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UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work to translate that commitment into practical action, especially for the most disadvantaged children. In the Pacific we work in the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu: These 14 Pacific Island countries are home to 2.3 million people, including 1.2 million children and youth, living on more than 660 islands and atolls stretching across 17.2 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean, an area comparable to the combined size of the United States of America and Canada. Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu are classified as Fragile States according to World Bank/OECD criteria. For more information visit us at: unicefpacific.org
Foreword

Ni sa bula, namaste, talofa lava, kia orana, malo e leilei, fakaalofa lahi atu, malo ni, mauri, fakatalofa atu, halo oloketa, alii, yokwe, ekamowir omo, halo and warm greetings from one of the most diverse and vibrant regions on earth.

It can be all too easy to stereotype the Pacific Island countries as tropical paradise and tourist destinations. It is easy to do because they are stunningly beautiful: a constellation of green islands and atolls glittering in a multi-hued ocean.

UNICEF also focuses on the challenges facing the children of the Pacific region. These challenges are complex and interlinked. They deserve our full attention and the combined efforts of governments, bi-lateral and multi-lateral partners, civil and religious society, the private sector, local leaders, media and of course children themselves as agents of change in their own developing stories.

This booklet represents a moment of reflection as we look back on the progress made for children in the Pacific, progress that reflects the success of new and ongoing partnerships for development and child rights, progress that renews our hope and Pacific pride, giving us new energy for the challenges ahead.

While other places in the world fight the “polio end-game”, we continue to have a polio-free Pacific, no small feat. Governments are preparing for the introduction of a new polio vaccine and also for the introduction of pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines that will help to protect tens of thousands of children from pneumonia, diarrhoea and other childhood illnesses. Conversion to vaccine refrigeration through solar power is a key component to sustainability.

More than 100 villages on 12 islands in Kiribati have now been declared ‘open defecation free’ and we have supported a remarkable journey in Vanuatu, from a 2008 birth registration rate of 26% to over 60% in 2014. Last year also saw successful advocacy leading to Pacific-wide adoption of a Teachers’ Code of Ethics and Guidelines on Quality Early Childhood Care and Education.
In 2014, UNICEF Pacific also responded to eight humanitarian situations, caused by cyclones (in Tonga and Vanuatu), drought (in Fiji), volcanic eruption (in Vanuatu), flash floods (in the Solomon Islands) measles epidemics (in the Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia) and an acute diarrhoea epidemic (in Kiribati), reflecting in part a continuing trend towards more harmful and more frequent natural disasters in the region. Working towards Pacific and national priorities for children, we continually mainstream disaster risk resilience wherever we can. Strong emergency preparedness and response remains crucial for mitigating the impact of disasters on children.

So what lies ahead?

We are entering an exciting new phase as the world looks towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the new measurement stick against which we will monitor and evaluate our progress towards sustainable and equitable development for all. Children’s vulnerabilities and rights are much more thoroughly integrated into the SDGs than into their predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs anticipate the needs of a world that is rapidly changing, its population still growing, many of its natural resources diminishing, and that is experiencing the effects of climate change, a phenomenon of particular and urgent relevance to the Pacific region. The children born today will face a vastly different childhood to the ones we experienced; in a shrinking world where local choices have global impact and vice versa.

As part of our work to protect children growing up in this new environment, we are working with Pacific governments to understand and adapt to an increasingly connected world. This includes equipping children to stay safe from online bullying and exploitation, while still allowing them to benefit from the internet’s vast potential for learning, development and connection. These same technologies are also allowing us to reach out to children and communities in very positive ways, allowing ‘real time’ data collection and analysis through technology and software such as Akvo Flow, and supporting children to have their say on issues that affect their lives through technology-assisted initiatives such as Ureport, an exciting innovation project we are bringing to the Pacific region.
Adapting to change also requires us to work hard to ensure that we have the best possible insights on the situation of children and their needs. We now have robust baseline data on the situation of children in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. We are generating evidence for action on violence against children and the rights, needs and opportunities of people with disabilities. We continue to work in close coordination with governments to review and improve social policy for social inclusion, most recently with a review of the effectiveness and impact of Fiji’s national cash transfer and food voucher programme for vulnerable children.

