infrastructure such as nurseries will be built to be resilient to strong winds and easy to dismantle during cyclones, with capacity for seedling safety during extreme weather events. Enhanced crop diversity and multiple commercial crops with varied recovery times to ensure quick return to income generation will all be considered in project implementation.

There is an extremely low likelihood that the JP will lead to increased vulnerability, maladaptation or miss opportunities for improving climate resilience. POETCom technical committee is engaged with keeping up with best practice in organics and climate change and this is fed into all programmes and activities and information is shared through the POET Com IKM networks. The synergistic IFAD funded programme to build capacity of young farmers in organic agriculture for climate resilience will be providing input to the POET Com IKM through their research trials and best practice methodologies.

#### **Public-private partnerships:**

The regional implementing agent for the JP, the Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom), is in its self a unique public private partnership. POETCom is a not for profit membership

organisation with over 30 active members (farmers associations, farmer support organisations, NGOs, private sector, research institutions and working with governments) in 14 countries of the Pacific Island region with the Secretariat hosted by the Pacific's lead intergovernmental technical agency the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Suva, Fiji. POET Com's current Advisory Board (elected every 2 years) consists of NGO and Private Sector members and is chaired by a Government representative from Vanuatu.

Governance mechanism for the JP will include public and private sector stakeholders to build understanding and shared vision facilitating future collaboration.

The JP will build linkages, through value chain development. It will link youth small holder producers and private sector enterprises such as hotels, resorts and restaurants, with public sector stakeholders, namely ministries of agriculture and youth in both Fiji and Vanuatu. In turn the lessons learned from the projects will feed into decision making and policy guidelines for best practice youth economic empowerment programmes and agriculture and climate change programmes.

Lessons and models from the recent IFAD integrated organic and fair trade initiatives project will inform public private partnerships at the technical level where government officers played a critical supporting role to administrative structures required for organic certification, building capacity at community level and facilitating certification functions that then became part of their core responsibilities.

#### **Civil society participation:**

Civil society are intimately involved with all steps of the project commencing with design, where the 3 national implementing agents; POET Com, FRIEND, and FSA - have contributed to the formulation of the concept based on locally identified priorities with the communities they work with and serve. The JP utilizes: 1) Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), 2) organic quality assurance initiatives that are locally relevant, 3) emphasize the participation of stakeholders, including producers and consumers and operate outside the frame of third party certification as a key tool for developing capacity and as the structure for facilitating the value chains.

PGSs are underpinned by a number of basic elements which embrace a participatory approach - which is a critical and dynamic part of the process, a shared vision, transparency and trust. Key stakeholders (producers, consumers, retailers and traders and others such as NGOs) are engaged in the initial design, and then the continued operation of the PGS. In addition to being involved in the mechanics of the PGS, stakeholders, particularly the producers are engaged in a structured ongoing learning process, which helps them improve what they do. This process is usually facilitated by the PGS (by a committee or a designated manager) or in some situations a supportive NGO. The learning process is usually 'hands-on' and might involve field days or workshops.

The idea of participation embodies the principle of a collective responsibility for ensuring the organic integrity of the PGS. This collective responsibility is reflected through :

- Shared ownership of the PGS
- Stakeholder engagement in the development process
- Understanding of how the system works
- Direct communication between producers and consumers and other stakeholders

These principles are used to guide both production standards and the rules of how the PGS will operate. The vision can embrace organic production goals as well as goals relating to standards, social justice, fair trade, respect for ecosystems, the autonomy of local communities, cultural differences etc. (IFOAM PGS Guidelines, 2008)

The process of empowerment and community ownership embodied in PGS has strong synergies with community centred development approaches and helps ensure sustainability of outcomes. Additionally, UNDP will work closely with the implementing partner POETCom, which adopts a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL) approach to monitoring and evaluation that is based on a programme logic.

The project will also identify and establishing partnerships with private companies such as hotels, restaurants, food processors, food exporters and other niche markets that are interested in buying organic products from the identified youth groups. This is part of the exit strategy to sustain the organic farming operations achieved by the project once the project comes to an end.

### **Justification of the Joint Programme modality:**

Addressing the challenge of youth unemployment is a complex process. It requires political willpower and strategic inputs coordinated with actors in both the economic and social sectors. It also requires support from different areas of technical expertise, including in the agricultural sector, in private sector small business development, in labour legislation and employment policy, and in inclusive youth development.

