

Review of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010





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Contents

Acronyms	7
Regions and countries of the Pacific	10
Melanesia	10
Micronesia	10
Polynesia	10
Executive summary	11
Context and purpose of review	11
Method	11
Results summary	11
Way forward & recommendations	12
Recommendations for action, by sector	12
Regional administration and cooperation (spc/ pifs)	12
National governments	13
Local / provincial / CSOS / NGOS / faith-based organisations / private sector	14
Donors: international, multilateral, foreign companies	14
1.0 Introduction	15
1.1 The PYS2010 context	15
1.2 Definitions	15
1.3 The scope of the review	16
1.4 Guide to this review report	17
2.0 Background	19
2.1 Geography and environment	19
2.2 Economy	19
2.3 Social and institutional development	21
2.4 Politics	22
2.5 Youth and demographics	23
3.0 Method	25
3.1 Research objectives and questions	25
3.2 Introducing the procedure	25
3.3 Develop review methodology	25
3.4 National consultations and meetings	26
3.5 Questionnaires: survey questionnaires and online blog	28
3.6 Desk review	29
3.7 Data and statistics to support qualitative information	29
3.8 Additional literature review and amalgamation	29
3.9 Limitations in method and future recommendations for review	30

4.0 Thematic component analysis	32
4.1 Thematic component one: accessing integrated education	32
4.2 Thematic component two: nurturing sustainable livelihoods	38
4.3 Thematic component three: promoting healthy lifestyles	45
4.4 Thematic component four: building stronger communities	52
4.5 Thematic component five: strengthening institutional capacity	60
4.6 Thematic component six: youth and identities	68
4.7 Thematic component seven: research information and data on youth	73
5.0 Discussion and analysis	78
5.1 Youth trends	78
5.2 Comparative analysis	81
5.3 Emerging issues	84
6.0 Evaluation of PYS2010	88
6.1 Purpose	88
6.2 Development and inception	88
6.3 Implementation, monitoring, evaluation	88
6.4 Effectiveness	89
7.0 Recommendations and conclusion	91
7.1 The opportunity cost of inaction	91
7.2 Proposed components and indicators	92
7.3 Proposed pys2015 process	95
7.4 Recommendations by sector:	96
7.4.1 Regional administration and cooperation /spc/ pifs	96
7.4.2 National governments	97
7.4.3 Local/provincial/ csos/ngos/ faith-based organisations/private sector	98
7.4.4 Donors: international, multilateral, foreign companies	98
7.5 Final remarks	99
Bibliography	101
Appendix one: list of survey respondents*	106
Appendix two: list of people, organisations and departments from in-country consultations	106
Appendix three: reviewed country youth policies or equivalent document, and regional policies and plans	108
Appendix four: sample survey	109

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AusAID	Australian Agency International Development
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CSO	Civil-society organisation
CYP	Commonwealth Youth Programme
DYWA	Department of Youth and Women's Affairs
ECF	Enterprise Challenge Fund
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FDC	Foundation for Development Cooperation
FDI	Foreign direct investment
FGD	Focus group discussion
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEC	Global Economic Crisis
HDI	Human Development Index
HDP	Human Development Programme
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	Information and communications technology
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
M & E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPI	Multi-dimensional poverty index
MTDS	Medium-term development strategy
NCDS	Non-communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-government organisation
NYC	National Youth Council
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
ODA	Overseas development assistance
OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
OSEP	Oceania Sport Education Program
PiCED	Pacific Islands Centre for Educational Development
PICTs	Pacific Island countries and territories

PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PiPP	Pacific Institute of Public Policy
PLP	Pacific Leadership Program
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
PRSP	Poverty reduction strategy paper
PSD	Private sector development
PYC	Pacific Youth Council
PYS	Pacific Youth Strategy
PYS2010	Pacific Youth Strategy 2010
RMI	Republic of Marshall Islands
SOPY	State of the Pacific Youth Report
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TA	Technical assistance
TALAVOU	Towards a legacy of achievement versatility opportunity through unity (Samoa)
TI	Transparency International
TOR	Terms of Reference
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UN	United Nations
UN YAP	United Nations Working Group on Youth
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
US	United States
USD	United States dollars
USP	University of the South Pacific
WB	World Bank
WDI	World Development Indicators
WDR	World Development Report
WGI	World Governance Indicators
YEN	Youth Employment Network
YES	Youth Engagement Strategy (World Bank)
YPP	Young People's Project
YSFP	Youth for a Sustainable Future Pasifika

Regions and countries of the Pacific

Melanesia

- Fiji
- New Caledonia
- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu

Micronesia

- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Guam
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Palau

Polynesia

- American Samoa
- Cook Islands
- French Polynesia
- Niue
- Pitcairn Islands
- Samoa
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Wallis and Futuna Islands

Executive summary

Context and purpose of review

Commissioned by the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC), the main objective of this review is to provide a comprehensive assessment of how Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs), as well as regional agencies, have responded to the issues and recommendations in Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 (PYS2010). Other objectives include:

- Assessing the relevance of PYS2010 to future planning, partnerships and resource mobilisation;
- Identifying and assessing emerging youth issues and trends; and
- Recommending for the future direction of PYS, namely the formulation of PYS2015.

The importance of getting this strategy right cannot be underestimated. Simple forecasts indicate that youth inactivity and unemployment alone have an immense cost to Pacific Island economies. Using available economic data for 11 Pacific countries, output lost last year due to unemployment is approximately USD \$828 million, which will skyrocket to USD \$2.049 billion by 2015, and USD \$3.18 billion in 2020 ¹.

Method

Our information was gathered from questionnaires, online surveys, in-country stakeholder consultations, in-country focus group discussions, a comprehensive literature review, and a desk review and analysis of national youth policies. It was then combined into a country-by-country, component-by-component analysis, and we now have a multi-dimensional view of PYS2010's level policy integration, effectiveness, influence and shortfalls.

Results summary

The lack of baseline data was a considerable challenge in evaluating the effectiveness of PYS2010. An analysis of the degree to which components have been integrated into national youth policies was conducted. However, drawing a causal link between the PYS2010 and the adoption of its suggested initiatives into national policies has been difficult to determine. Survey responses and consultations only provided a limited amount of information with regard to how much influence PYS2010 had over national youth departments and ministries.

However, general feedback indicated that PYS2010 was not widely known, nor was it consistently used or referred to by respondents as the framework it was intended to be. It appears that the promotion and dissemination of the document within countries was limited and often stayed within the youth departments or ministries, without travelling much further afield to the non-government organisations (NGOs), civil-society organisations (CSOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), in each country.

Integration of PYS2010 components into national policies varied considerably; one of the least integrated components being 'Youth and Identities'. A number of countries made references to the importance of maintaining culture and traditional customs by including youth in the process, but very few carried through with concrete actions. Another component which was only loosely integrated was 'Strengthening

¹ Appendix Five provides details of these estimations.

Institutional Capacity', which sought to strengthen existing mechanisms for effectively promoting the advancement of young people in the Pacific. The most highly integrated component was 'Promoting Healthy Lifestyles', which saw almost all Pacific countries largely integrating initiatives relating to: sexual and reproductive health, substance abuse, and non-communicable diseases.

Way forward & recommendations

Looking towards the next PYS, the review team has a number of recommendations, including:

- Increase funding, time taken in formulation, and resources dedicated to the PYS2015, with a solid commitment from regional agencies, governments and donors.
- The drafting process must be consultative, full ownership by all Pacific countries and territories (including NGOs/CSOs) are crucial to the success of PYS2015 as a reference point document for the region.
- Ensure inclusion of marginalised youth in the formulation of the strategy, through relevant NGOs/CSOs.
- PYS2015 must be gender-responsive, and pre-emptively address social exclusion and inequity concerns by targeting the marginalized.
- Build in concrete commitments to the PYS, with measurable progress points and accountability mechanisms.
- Have a rigorous third-party peer-review of the final draft to assess the strategy's feasibility objectively, perhaps by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the International Monetary Fund's Asia-Pacific Department, the World Bank, or other high-level academics.
- Collect measurable, gender disaggregated, baseline data as soon as PYS2015 is finalised to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation.
- A comprehensive implementation plan is needed within the strategy, and should specify all necessary resources, provide explicit directions and frameworks for all the stakeholders involved.
- A regional and independent monitoring and evaluation (M & E) taskforce should be formed and deployed every two to five years to support and oversee the self-reporting of governments and to ensure goals are actually being met.

Recommendations for action, by sector

Regional administration and cooperation (spc/ pifs)

- There needs to be a strong mechanism for regional cooperation and cross-government progress reporting on an annual or biannual basis.
- The review team supports the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recommendation in their 'Urban Youth in the Pacific' report; that youth issues should be a standing agenda item on Forum Minister meeting agendas.
- SPC and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) should consider a high-level regional panel with high-profile academics and national leaders to help shine a light on the issue and move the youth agenda to the forefront of Pacific Island and Territories' focus.

- Strengthen the Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM) by looking at the World Bank's Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) program statistic collection, as there is potential to share technical capacity on collection, dissemination and maintenance of databases. PRISM should be the central repository for all Pacific related statistics, and the 'go-to' place for data collection.
- The National Youth Councils that comprise the Pacific Youth Council should ensure that they continue to target marginalised youth, rather than those who are already 'tapped in' to existing networks.
- Communication channels to youth need to be strengthened using social media and mobile phone, and other available technologies.
- SPC Youth Desk should have more funding allocated, as presently there is only one person to take care of this section.
- SPC should consider monitoring particular youth throughout the region during the next implementation period and measure progress with respect to the PYS2015. These could include a random sample that is representative of the diversity of youth across the whole population, but more importantly, marginalised focus groups. Such indicators to be monitored would not only include the standard health, wealth, employment and income indicators, but also youth perceptions about access to government and services, their reliability and quality; this should provide crucial empirical insights into the changing dynamics of youth social exclusion.
- Install a funding mechanism to make National Youth Councils (NYCs) independent of governments.
- Administer a grant program funding youth-focused NGOs through a competitive bidding and proposal process, to channel funds to programs targeting marginalised youth and programs, similar to the Enterprise Challenge Fund (ECF).
- Youth involvement in agriculture should be promoted in line with the Pacific Youth in Agriculture strategy². It should be factored into the overall regional youth policies.

National governments

- Youth issues should be mainstreamed across ministries to ensure there is not a competition for available resources; it should be a broad cross-cutting theme.
- National youth policies must be married with the priorities and goals of the major ministries, with a representative body responsible for ensuring ministry cooperation on integrating youth issues. The Samoan TALAVOU programme provides a good example of this.
- Hire popular sporting identities to promote national and regional youth issues.
- Strengthen National Youth Councils to be more inclusive and more effectively partner with NGOs, CSOs and FBOs.
- New census data should be analysed to identify vulnerable youth populations, especially in terms of illiteracy, gender and sexual minority, and disability. Census questions should disaggregate youth to tap into sub-national inequalities and identify vulnerable and marginalized youth populations. The disaggregation of the information is crucial. Social vulnerability and social exclusion have been very well addressed by UNDP in Central and Eastern Europe³.

2 Pacific Youth Agriculture Strategy available online at:
http://www.spc.int/lrd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=678&Itemid=396.

3 <http://vulnerability.undp.sk/> and <http://europeandcis.undp.org/poverty/show/A3C29ADB-F203-1EE9-BB0A277C80C5F9F2>

- PYS2015 should be used by governments as a major reference point for their youth policies, to provide guidance and a checklist of what they should be doing. This should be supported by appropriate incentive structures, such as a regional youth fund from which adherent countries could be provided with budget support for youth initiatives.
- Legislative and policy issues relevant to youth need to be addressed comprehensively. National governments should convene a special parliamentary committee in to ensure budget support for youth programs.

Local / provincial / CSOs / NGOs / faith-based organisations / private sector

- NGOs/CSOs/FBOs should: identify marginalised youth and provide linkages to youth initiatives; utilise social media and other modern tools; and coordinate work with National Youth Councils and the Pacific Youth Council.
- Assist in the collection of baseline gender-disaggregated data to feed in to PRISM, conduct impact assessments, and provide feedback to statisticians at SPC who administer PRISM data collection. This will ensure a broader picture is gathered for the region rather than what is currently available.
- Look at creating partnerships between NGOs and private sectors to target youth issues.
- The private sector needs to provide more graduate positions or junior positions, with on the job training to support youth transitioning into the workforce. This could be monitored through legislation or incentives provided by government.