Progress for children in the Pacific is well on track and we are so proud to be part of that journey. Yet significant challenges remain. We cannot yet claim that all children have equal access to a safe and healthy start to life, nor that all mothers will survive childbirth.

This must be a priority. The Cook Islands and Niue are the only two of 14 Pacific Island countries covered by UNICEF Pacific that are projected to achieve all eight Millennium Development Goals by the global deadline of end of 2015. A deficit in even one area of the MDGs has serious implications for children. As just one example, sanitation remains a big risk to children’s health, education and development in the Pacific. Open defecation rates are high, especially in rural areas of Kiribati (49%) and the Solomon Islands (65%). When sanitation is compromised, newborn children are at risk, growth stunting is more prevalent, vaccines are less effective, child mortality rates are higher and children miss more school due to sickness. This is why we cannot address issues in isolation; the health and wellbeing of children must be tackled from every angle at all levels of society.
Together with you, we will continue to build on what has been achieved. In 2014 we marked 25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child across the Pacific, a timely moment to look back at progress made and challenges remaining. We will continue to strive for the equality of all children and equitable access to services, whether in health, protection or education. This goal can only be achieved through sustained partnerships with our many valued partners, our sincere thanks to you for your continued commitment to children’s rights.

We hope you enjoy this brief overview of highlights from 2014 and our ongoing work in 2015. You are invited to provide feedback via social media (our Facebook or Twitter pages), face-to-face meetings or email: suva@unicef.org.

On behalf of my team, and the children of the Pacific, thank you for your continued support. Together we can ensure that all children, all the time, are healthy, learning and safe.

Unite for Children

Dr. Karen B. Allen

UNICEF Representative, Pacific Island Countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
2014 presented both challenges and opportunities in our work to support children, delivered in partnership with governments, NGOs, schools, communities, young people and children themselves. The following provides a snapshot of just a few achievements from the past year.
Child Protection
In 2014 we made significant advances in our work to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation, gathering evidence for action, strengthening child protection systems and advocating for change.

Gathering Evidence for Action

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM): UNICEF collaborated with the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs to collect information and insights from children, teachers, health workers, youth, religious leaders, police and legal workers, developing a national Child Protection Baseline. The report has recommendations for programme design and direction. It also serves as a marker for measuring future progress in the protection of children. The report is part of a series of UNICEF Child Protection Baseline Reports that review and analyse legal frameworks, formal social service structures, and the various environments provided by communities and families; and advise on their effectiveness or gaps for the protection of children. Similar reports have been completed for Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Read the report: http://uni.cf/1G31uiR

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

Vanuatu: In just one year, Vanuatu increased its birth registration rate from 40% to 56% of all children under 5 years of age, through the introduction of decentralised services and a national electronic data management system. UNICEF supported the Office of the Civil Registrar to develop a nationally-owned, low-cost, open-source electronic database system linked to education and health systems, for transfer of timely, accurate and secure data. The system's development drew on a comprehensive review of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems in developing countries worldwide and addresses the unique challenges of civil registration in Vanuatu, which comprises 83 islands, 65 of them inhabited, spread over a vast expanse of ocean. The new system received international recognition for promoting national ownership and reaching families in some of the most remote islands in the country. The innovative approach to data management was also showcased during the 2014 Asia-Pacific Civil Registrars meeting in Bangkok.

Watch a video about the process: http://youtu.be/9U6B6NB-fDI
Advocating for Change:

**Pacific:** As many as 7 in 10 women and 8 in 10 children in the Pacific experience violence or abuse at some point in their life. Research data also shows that a high proportion of adolescent boys in the Pacific are supportive of wife beating. To raise awareness in 2014, UNICEF released a musical video titled ‘Reaction’. Produced in collaboration with Pacific youth and artists, as part of the global #ENDviolence initiative, the music video spreads the message: Don't look away, don't accept violence: react.

Watch the ‘Reaction’ video: http://uni.cf/reaction

**Vanuatu:** Over 90% of surveyed school children are affected by school-based violence, either as victims or as perpetrators. UNICEF Pacific worked with local artists to produce a new song called “Respecting One Another” as part of a campaign aimed at raising awareness about violence in school.