The Joint Programme modality approach is most appropriate to ensure the impact on employment seeking youth is maximized and the successful initiatives can be mainstreamed into government policies and programmes, scaled-up and sustained into the long term. Each participating UN organisation brings its distinct technical expertise and comparative advantage to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Programme. The JP would ensure greater synergies and no risk of duplication amongst participating entities.

UNDP will be the lead UN agency and will provide strategic leadership of the Joint Programme. In addition, UNDP will bring its expertise on private sector-led growth, small business development and PPP modality to the Joint Programme. UNDP will also ensure that gender equality and inclusiveness of marginalized youth is mainstreamed throughout the design and implementation phase. UNDP will also provide leadership to the Joint Programme on partnership with the government ministries, thereby ensuring the activities will be mainstreamed into national policies and public sector programmes.

IFAD will be the lead UN agency in the agricultural component of the Joint Programme, providing technical support to POETcom with their scaled-up organic Farm-to-Table programme.

### **Regions of intervention:**

Regions for intervention have been selected in collaboration with national implementing agencies who are familiar with the development challenges and opportunities of their target groups and where there are existing synergistic initiatives which can be built on. Criteria is based on identified poverty needs, youth unemployment combined with viable opportunities for establishing sustainable organic farm to table value chains and other value added products for the tourism industry.

For Example in Fiji: Fiji, Ba province, Macuata province (Labasa region) & Nadroga/ Navosa province (Sigatoka Valley region). The current official figure for incidence of poverty in Fiji is 45%. Of this, 25% live in Ba province which has the highest population density and also the highest percentage of Fiji's poor. 12% of those classed as poor live in Macuata (Labasa). The Sigatoka Valley has good access to the tourist driven markets of Fijis west and the decline of the sugar industry is seeing more farmers seek alternative crops and livelihoods. FRIEND targets communities that are under-served and marginalised, irrespective of their race, colour, religion or gender. Most of the beneficiaries do not have any source of regular income or are dependent on other family members who themselves may be casual workers, or on low incomes earning wages averaging \$50.00 - \$100.00 a week. Fiji trade statistics report the value of imported fresh fruit and veg. to have increased from 54.7 million FJD in 2004 to 72.3 Million FJD in 2008. Much of this is for the tourism industry demonstrating the possibilities for farmers in these regions to benefit from linking to

this industry.

FRIEND has offices and production facility in Lautoka (Ba Province) and an office in Labasa, in the Northern part of Fiji. They are an experienced NGO with well qualified and experienced staff. In 2015 established their organic certification with a small number of growers in Labasa and Sigatoka with assistance of POETCom.

Vanuatu was devastated by cyclone Pam early in 2015. Prior to the cyclone 2010 statistics placed basic needs poverty at around 13% in Vanuatu with a further 3% at high risk of falling into basic needs poverty. The cyclone destroyed food and cash crops impacting on food security and livelihoods and exacerbating an already fragile economic situation for many families.

Following cyclone Pam, UNDP support was provided to 1,000 men and women short term employment in debris removal and waste management in the most affected communities in Port Vila, Tanna and Shepards Islands with a target of up to 2,500 over 12 months with some transitioning to permanent sustainable livelihoods. In addition, UNDP supports climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction ; together with Care International and other partners such as Live and Learn Environmental Education (LLEE), where the project has set up local Community Disaster Committees in 12 villages.

For Vanuatu, the target regions will be Shefa province (Efate and nearby Shepherd group islands) and Tafea province (Tanna). These provinces have the highest number of youth at 39% of the population of which 74% reside in the rural areas outside of the two main urban centers of Port Vila and Luganville. The competition for paid urban employment is high due to the relatively small size of the urban centers and therefore only the most skilled and educated end up getting employment on offer.

Efate with the capital Port Vila provide the best access to municipal market and the tourist markets particularly the cruise ships that regularly visit. On Efate also, through the Shefa Provincial Council, 'Roadside Markets' in major villages have been established to enable women to sell their produce without have to take expensive travel to Port Vila. The local Roadside Women's Market Vendors Association support inclusion of youth from the village in collaborative farming and marketing.

Vanuatu's formal economy is dominated by the tourism industry. Tourism is estimated to contribute 65 percent of Vanuatu's Gross Domestic Product, directly and indirectly and the majority of tourism development has occurred on Efate providing extensive opportunities for linking small holder producers to this market through farm to table projects and value adding.

