



Peace Corps in the Pacific

Presence, Activities
& Strategic Direction

Presentation Agenda

1. Strategic Foundation
2. Current & Prospective Pacific Peace Corps Posts
3. Core Project Activities
4. Climate Action
5. Innovations and Regional Integration



Strategic Foundation

Peace Corps is responding to the priorities defined by Pacific regional, national, and local partners



Strategic Foundation

Pacific Regional Strategies that Prioritize Peace Corps' Niche

2050 Blue Pacific Strategy

Thematic Area: People-Centered Development

- Ensure commitment by external partners to deliver transformational and culturally appropriate programs.

Thematic Area: Climate Change & Disasters

- Regional cooperation and collaboration . . . to build the capacity and resilience of communities to effectively address the impacts of climate change and disasters including the gendered impacts.



2050 Strategy for the
Blue Pacific Continent



Strategic Foundation

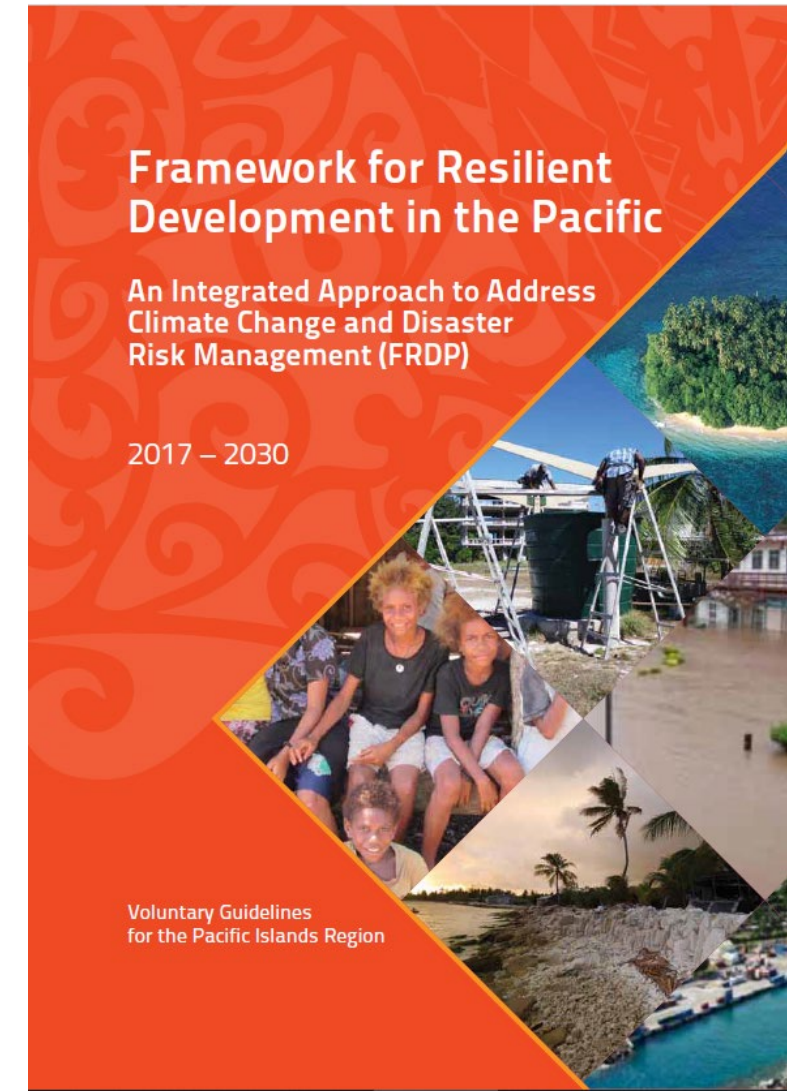
Pacific Regional Strategies that Prioritize Peace Corps' Niche

Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific

(referenced in the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy)

Priority Action ii.b

- Strengthen **community-led development initiatives** by using ... appropriate cost-effective **resilient development interventions** that are **gender responsive and inclusive**.