Donors: international, multilateral, foreign companies

- It is strongly recommended that donor-country national policies should be consistent with – and give more attention to - the PYS2015 objectives and ideals. For example, their aid programmes should reinforce the domestic and regional youth development activities.
- Donor-country migration policy should offer opportunities abroad for Pacific youth to develop and earn a living, particularly in the absence of such opportunities in home countries.
- Donor-country trade policy should support the industrial development of youth-related industries in the Pacific and promote their growth; that is, conflicts of interest between trade policy and international development policy must be recognised and mitigated.
- Following the recommendation in the previous section, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank should enforce youth mainstreaming in national MTDSs and PRSPs by making loans, aid and technical assistance conditional on adherence with multi-laterally agreed youth development investment and policy guidelines.
- The World Bank should provide data support to SPC and the development of the PRISM. The Bank's open-source data collection is an exemplary source for data for every other region of the world, and the Pacific should be included in there to the same extent as other regions.
- Bi-lateral and multi-national budget support should remain generous and a priority, as currently total overseas development assistance (ODA) funds received across the region has been in decline for a number of years (World Development Indicators, 2011).

- Increased quantity, quality, and range of programs for Pacific youth, noting that this may need to be conditional on a considerable improvement in monitoring and evaluation of these programs in-country to boost performance. Investment in youth activities in the Pacific must be scaled up immediately. Donor concerns of restricted absorptive capacity should be navigated around by investing in building this capacity in young people.
- Technical Assistance (TA) could be provided towards youth-related activities where the local capacity does not exist. This should seek to build local capacity, whilst avoiding the tendency to just fly in experts and then fly them out. On-going mentoring and support is needed.
- Donors should collaborate to create an effective tracking, reporting and oversight mechanism to provide impartial and critical feedback to the regional and national youth policy implementation authorities.



Female participants Focus Group Discussions, Apia, Samoa

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The PYS2010 context

The Pacific is a region characterised by the many different faces of diversity: cultural, ethnic, geographic, political, social, economic, and more. Within this context of thousands of islands where more often than not there is very little infrastructure or formal economic activity. The Pacific has always faced unique challenges and a different development situation; these challenges and differences vary not only with respect to other regions but also within the islands.

The Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 (PYS2010) was developed in 2005 as a 'strategic regional framework to guide preparing young people in the Pacific region to take responsibility for their overall development and well-being'. Adopted by the Second Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community in Port Moresby in December 2005, PYS2010 was drawn from consultations with national and regional stakeholders – including youth – to represent the region's firm commitment to providing more opportunity for young Pacific islanders to be inspired to 'realise their full potential and contribute to the social, economic, and cultural well-being of their societies' (PYS2010, 2005).

This movement stems from the fact that over half of the region's population is under the age of 24, with around 2 million people aged 15-24 (SPC, 2011); this is over 1/5 of the population and is creating heavy demographic, economic, social and political pressures that policy and the wider community must respond to. Thus, the PYS2010 states that all sectors of society are responsible for nurturing and supporting a safe environment in which children and young people can develop into the region's next leaders. The ADB's official approach to development in the Pacific states that 'a more strategic approach is also required to help mainstream gender and youth needs in development processes' (ADB, 2010). This review provides a comprehensive assessment of whether or not, and the extent to which, the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) and regional institutions have responded to the issues and recommendations made in PYS2010 and integrated the seven components into national and regional action. This will therefore determine how effective and influential the strategy has been, identify emergent issues since 2005, and evaluate the relevance and future direction of the PYS initiative.

1.2 Definitions

Following the PYS2010, there is indeed no regionally agreed definition of youth, and what constitutes a young person, rather than a child or an adult, varies considerably with each Pacific Island and culture. Respecting each island's definition of youth, we use the term/concept flexibly based on each country's national youth policy. Similarly to PYS 2010, when it is necessary to draw age limits, 15-24 is used, but as Pacific definitions are often reflective of social status as well as age, discussion is often relevant for those still classified as youth until married or eligible to partake in community meeting. Children are aged 0-18, as in the UNICEF definition, and 'youth' and 'young people' are used interchangeably.

Marginalised youth are youth who are relegated or confined to a lower/outer limit of social standing, commonly treated as insignificant or peripheral.

1.3 The scope of the review

The review provides a comprehensive assessment of whether and how Pacific Island countries, territories and regional agencies have responded to the issues and recommendations outlined under the PYS2010. This will include relevance of the PYS2010 in informing policy planning, creating partnerships, and mobilizing resources.

This assessment will analyse each Pacific country and territories National Youth Policy, or similar document, and assess their level of integration with the PYS2010 in each of the seven key components and their respective indicators:

- **Accessing Integrated Education:** focuses on facilitating improved access by young people to formal primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational education, as well as non-formal educational initiatives for skills development;
- **Nurturing Sustainable Development:** centres on the problem of economic growth in Pacific countries not providing enough paid employment opportunities to absorb the high number of youth leaving the formal education system each year;
- **Promoting Healthy Lifestyles:** identifies the health and well-being of young people as an important area in their holistic development, particularly as the transition from childhood to adulthood is characterised by profound physical, emotional and psycho-social changes;
- **Building Stronger Communities:** outlines the importance of family and community in providing for young people and motivating them to become productive and respected members of society, as well as the need to nurture responsibility, active citizenship and civic consciousness to instil national pride;
- **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** advocates the provision of adequate resources for strengthening national machineries for youth development and the continued development, implementation and evaluation of national youth policies;
- **Youth and Identities:** calls for stronger efforts towards educating young people in their cultural heritage through the development of their cultural identity and appreciation of traditions and customs, as well as tolerance for ethnic diversity;
- **Research Information and Data on Youth:** establishes a system of information gathering and analysis to monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of the aforementioned six components through establishing youth databases at the national and regional levels. It is envisaged that this databases will contain youth-related development indicators derived from censuses, surveys and administrative records, as well as research reports.

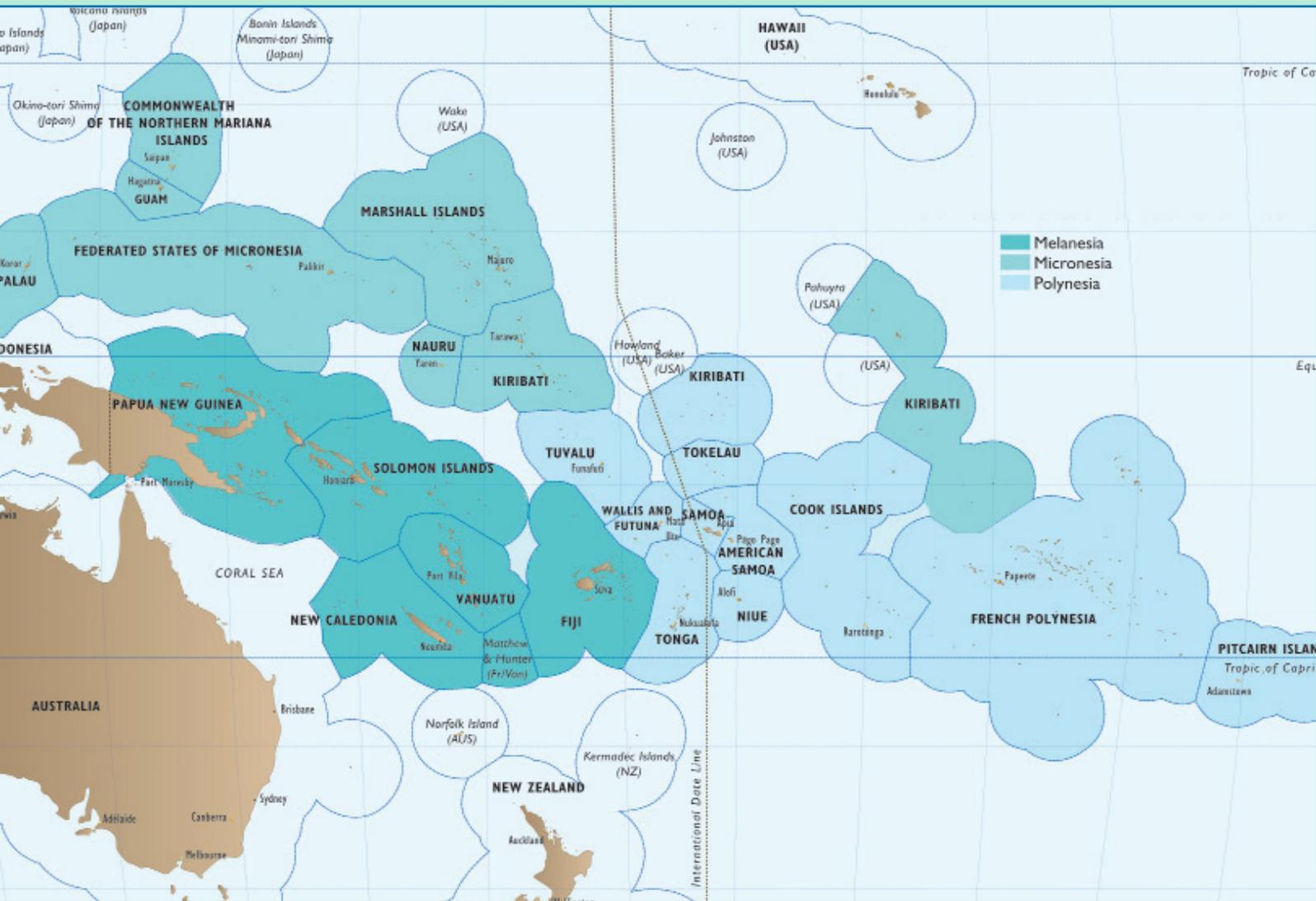
Consultation reviews with youth and key stakeholders were used where possible to further evaluate the response to the PYS2010. These consultations were important to assess the 'regional administration' performance, which will more generally note the successes and deficiencies of the PYS2010, as well as provide an outlook on future Pacific Youth Strategies. Indeed, a key priority is to accurately capture and reflect the priorities of youth and different governments so they can be strongly reflected in the next Pacific Youth Strategy.

The geographic scope of the review includes Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. More specifically, the national responses to PYS2010 have been evaluated in: American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Pitcairn Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and the Wallis and Futuna Islands.

1.4 Guide to this review report

As this report has been amalgamated and summarized into a more holistic overview, the authors cannot emphasise enough the heterogeneity of the Pacific youth issues and respective policy response. While it is common to group all Pacific Islands together, or even together with the Asia-Pacific region, this often conceals the discrepancies and pervasive intra-regional inequality. This holds for almost all indicators: institutional, economic, MDG, and of course those set out in PYS2010. We have therefore made every attempt to highlight the discrepancies between the different Pacific Islands and territories' responses to PYS2010.

This report is structured as follows: Section 2 will provide a background to the general geographic, economic, social and political climate of the region. Section 2.5 will provide a demographic overview of the region. Section 3 explains the methodology chosen for this review, the processes undergone throughout its implementation, and also the limitations faced. Section 4 provides a rigorous Pacific-wide analysis using the 7 thematic components of the PYS2010, detailing the level of each initiatives integration across the twenty six policies studied, and the achievements, challenges, lessons learnt, and future opportunities. Section 5 is a discussion of the key issues and trends. This begins with basic trends across components, then a comparative analysis indentifying the regions across countries and sub-regions, and the emerging issues. Section 6 is a more direct evaluation of PYS2010, which critically examines: its purpose; development and inception; implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and finally its effectiveness. Section 7 concludes the review with the recommendations and conclusion. This includes forecasts of the costs of inaction with respect to youth issues, a recommended direction for the future components and indicators, and suggestions for the PYS2015 process. The review is finalized with specific recommendations for each sector, some concluding remarks



2.0 Background

2.1 Geography and environment

There is 553 519 sq km (SPC, 2011) of land above sea in the Pacific area of interest for this study, and it is the most widely dispersed and remote landmass in the world. The population is just as dispersed; some island country populations are less than 40 (Pitcairn), whereas others are over 6 million (PNG). The tropical weather allows for lush vegetation in highlands which collect the heavy monsoonal rainfall, and bountiful beaches and archipelagos. This area of the Pacific is mostly monsoonal; that is, a rainy season occurs during the summer months when moisture-laden winds blow from the oceans over the islands. Natural hazards, climate change and deterioration of the environment are major concerns for the Pacific. The surrounding zone of violent volcanic and earthquake activity – known as the ‘Pacific Ring of Fire’, often causes tropical cyclones, earthquakes and flooding frequently in the Pacific, which heavily undermines development efforts. Climate change in particular is expected to see many nations suffer from a sea-level rise, more frequent and intense disasters, and periods of drought, bleaching of coral reefs and scarcity of freshwater resources (many fish such as tuna, which are a staple, are expected to migrate elsewhere), and a high incidence of water-borne diseases (UNESCAP, 2000). These intensify with the cyclical El Niño and La Niña phenomenon which occurs over the equatorial Pacific. Food security as a result of these environmental changes is a major concern, particularly with respect to decreased agricultural productivity due to increasing salinity of soils and drought, and declining fish stocks, which could pose a major risk to the region (UNICEF, 2008).