The island of Tanna, is well known for its coffee industry, and Vanuatu is one of the few Pacific islands where hotels and cafes serve almost exclusively locally grown and roasted coffee. The coffee plantations on Tanna were severely damaged during cyclone Pam and require rehabilitation, they also have indicated the aim to move to organic certification adding further value to their product.

Farm Support Association (FSA) has offices in Port Vila Efate and work closely with Rural training centres in Tanna and rural areas of Efate. They are an experienced NGO with well qualified and experienced staff including well trained extension staff who provide outreach and support to communities they work with. FSA have been managing an internal control system for organic agriculture for over 5 years working with over 300 growers across Vanuatu.

### **Targeted groups:**

The JP's main target group will be around 1,000 youth in the 2 countries of which 50% are likely to be female. It is also anticipated to have around 2,500 indirect beneficiaries through backward and forward linkages to "Farm to Table Value Chain". Breakdown of figures country wise is as follows:

- Fiji: 600 youth with more than 1500 indirect beneficiaries
- Vanuatu: 400 youth and around 1000 indirect beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the Joint Programme will be employment-seeking youth between 18 and 30 years of age. These youth will gain skills, knowledge and experience that will help them secure productive waged or self-employment.

Within this broad target group, the Joint Programme will have a specific focus on youth who have left the formal education system without completing their basic education. These youth are particularly vulnerable within the labour market. Their employment opportunities are usually limited to unskilled, low paid casual labour. The Joint Programme will assist these youth to gain new skills and knowledge that are matched to the demands of employers, or linked directly to market opportunities.

Very many youth who have left the education system without completing their formal qualifications can be found in the urban areas of three countries. They migrate from their rural villages in search of any source of income to support themselves and their families. These youth are particularly vulnerable to becoming trapped in negative social behaviours such as drug abuse and petty crime.

These actions further alienate them from mainstream society and reduce their already limited chances of securing employment and a stable source of income. Female youth are a particularly vulnerable subset within this grouping. Teenage pregnancies and indicators of deteriorating mental health, including youth suicides, are increasing concerns in Fiji and Vanuatu.

These youth will benefit directly from the activities of the Joint Programme. Some will gain knowledge of the profits that can be made from supplying organic fruits and vegetables into the Farm-to-Table value chain. This may motivate them to return to their rural villages and make use of the land available to their families within that community. The Joint Programme will assist these youth with technical trainings, basic equipment, organic certification and a guaranteed source of income under Fair Trade conditions.

Other youth will benefit from the expanded capacity and improved services of the National Youth Councils (NYC). Youth volunteers will have the opportunity to gain valuable experience in a formal workplace, thereby significantly enhancing their future employability. The self-confidence of youth will also be boosted through the comradeship and positive environment stimulated by the National Youth Volunteer Scheme.

Including among the primary beneficiaries will be youth who are still in full-time education or training, and therefore not actively seeking employment, but who will be transitioning to the labour market within the next 12 or 24 months. These youth will benefit from increased knowledge about life after school and the world of work, acquired through the information provided by the Youth Employment Network of the NYCs.

The inception phase will establish base lines and specific quantifiable indicators for direct and indirect beneficiaries measuring changes in employment and income of programme participants.

### **Design, mutisectorial strategy, results and implementation plan:**

Measurable outputs are:

- 1, 000 young farmers trained in organic agriculture in 2 PICs
- 1,000 young farmers organically certified in 2 PICs
- 600 young farmers connected into organic value chains in 2 PICs
- Skills database developed of youth trained and certified as producers of various organic vegetables and

fruits to match with demand from restaurants/ resorts and wholesalers/ supermarkets

- 2 National level agencies (FRIEND & FSA ) and Government Partners (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Youth) Staff are trained to manage organic certification system
- M&E data maintained in the 2 PICs and 4 Most Significant Change stories selected annually
- 5 knowledge management products developed to support young organic farmers and policy makers in the area of youth economic empowerment

At the end of the JP capacities in organic production and certification will be established; capacity in developing ‘farm to table’ value chains will be developed and knowledge management tools and resources will be available to assist new groups adopt these models. There will also be increased capacity in M&E systems.