Read more about the campaign and hear the song at: http://uni.cf/1A6A5H7
Tonga: Like most of the world, Tonga's access to mobile and internet technology continues to grow rapidly. Along with the benefits of these new technologies, new risks related to cyber safety also arise. Tonga was the first country in the Pacific to address issues of cyber safety by bringing government, churches, corporate partners, NGOs, communities, schools, teachers, parents and young people together at a week-long workshop with the theme “Youth and Mental Health Matters – No Cyberbullying.”

Learn more about the workshop: http://uni.cf/1IarmJk

Over 90% of surveyed school children in Vanuatu are affected by violence in or around their schools
English

In the garden, mother grew some potatoes, banana, and some tasty taro. From the garden, mother collected potatoes, banana, and some taro.

In the oven mother cooked potatoes, banana, and some taro. For my dinner, I ate potato and some taro.
Maternal and child health and nutrition, HIV and AIDS
Improving the health of children is one responsibility among many in the fight against poverty. Healthy children become healthy adults: people who create better lives for themselves, their communities and their countries.

Wide disparities in child survival exist between and within countries in the Pacific. Demographic health surveys from different Pacific Island countries confirm that children living in low-income households have a higher risk of dying before age 5, with neonatal complications, pneumonia and diarrhoea among the leading causes of death.

Protecting Children from Vaccine-preventable Disease

Pacific: The number of children dying before their fifth birthday has declined in the Pacific with support from strengthened immunisation programmes that include supplementary measles campaigns and child health days. Vaccination is one of the most cost-effective health interventions. For young and old alike, immunisation offers the greatest protection from preventable diseases like diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, rubella, pneumococcal disease, polio, rotavirus diarrhoea and tetanus. Rotavirus vaccine helps to prevent diarrhoea, and pneumococcal vaccine helps to prevent pneumonia but these still need to be introduced in some countries. In the Pacific, UNICEF procures and delivers vaccines and equipment in 13 Pacific Island countries, maintains buffer stocks for unforeseen campaigns and shortages and helps to build a cold chain.
that reaches out to remote locations. We also assist governments to integrate immunisation services with maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition interventions.

Learn more:
http://uni.cf/1ETGZQk
http://uni.cf/1SUcKni

Tackling Malnutrition

Pacific: The Pacific is facing a double burden in relation to nutrition, with under-nutrition co-existing with obesity. At the present time, however, young children are most affected by under-nutrition, which increases their vulnerability to infections and threatens their development and cognitive function, particularly when it occurs in utero and in the first two years of life. In the Solomon Islands, an estimated 33% of children under 5 years are stunted (i.e. too short for their age as a result of chronic under-nutrition during the most critical periods of growth and development in early life). Micronutrient deficiencies (such as vitamin A, iron and zinc) are also common across the Pacific. UNICEF responded to these issues by training health workers in Fiji and the Solomon Islands to help reduce acute malnutrition and improve infant and young child feeding practices, increasing awareness, knowledge and available treatment for malnutrition.
Strengthening HIV-Prevention Systems

Although HIV prevalence remains low there are serious gaps in sexual and reproductive health services in the Pacific Islands, including limited HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) services. Pacific Islanders have limited access to information and knowledge related to sexual and reproductive health. This, in combination with low condom use and high rates of forced sex, means that STIs remain endemic in the region, with chlamydia infection rates among the highest in the world. Poor risk perception and limited health services are additional factors that indicate that the spread of HIV in the Pacific region remains a serious threat.

Pacific: In collaboration with WHO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, SPC, the Global Fund and national partners, UNICEF worked to integrate HIV, STI and sexual reproductive health programmes in the Pacific. The new Pacific Sexual Health and Well-Being Shared Agenda (2015-2019) provides countries with guidance to integrate programmes for a more comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health, improving programme implementation and increasing coordination of resources within and between programmes to better enable universal HIV-testing of all pregnant women, eliminate parent-to-child transmission of HIV and improve access to HIV-prevention for high-risk adolescents. UNICEF also continued Pacific-wide support for HIV-prevention activities, including the interactive use of social and mass media and mobile technology, allowing most vulnerable populations to receive correct information on HIV and AIDS prevention and support.

Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Fiji: In partnership with Empower Pacific, a regional technical organisation, UNICEF strengthened provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling services in four Pacific countries so that a HIV test is recommended for all patients as a standard component of medical care, increasing access to essential services for people who may not have sought HIV testing on their own initiative. Provider-initiated testing and counselling is recommended by WHO, UNAIDS and CDC as a cost-effective and ethical way of improving access to HIV testing. In Kiribati, UNICEF also supported the development of an adolescent and youth programming strategy, with a focus on young key affected populations.

Learn more: http://bit.ly/1FskG60

Preventing Parent-to-Child Transmission of HIV

Fiji: UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health in its efforts to ensure that zero children are born with HIV, putting into practice new legislation making Fiji the first Pacific country to guarantee all HIV-positive mothers free lifelong treatment. This treatment reduces the viral load of infected mothers and significantly reduces the risk of infection to their newborn infants.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
Access to safe drinking water and good sanitation can mean the difference between health and sickness for entire communities. Open defecation rates are high, especially in rural areas of Kiribati (49%) and the Solomon Islands (65%). Access to water and sanitation in schools varies widely among Pacific Countries, from 100% in Niue and Palau to just 2% in Kiribati. There is also increasing evidence linking water, sanitation and hygiene access to lifelong growth stunting, beginning when children are very young.

Fiji: Safe drinking water and clean toilets in schools are extremely important for children’s health, to prevent diarrhoea and other diseases. It is also important to provide a child-friendly environment that is motivating for students, teachers and staff. We know that decent water and sanitation facilities improve attendance and even learning outcomes for boys and girls. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools Infrastructure Rehabilitation project promotes good hygiene practices and benefits more than 2,500 girls and boys in 15 primary schools across Fiji.

Kiribati: By December 2014, 103 villages on 12 islands were ‘open-defecation free’, a significant achievement resulting from the implementation of UNICEF’s Community-Led Total Sanitation programme. Community-Led Total Sanitation recognises that merely providing toilets does not guarantee their use, nor result in improved sanitation and hygiene. The programme supports communities to understand the connections between sanitation and health, and take their own action to eliminate open defecation, preventing the spread of disease and promoting healthy communities.

Learn more: http://uni.cf/1dcVysi
Although primary school enrolment is high in the Pacific and most countries are on track to achieve universal primary education, attendance and completion at schools in remote and isolated areas remains problematic. A lack of suitably-qualified teachers and inadequate instruction materials, limited infrastructure and sanitation facilities, combined with low levels of parent-community involvement, are key barriers to improved primary education outcomes. Weaknesses in education management and information systems resulting in poor education planning and budgeting also impact negatively on primary education. Other key barriers include absence of policies promoting multi-grade and mother-tongue teaching, and a lack of strategies to meet the needs of out-of-school children with disabilities. Preschool attendance rates are low and, in most Pacific island countries, fewer than half of all children participate in formal early learning.

**Strengthening Early Care and Education Systems**

**Pacific:** Providing high-quality care, development and education for children in their first five years of life produces significant immediate and long-term benefits for their holistic cognitive, health, physical, and social development and achievements. Effective and contextualised guidelines help governments to strengthen early childhood interventions and ensure they nurture local values, while also being optimal for children's neural and brain development. The Pacific Guidelines for Development of National Quality Frameworks for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): Programming for Ages 3-5 support this goal and have been endorsed by 13 Pacific Education Ministers.

Learn more: http://uni.cf/1GX3SZc

**Strengthening Primary Education Systems**

**Tuvalu and Kiribati:** UNICEF supported finalisation and endorsement of national minimum quality service standards for primary schools, based on a concept of holistic child-friendly schools. In both countries, technical support led to a school-based management manual for school management committees to develop school improvement plans with budgets.

**Vanuatu:** UNICEF assisted the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education in the development of a training manual and trained 63 head teachers on instructional leadership, allowing them to support classroom teachers in their schools to improve their teaching practice.
Kiribati: Teacher professionalism was addressed through implementation of the Pacific Teachers’ Code of Ethics. The project improved teacher/student attendance and punctuality, and increased commitment of teachers to child welfare and the protection of children’s rights.