Weak governance also contributes to unsustainable marine exploitation throughout the region and serious deforestation in Melanesia. Proactive policy should seek to minimize environmental degradation through habitat destruction, coastal development activity and poor waste management practices, particularly in the mining sectors. The geographical remoteness of the Pacific is one of the key contributors to the emigration of the people to New Zealand, Australia, United States, and other countries, particularly the skilled middle class. Most youth do not have this option.

2.2 Economy

2010 was a year of mixed economic performance across the Pacific, and these disparities continue in 2011. On average, PICTs continue to experience economic growth, largely driven by strong exports of commodities and garments, increased investment, particularly in commodities, and a tourism rebound. An increase in relative political stability and macroeconomic policy credibility are clearly yielding benefits (IMF, 2011). The ADB (2011) expects their 14 Pacific developing member countries to expand by an average of 6.3% in 2011, and 5.4% in 2012, with the slowdown largely due to an expected moderation in growth in PNG. The World Bank (2011) forecasts that overall remittances to the Pacific will rise by 7.5% in 2011. However, regional averages conceal the disparities between countries. For example, the Pacific Island economies are projected to only grow by 1.7% in 2011, while the greater Pacific is expected to grow at 6.3%, due to PNG (ADB, 2011). These rates and disparities will continue into 2012, with the pattern of rising commodity prices reinforcing the performance of the resource-rich countries, while making things harder for the import-dependent countries, specifically FSM, RMI and Tuvalu who are particularly exposed and vulnerable to the economic costs of higher food and fuel prices.

Development challenges in the aid-dependent Pacific Island economies have been compounded by the global financial and economic crisis, with significant negative effects for all countries and territories (ADB,

2011). Reforms are needed to strengthen fiscal positions, improve the private sector development (PSD) environment, strengthen public sector performance, and raise productivity to increase growth (ADB, 2011).

The fiscal impact of the crisis and commodity shocks has varied across PICTs, but governments have generally been under a lot of pressure. Current account deficits have widened to 8% compared with an average of 6% from 2000-2007 (IMF, 2011). Higher prices - particularly fuel - increase the cost of providing government services, and governments across the region face major short-run/long run trade-offs. There is tension between mitigating the short-term impacts of commodity price shocks and laying the groundwork to reduce future vulnerability by making crucial long-run investments. Beneficial long-run productivity enhancing investments may not appeal to yield as much benefit today, so are a less attractive policy option when operating in a weak democracy with an uncertain political and policy future. Slowing remittances and steady aid flows remain the main sources of funding for PICTs (World Development Indicators, 2011), leaving them exceptionally vulnerable and facing great uncertainty around availability of future resources. Reliance on imported food and fuels, poor cost efficiency of energy, and a lack of agricultural diversification have negative implications for youth in the region and are obvious areas for macro management. However, solutions to such challenges will be protracted and require significant long-run structural change and investment.

Inflation is a major concern in the Pacific. The ADB (2011) warns that while their economies are improving, it is important to not be complacent about high food and fuel prices. Food security is an issue of paramount importance across the Pacific, and policy should minimise the costs from higher prices of imported rice, wheat and oil whilst capitalising on the gains from higher export prices.

Inflationary pressures are of particular concern to youth in the Pacific because of the increase in economic and social vulnerabilities that youth are exposed to. PICTs currently have to manage the social impact of higher commodity prices whilst maintaining sound financial systems in the face of rising and volatile capital inflows. Particular vulnerabilities to commodity price shock exposure in PICTs is due to their small size, remoteness, and high dependence on imports, but are highly exacerbated by their narrow export base, reliance on tourism and remittances for foreign exchange earnings, and large gaps in social protection.. Throughout the Pacific there are large informal sectors, limited social protection, and relatively under-developed financial sectors, which make this impact of volatility on vulnerable youth far more severe.

Youth unemployment, underemployment and lack of livelihoods are major issues across the Pacific. In some countries their unemployment rate is four times that of adults (ADB, 2011), and this has been commonly attributed to the fact that secondary and tertiary education access is limited, but even those with higher levels of education find themselves with inadequate skills for employment. The different education systems are not actually meeting the demands of the labour market. Many education systems are in need of reform to shift the focus from enrolments and quantity over to educational quality and longevity, but this is compounded by the winding back of education spending in several countries in the last few years (WDI, 2011). Formal sector employment is still very low and with the exception of Fiji, it is projected to grow very slowly; together with the population growth, this will generate a massive surplus of youth labour and increased demand for youth services (Booth et al 2006).

PYS2015 should be sensitive and adaptive to the economic differences across the region. For example, tourism education should be developed in those economies reliant on this; and combating the retarding effect that resource-dependence has on health and education should be a priority in the commodity dependent countries with poor human development indicators. These countries also need to try to maintain competitiveness in the other industries which mining tends to crowd-out. Most importantly, PYS2015 commitments should be economically feasible given the severe resource constraints in the region. An overly ambitious agenda will simply not be credible, whereas a conservative one will not signal commitment to youth or attract the much needed funding and donor support.

2.3 Social and institutional development

Current evaluations suggest that the strong momentum of social development within the Pacific in recent years has been lost in many important areas (UN, 2011). Monitoring social development in the Pacific is always inherently difficult due to the shortage of consistent, regular measures of living standards. Looking at the MDGs, notably education, gender equity, and disease: the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga have all made significant progress (UN, 2011). The rest of the region has made some progress, but it must be qualified. Primary education is generally in decline, and this mostly affects the poor, restricting their opportunities well in advance of their adolescence. This decline has been attributed to weak public sector management. Women are still under-represented in leadership, higher education, and access to health and other welfare services (Stephan, 2010). Across many PICTs there are gender concerns in the lack of political will for gender equity, unequal decision-making, high levels of gender based violence, and limited sexual and reproductive health rights (UNDP, 2010). Some improvements should be noted though, as teen pregnancies have fallen in most PICTs in the last decade - potentially representing a positive demographic shift associated with more education (Perkins, Radelet and Lindauer, 2006) - and youth marriage rates have fallen as well (SPC, 2011).

MDG weaknesses are clear in the areas of child and maternal mortality, environmental sustainability and water and sanitation (MDG Monitor, 2011). The overall MDG picture is not good, with non-income indicators declining or showing very slow progress. PNG and the Solomon Islands struggle to diversify their economies and distribute the benefits of their resource-based growth, which requires specific micro and distributive policies and most importantly, improving institutions. Their poor social indicators persist despite billions of dollars of aid and targeted social development investment (World Bank, 2007), perhaps explained by new evidence that even in the presence of good institutions, commodity dependence largely inhibits the long-run development process by hampering human capital accumulation (Avom and Carmignani, 2010). However, by most common measures, the Pacific nations tend to have poor institutions (WGI, 2011; Freedom House, 2011; Transparency International, 2011) thus further intensifying these negative effects.

Fertility rates are very high, but are coming down slowly (WDI, 2011), indicating the big income/fertility demographic shift is still a long way away. Population growth outstrips job creation in many countries and rapid urbanisation has caused severe strains on urban infrastructure and services, leading to haphazard provision of infrastructure, environmental degradation and insistent development bottlenecks in economic activity and growth. This urbanisation is partially due to the lack of economic activity, weak budget management and a decline in basic social service delivery in the outer islands of many countries (ADB, 2011). As such, traditional urban land regimes cannot cope with this and there are insecure squatter settlements with poor waste management, water, sanitation and electricity.

The financial crisis has seen poverty in the Pacific worsen, with an additional 50 000 people below the poverty line in 2010; many non-poor have also seen their livelihoods deteriorate (ADB, 2011). Low access to electricity is still a major issue in some areas of the Pacific, and a major binding constraint to economic development. On average, the energy bill is however already one of the largest cost items in the annual budgets and balance of payments of countries and the ADB strongly recommends a reduction of fuel imports through better management, more efficiency and the use of alternate and clean energy in the Pacific (ADB, 2011).

Repeated experience and assessments in the Pacific suggest that good governance underpins the more effective delivery of private and public goods and services (ADB, 2011) and institutional failures have extreme social costs, which disproportionately affect youth. For example, many youth are being led, by example, to believe that personal success should come through favouritism, bribery and fraud, rather than merit and hard work (UNDP, 2010). Moreover, bad institutions systematically cause societal inequalities to

worsen (Lundberg and Squire, 2003; Savoia et al 2010), and these inequalities are often identified as one of the key drivers of Pacific migration. Conflict and instability have also affected youth prospects over the last decade, having a big effect not only on the economy but also interrupting education and service provision. Youth have also played a key role in much regional instability, namely Solomon Islands, and PNG (World Bank, 2011). Large numbers of unemployed youth have been consistently linked to increasing social problems such as drug use, prostitution, crime, suicide, and again, civil unrest (Curtain, 2011).

Consistent with the human development approach, it is useful to consider social development and poverty using the concepts of the Oxford Human Poverty Institute's (OHPI) Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). This was incorporated into the 20th Anniversary Human Development Report (HDR), and is rapidly growing in popularity amongst practitioners and academics alike. Similar to the human development index, it considers health, education, and standard of living, represented by: at least one member of family is malnourished and one or more children have died; no one has completed five years of schooling and at least one-school age child not enrolled in school; no electricity, no access to clean drinking water, no access to adequate sanitation, dirt floor, dirty cooking fuel, and no more than one major household 'asset'. These are essentially 'yes' or 'no' variables and the headcounts are then adjusted by the intensity level of poverty. The MPI essentially represents the share of the population that is multi-dimensionally poor, adjusted by the intensity of the deprivations suffered. This measurement tool is an interesting supplement to simple income measures of poverty, and also allows for policy to target particular deprivations. No PICTs have been included in MPI calculations to date, but consider the dimensions: both the education aspects look only at people below 24; one of the health indicators looks directly at young people, and the other implicitly includes them; and all of the standard of living indicators highlight key determinants of how a young person's future is likely to evolve. We have already established in previous discussion the weak performance across health and education dimensions, but drawing on these indicators to evaluate the standard of living and opportunity spectrum available to Pacific youth would be useful if this data is collected.

2.4 Politics

Systems of parliamentary democracy are under increasing pressure in Melanesia and across the Pacific (PiPP, 2011). Left unchecked the trend may shift towards more autocratic forms of government. Many youth are becoming increasingly disillusioned with barely functioning parliaments, grim employment prospects and corrupt land and resource sales (PiPP, 2011). The political systems vary incredibly across just Melanesia: PNG is often described as an autocracy; Fiji has a dictatorship; and the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are reportedly heading in this direction unless significant political reform is undertaken, amongst other short-term pressure-relieving policies such as increased labour mobility (PiPP, 2011). While these countries have enjoyed relative democracy for most of the last 30-40 years since independence, they are regarded as moving towards a more guided authoritarian type of democracy, changing the political landscape (Polity IV, 2009).

Across the region, consistent parliamentary votes of no confidence are undermining the governments' ability to oversee the affairs of the state and provide its citizens with effective services. Every day the media vents frustration by citizens towards their leaders, decrying the lack of basic services, endless corruption and failure of leadership. Voting across the Pacific usually does not happen based on an ideological spectrum like in the West, but rather people vote according to tribal, chiefly, and personal loyalties, not because of any policy platforms. All parties tend to promise better health and education, sustainable development, and better governance (PiPP, 2011).

International politics in the Pacific is characterised by regionalism, led by the Pacific Plan. The prominence of regionalism reflects the region's lack of capacity, fragility, and diseconomies of scale. Similarly, the slow development of proposed regional initiatives reflects the capacity constraints and lack of trade opportunities which usually drive regional movements. The lack of greater economic integration in the

region is not surprising, as all Pacific island countries currently fight to maintain and strengthen national identities. However, there is great potential for further regional cooperation and integration, at least in the provision of common services and private investment (ADB, 2009). A study evaluating the possibilities for a new Pacific regionalism places good governance and economic growth as the highest priorities of the Pacific forum, proposing several initiatives in both areas (ADB, 2009). All have since been pursued. The PYS is one such regional plan, and the ADB notes that while these services are mostly donor-funded, they have nonetheless succeeded in achieving economies of scale and regional delivery of services.