Sustainability is ensured for beneficiaries by involvement in sustainable value chains where they are earning sustainable incomes and more broadly, the capacities developed will be institutionalized into the national implementing agencies ongoing programmes.

### **Coordination and governance arrangements:**

The project coordination system will consist of a Regional Steering Committee consisting of national implementing agencies, POETCom and JP partners. At National level there will be a coordination team consisting of POETCom, Ministry of Youth and National implementing Agency and representatives of beneficiaries including youth council and women groups. The JP will support the national youth council’s in Fiji and Vanuatu to identify potential organic farmers. The project will support the Fiji Youth training centers of the Ministry of Youth and sports to provide training to the identified communities on 1) Basic Farm Management, and 2) Participatory Guarantee System for organic farming certification.

Youth issues can sometimes be sensitive in nature. UNDP in the Pacific is acknowledged to be a trusted and impartial convener and facilitator by stakeholders such as governments, regional organizations, and civil society. With its strong relationships with both grass roots organizations and high levels of government, it can bring together in one room young people and high level decision makers to facilitate healthy and constructive dialogue on controversial development issues and will be the overall convener for the project.

The Lead Implementing Partner is POETCom responsible for project management, implementation, M&E and reporting. UNDP will provide programme oversight and direct project support services.

### **Risk analysis:**

Risk Mitigating Strategy

Risk 1: Sufficient funds to implement full Joint Programme are not raised.

Probability: medium

Impact: high

Mitigation action: The mobilization of financial resources to implement the full Joint Programme will be a significant challenge. However, the Governments are keen to support through JP outputs compliments funded Governments programmes including its interest in a Public-Private Partnership modality. In addition, the Joint Programme management team in all three countries will be active in resource mobilisation. Youth development is a policy priority in all three countries, and so donors will have an interest in proposals from the Joint Programme. Existing Donor/UN agencies initiatives will be also tapped in with robust proposals. In addition, bilateral development partners in the Pacific Region and private sector foundations with strategic interests in youth and the Pacific will be approached. Additional resource mobilization support will be leveraged from UNDP’s Pacific Centre in Fiji. A coordinated One UN approach to delivery will be an asset in resource mobilisation efforts.

Risk 2: Joint Programme with two participating UN organisations proves too unwieldy for effective implementation.

Probability: low

Impact: high

Mitigation: The Joint Programme has been designed to provide clear definition of the roles of the different UN agencies. Where two or more UN agencies are working together on one activity, the leadership arrangement for that activity has already been agreed. The management team will be positioned independently of the UN agencies. The dedicated Project Coordinator in each country will have the responsibility to ensure that implementation of all activities are scheduled properly, monitored continuously and progress reported regularly to the UN Resident Coordinators Office and the Joint Programme Executive Board / Steering Committee. A coordinated One UN approach to M&E will be an asset in effective coordination.

Risk 3: Political stability that affects Joint Programme implementation.

Probability: low

Impact: high

Fiji's political landscape has stabilized after its first democratic elections in 2014 after a military coup of 2006, while in Vanuatu though elections are free and fair but frequent changes in the governments creates temporary dislocation. However, the UN agencies have well-established excellent working relationships with the senior officials in Government departments, so changes at the Ministerial level will have minimal impact on Joint Programme implementation.

Risk 4: Capacity of local partners too low to implement a complex multi-sectoral programme.

Probability: medium

Impact: high The Joint Programme will work with Regional and local partners who are well established and with high credibility in their respective fields of work.

Risk 5: An unexpected natural disaster destroys programme initiatives and / or partner capacities.

Probability: high

Impact: high All three countries are highly vulnerable to natural disasters including earthquakes, cyclones and tsunamis. The Joint Programme has no control over when these may occur, and the scale of the impact they will have. However, the Joint Programme has been specifically designed to assist youth and their communities to diversify their livelihood strategies and increase their resilience to natural disasters. The Joint Programme will also identify and leverage youth employment opportunities within national climate change adaptation strategies.

Risk 6: Duplication of activities with other programmes.

Probability: low

Impact: high The Joint Programme has been designed in close collaboration with the country's national youth policies and national development plans. The national steering committees in each country will ensure that programmes are aligned to policies and strategic plans. The Joint Programme has the full support of the national committees.

### **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E):**

The JP will have two levels M&E mechanisms: UNDP M&E Framework and POETCom's Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework. UNDP's M&E framework focuses on overall programme management (aligned to a coordinated "One UN" M&E approach), whereas the PoetComms Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework will focus on monitoring project implementation through a participatory and learning approach designed to improve quality of output results.