Solomon Islands: The second phase of the Solar Power Pilot project in Guadalcanal province was also completed, creating an enabling school environment with light and fans in 10 targeted schools, significantly increasing attendance and learning outcomes.

Learn more: http://bit.ly/1ppukSO
Social Inclusion
Around one in four Pacific Islanders live below the basic needs poverty line, ranging from 13% in Vanuatu to 35% in Fiji. Coverage of social protection programmes in the Pacific is significantly lower than other regions, relying instead on fairly extensive informal traditional support systems, which only provide partial protection against hardship and are slowly being eroded. Governments are gradually stepping in to compensate for this loss of social protection, with six Pacific Island countries maintaining non-contributory pension schemes for the elderly and two delivering disability benefits. Only Fiji and the Cook Islands have social assistance programmes targeting children.

The Pacific remains a particularly challenging region for isolated, vulnerable and marginalised groups. Limited infrastructure and large distances between islands and countries, combined with low rates of internet, TV and radio penetration, make it difficult for families to access the information, knowledge and services they need to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of their children. Ensuring that these groups can access sustainable development opportunities remains a priority for UNICEF.

Celebrating children’s rights

**CRC@25:** UNICEF celebrated 25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with events in several countries including the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to highlight progress on major issues confronting the Pacific’s most vulnerable children. The events highlighted progress and
continuing challenges that deprive many children of their rights and the benefits of development. It was also an opportunity to remind all partners that joint collaboration and investment in new products and systems is key to achieving results for children.

Gathering Evidence for Action

Pacific: Continuing our series on the situation of children in the Pacific, UNICEF worked with the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Marshall Islands to finalise and launch their reports on the situation of children. These reports provide a snapshot on the situation of children in areas such as health, education and child protection, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable children. The analysis reveals achievements and disparities for children and examines progress made towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals, in particular those goals and targets with special relevance to children. Similar reports completed for Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in previous years have proven to be valuable resources for governments and development partners.

Kiribati: As part of a global study on child poverty, UNICEF Pacific completed and launched a report that looks closely at the nature, causes and consequences of child poverty, hardship and disparities in Kiribati.

Fiji: UNICEF supported the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to conduct an assessment of child poverty and review the effectiveness and impact of the national cash transfer and food voucher programme for vulnerable children, known as the Care and Protection Allowance. This social protection assessment analysed disparities by location, sex and other socio-economic variables and looked at the effectiveness and efficiency of the Care and Protection Allowance. Despite high levels of child poverty, coverage of the Care and Protection Allowance is relatively modest: reaching approximately 5,000 children (less than 2% of the child population). For those who receive it though, it is a vital lifeline that makes a positive contribution to children’s well-being. The study also analysed barriers and bottlenecks
in administrative processes and institutional factors. Recommendations of the study can inform future reforms of Fiji’s social protection system and be used to draw lessons learned that could benefit other Pacific Island countries seeking to introduce or expand child-sensitive social protection.

Promoting the rights of people with disabilities

**Pacific**: The “Pacific Enable” project concluded in December 2014 after a two-year partnership between several UN agencies and regional organisations to improve the lives and opportunities of persons with disabilities in Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Cook Islands. It aimed to meet existing gaps and to act as a catalyst for further work by governments and development partners. As reliable data on disability is often not available in the Pacific, UNICEF worked collaboratively with other development and regional organisations to strengthen data and statistical collection systems, supporting the inclusion of disability modules for planned national surveys such as Demographic Health Surveys and building capacity in data analysis and advocacy. The partnership included organisations such as the International Labour Organisation, World Health Organisation, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Volunteers, UNICEF, the Pacific Disability Forum and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Learn more: http://bit.ly/1IarXur

Using sports to support children’s development

As part of the overall strategy to reduce vulnerabilities and address social issues affecting young people in the Pacific, UNICEF partners with the Oceania Football Confederation on a programme called Just Play. The partnership helps children in Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to grow, learn and explore through games and sport.