2.5 Youth and demographics

While most countries around the globe are struggling to find ways to deal with issues such as the growing middle class and an aging population, the Pacific is facing the opposite. The older, and often education and experienced workers are leaving (brain-drain), and resulting in almost a complete absence of a middle-aged working class population. Couple this with static social indicators (list out a couple as example), and

the steady or often increasing population, and this results in the population effectively 'growing younger'.

Figure 1 : Population Projection 1970 - 2050

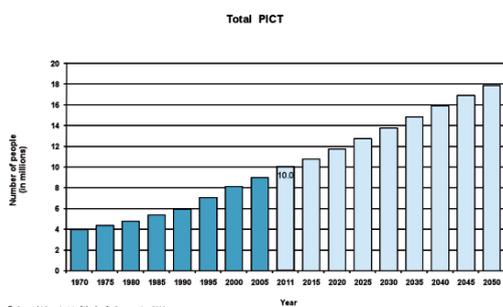
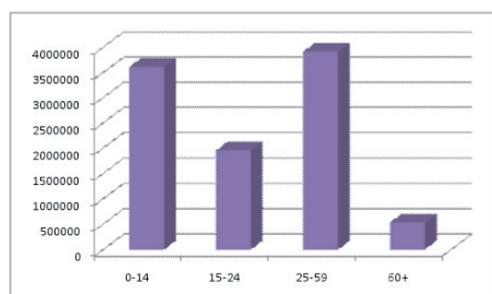
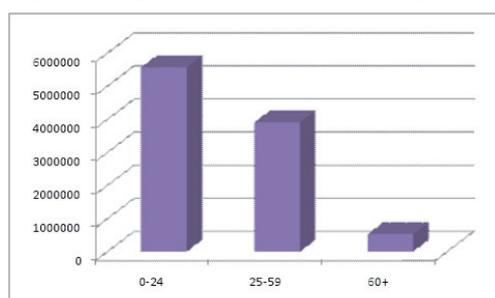


Figure 2 : Population Distribution by Age (1)



Source: SPC, 2011

Figure 3 : Population Distribution by Age (2)



Source: SPC, 2011

Figure 1 shows how – by global standards - the population growth rate across the entire Pacific is not excessive at 1.9%. These island nations are just short of doubling in population size every 30 years.

As in all developing regions, the youth make up a large proportion of the population in the Pacific region. In the entire East Asia Pacific region, the World Bank estimates that the number of children and youth under the age of 24 is 790 million, or 38% of the population. This is much higher in the Pacific Island countries where over 50% of the population is under 24 (PiPP, 2011; SPC, 2011).

Figure 2 shows the age distribution across the Pacific, including Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia. **Figure 2** was transformed into **Figure 3** by amalgamating the first two age brackets; well over half the population is under 24.

In this aggregate, Melanesia accounts for the greatest share of the population, followed by Polynesia, then Micronesia. Current population projections shown in **Figure 1** have the following expected distribution in 2050 (SPC, 2011):

- Melanesia: 16 000 000;
- Polynesia: 800 000;
- Micronesia: 700 000;

The median age in the Pacific is 22, and population density is set to double in the next 20 years from 18/km to 25/km (SPC, 2011). The World Bank identifies youth unemployment and dislocation as the two main issues for governments in the region, and the net migration rate is significant at -1.2% (SPC, 2011).

Youth and demographic-related issues faced by PICTs may share some commonalities, but they vary considerably in scope based on the unique situation of each nation. The PYS2010 builds a common policy framework, like the MDGs - and somewhat aligned - to improve the future of the youth, and therefore the whole Pacific. For example, the Solomon Islands Government has identified youth as one of 6 priority areas for medium-term development, and this is reflected in their strategy; they partnered with the World Bank regional representatives to analyse the situation and identify options and opportunities for action. In PNG, people under the age of 20 make up almost half of the country's total population, and are the majority of the urban poor (AusAID, 2006; World Bank, 2007). In Port Moresby, youth aged 15 – 29 make up 35.1% of the population, compared to 28.5% nationally, and this is expected to grow by another 13% in the next three years due to natural population increase and urban migration. Indeed, Melanesia has the highest urbanisation rates in the Pacific and with the growth rates above 4.7%; urban population is doubling every 17 years (SPC, 2011).

Commonly known as the 'youth bulge', these countries are foregoing economic benefits they would otherwise be able to capture through employment of this surplus labour because of their unfortunate demographic composition and ill-equipped public management systems (Booth, Zhang, Rao, Taomia, and Duncan, 2006). A recent PiPP (2011) discussion paper states that 'the struggle between communal values and individual rights remains a deep fault line of modern politics in the region'.

Demographic issues are cross-cutting themes, and central to many of the region's common development challenges, including: poor educational commitment, access and attainment; heavy rural to urban migration; the breakdown of traditional systems of social support; lack of economic competitiveness (and efficient markets); high unemployment; and generally poor human development. There is a strong perception that the public system is not fair and is currently failing to address the concerns, aggravated by youth alienation and the fact that they can often play no role in many areas of social and political life (PiPP, 2011). The failure of the labour market to absorb the youth bulge also exposes them to many risks, including organised crime, violence, and civil unrest, exemplified by the youth involvement in the Solomon Island's crisis.

To summarise, the growing youth population creates an increased demand for education, law and order, youth employment, and lower-income support services, whilst on the supply side there is very restricted capacity in both the public and private sector for increased investment in these youth-related challenges. There is constant pressure for the government to step up to the youth challenges despite already tight budgets, volatile aid flows and tax revenues, and of course a relatively small formal sector from which to derive tax.

Consistent with strengthening the policy responses to youth and demographic issues, the World Bank (2011) states that it is placing an increased focus on addressing issues facing vulnerable and disadvantaged youth, particularly through the 'Youth Engagement Strategy', which aims to help youth be a more productive economic and social force. This will be done by helping youth become active in the growth sectors relevant to the economy, as well as, and making a concerted effort to support youth welfare (World Bank, 2011). This agenda is similar to the PYS2010 activities, only the World Bank policy seems to focus more on analysis, activities and targeted investment, and a bit less on social and cultural factors.

3.0 Method

3.1 Research objectives and questions

The main objective of this research is to provide a comprehensive assessment of how PICTs, as well as regional agencies, have responded to the issues and recommendations in PYS2010. Other objectives include: assessing the relevance of PYS2010 with respect to future planning, partnerships, and resource mobilisation, identifying and assessing emerging youth issues and trends, and provide recommendations for the future direction of PYS, namely the formulation of PYS2015.

Therefore, the research questions formulated at the start of this review were as follows:

1. *To what extent have the Pacific Island countries, territories and regional agencies, integrated or taken into account the different components of PYS2010?*
2. *How effective and influential has the PYS2010 been?*
3. *What are the emerging trends which have not been addressed in PYS2010?*
4. *Is the PYS2010 still relevant and necessary?*

3.2 Introducing the procedure

To effectively meet the previously enumerated objectives, a review team of experts was formed, consisting of the Foundation for Development Cooperation (FDC), Dr. Patrick Vakaoti, Professor Richard Curtain, the SPC Human Development Office, and UNICEF Pacific.

Following the directions in the terms of reference provided by SPC, the chronological task list and method for the review is explained in the following sub-sections.

3.3 Develop review methodology

In collaboration with the consultants and stakeholders, the review methodology and data collection tools were selected to enable us to conduct analysis at the individual, organisational, national, and regional levels. It was agreed that information and data would be gathered using: questionnaires, online surveys, in-country stakeholder consultations, in-country focus group discussions, and a desk review and analysis of policies. The perceived benefit in such a multi-dimensional approach to information gathering was the minimization of sampling and spatial biases expected from the regional, national and individual differences.

3.4 National consultations and meetings

In accordance with the terms of reference (TOR) whereby representation of a minimum of four PICTs were to be consulted, twelve countries were visited and meetings with individual focus groups were held. The consultations were held with youth groups, ministries, CSOs, NGOs, FBOs and other partner organisations.

The following countries were visited:

- *American Samoa,*
- *Cook Islands,*
- *Federated States of Micronesia,*
- *Fiji,*
- *French Polynesia,*
- *Guam.*
- *Kiribati, Vanuatu,*
- *New Caledonia,*
- *Papua New Guinea,*
- *Samoa,*
- *Solomon Islands,*
- *Tonga.*

Firstly, soft copies of the surveys were distributed to various government departments and organisations with a view to meet or speak with them to discuss their answers. A list of all the departments and organisations is provided in Appendices One and Two. Following the distribution of the questionnaires, focus group discussions and meetings were held in these 12 countries.

The rationale behind using focus groups is that they are essentially discussions amongst a group of similar individuals who provide information about a particular issue through interactive discussion under the direction of a facilitator; in our case, this issue was the situation of Pacific youth and PYS2010. A focus group discussion (FGD) consists of a small number of between six – nine people, the length of time for the discussion was around two-three hours. It is believed that alignment of broader youth interests can potentially be achieved by selecting young people from the same age group, regardless of gender and whether they attend school. Participant selection was managed by national youth councils and NGOs, who advertised the focus groups according to 5 categories: young males and females between 15 – 20 who are still in school or further education; young males between 15-20 who are not in school; young females between 15-20 who are not in school; young men aged 20-24; and young females aged 20-24.

The discussions were conducted in the following steps:

1. State the purpose of focus group discussion, set the guidelines and introduce each other
 - a. Introduction for participants
 - b. State the guidelines for the discussion
 - c. Start the interaction with participants introducing each other
 - d. Choosing a peer help person
2. Identifying the problems young people like you face and your ideas for change
 - a. Small group discussions
 - b. Large group work: listing the key issues
 - c. Identifying barriers to change
 - d. Large group work: listing and rating the key obstacles

3. Identifying what youth activities have worked well and what do not
 - a. Introduce the task
 - b. Small group discussion of major youth activities
4. Finish the discussion
5. Facilitator to provide a final report of the results

The resulting focus groups and participants essentially followed the proposed division previously enumerated, and a complete list of those included in the focus group discussions is included in Appendix Two. These groups often consisted of people from the National Youth congresses and ministries (Tonga), specific youth ministries (Vanuatu), and combined national (different countries together) and sub-national youth councils (FSM).

The groups involved males and females of different educational levels, civic involvement and occupations. Most had completed high school and had some kind of connection with the NYCs or Pacific Youth Council; this raises concern about the exclusion of marginalized youth in the process, particularly those with lower education levels, lack of connection to the networks and minorities.

In American Samoa, PiCED and NYWA participated, and in Fiji five youth organisations were represented: Youth Champs for Mental Health; Rescue Mission; Fiji Red Cross Society; Namara (Kadavu) Urban Youths; and the Saint John Ambulance Brigade.

Of the five stakeholder consultations held in Fiji, only three were attended by young people. The others were attended by the organisational workers and volunteers who spoke about and in some case on behalf of the young people they worked with. This was a significant limitation.

In both Samoa and American Samoa, consultations did not take place with the five groups of young people identified for the study. In Samoa, four groupings of youths were compressed in to two consultations because of time constraints and recruitment difficulties: 25 and 15 people per group. Interestingly, a



number of participants were well outside the specified age group, but they very firmly insisted that they were Samoan youth and considered as such by both society and themselves. American Samoa had three groups: the first with six youths between 15 to 20 years who are in school and the second and third with 12 and three young people between the ages of 17-24 years in and out of school, respectively. All FGDs were gender-mixed groups.

In the Cook Islands the only stakeholder group that answered the questionnaire was the agriculture department. Young people in consultations came from a cross-section of communities, but the majority were Rotaract, the Family Welfare Association, Youth Ambassadors, and Youth Peer Educators on Rarotonga.

PNG had a somewhat diverse group, including a number of former AusAID educational program (Ginagoada) students working at the yacht club, hotel bar staff and two females from the Youth Alliance against HIV. A subsequent consultation meeting was held with seven NGO workers and a government employee. The Tongan discussion was with the National Youth Congress and three additional youth, and the Solomon Islands FGD comprising of 10 boys, supplemented by surveys from UNESCO and two individual males; gender-sensitivity was clearly a limitation in the Solomon Islands.