## 1. UNDP M&E

In accordance with the programming policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP User Guide, the project will be monitored through the following:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management table below.
- An Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the Project Manager to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted (see annex 1), a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) shall be submitted by the Project Manager to the Project Board through Project Assurance, using the standard report format available in the Executive Snapshot.
- A project Lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the project
- A Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events Annually
- Annual Review Report. An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the Project Manager and shared with the Project Board and the Outcome Board. As minimum requirement, the Annual Review Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the QPR covering the whole year with updated information for each above element of the QPR as well as a summary of results achieved against predefined annual targets at the output level.
- Annual Project Review. Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year or soon after, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the Project Board and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes.

## 2. POET Comm Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL)

POETCom, adopts a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL) approach to monitoring and evaluation that is based on a programme logic. The MEL is designed to assess impact as well as outputs and runs through the life of the project and beyond as impacts and developments will continue to be recorded into the future as part of the overall monitoring and evaluation of the organic industry. The MEL is a learning tool and the specific framework for this project will be developed through a participatory approach with the actual beneficiaries of the planned interventions so success will not just be measured with regard to whether planned outputs are achieved but also as to the impacts desired by those participating are achieved. The MEL will be in addition to the standard monitoring and evaluation approaches and SDGF reporting requirements and will be developed through a participatory process in the inception phase.

The most significant change (MSC) technique will also be utilised in the JP to collect quantitative and qualitative data. MSC is a form of participatory monitoring and evaluation. It is participatory because many project stakeholders are involved both in deciding the sorts of change to be recorded and in analysing the data. It is a form of monitoring because it occurs throughout the program cycle and provides information to help people manage the program. It contributes to evaluation because it provides data on impact and outcomes that can be used to help assess the performance of the program as a whole.

Essentially, the process involves the collection of significant change (SC) stories emanating from the field

level, and the systematic selection of the most significant of these stories by panels of designated stakeholders or staff. The designated staff and stakeholders are initially involved by 'searching' for project impact. Once changes have been captured, various people sit down together, read the stories aloud and have regular and often in-depth discussions about the value of these reported changes. When the technique is implemented successfully, whole teams of people begin to focus their attention on program impact.

Staff in national implementing agencies will be trained in these techniques and supported by POETcom throughout implementation ensuring that MEL is an ongoing and integrated part of the JP implementation as opposed to an 'add on' activity.

This will be in addition to the standard monitoring and evaluation approaches, and periodic activity reporting as per SDGF reporting requirements.

Estimated allocation of resources for M&E including staff time is 10%.

### **Communication and advocacy (C&A):**

A communications plan will be developed for the project during the inception phase.

The main objectives will be to:

1. Provide visibility for the project
2. Communicate messages relating to: youth economic empowerment; organic agriculture as a career; organic agriculture and environmental protection; youth contributing to economic growth and the tourism sector.

Key target groups will include: i) the general public in which greater awareness will be raised by the JP with regards to opportunities available for young people on organic agriculture; ii) youth who are seeking employment or a career in agriculture; iii) policy makers and related government ministries/stakeholders.

Activities will include: Social media campaigns, media releases & articles, project collateral, fact sheets, UNDP newsletter and website, POETcoms "Cultivating Communities" e newsletter.

Communications activities will be run through UNDP's and POETCom's existing communications and advocacy structures managed by the Communications Officer in collaboration with JP partners, and will include social media, networks and website, and also utilizing the communication tools of national implementing agencies.

This includes social media, networks and website, and also utilizing the communication tools of national implementing agencies.

Comms materials and activities will be informed by the MEL process and extensive use made of the stories collected through the 'Most Significant Change Technique' employed in the MEL implementation. Communications activities will also be used to promote KM tools and resources as developed.

Approximately 5% of total project budget will be utilized for communications, awareness raising and advocacy.

### **Knowledge management (KM):**

The knowledge management component has the objective of documenting and widely disseminating lessons learned and best practice in: youth economic empowerment; organic farm to table programmes; and organic production best practice. It also has an objective to facilitate south-south cooperation by sharing experience and technical expertise between the 2 countries. The main benefit of implementing in 2 countries at the same time is that best practices and lessons learnt can be shared

during the implementation of activities for the successful achievement of output results. Also, networks of experts and knowledge sources can be made available outside of national boundaries to assist in mitigating unanticipated issues during implementation.