Strategic Foundation

Pacific Regional Strategies that Prioritize Peace Corps' Niche

PIANGO Strategy 2020-2030

(PIANGO and its NGO affiliates in each Pacific nation strengthen and bridge between civil society and governments)

- Include, promote, facilitate and **amplify the voice of communities**, vulnerable groups, and civil society organizations at the **local level**.
- Promote **localized, responsive, relevant, and forward-thinking approaches to development** in the region.



PIANGO

Pacific Islands Association
of Non-governmental
Organisations

Strategic Foundation

Pacific Regional Strategies that Prioritize Peace Corps' Niche

USAID Pacific Islands Strategic Framework

People-to-People Programming

- People-to-people programming will focus on **engaging communities through partnerships with Peace Corps**

Intermediate Result 1.1: Capacity to adapt and respond to climate and disaster impacts strengthened

- Support communities to **prepare for and mitigate risks, especially of slow onset climate impacts**
- Prioritize the integration of women's . . . **equal access to climate information**, [and] climate-smart livelihood programs



UNCLASSIFIED

 **USAID** PACIFIC ISLANDS
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

MARCH 11, 2022 - MARCH 11, 2027

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



**Peace Corps is a part
of our culture.**

-Frank Bainimarama
former Prime Minister of Fiji



Current Pacific Posts



Fiji

- **Average Volunteer numbers:** 70
- **Volunteer Reentry:** October 2022
- **Project Sectors:** Community Economic Development & Youth in Development
- **Years present:** 1968-1998; 2003-present
- **All-time number of Volunteers:** Over 2,500



Tonga

- **Average Volunteer numbers:** 50
- **Volunteer Reentry:** March 2023
- **Project Sectors:** Education
- **Years present:** 1967-present
- **All-time number of Volunteers:** Over 1,700



Samoa

- **Average Volunteer numbers:** 60
- **Volunteer Reentry:** February 2023
- **Project Sector:** Education
- **Years present:** 1967-present
- **All-time number of Volunteers:** Over 1,900



Vanuatu

- **Average Volunteer numbers:** 60
- **Volunteer Reentry:** Projected September 2023
- **Project Sectors:** Education & Health
- **Years present:** 1989-present
- **All-time number of Volunteers:** Over 850

Prospective Pacific Posts



Solomon Islands

- **Sent request for PC:** 2019
- **Situation:** Peace Corps set to return; working on Country Agreement
- **Potential Project Sector:** Education
- **Years present:** 1971-2000 (742 Volunteers)



Federated States of Micronesia

- **Sent request for PC:** 2022
- **Situation:** Assessment completed April 2023
- **Potential Project Sector(s):** TBD
- **Years present:** 1966-2018



Palau

- **Sent request for PC:** 2022
- **Situation:** Assessment team completed March 2023
- **Potential Project Sector(s):** TBD
- **Years present:** 1986-2018 (with FSM, 4,416 Volunteers)

Other countries PC may engage in regional efforts

- Kiribati
- Republic of the Marshall Islands



New Country Assessment

Palau & the Federated States of Micronesia



- **3.5 weeks** during March and April 2023
 - Visited **Palau** and **all four FSM states**
 - **9 Peace Corps staff members**, representing administrative, programming, medical, safety & security, and behavioral health units
 - Held **nearly 200 meetings**, consulting with presidents, governors, ministers/secretaries, INGOs, local NGOs, and many USG representatives
- 

Former Activities: *FSM & Palau*

- Peace Corps Volunteers present from **1966-2018**
- **4,416** total Volunteers
- Volunteers served in all six of Peace Corps' sectors: **Agriculture, Education, Environment, Health, Community Economic Development, Youth in Development**



Former Activities: *Marshall Islands*

- Peace Corps Volunteers present from **1966-1996**
- **149** total Volunteers
- Volunteers served in Peace Corps' **Education** sector



Core Project Activities: *Fiji*

Community Economic Empowerment Project

- Volunteers live in rural iTaukei villages and collaborate with women's groups, youth groups, and other community leaders
- Volunteers support the growth and leveraging of project management, income-generation, and money management skills