The French Polynesian session was attended by 15 females and 13 males, with a wide variety of ages. Over half of these people stated that they were currently directly involved in youth programs, and the group included three members of the Board of Directors and a manager of the Polynesian Youth Society.

In Guam, a focus group discussion was conducted with representatives of the National Youth Councils of Palau, Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). There were also representatives from FSM State Youth Councils of Yap State, Pohnpei State and Chuuk State. There were 8 participants in the focus group – 5 males and 3 females. Seven of the group members are aged from 21 – 28 years and one member is 43 years old. This focus group was an opportunistic one in that the representatives were present in one place at the same time.

For the purpose of analysis and interpretation, the results from the focus group discussions, hard copy surveys, and online surveys were all combined to gather the most complete set of information from which to base inference and evaluation. Unfortunately, even after this there were still serious limitations in the sample size in certain countries. Aside from the obvious geographical, cost and communication factors, participants noted that they would have preferred to be remunerated for their participation, which could be a crucial consideration for future qualitative surveys to try boosting response rates. Positively, at the end of the focus group discussions, members often thanked the facilitators for the opportunity to provide their ideas, and literally applauded the process. The young people engaged were willing and enthusiastic participants. The lack of established processes and institutionalised structures are major challenges in ensuring that young people's voices become meaningful policy outcomes. In other words, the enthusiasm of youth to address their plight needs to be matched by engagement from the top-down, with appropriate resourcing from Pacific decision-makers.

3.5 Questionnaires: survey questionnaires and online blog

The remoteness and isolation of many of the target survey participants made face-to-face consultation highly inconvenient for both the interviewers and interviewees. As a consequence, survey questionnaires were prepared and distributed to youth and stakeholders who were unable to attend the focus group discussions; a sample questionnaire is provided in Appendix Four. As many potential interviewees were unable to be physically consulted, these surveys were put on the internet using 'Survey Monkey' software. This allowed a greater response and more detailed analysis than otherwise would have been possible by only using physical consultations and focus groups. At the start of the consultative process, an internet

blog was created to establish an online presence and forum. This was used to effectively communicate and update online stakeholders of the latest news and progress of the review. The website is: <http://pacificyouthstrategy.blogspot.com/>

3.6 Desk review

Meanwhile, the desk review of national, regional policies was conducted. This was literally done by going through a range of official documents – provided by SPC and UNICEF and listed in Appendix Three – and analysing the extent to which these national, regional and international policies and agreements had responded to and included the recommendations and youth development agenda set out in PYS2010. More specifically, it involved searching these documents for any actions, or planned actions, with respect to the indicators and recommendations provided in PYS2010 under its seven thematic components, exemplified by the matrix at the end of the PYS2010 document with specific actions, targets, and indicators. A descriptive report was then compiled for each country and regional initiative, each with seven thematic components, explaining the level to which each specific recommendation (in each component) had been integrated, and therefore the disaggregated impact of the agreement on national and regional policy formation.

3.7 Data and statistics to support qualitative information

To assist in evaluating the seventh PYS2010 component – data and research – data and statistics were exhaustively collected from available online resources, which included: WDI, WGI, the official MDG databases, UNESCAP statistics, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's online data and PRISM website, and some interesting institutional indicators from Transparency International, the Fraser Institute, Freedom House, Doing Business, and more. A common theme in the data was a complete deficiency across the Pacific, with data at irregular intervals and very 'patchy'. One can say with reasonable confidence that regionally, Pacific development data is generally unavailable when compared with that of all other regions; baseline surveys are expensive exercises and where data is available; there is limited expertise available to interpret them. This is particularly the case with youth data which is more dispersed than the more general macroeconomic and social aggregates. Nonetheless, using all available data still allows for the rough construction of some stylized facts and trends across the economies and different thematic components of PYS2010, namely health, education, employment and institutions; combining these with demographic data allows one to draw inference surrounding youth issues with a reasonable degree of confidence and complement the 'soft' survey and literature data gathered, however there is still much ambiguity. Several issues have been raised about the data including the subjectivity of institutional indicators, reliability of employment data, misrepresentation of health and education aggregates, and the ability of most national data to hide pervasive sub-national inequalities.

3.8 Additional literature review and amalgamation

Throughout the process of this review, key partners provided additional report drafts, new data, and constant feedback which was all incorporated into the formation of the final product. In addition to the official national policies provided, a complete academic literature review was conducted, as well as a survey of all major institutional publications pertaining to development and/or youth in the Pacific. For purposes of brevity and due to the enormous cross-disciplinary scope of the review, a separate literature review section has not been included, but rather been used to inform and add further technical depth throughout the process and report.

Using the National and Regional policies, and other relevant documents as a foundation and the data collected from national consultations and surveys as supporting qualitative evidence, this review provides a comprehensive assessment of the level of integration of PYS 2010 into national and regional policies and their response to the issues and recommendations in PYS2010. More specifically: the content, goals and initiatives of the policies have been evaluated with respect to those set out in PYS2010 under the seven components enumerated in the introduction to this report - component by component, indicator-by-indicator, country by country - and the information gathered from the literature review, policy desk reviews, focus group discussions, surveys and stakeholder feedback were all integrated into the final thematic components analysis and following discussion. By utilising all information provided and practically available, we were able to conduct a multi-dimensional review of PYS2010, which would not have been uncovered or available from just one method of analysis in isolation. The review was therefore multi-faceted, complex, consultative, and effort was made to make the process as inclusive as possible; however, there were still clear limitations imposed. For example, not all countries had national reviews dated after 2005 (and therefore relevant to PYS2010), and those interviewed were predominantly already tapped in to the youth networks and decision-making process, thus not being representative of the marginalised youth or even the whole region [as only twelve countries were included in consultations].

3.9 Limitations in method and future recommendations for review

As alluded to throughout the methodology discussion, several limitations were faced throughout the review process; these are summarised in the following points:

- There were only 12 countries visited and therefore this does not represent the whole region well; more countries would have been ideal;
- Similarly, using national policies, data, and inclusion of youth self-selected and already tapped into networks hid intra-country inequalities and disparities. The sample was therefore not random, and also heavily biased away from the marginalised;
- There was a generally low response rate; feedback stated the questionnaire could have been more user friendly, shorter, and payment for time would have been appreciated and achieved more responses. Therefore, a longer lead time and the opportunity to run pilot surveys would have been more ideal; that is, more time on the ground would have allowed for a more inclusive and comprehensive consultation process. This was of course not an option due to resource constraints;
- With respect to the online surveys and general communication throughout the process, there were often communication barriers and poor internet access and connectivity was certainly a barrier;
- Generally, the data, and reports available were scarce at best. There were extreme gaps in multi-national institutional data and monitoring throughout the Pacific, even more so for youth. While the UN and MDG databases for the Pacific were comparatively the most complete and comprehensive, serious data gaps still persist;
- The World Bank's flagship WDI has very little information for the Pacific, and their activities and reports are centred on PNG and the Solomon Islands, rarely including the other 19 developing PICTs;
- Regular institutional reports habitually group the Pacific together with Asia – namely, as the Asia-Pacific region – this heavily biases data and forecasts and misrepresents the true heterogeneity across the region in many different dimensions. For example, East Asia is currently experiencing a boom,

pulling growth rates upwards for the Asia Pacific; similarly, the resource-rich PNG and Solomon Islands are far above the other Pacific Islands, experiencing positive economic growth, thus making the region appear to be seemingly in expansion when taken at the aggregate. However, most other countries have been economically stagnant or in decline, and this is hidden by regional statistics;

- A few countries did not have national youth policies to review; in lieu of these, next-best policies were recommended by partners to provide a rough idea of PYS integration, but it cannot be stated that they were a response to PYS2010;
- Similarly to the limited institutional data and report, the academic literature on development in the Pacific was far from rich, particularly with respect to youth. The most valuable documents were provided by key partners and predominantly unpublished manuscripts and documents in review; and
- The actual construction of PYS2010 presented a number of limitations. Firstly, the indicators were not measured at the start of the strategy to benchmark progress against. Moreover, these indicators are inherently vague and difficult to measure, often holistic and not universal across countries or regions, and almost always not measured or recorded. Unfortunately, in the few cases that some of these have been recorded by specific agencies or organisations, they were not readily or easily available to the public. The pervasiveness of this point truly undermined the implementation and ultimately the progress of PYS2010 by not matching the commitment clearly signalled at its inception with measurable and tangible results.

All of the above imply conditions conducive for a poor basis for inference, but we have successfully mitigated this with our multifaceted approach to the review.





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4.0 Thematic component analysis

4.1 Thematic component one: accessing integrated education

Education is widely accepted as a foundational pillar of not only economic growth and long-term development, but also the accumulation of national human and social capital and the root cause of the positive demographic shift that all countries take on their path transition through the traditional stages of development. Knowledge and education is most developed when one is young, and investment in education has the largest payoffs when it is targeted at young people, particularly young girls. Providing access to integrated education was rightfully included as the first thematic component in PYS2010. Educational improvement has cross-sectoral and cross-dimensional development dividends and can effectively empower society to act as agents of their own development, reduce co dependence on the state and aid-funding, and address youth and development issues.

As stated in PYS2010, young people require appropriate skills to secure and retain productive employment in either the public or private sector, or engage in individual income-generation activities. Many young people in the Pacific leave school before completing formal education, which undermines the region's entire long-run development trajectory. This also means that access to education is a key priority for young people in the region. Specific initiatives under this component are grouped into 'formal education', 'non-formal education' and 'life-skills training'. To compete with the rest of the world and not be further marginalised by globalisation, high-quality formal tertiary education is the area that will add the most value with respect to increased productivity, innovation, entrepreneurship, and the diffusion of knowledge throughout society.

This component acknowledges weaknesses between linking education with employment, the changing nature of the work environment which requires new and different skills, and also the increasing importance of information communication technologies (ICT) and other modern technology to foster inclusion, innovation and informed-decision making for youth.

Formal Education

This initiative focuses on facilitating better access to the formal schooling system through activities, including: providing opportunities for leadership development, student support services, and the integration of civic and ICT into the school curriculum. Most of the Pacific countries and territories identified the formal schooling system as an important aspect of youth development, although several countries, including FSM, New Caledonia, Tuvalu and Wallis and Futuna did not have any identifiable policies on improving access to education. In American Samoa, the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs (DYWA) stated in its response to the questionnaire that education services have been continuously developed and the Pacific Islands Centre for Educational Development (PiCED) has implemented some PYS2010 initiatives, including student leadership development. Similarly, the Solomon Islands acknowledge that there are challenges in providing educational opportunities for young people, however there are no specific PYS2010 activities identified for this area.

Providing opportunities for student leadership development is a key indicator under this component due to its ability to develop the leadership competency of young people both within and outside the classroom. However, few PICTs included leadership development as an activity in their national youth policies or similar document. Kiribati and Vanuatu both commit to implementing leadership development activities (through the use of Student Councils), while Niue will encourage students to take on leadership roles by

becoming class leaders, prefects and peer councillors. The Cook Islands and CNMI policy also introduces leadership training and related self-esteem and problem-solving skills-building activities. Finally, the Suva Declaration also highlights the importance of incorporating leadership development in the schooling system, with the establishment of student council bodies used to facilitate this development.

Another key indicator under this component is student support services. These include truancy prevention measures, career and vocational counselling, and internship and work experience programs. Through the provision of such services the school environment will be better equipped to prepare young people for their chosen careers and retain students within the formal schooling system. Although several countries recognise high levels of school absenteeism and truancy, including the Cook Islands and Nauru, few include truancy prevention measures in their national youth policies or similar document. However, in some cases this may be due to some youth-related policies (e.g. truancy) are addressed within Ministry of Education policies, and have not been cross referenced with the youth policy of the country. Palau and Kiribati have policies on absentee management and truancy systems. The Pacific Tofamamao 2015 document also recommended truancy measures in schools.

In terms of providing career and vocational counselling to students, a number of countries had a service to help address problematic drop-out rates. The Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Pitcairn, RMI, Tonga and Vanuatu all commit to providing youth or career counselling to students in the formal schooling system. Samoa commits to employing counsellors in educational institutions, while Palau provides counselling and career guidance services which will include referral mechanisms to other services where needed. Lastly, only four of the countries: CNMI, Fiji, Kiribati and Pitcairn, include work experience schemes in their activities to improve the formal schooling system.

French Polynesia and PNG also committed to implementing and strengthening student support services, but did not further detail specific activities. Similarly, the Pacific Youth Charter and the Suva Declaration also state that student support services are needed, but do not provide any explicit detail on how these should be implemented.