In terms of, focusing on a south-south cooperation approach, a Community of Practitioners (CoP) forum will be established between Fiji, Vanuatu and Samoa to share experiences of best practices and lessons from the Organic Participatory Quarantine Systems in the 3 countries. Knowledge products will be developed such as reference guides based on the experiences shared in the CoP for existing and aspiring organic farmers. Study tours will be organized between the 3 countries with the purpose to strengthen knowledge on organic farming and supply chain for organic produce.

The audience for KM is policy makers, NGOs and development agents who work with youth and/or agriculture as well as farmers.

Activities will include: case studies, AV documentation of best practice, agricultural extension materials, development of linkages and 'communities of practice' through social media mechanisms; technical exchange and learning symposium.

The MEL framework will assist identify the successes and best practice for documentation and sharing via the KM mechanisms and a communication strategy will be developed for the project to highlight development to the wider public.

#### **Contribution to the post 2015 development Agenda:**

The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet report States that the "Young people will be the torch bearers of the next sustainable development agenda through 2030," and that "Today, more than ever, the realities of 1.8 billion youth and adolescents represent a dynamic, informed, and globally connected engine for change. Integrating their needs, rights to choice and their voices in the new agenda, will be a key factor for success."

While in the Pacific a regional consultation of "Youth as Partners in Sustainable Small Island Development" concluded in an outcome statement as "Being Young does not mean we are insignificant": It is not easy being young in the labour market today. Pacific youth face the challenge of having limited opportunities for decent work. A gap between capacity and opportunity exists even for young people with qualifications. Failure to provide opportunities perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty, crime and violence that prevails in our societies today.

We believe that continuous investment in youth development is central to sustainable futures. We call upon the public and private sectors, in both the formal and informal economies, to provide decent work for young people. This includes enabling policy environments to cater for young people of all abilities and to prevent all forms of discrimination. With access to finance, skills-building and training, young people can create their own opportunities for self-employment.

Though mentioned in its introduction, the OWG on the proposed 17 SDGs does not have a standalone youth goal, and "youth" or "young people" are explicitly included in just 3 of the 17 goals, in 6 of the 169 targets: 2 under the proposed goal on education (goal 4), 3 under the proposed goal on employment (goal 8), and 1 under the goal for climate change governance (goal 13). In addition, adolescent girls are explicitly targeted in goal 2 (2.2) regarding nutrition.

Agriculture holds great potential for jobs and economic opportunity for youth, but access to land and finance are commonly cited constraints by young farmers and would be 'agripreneurs'.

It is well demonstrated that organic agriculture has significant contributions to make towards sustainable

development as illustrated by the examples below of contributions towards the MDGs.

#### Goal 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

- Organic Agriculture increases farmer's yields over the long term
- Higher yields + premium market prices = higher incomes
- Seeds can be saved

#### Goal 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

- Organic farmers get higher incomes - higher incomes allow parents to send children to school
- Better nourished and healthier children are more likely to stay in school
- Studies suggest exposure to some pesticides pre-natal can lead to slower cognitive development
- Organic Certification includes social justice standards - so no child labour

#### Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

- Organic Agriculture & certification schemes exposes women to more educational and skills development opportunities
- Participatory Guarantee Schemes build social capital; empower and ensure women are engaged in management and governance
- Higher incomes for female headed households
- More economic opportunities for women with value adding

#### Goal 4. Reduce Child Mortality

- More diversified diets = better nutrition
- Avoidance of the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers\*
- Safer water supplies
- Improved understanding of dangers and risks
- Improved health through cleaner environments and living conditions achieved through recycling and proper disposal of household and animal wastes

#### Goal 6. The Other Diseases - NCDs

- Organic Agriculture encourages:
  - Diverse production systems = diverse diets
  - Locally adapted varieties = high nutrition local greens and root crops
  - Revival of traditional crops and varieties
  - Organic Agriculture is more labour intensive = more physical activity