Through the integration of social messages, Just Play is helping children to develop healthy lifestyle habits, encourage gender equality, promote social inclusion, insist on sport for all and become confident in their abilities. In 2014, the programme targeted children aged 6-12 years, training over 160 teachers and community volunteers from 32 schools and 33 communities to engage over 4,000 children in weekly Just Play activities.
Programme impact analysis indicates that 95 per cent of children involved in the programme had a positive experience. Over 50 per cent of children engaged in weekly Just Play activities acknowledged and celebrated their differences, while over 60 per cent recognised that being physically active is not limited by a person’s physical or mental ability.

In an area of the world affected by high levels of violence and abuse, 50 per cent of children participating in Just Play reported learning to listen and respect each other. Sixty per cent of boys reported enjoying playing football with girls and 67 per cent of participants said they liked having a female coach.

Learn more: http://uni.cf/1KL0Nha

In 2014, the sports for development programme:

- Trained over 160 teachers and community volunteers in 33 communities
- Engaged over 4,000 children aged 6-12 years from 32 schools in weekly Just Play activities.
Pacific: UNICEF continued to support Pacific countries facing humanitarian challenges. In 2014 this included the Federated States of Micronesia (measles outbreak), Fiji (drought), Kiribati (acute diarrhoea epidemic), Tonga (cyclone), Vanuatu (cyclone and volcanic eruption) and Solomon Islands (flash floods and measles outbreak).

Our humanitarian response included supplies such as tents, water purification tablets, 10-litre collapsible water containers, tents, oral rehydration salts and educational kits with supplies of exercise books, flipcharts, pens, pencils, blackboards and a wind-up radio, technical and coordination services.

UNICEF collaborated with the relevant National Disaster Management Offices and Government Ministries for strong Humanitarian Cluster coordination and to arrange for the nationwide broadcast of radio spots in these countries, particularly the Solomon Islands and Tonga, promoting good protection, nutrition and hygiene practices for families.

Learn more:

http://uni.cf/1eNQs75

http://uni.cf/1SUcKni

http://uni.cf/1k4WwqW

http://bit.ly/1FskWSs

In 2014 UNICEF PACIFIC RESPONDED TO EIGHT HUMANITARIAN SITUATIONS

DROUGHT
Fiji

VOLCANIC ERUPTION
Vanuatu

CYCLONES
Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands

DIARRHOEA EPIDEMIC
Kiribati

MEASLES EPIDEMIC
Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia
In 2015 we continue to work for the rights and wellbeing of all Pacific children through sustained commitment and strong relationships with our partners.
Child Protection

Community Facilitation Package for Solomon Islands and Kiribati: A community facilitation package addressing parenting and community practices around violence will be developed for the Solomon Islands and Kiribati, based on a similar model successfully used by government and civil society organisations in Fiji. As part of this, a knowledge, attitudes and practices study will be undertaken to identify issues and formulate messages to reduce violence and corporal punishment.

Electronic Civil Registration Database System for Solomon Islands and Kiribati: Official birth registration figures for the Solomon Islands are unknown. However, a UNICEF-supported assessment in 2007, estimated the Solomon Islands to be the lowest in the Pacific, with only 0.1% of all births formally registered. With support from UNICEF, Solomon Islanders are doing away with paper-based registration and reliance on mail delivery that delayed, lost and discouraged birth registration. The new electronic civil registration database system is up and running to register births, guaranteeing a much more secure, centralised, reliable and transparent system of storing and maintaining records of all births in the Solomon Islands, as well as capturing and maintaining data on other key vital events such as deaths, cause of death and eventually marriages, adoptions, name change etc. A priority for 2015 is to mobilise new parents to register births. Multimedia products are planned to raise awareness on the importance of birth registration as well as high-level advocacy with government leaders.

Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, HIV and AIDS.

More vaccines and better health systems for the Pacific region: UNICEF Pacific has received approximately NZD $6 million from the New Zealand Aid Programme to reduce infant, child and maternal mortality in the next four years. The programme aims to ensure that pregnant women, mothers and children have access to life-saving vaccines, to improve nutrition and newborn health, and to strengthen public health service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas. The programme is inclusive but with a particular focus on the poorest families in Pacific countries. It works across the region but also addresses specific needs in countries.