PYS2010 promotes the inclusion of civic and ICT education into the school system to improve student knowledge in these areas. However, only Kiribati and Vanuatu have committed to introducing civic education into their primary and secondary school curricula. The Suva Declaration also acknowledges the importance of this activity. As for the integration of ICT: Guam, Kiribati, Nauru and Vanuatu all recognise the importance of ensuring students are technology-literate and commit to incorporating ICT into the school curriculum. Tokelau is seemingly leading the way with complete integration of ICT into most schools' curricula. However, another indicator under this component of the PYS2010, encouraging youth participation in the Digital Strategy of the Pacific Plan, has no activities supporting it within any national policy document, although it is referenced in the Pacific Plan.

There are several other important activities that are being implemented by Pacific countries and territories to improve access to the formal education system that are in addition to those outlined in PYS2010. Guam, Palau, RMI and the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 document promote the implementation of after-school and remedial programs for academic enrichment, while PNG will offer school holiday programs and camps. Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Pitcairn, Samoa and the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 advocate for more qualified teachers, and for professional teaching standards to be strengthened. Parent-Teacher Associations will also be introduced and strengthened in Palau and RMI, to increase parental involvement; while Kiribati will implement parental training programs to highlight the importance of education for young people. PNG and Pitcairn policies state that school curricula will undergo evaluations and upgrades. The Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Pacific Plan documents also highlight the importance of evaluations and upgrades. Finally, Kiribati and the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 advocate subsidised education costs for

students encountering financial problems or low-income families. A fine example of such a policy being implemented is in the PNG Province of New Ireland, where the provincial government has been providing free elementary and primary education through to grade eight since 2008. In addition to this, they are subsidising 75% of fees for the rest of secondary school, and providing generous funding to all students in tertiary institutions. There are also a number of post-graduate scholarships in areas of particular relevance to the province, namely: mining, fisheries and agriculture. Regionally, the Oceania Sport Education Program (OSEP) offers sport administration and generic coaching training materials and is expected to expand to other sport education areas community social sport coaching, and sport management. The program will also deliver community sport education programs.

Most of the consultations and discussion groups with young people and stakeholders highlighted that dropping out of school continued to be a significant problem among young people. Dropping out was attributed to various reasons, including: deficiencies in the learning environment (such as teacher performance), lack of parental support and the rising cost of education. This problematic drop-out rate could be improved by implementing the initiatives under the PYS2010, as well as taking note of other activities implemented by PICTs as detailed above, including improving the quality of teachers, increasing parental involvement and subsidising education costs. The World Bank's 2007 World Development Report (WDR) strongly advocates the need to strengthen mechanisms which provide second-chances to youth who make poor decisions, and this is a great example of why intervention is necessary to prevent youth underdevelopment. Several of the consultations also noted an increasing trend in school violence and bullying in formal education institutions across the region.

Non-Formal Education

Due to the changing nature of the work environment, technical and vocational education is necessary and requires the acquisition of skills outside the formal schooling system. Many PICTs focus their youth policies in the area of non-formal education, although no identifiable policies were found for CNMI, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands or Wallis and Futuna. In addition, although Guam and Vanuatu commit to improving vocational education, this will be through implementing pathways within the formal schooling system, rather than targeting those who need skills training and are no longer in school. Although Samoa states that it has delivered non-formal training workshops in areas such as tourism and the environment [in cooperation with NGO and faith-based partners], there are no identifiable activities on how access to vocational education will be improved in line with PYS2010. American Samoa does not have any identifiable policies in this area, and although the government acknowledges a skills shortage, skilled workers continue to be imported from abroad rather than providing vocational training to young people. This trend is even more pronounced in industries with higher skilled positions that require a high level of formal education and/or experience.

Many countries, including Cook Islands, FSM, Nauru, Niue, RMI and Tuvalu, commit to designing and implementing training areas in specific areas that are in line with economic activity and market demand. These vary across different policies but include: trades, agriculture, marine, forestry, hospitality, tourism and small business development. PNG commits to improving its non-formal education system through industry-driven courses, but it does not detail the sectors to be targeted. The Pacific Plan also commits to investigating potential for expanding regional technical vocational education training (TVET) programs in: health care, seafaring, hospitality, tourism and peacekeeping.

Several countries commit to non-formal educational improvements. Fiji commits to community-based training centres to enable youth skills training in preparation for employment, self-employment and self-sufficiency. Kiribati will revise its policies to ensure needs of youth are met and establish specialised vocational training centres for youth outside the formal education system. Palau commits to strengthening

its vocational education options and promoting an “Adult High School” targeting school dropouts. Tonga will develop a national pilot skills-development project, to improve access to training in emerging areas relating to economic trends, youth skills and interests. French Polynesia, Pitcairn and Tokelau will encourage and develop TVET, but no specific details are provided as to how this will be done. Similarly, the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Pacific Youth Charter both promote the need to strengthen non-formal education systems, but do not reference specific activities.

Apprenticeships enable young people to gain relevant skills to enhance their employment prospects and individual competitiveness in the domestic labour market. Many PICTs commit to facilitating apprenticeships or work placement opportunities to enhance vocational education and training for youth to gain the necessary skills for employment. The Cook Islands, French Polynesia, FSM, Kiribati, Palau, RMI and Tokelau all make reference to an apprenticeship scheme in their national youth policies or other similar document. Nauru goes further than this to state that it will develop partnerships with government, private and NGO sectors to identify apprenticeship or work placement opportunities, while Tonga will also encourage youth participation in short-term overseas employment schemes.

The majority of the consultations and group discussions with young people and stakeholders highlighted that more non-formal education options should be provided to youth, particularly in light of the problematic drop-out rate in the formal schooling system. For many, vocational education and training is seen as the solution to the youth unemployment problem. There were some concerns noted over the registration process to enter non-formal education courses (New Caledonia) and whether such training is being recognised by prospective employers (Samoa).

Life-Skills Training

This section assesses how life-skills education programs for young people have been promoted across the Pacific under national youth policies or other similar documents. There was no reference to life skills training in American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Solomon Islands, Wallis and Futuna or Pacific Youth Charter documents. The Cook Islands, Pitcairn, RMI and Vanuatu all committed to the provision of life-skills training within formal education systems. While FSM, Fiji, Guam, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Tokelau and Tuvalu linked life-skills training to their non-formal education initiatives. In both cases this could be problematic as life-skills training is provided to either those in formal schooling or those in non-formal education, and not those who may be marginalised from these systems. CNMI, the Cook Islands and Tonga all commit to providing life-skills training courses to young people as a whole. Training areas vary across the policies but include: problem-solving, time management, self-esteem, interpersonal relationships, health, first aid and disaster preparedness. The Kiribati policy also commits to implementing life-skills education programs for young people, in partnership with communities, NGOs and faith-based organisations, but it does not detail specific life-skills to be included. Consistent with PYS2010, the Pacific Tofamamao 2015, Pacific Plan and Suva Declaration documents all promote life-skills training for young people, but do not outline specific activities that should be implemented.

Conclusion

The level of integration of the “accessing integrated education component” of PYS2010 varied considerably across Pacific countries and territories and regional documents. This ranged from: Kiribati - who incorporated all of the PYS2010 initiatives - to the Cook Islands; Nauru Palau, and Vanuatu, which incorporated approximately half of the activities; and to American Samoa, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Wallis & Futuna, who had no identifiable youth education initiatives in their youth policies.

Most policies committed to providing/upgrading vocational skills training, an integral part of the non-formal education initiatives and delivering life-skills training to young people. Many countries with vocational skills training initiatives have substantive policy in this area, identifying specific areas for economic growth and youth employment opportunities in line with market demands. As for life-skills training, although many countries have included this activity in policy, it is often directed at young people within either the formal education sector or the non-formal education sector, without targeting delivery to marginalised youth.

Many formal education initiatives were not included in the policies. Only one-third of policies included the provision of the most common initiative, counselling services in schools, while only a couple of countries made reference to incorporating civic education into the school curriculum and establishing truancy prevention measures. This may be due to education ministries not synthesising policy with youth ministries and departments, resulting in far lower coverage of formal education initiatives within youth policy. Youth policy and departments can at times be overshadowed by the much larger ministries; which serves to further highlight the importance of mainstreaming youth issues throughout the major ministries.

Within consultations concerns were raised over school performance, including pressure from parents to follow the studies chosen for them by their family and poor quality teaching, but more fundamentally some other reasons are clearly more related to affordability and gender issues. The following recommendations were provided to address the quality issue in schools: improving teacher performance through training, increasing parental support and Parent-Teacher Associations, evaluating and upgrading the school curriculum and addressing rising education costs through subsidies. Consultations also identified school violence and bullying as an emerging problem among youth in the region, and should be addressed by school administrations.

Table 1: Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 1: Accessing Integrated Education

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing/upgrading vocational and skills training was one of the most integrated initiatives, with most countries/regional documents addressing this, - Life skills initiatives were also highly integrated, - Kiribati performed particularly well in this component, with integration of all initiatives into its national youth policy.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - American Samoa, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Wallis & Futuna did not integrate formal education initiatives in to their youth policies (or equivalent), - Only one third of policies advocated for counselling services in schools, - Only a couple of countries included civic education in to school curricula, - Few countries incorporated truancy mitigation measures, - Increasing levels of bullying and peer pressure is an emerging problem that schools need to address, - Low quality of teachers is a significant issue, - Lack of synthesis between National youth policies and National formal education policies, which can result in the appearance of non-integration.
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life-skills training should be targeted at marginalised youth, and not just those within the formal and non-formal education sectors, - Improvements to teacher performance through training programs is important to improve quality of education, - Increasing parental support and Parent-Teacher Associations will improve parental involvement in their children's education, - Pacific schools will benefit from evaluating and upgrading their school curriculum, as per PNG and Pitcairn activities in this area. - Address rising education costs through subsidies could be an option for increasing access, - School curricula need to be responsive to employment opportunities available within countries, - Community and parental education is needed on the importance of keeping girls in school. - After-school and remedial programs for academic enrichment could be considered by PICTs, as per the initiatives in Guam, Palau, RMI and the Pacific Tofamamao 2015, - Lower levels of integration may be attributed to the dominance of other ministries, which have not synthesised policy with their national youth department/ministries.

Table 2: Country/Regional Policies: Component One – Accessing Integrated Education

Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>										
Country	Formal Education						Informal Education		Life Skills	# Indicators Integrated (9)
	Leadership Development	Truancy prevention measures	Career and vocational counselling	Internship/ work experience	Civic Education	ICT Education	Providing/upgrading vocational and skills training	Apprenticeships/ work placements		
American Samoa										0
CNMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						2
Cook Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
FSM							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			3
Fiji				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		3
French Polynesia ⁵							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
Guam						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
Kiribati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9						
Nauru ⁶			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
New Caledonia										0
Niue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Palau		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		5
Pitcairn			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
PNG ⁷							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		2
RMI			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		4
Samoa			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
Solomon Islands										0
Tokelau						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Tonga			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Tuvalu							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Vanuatu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
Wallis & Futuna										0
Pacific Tofamamao							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Pacific Plan							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Pac Youth Charter ⁸							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1
Suva Declaration ⁹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
# Policies Including Specific Indicator (26)	6	3	9	5	2	6	17	9	17	

5 Refers to “student support services” broadly

6 Will address absenteeism-drop-outs but no explicit measures

7 Refers to “student support services” broadly

8 Refers to “student support services” broadly

9 Refers to “student support services” broadly

4.2 Thematic component two: nurturing sustainable livelihoods

Increasing Youth Workforce Participation and Income-Generating Activities

Economic growth in Pacific countries does not provide enough paid employment opportunities to absorb the high number of students leaving the formal education system each year. Moreover, the economic diversity of the region means that growth in the region is not only geographically asymmetric, but reflective of industrial composition. As explained in the Background Section, most of the growth in the Pacific at the moment comes from the Solomon Islands and PNG, and the growth in these countries can be largely explained by the resource sectors, which employ only a minority of the population. Tourism-heavy countries are also benefiting from the current boom in Australia and Asia. The benefits of these two types of growth are unlikely to be distributed to the entire population, unless the government actively redistributes the benefits. This is particularly an issue with the informal sector, which in many cases includes most of the population. This section of the 'Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods' component of PYS2010 therefore focuses on helping young people participate in the workforce and/or income-generating activities to enable them to earn a living and contribute to poverty reduction in their communities; comparatively, the creation of such activities would not only increase growth organically from the community level, but it would fall under the category of pro-poor growth, resulting in a more equitable income distribution, increased opportunities for more young people, and a more sustainable future. The specific recommendations through PYS2010 in this area included:

- Developing initiatives to develop and implement poverty reduction strategies;
- Increase youth employment opportunities;
- Support youth-led enterprises and income generation activities; and
- Small business development and mentoring.