#### Goal 7. Ensure environmental stability

- Organic Agriculture mitigates climate change through:
  - Reducing greenhouse gases,
  - Storing carbon in soil and plant biomass by
    - building organic matter,
    - Minimizing energy consumption
- Organic Agriculture also helps farmers to adapt to climate change because it:
  - Prevents nutrient and water loss
  - Preserves seed and crop diversity,
  - Minimizes risk as a result of stable agro-ecosystems and yields
- Organic Agriculture contributes to Biodiversity and genetic diversity
  - Increasing the number and variety of wild species found on farm
  - Maintaining healthy soils and soil fauna, such as earthworms
  - Encouraging the conservation and expansion of traditional, locally bred varieties
- Organic Agriculture prevents soil erosion and land degradation through:
  - Improving soil fertility
  - Preventing wind and water erosion
  - Improving water infiltration and retention capacity

#### Goal 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

- Certification of Organic Agriculture is by itself a method of building up relationships –especially

participatory approaches

- IFOAM as global network functions as a partnership for Development
- In the region POETCom functions as a partnership for development

Many of these themes and concerns continue to be addressed in the post 2015 development agenda and the JP contributes directly towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific.

## **V. SDG-F - Joint Programme Management Arrangement**

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### **Coordination and Oversight Mechanisms**

The Fund will rely on UN Resident Coordinators (RC) to facilitate collaboration between Participating UN Organizations to ensure that the programme is on track and that promised results are being delivered. The Resident Coordinator will exercise his/her authority over the programme by being entrusted with leadership of the overall programme design, ongoing programmatic oversight of the Fund's activities by co-chairing the National Steering Committee meetings.

To ensure proper checks and balances of programme activities the RC is called upon to establish committees at two levels:

- A National Steering Committee (NSC), and
- Programme Management Committee(s) (PMC).

The NSC consists of the Resident Coordinator, a representative of the national Government in the role of Co-Chair and a representative of the AECID or in its absence from the Embassy of Spain and/or other sponsoring partner entity, according to the SDGF ToR.

The responsibilities of the PMC will include:

1. ensuring operational coordination
2. appointing a Programme Manager or equivalent thereof;
3. managing programme resources to achieve the outcomes and output defined in the programme;
4. establishing adequate reporting mechanisms in the programme;
5. integrating work plans, budgets, reports and other programme related documents; and ensures that budget overlaps or gaps are addressed;
6. providing technical and substantive leadership regarding the activities envisaged in the Annual Work Plan;
7. agreeing on re-allocations and budget revisions and make recommendations to the NSC as appropriate;
8. addressing management and implementation problems;
9. identifying emerging lessons learned; and
10. Establishing communication and public information plans.

### **Fund Management Arrangements**

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 channeled for the Joint Programme through the AA. Each Participating UN Organization receiving funds through the pass-through has signed a standard Memorandum of Understanding with the AA.

The Administrative Agent will:

- Establish a separate ledger account under its financial regulations and rules for the receipt and administration of the funds received from the donor(s) pursuant the Administrative Arrangement.

This Joint Programme Account will be administered by the Administrative Agent in accordance with the regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to it, including those relating to interest;

- Make disbursements to Participating UN Organizations from the Joint Programme Account based on instructions from the Steering Committee, in line with the budget set forth in the Joint Programme Document.

The Participating UN Organizations will:

- Assume full programmatic and financial responsibility and accountability for the funds disbursed by the AA.
- Establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent.
- Each UN organization is entitled to deduct their indirect costs on contributions received according to their own regulation and rules, taking into account the size and complexity of the programme. Each UN organization will deduct 7% as overhead costs of the total allocation received for the agency.

The Joint Programme team will consolidate narrative reports provided by the Participating United Nations Organizations and provide them to the AA no later than 31 March per the MOU Participating UN Organizations will submit financial reports no later than one year after the completion of operational activities

The MPTF Office will:

- Prepare consolidated narrative and financial progress reports, based on the narrative consolidated report prepared by the Joint Programme Team and the financial statements/ reports submitted by each of the Participating UN Organizations in accordance with the timetable established in the MoU;
- Provide those consolidated reports to each donor that has contributed to the SDGF, as well as the Steering Committee, in accordance with the timetable established in the Administrative Arrangement.
- Provide the donors, Steering Committee and Participating Organizations with:
  - Certified annual financial statement (“Source and Use of Funds” as defined by UNDG guidelines) to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year;
  - Certified final financial statement (“Source and Use of Funds”) to be provided no later than seven months (31 July) of the year following the financial closing of the Joint Programme.