Learn more: http://uni.cf/1nyJk1f

Introduction of new vaccines: Pacific countries have set new immunisation goals and targets to extend coverage to unreached populations. They will also work to introduce or extend
new vaccines such as rotavirus and pneumococcal, which will help to prevent diarrhoea and pneumonia, two of the biggest killers of children in the Pacific. In 2015 UNICEF will encourage and support countries to introduce these vaccines, including the Solomon Islands (pneumococcal vaccine in March) and Kiribati (rotavirus vaccine in July).

Learn more: http://uni.cf/15vFVJj

Building the capacity of national partners to collect and use strategic information on HIV and STIs: UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN and regional partners, will continue to provide support to countries to improve the collection and use of strategic information on HIV and STIs. This will include building capacities of national and provincial partners and strengthening information systems. Innovative solutions such as mobile technologies will be pursued to address key gaps that exist in the monitoring and collection of HIV and STI data in Fiji and the Solomon Islands. UNICEF will also support the Ministry of Health and Medical Services of the Solomon Islands to conduct a HIV and Syphilis study amongst antenatal care attendees in the Solomon Islands. The findings of this study will inform the development of programmes and activities to strengthen HIV service delivery, care and support for women, their partners, children and adolescents.

Strengthening point-of-care HIV testing, counselling and prevention: UNICEF will continue supporting countries to ensure that guidelines on HIV testing, counselling and treatment are aligned with global recommendations and updates. Investments will be made in Kiribati, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands to update prevention of parent-to-child transmission (PPTCT) and antiretroviral treatment (ART) guidelines, as well as HIV testing and counselling policies. Service providers will be trained on the revised guidelines to improve the quality of services to women, children and adolescents.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene in Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

UNICEF Pacific will support Governments, NGOs and communities to develop and implement WASH sector policies and strategies to improve access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in rural and peri-urban areas of Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.
Safe drinking water will be promoted through appropriate technologies accompanied by water quality monitoring and drinking water safety measures. The eradication of open defecation and scale up of sanitation will be achieved through demand-driven, community-based sanitation approaches, combined with the introduction of new technologies, sanitation marketing, and development of appropriate incentive programmes that allow for national replication. Behaviour change will also be fostered through the introduction of participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation methods.

**WASH in schools and health care facilities:** UNICEF Pacific will support Governments, NGOs and communities in the development of a programmatic approach to WASH in Schools. This will include training for teachers, hygiene promotion incorporating hand washing and menstrual hygiene management, development of minimum standards for WASH in Schools and construction of WASH facilities. Low-cost approaches focused on behaviour change, such as the Three Star Approach, will be adopted on a trial basis in Kiribati and Fiji with potential for replication in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Linkages will be strengthened with Sports for Development programmes. Where feasible, a similar approach will be developed to improve access to WASH in health care facilities.

**Education**

**Strengthening Teacher Education in the Pacific:** School-based in-service teacher training using an integrated and self-learning approach with coaching from head teachers will be rolled out in the Solomon Islands and Kiribati. This will include a baseline and self-assessment for teachers to ensure systematic monitoring and evaluation of programme impact on learning and teaching practices. Preparatory work for Vanuatu teacher education support will be carried out for implementation in 2016.

**Parenting Support for Early Childhood Development:** Children’s books with key messages for parents will be developed based on results of the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices study, and rolled out in targeted communities in partnership with the Solomon Islands Ministry of Education and the Vanuatu Ministry of Education and Training. Work to support early identification of disabilities in young children will be further rolled out in Vanuatu. Linkages will be made with health, nutrition and protection for holistic child development.
Social inclusion

Recommendations from assessment of cash and food voucher scheme in Fiji: In collaboration with leading research institutions and the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, UNICEF will support increased efficiency and effectiveness of the cash and food voucher scheme. Recommendations from the 2014 study will guide changes to Fiji’s social protection system and be used as a model for other Pacific Island countries that want to introduce or expand a similar system.