The majority of Pacific countries and territories recognise that youth unemployment is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. However, few of the policies addressed the initiative to empower and engage more young people in development and implementing poverty reduction strategies. New Caledonia, Palau and PNG addressed this activity to some extent by committing to encouraging and increasing young people's involvement in the development process. The Suva Declaration noted that few resources are currently being allocated in this area and that the capacity of young people to contribute to national development needs to be strengthened significantly.

21 out of 26 policies surveyed committed to increasing youth employment opportunities and supporting youth-led enterprises and income generation activities. However, American Samoa, French Polynesia and the Pacific Youth Charter did not have any identifiable activities in this area and New Caledonia only refers to encouraging economic development and employment without giving any specific details on how this would be supported. Tokelau also does not incorporate policy in this area because of its "village workforce" situation, although it is suggested that they should still consider ways to diversify employment opportunities for youth. Most of the Pacific countries and territories incorporated this initiative into the policy by identifying areas where possible economic growth, market expansion, and subsequently, youth employment opportunities and training could be increased. The Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 document have all utilised this approach. From the policies provided and available publicly, concrete action plans and resource commitments to this initiative are ambiguous.

Sectors targeted for boosting youth employment vary across countries, but include:

- Agriculture,
- Fisheries,
- Forestry,
- Tourism,
- Environment and
- Handicrafts.

CNMI, Guam, Pitcairn and Wallis & Futuna also identify possible areas for economic and employment expansion, but these policies are not youth-specific. Developing the private sector was another key strategy identified to increase youth employment by Kiribati, Niue, Pacific Plan, RMI and Palau; while Nauru, Niue, Vanuatu and the Pacific Plan also commit to conducting research on, securing, and expanding market opportunities. While this too is positive, a major caveat is that the shift to market-based private-sector activities has a tendency to revert to and strengthen the informal sector as well, because goods are often cheaper in the informal sector, and both the development of the formal and informal marketplaces must be carefully facilitated and monitored. The Pacific region is characterized by its inherently communal nature, so formal sector wages are often shared at the community level and, again, quickly circulated back to the informal sectors. Legal and institutional reviews and reforms are outlined as a strategy by Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Vanuatu and the Suva Declaration to ensure that there are no structural impediments to youth employment. Finally Kiribati, Fiji and Tonga youth policies commit to providing recruitment, registration and employment referral services to young people searching for work; data collected was insufficient to determine if these services are provided now.

Another key element of increasing youth involvement in employment and income-generating activities under the PYS2010 is to encourage and support small-business development, particularly through providing mentoring for youth. Positively, the majority of Pacific countries and territories and regional documents include this initiative as part of their policy to address youth unemployment. Better still, FSM, Fiji, Niue and PNG policies commit to providing both financial assistance and advice, and skills training to young people eager to start-up their own small-business. Entrepreneurship, mentoring and youth enterprises were identified as areas for youth employment expansion by the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Pacific Tofamamao 2015, Pacific Youth Charter and Suva Declaration, although no specific activities to support this area are outlined. Palau and Tuvalu commit to providing access to financial assistance for youth small-business development, while Kiribati will provide business development advice and skills training to support young people in this area. Finally, CNMI and Guam commit to creating a “small business incubator” that will promote entrepreneurship, but this activity will not exclusively target young people.

Most of the focus group discussions with young people and other stakeholders highlighted youth unemployment as a pervasive and continuing problem. A wide range of suggestions were made on how youth unemployment could be addressed. These included:

- Providing more jobs,
- Increased investment,
- Employment services,
- Workplace quotas,
- Skills development, and
- Policy reform.

Several policies - as outlined above - already include activities similar to those suggested during consultations.

Youth Trade Shows and ICT Business Participation

These indicators have been included under this component of the PYS2010 because they are seen to provide opportunities for young people to showcase their expertise, exchange ideas and learn from each other. Despite this, few of the Pacific countries and territories included these initiatives in their youth policies or other similar document. Fiji, Niue and Tonga were the only countries to commit to introducing a youth show, career expo day or festival to facilitate the dissemination of employment opportunities and initiatives for youth, but there is little evidence that these took place except in Fiji where career expos are a staple of the youth/ education calendar. The Pacific Tofamamao 2015 document also highlights the need to conduct regional youth tradeshows to showcase the contributions of young people to economic development. As for promoting youth participation in ICT businesses, only Fiji and Guam included this activity in their policies, with Fiji using ICT to develop a range of “sunrise” industries and Guam utilising ICT as a way to establish itself as a telecommunications hub in the Pacific.

Micro-Projects Relating to Food Security

This is a special feature included under this component of the PYS2010 as a way to engage people in ensuring that their households and communities have access to nutritious and safe food sources. However, references to such an initiative in youth policies and other relevant documents have been very limited. Nauru makes reference to food security as an area for youth entrepreneurial development, while Samoa commits to training young farmers in sustainable practices that will lead to food security. The Pacific Tofamamao 2015 document also highlights the importance of establishing initiatives for young people to contribute productively to food security.

Resource Management and the Environment

This section recognises the important role that young people play in sustainable development and aims to educate and engage them in long-term natural resource management and environmentally sustainable initiatives and practices. Despite the importance of youth involvement in this area several countries have not integrated this section of the PYS2010 into their policies. These are American Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Pitcairn, RMI, Tokelau, Tonga and Wallis & Futuna. Furthermore, although New Caledonia, the Pacific Plan and the Pacific Youth Charter commit to promoting sustainable development and environmental management, no specific youth initiatives are noted. The key initiatives highlighted by most documents to address this area are to implement educational and awareness programs on the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources to youth. In addition to this, young people would then be supported in advocating for and promoting good environmental practices in the community. The Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, FSM, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Suva Declaration all include variations of these ideas to promote the role young people play in environmental protection. CNMI and Guam also have environmental public education and outreach initiatives, but these do not exclusively target youth. Other initiatives being implemented in this area include involving youth in practical environmental campaigns and programs, as referenced by FSM, Niue, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, and engaging young people in national environmental planning, as seen in the Cook Islands and Vanuatu. Palau and Niue also commit to supporting and strengthening networks between youth organisations and environmental stakeholders. The Pacific Tofamamao 2015 document is particularly substantive in this area and includes all the aforementioned “other” initiatives as activities that should be implemented across the Pacific region.

Several of the consultations and discussion groups identified issues relating to the environment as being important issues to youth. The need to address climate change was highlighted by most of these respondents, with the general consensus being that Pacific governments and regional organisations, including the PYS 2010, need to be doing more to address this issue. It was also noted that young people need to be better informed of environmental issues and that more awareness-raising programs were needed. Consequently, although many countries are already conducting awareness-raising in this area, this should be expanded to ensure that all young people are aware of various environmental issues. It is clear that future policies and initiatives need to ensure that climate change is adequately addressed, to ensure that youth understand how climate change impacts on their lives and what they can do to mitigate its negative effects.

Summary

The level of integration of the “nurturing sustainable livelihoods component” of the PYS2010 varied considerably across the Pacific countries and territories and regional documents. This ranged from Fiji and Pacific Tofamamao 2015, who incorporated most of the PYS2010 initiatives; to Guam, Niue, Palau, PNG and Samoa, who included approximately half of the activities; and to American Samoa and Tokelau, who had no identifiable livelihoods initiatives. The strengths and weaknesses with respect to this component and the findings from the desk review and consultations are summarized in Table 3. In most cases, there has been a moderate degree of PYS2010 integration into national policies, but the consultations highlighted that this commitment has not translated to action and results.

As for the type of initiatives being integrated, positively the majority of policies committed to supporting youth employment and small business development, as well as promoting resource management and the environment. Many of the countries identified economic growth areas which could contribute to youth employment opportunities and committed to supporting youth small business development through providing mentoring, advice, training and financial assistance. As for environmental initiatives, most countries understood the importance of involving youth in this area and committed to providing awareness-raising, amongst other activities. However, it should be noted that the consultations highlighted that future policies and PYS2015 should ensure that climate change is adequately addressed.

Unfortunately, there were several initiatives that were only included in a handful of the policies, namely, involving youth in poverty reduction strategies, youth trade shows, participation in ICT businesses and food security micro-projects. Moving forward, it is important to consult with Pacific countries and territories and identify why these initiatives have not been integrated. Whether this be because of a lack of understanding on what they involve or because they are not seen to be useful, PYS2015 should make appropriate and informed adjustments. Table 4 concludes with an illustrative representation of the integration of the different PYS2010 components across countries, and also regional policies.

Table 3: Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 2: Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Pacific Tofamamao 2015 agreement has largely incorporated the livelihoods component of PYS2010; - Significant integration of youth employment and options for youth income-generating activities integrated into policy; - Cross-country commitment to financial and business development assistance for youth. - Significant cross-country commitment to environmental livelihood programs
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiative integration differed considerably across countries, territories and regional documents; - American Samoa and Tokelau currently have none of PYS2010 livelihoods initiatives, but this is expected to be changed with the latter's forthcoming youth policy; - Little involvement of youth in poverty reduction strategy formulation; - Trade shows or career expos have not gained traction; - Not enough food security micro-projects; - Not enough support for, or activity around ICT-related businesses, which have great potential to economically connect the youth of the remote Pacific Island countries with the global economy; - Feedback suggested that not enough attention was given to climate change.
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to pinpoint where and why there has been a deficit in the integration of these activities despite strong national and regional commitment. - While there is wide spread recognition for the importance of micro diversity and developing self-sufficient income-generating activities, translating will into effective practice and action seems to be lacking for some reason; - International efforts, support and technical knowledge should be garnered for 'global public goods' such as food-security and climate change activities, for which there is strong local support; further ICT would prove a powerful avenue to connect with such partners; - Investigate trade shows further to understand why they have not gathered traction; it is likely due to a lack of communication, coordination, funding and support; - There is little evidence of youth involvement in the poverty reduction processes and it is crucial to further engage youth in the policy-making and formulation process from the top-down to support the bottom up small business and industrial development initiatives. Along a similar vein to the Pacific Youth Charter, authoritative youth groups should be at least consulted or engaged with when formulating and evaluating national medium-term development strategies.

Table 4: Representation of the Integration of 'Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods' component across the Pacific

Country/Regional Policies: Component Two – Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods								# Indicators Integrated (7)
Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>								
Country	Poverty Reduction Strategic	Support youth employment	Small business development and mentoring	Youth trade shows	Participation in ICT businesses	Food security micro-projects	Resource management and Environment	
American Samoa								0
CNMI								3
Cook Islands								3
FSM								3
Fiji								5
French Polynesia								2
Guam								4
Kiribati								2
Nauru								3
New Caledonia								2
Niue								4
Palau								4
Pitcairn								1
PNG								4
RMI								1
Samoa								4
Solomon Islands								3
Tokelau								0
Tonga								2
Tuvalu								3
Vanuatu								2
Wallis & Futuna								1
Pacific Tofamamao								5
Pacific Plan								2
Pac Youth Charter								2
Suva Declaration								4
# Policies Including Specific Indicator (26)	4	21	17	4	2	3	18	

4.3 Thematic component three: promoting healthy lifestyles

The physical and mental health of young people is a very important aspect of their development; particularly during the transition from childhood to adolescence and in to adulthood. During this time of development, profound physical and emotional changes appear which need to be adequately addressed by governments and health authorities, to ensure young people's continued well being. The level of integration of the "promoting healthy lifestyles" component of PYS2010 varied across the Pacific countries, territories and regional documents under investigation. This ranged from Palau, who incorporated all of the PYS2010 initiatives under this component; to Fiji, Niue, PNG, RMI and Tonga, who incorporated nearly all of the activities; and, to American Samoa, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Wallis and Futuna, who had few identifiable health initiatives.

As for the type of initiatives being integrated, positively all of the policies included at least one initiative to improve sexual and reproductive health services or awareness, although it has also been conceded that there are continuing problems in this area due to cultural and religious limitations, which should be addressed in the forthcoming PYS. Similarly, nearly all of the policies addressed substance abuse and non-communicable diseases as health issues among young people. Importantly, over half of the respondents also committed to providing access to youth-friendly services and/or counselling.