Consolidated information will be available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

(<http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SDG00>)

**BudgetPreparation** - The Programme Coordinator will prepare an aggregated/consolidated budget, showing the budget components of each participating UN organization.

**Fund Transfer** - The initial transfer will be made based on the approved and signed Joint Programme document. The subsequent instalment will be released in accordance with Annual Work Plans approved by the NSC and always based on the SDGF ToRs and Guidance for JP Formulation. The release of funds is subject to meeting a minimum expenditure threshold of 50% of the previous fund release to the Participating UN Organizations combined. If the 50% threshold is not met for the programme as a whole, funds will not be released to any organization, regardless of the individual organization’s performance. On the other hand, the following year’s advance can be requested at any point after the combined disbursement against the current advance has exceeded 50% and the work plan requirements have been met. If the overall expenditure of the programme reaches 50 before the end of the twelve-month period, the participating UN Organizations may upon endorsement by the NSC request the MPTF Office to release the next instalment ahead of schedule. The RC will make the request to the MPTF Office on NSC’s behalf. Any fund transfer is subject to submission of an approved Annual Work Plan and Budget to the MDTF

Office.

**Interest on funds** - Interest will be administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of each UN organization and as documented in the Standard Administrative Arrangement signed with the donor.

**Balance of Funds** - The disposition of any balance of funds remaining at the end of programme implementation will be in accordance with the agreements between the Participating UN Organizations and the implementing partners as well as donors where applicable.

## Accountability, Monitoring, Mid-Term Review and Evaluation

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Joint programmes are required to provide narrative reports on results achieved, lessons learned and the contributions made by the Joint Programme. Monitoring reports are prepared and presented to the JP SC twice a year and include updated work and monitoring plans.

JPs will produce annual monitoring reports plus a final evaluation report. Evaluations quality will be according with UNEG and OECD-DAC rules. Ongoing monitoring and results management will take place in line with UN standards and SDGF ToRs and Guidance for JPs Formulation.

All communication materials developed as part of a JP should acknowledge its several partners. The SDGF and Spanish Cooperation's logos should always be used jointly in all JP's communications.

**Audit** - The Administrative Agent and Participating UN Organizations will be audited in accordance with their own Financial Regulations and Rules and, in case of MDTFs, in accordance with the Framework for auditing multi-donor trust funds which has been agreed to by the Internal Audit Services of participating UN organizations and endorsed by the UNDG in September 2007.

### Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

The following governing cooperation or assistance agreements between the Government of and the UN participating organisations will be the legal basis for the relationships for conducting activities:

For each UN Agency please indicate the title and date of the agreement between the Agency and the National Government:

Agency name	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement	Date agreement was signed
UNDP	Gov. of Vanuatu & UNDP	27 March 1984
UNDP	Gov. of Fiji & UNDP (OPAS)	13 October 1970

## VI. Annexes

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**Letter signed by Resident Coordinator:**

 [RC ltr.pdf](#)

**Commitment of matching funds:**

 [Matching Funds ltr.pdf](#)

**Results Framework:**

 [JP SDG-F\\_RRF\\_FijiVan\\_Aug2015\\_FINAL.docx](#)

**Budget break-down per outcomes, outputs and activities:**

 [FijiVan\\_SDG-F\\_BudgetWorkplan\\_August2015\\_Final.xlsx](#)

**Budget break-down per UN Agency \*:**

 [FijiVan\\_SDG-F\\_BudgetWorkplan\\_August2015\\_Final.xlsx](#)

**Submission letter signed by JP partners \*:**

 [UNJP\\_Endorsement of JP on SDGF.pdf](#)

**Joint programme monitoring plan \*:**

 [Joint Programme M&E Plan.docx](#)

**Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Research Framework \*:**

 [Template Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Research Framework\\_Van&Fiji.docx](#)

**Performance Monitoring Framework \*:**

 [Template Performance Monitoring Framework\)Fiji&Vanuatu.docx](#)

**Minutes of formulation meetings and events \*:**

 [SDG F\\_LPAC minutes.pdf](#)

**Participants list of consultation meetings and events \*:**

 [Participants List.pdf](#)

**Risk analysis \*:**

 [Risk analysis\\_SDG F.docx](#)

**Additional documentation:**

 [PMO support ltr.pdf](#)

**Additional documentation:**

 [Min of Youth & Sport\\_Support Ltr.pdf](#)

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