Researching Children, Women and Men with Disabilities in Vanuatu: In contributing to a more inclusive environment for children and people with disabilities in the Pacific, seven UN agencies and regional organisations worked together in a two-year partnership aiming to provide a number of outcomes such as enabling more people with disabilities in Fiji and Vanuatu to secure decent wages and self-employment, and improving data, analysis, research and advocacy on disability. As part of this partnership, UNICEF and the Vanuatu National Statistics Office will complete a report titled “Children, Women and Men with Disabilities in Vanuatu.” Through detailed statistical analysis of data collected in Vanuatu’s census, household surveys and education database, the report estimates the prevalence of disability and explores the situation of children, women and men with disabilities with respect to education, employment, poverty and domestic violence. The report points to the existence of significant inequalities based on disability. For example, children with disabilities are much less likely to attend school than their non-disabled peers. The report will highlight important recommendations to improve the quality of future data collection efforts on disability in line with international standards and best practices.

Learn more: http://bit.ly/1GjsfId

Continuing Series of Social Indicators for Select Pacific Island Countries: UNICEF will continue to work with selected Pacific Island countries to analyse the situation of children. These reports summarise the situation of children in areas such as health, education and child protection, with a particular emphasis on the most vulnerable children. Achievements and disparities for
children are also highlighted as well as progress made towards achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals, in particular those goals and targets with special relevance to children.

Learn more: http://uni.cf/1krPjSc

Expanding the Just Play programme: In 2015 UNICEF will expand its support to the Just Play programme, increasing engagement and reach to six Pacific Island countries: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Humanitarian Action

Support for disaster response in the region: The Pacific countries are at a high risk of natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, droughts and sea level rise. On the Pacific Humanitarian Team, UNICEF leads the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster, co-leads the Education Cluster, supports WHO on the Health and Nutrition cluster and leads the Child Protection area of responsibility. UNICEF pre-positions nutrition supplies, oral rehydration solutions, health supplies, WASH supplies, Early Childhood Development kits, School in a Box kits, recreational supplies and tents for immediate distribution in times of emergency. Throughout 2015, UNICEF will work with Governments and humanitarian partners to strengthen their capacity to respond quickly and effectively and to reduce risk and increase resilience. In July 2015 UNICEF will also participate in the World Humanitarian Summit consultations.

Climate and disaster risk resilience

UNICEF Pacific supports governments, NGOs and communities to build resilience to hazards and climate variability through better information, improved planning and smarter investments. UNICEF supports data analysis to inform planning and decision making, through mechanisms such as spatial child-centered risk assessments and community-level planning such as drinking water safety and security plans.
Photograph Captions

Page 5 - Grade 5 student Rineieta Alekuea, 10, from Tuvalu lost her family home during Cyclone Pam.

Page 6 - A Vanuatu Disability School student enjoying the Just Play activities conducted by UNICEF and Oceania Football Confederation.

Page 8 - Children in Samoa's capital Apia celebrate Christmas.

Page 13 - A young girl from Kolale Early Childhood Education School reads her English notes on the blackboard.

Page 14 - Meresiana Balesuva, 24, and her new baby at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital Maternity Ward, Suva, Fiji Islands.

Page 19 - Sosiceni Namoro and Camari Lomaloma with their new baby at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital Maternity Ward, Suva, Fiji Islands.

Page 20 - A school girl from the Solomon Islands drinks water during recess.

Page 23 - A boy and girl on Tanna island, Vanuatu, using one of the newly-installed taps to wash their hands.

Page 24 - A girl at Delap Public Elementary School participates in art and crafts classes.

Page 27 - A boy from the school for disabled children in Tarawa, Kiribati, converses with his teacher during class.

Page 34 - UNICEF staff support the Government of Vanuatu to immunise children.

Page 37 - Students at Kawenu School in Port Vila, Vanuatu, (from left to right) Sue (12), Manuela (8) and Nerita (9) hold their new schoolbags with school supplies, which they received from UNICEF to continue their study after Cyclone Pam.

Page 38 - Children play on a fallen palm tree in Funafuti, Tuvalu.
We sincerely appreciate all of our Government counterparts, our multilateral and regional partners, civil society, academia and the private sector. Without you our work for the children of the Pacific would not be possible.

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