Core Project Activities: *Samoa*

Rural Primary School Literacy

- Volunteers hold **three collaborative areas of focus**:
 1. Supporting late elementary-aged **student achievement**
 2. Elevating **teachers' English literacy teaching skills**
 3. Engaging **parents and community members** in children's **literacy learning**



Core Project Activities: *Tonga*

English Language Development Project

- Volunteers enhance English proficiency of students and teachers through
 - classroom teaching
 - collaborative lesson planning
 - professional development sessions and
 - integrative engagement of parents and other community members



Core Project Activities: *Vanuatu*

Family WASH and Nutrition

- Volunteers collaborate with **Community Health Assistants** to ensure that **services and public health messages** reach the most vulnerable communities within the Vanuatu health system

Literacy

- Volunteers **guide student learning**, co-develop **teaching resources**, and increase application of **effective student support techniques** within schools & communities





Spotlight Success Story

Peace Corps Vanuatu's SMART Sistas Camp

- Through the Sistas Mastering Advanced Real Technology (SMART) Camp, rural Vanuatu girls to receive ICT technical training laced with leadership and gender empowerment activities
- The girls graduate from camp with a new backpack, laptop, and vision of what they can become in their lives



Climate Action Overview

Pacific Peace Corps posts are joining forces with each other and climate action leaders to ensure that appropriate **climate knowledge** and **adaptation strategies** reach the **community level**

Building Partnerships

All Pacific Peace Corps posts are **forming and deepening collaborations** with leading **climate change actors** and building out new **joint programming**

Examples of Project Advisory Committee Members

- **Vanuatu:** Ministry of Climate Change
- **Samoa:** Youth Climate Action Network
- **Fiji:** Ministry of Disaster Management



Integrating Climate Action

All Pacific Peace Corps posts are **integrating a climate lens** into their Volunteers' **core project work**, and **crafting the resources to ensure success**

Examples

- **Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu (literacy projects):** Integrating climate content into literacy resources and curriculum
- **Fiji (economic development project):** Streamlining project management trainings for community adaptation activities



Peace Corps Response

Several Pacific Peace Corps posts are creating **climate-focused Peace Corps Response** (short-term, high impact) positions that will support **national climate leaders**

Examples

- **Samoa:** *Carbon Market Specialist* with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- **Vanuatu:** *Climate Curriculum Specialist* with the Ministry of Education



Green Operations

All Pacific Peace Corps posts are reengaging or expanding their **Green Teams**, analyzing every element of operations to **reduce or offset carbon footprints**

Examples

- **All posts:** Exploring options such as solar energy for the office and hybrid/electric cars for the fleet
- **Fiji:** Office recycling and compost programs and beach clean-ups
- **Samoa:** Having Peace Corps trainees plant trees to offset the footprint of their flight to post





Innovations & Regional Integration

Understanding that both challenges and innovative solutions **transcend borders**, Peace Corps is launching a new era of **regional Pacific planning and engagement**

Youth & Civic Engagement

Peace Corps is investing more deeply than ever in **youth leadership**, exploring **models of side-by-side service** and staying engaged with **lasting partnerships**

Examples

- **Tonga:** Former PC Volunteer project has blossomed into influential Tonga National Youth Congress
- **Fiji:** Rural youth groups are core counterparts, with Volunteers and youth co-leading innovation and entrepreneurship workshops



Regional Programs and Workshops

Without losing responsiveness to each country's unique priorities, Peace Corps is enhancing **regional collaboration and initiatives**

Examples

- **Climate Summit:** Counterparts, staff, and climate leaders from 4 countries convened in Fiji in 2022
- **Collaborative resource creation:** Posts are joining forces to craft and translate climate literacy materials
- **USAID SPA funds:** Peace Corps is advancing localization with SPA funds



Supporting Countries without Peace Corps Posts

Although Peace Corps does not have staff in all Pacific nations, it is exploring ways to **partner with** and **support the development agendas** of others

Examples

- **Regional summits/workshops:**
Posts are collaborating with regional partners to identify and liaise with prospective participants
- **Virtual service participants:**
Peace Corps may hire regional staff to support virtual service in additional countries





Sai

WAVE

NIWAHA



Peace
Corps