However, less than half of the PICTs and regional documents committed to addressing mental health problems and suicide in young people. This may be because these problems are not considered an issue within these countries. However, the provision of awareness-raising and services in these areas should be considered across the region, particularly in light of the increasing occurrences of mental health issues and suicide attempts highlighted in the focus group discussions held for this review. Peer education as a tool for delivering health messages to youth was only utilised by half of the countries, and less than half referred to partnerships with other stakeholders in implementing health initiatives.

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Patterns of Pacific youth sexual behaviour have changed significantly, with adolescents becoming sexually active at an increasingly early age, leading to an increase in unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and HIV and AIDS infections. This situation is compounded by the lack of access young people have to sexual and reproductive health information and services. Positively, all Pacific countries and territories addressed sexual and reproductive health, although the extent to which it was addressed varied considerably across the region. Vanuatu and Tokelau note that there are continuing problems and a lack of services available for youth sexual and reproductive health, however no actual initiatives were outlined in their policies. Similarly, although Wallis and Futuna have conducted a conference noting where improvements could be made in sexual and reproductive health services, and Pitcairn commits to improving the screening and reporting capacity of STIs and HIV and AIDs, there are no identifiable youth-based initiatives currently being implemented in these countries.

All of the remaining Pacific countries and territories, and regional documents, outline education and awareness raising activities, campaigns and programs as key methods to be used in addressing sexual and reproductive health issues of youth, although to differing degrees. CNMI, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Samoa and Solomon Islands commit to implementing "sexual and reproductive health" education programs, but do not outline what this will specifically include. American Samoa commits to addressing teenage pregnancy in particular through its programs, while Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Tonga and the Pacific Plan put greater emphasis on addressing STIs and HIV and AIDs in their programs. Finally the remaining country policies and regional documents, including FSM, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, PNG, RMI, Tuvalu, Pacific Tofamamao 2015, Pacific Youth Charter and Suva Declaration, commit to addressing both

sexual and reproductive health issues. CNMI, Kiribati and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 emphasise the need to provide free and confidential STI and HIV testing, and along with FSM, also commit to providing family planning services. In addition, CNMI and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 underscore the importance of providing contraception options, while Nauru has committed to providing options for safe sex practices through “condom outlet” initiatives.

There were several other important observations made in the sexual and reproductive health area. Both the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Suva Declaration note continuing cultural and religious barriers to implementing programs for youth in this area. This is also explicitly acknowledged in the Samoan policy, with concern raised that these constraints will limit the topics covered in their program. Palau also acknowledges this problem, although to address this they conduct separate programs for young men and women, to alleviate sensitivities. PNG was the only country to explicitly state that it will address unsafe abortion in its programs, despite this issue being included under the PYS2010 as something that needs to be addressed. It is perhaps worthwhile for the forthcoming PYS to provide strategies on how cultural and religious sensitivities in this area can be mitigated, to enable youth access to information on a full range of sexual and reproductive health issues.

Most of the consultations and discussion groups with young people and other stakeholders noted that sexual and reproductive health, and in particular teenage pregnancy, was a key issue facing youth. It was widely believed that more awareness raising and education was needed in schools and the community to improve youth understanding on issues relating to: teenage pregnancy, family planning, STIs and HIV transmission. However, it was also widely stated that there are continuing problems with providing sexual and reproductive health information to youth because of the aforementioned cultural and religious sensitivities and the resulting taboo in this area. Several youth noted privacy and confidentiality issues; with specific mention made in the Cook Islands, with young people at times unable to discreetly gain access to contraceptives. For example, it is not uncommon for condoms to only be accessible at the local hospital, and staff may contact parents of young people when they attempt to procure these contraceptives.

Substance Abuse

The problem of substance abuse, which includes alcohol, tobacco and other substances, is also an increasing concern for young people in the Pacific region. Substance abuse negatively impacts on their ability to make responsible decisions and exposes youth to a range of health, societal and other problems. Most of the Pacific countries and territories, as well as regional documents, acknowledge that substance abuse among youth is a problem that needs to be addressed, although American Samoa, Pitcairn, Wallis and Futuna, Pacific Plan and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 did not make any reference to this issue. Further, although Tokelau and Vanuatu acknowledge that substance abuse among youth is a major concern, there are no identifiable activities being implemented to address this problem. Similarly Fiji, French Polynesia and the Pacific Youth Charter commit to creating policies and programs to address youth substance abuse, but do not outline any specific initiatives.

All of the remaining country policies and regional documents, with the exception of PNG and the Suva Declaration, outline education and awareness raising activities, campaigns and programs as the key method to be used in addressing youth substance abuse. Kiribati, New Caledonia, Palau, PNG, RMI, Tonga and Suva Declaration also highlight the need to develop, improve or enforce legislation in this area. CNMI will also provide treatment and therapeutic services, while PNG will establish rehabilitation centres.

Substance abuse was identified as a key issue among young people and other stakeholders in the consultations and discussion groups. Most countries noted that further prevention programs, for example awareness raising and education, should be conducted in this area. However, it was also noted

by one group in French Polynesia that prevention campaigns, if they are not conducted correctly, can have the reverse effect. In this instance, a marijuana prevention campaign turned out to be more of an advertisement for the drug than a deterrent. This could be addressed by ensuring that prevention campaigns concentrate on the negative problems associated with drug abuse, for example school/work problems, relationship problems, and long-term health problems, rather than providing information on the short-term effects the substances will have on the body, such as feelings of euphoria, which could be viewed by youth as positive. Most of the youth consulted also believe that legislative measures need to be tighter and more stringently enforced. It was also noted that in American Samoa, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, and New Caledonia there is an increasing number of “non-traditional” substances being abused, including glue, propane gas, home brews of varying kinds, and yeast and water mixtures.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

An increasingly sedentary lifestyle and poor nutritional practices are exposing Pacific youth to a range of non-communicable diseases, (NCDs) including: obesity, diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Despite this though, Kiribati, Nauru¹⁰ and the Solomon Islands have not made any identifiable reference to addressing issues in this area. Furthermore, although Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and the Pacific Plan highlight the need to address NCDs, no specific initiatives are outlined. Similarly, SPC will provide CNMI with the technical assistance required to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing NCDs, but what this will specifically entail is not stated.

All of the remaining PICTs and regional documents promote awareness raising and education strategies as the method of addressing NCDs. This ranges from French Polynesia, RMI, Tonga and the Pacific Youth Charter stating that they will deliver awareness raising on healthy living and NCDs, but without specific details, to the Cook Islands and Samoa, which concentrate on healthy eating campaigns, and New Caledonia, Tuvalu and the Suva Declaration, which focus on promoting physical activity. Positively, the remaining nine Pacific countries and territories, as well as Pacific Tofamamao 2015, commit to addressing both of these areas, nutrition and physical activity, in preventing and combating non-communicable diseases. It is also important to note, however, that some of the initiatives being implemented target schools in particular. It is also vital that youth as a whole, and particularly marginalised youth, are targeted to receive awareness raising on preventing NCDs, and not simply those in the formal education system.

Of all the youth health issues highlighted under this component of the PYS2010, NCDs was seen as less of a problem by young people and other stakeholders in the consultations and group discussions. However, it was noted by youth in French Polynesia that there had been an increase in youth obesity due to unhealthy eating habits associated with “Americanisation”, the relatively low cost of “junk food” and a poor understanding of diet and nutrition. Some suggested that more awareness raising and education should be conducted in this area, with youth being educated on the consequences that a bad diet has on their bodies. It was also suggested that specific sports programs tailored exclusively for overweight young people could be considered, to combat both health and bullying problems.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Adolescent health issues significantly contribute to youth vulnerability, which has led to an increase in mental health problems and suicidal tendencies amongst Pacific youth, in particular. The commitment across the Pacific region to mental health and suicide has been limited. New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna do not have any identifiable policies acknowledging problems in this area. There are also several policies, including American Samoa, CNMI, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands and the Pacific Plan, which outline initiatives to address mental health, but do

not reference suicide prevention as an issue in itself. On the other hand, French Polynesia, PNG, Samoa, Tokelau, Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Pacific Youth Charter all commit to addressing suicide, but do not reference the mental health sector more broadly. Consequently, FSM, Guam, Palau, RMI, Tonga and the Suva Declaration were the only policies and documents that acknowledged the need to address both mental health problems and suicide in youth.

Various methods are being used to address mental health problems with youth, although the Cook Islands and the Pacific Plan only identify mental health as an issue, rather than outlining any specific activities. Similarly, Guam has established a mental health program, but no specifics are given, Palau broadly commits to developing and strengthening mental health programs, particularly in regard to depression, and RMI notes that it will collaborate with various stakeholders to implement mental health services. FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru and Solomon Islands will all conduct education and awareness raising programs and workshops to address youth mental health. As part of its comprehensive mental health policy, Nauru also commits to conducting a baseline needs assessment, further training for mental health professionals and facilitating home-based care for the mentally ill, while the Solomon Islands will also conduct research in this area. American Samoa and Tonga will ensure mental health counselling is made available to youth, CNMI will provide treatment and therapeutic services and Fiji will address mental health through sports, recreation and life-skills training. Finally, the Suva Declaration highlights the need to provide access to professional mental health services and implement programs in the community, which address the negative perceptions, held about sufferers of mental illness.

As for suicide prevention, while French Polynesia, Palau, RMI, Tokelau, Pacific Tofamamao 2015, the Pacific Youth Charter and the Suva Declaration all acknowledge that youth suicide is a concern and that policies and programs need to be developed and strengthened, no specific activities are outlined. FSM and Samoa both commit to implementing awareness raising programs on suicide, which will be delivered in schools, to youth organisations and to the community. PNG will produce a suicide prevention toolkit and widely distribute it, Guam will conduct community training to prevent youth suicide and Tonga has established a suicide lifeline service.

In the consultations and group discussions with young people, most identified suicide - as opposed to the broader mental health area - as an increasing problem among youth. It was stated that suicide is most commonly caused by relationship problems and break-ups, although family problems, financial problems, unwanted pregnancy and substance abuse were also identified as factors. In order to prevent suicide it was suggested that awareness raising programs and workshops should be implemented, family time should be prioritised, counselling services should be made available and youth should be encouraged to reach out and talk to others. It was also noted in one of the youth consultations that there is a need to raise the profile of mental health to remove the associated negative stigma.

Youth-Friendly Services, Counselling and Peer Education

Young people need access to youth-friendly information and counselling to help them arrive at responsible decisions regarding health issues, as well as to help them cope with the challenges of adolescent psychosocial development. Using peer education as a method of delivering information to young people can also help with progress in this area. American Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Pitcairn, Wallis and Futuna and the Pacific Plan do not make reference to any of these initiatives. Furthermore, none of the activities to be implemented by CNMI, Guam or New Caledonia are youth-specific and they make no reference to the use of peer education. Nauru¹¹ makes no references to initiatives in this area. Fiji, RMI, Palau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and the Suva Declaration all commit to establishing youth-friendly services or clinics, while Niue and

¹¹ Youth-friendly services/counselling are not referenced in the youth policy, although there is a situational analysis document for Nauru which does.

the Solomon Islands commit to ensuring access to youth-friendly counsellors. Better still, PNG, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 commit to providing both of these services to youth. French Polynesia and the Pacific Youth Charter note the importance of providing training and capacity building to counsellors to enable effective management of the needs of young people, while Kiribati provides support services and counselling for youth, as well as conducting a review of existing health policies to ensure relevance to young people. Samoa and the Suva Declaration also highlight the utility in using role models, such as celebrities and sporting figures, in delivering health messages to youth.

Only a few comments were made in the consultations and group discussions with young people and other stakeholders on this matter. It was noted that youth-friendly services have only been implemented in some Pacific countries and territories and that the lack of confidential youth-friendly services available continued to be an issue, with some young people, particularly women, refusing to access health services because of this. It was also noted that there needs to be more counselling personnel trained in youth issues, including substance abuse and suicide.

Partnerships

The importance of strengthening partnerships between youth departments, other government departments, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders is seen as crucial in effectively implementing initiatives in this area. However many policies and regional documents, including American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Pacific Tofamamao 2015, Pacific Plan, Pacific Youth Charter and Suva Declaration, make no reference to partnerships in this area. Furthermore, while the CNMI, New Caledonia and Pitcairn policies note that SPC will be providing them technical assistance; no domestic partnerships in implementing youth health initiatives are referenced. Finally, while Tuvalu does not make any reference to partnerships in its policy, it was noted by UNDP during stakeholder consultations that it is working with UNFPA to implement youth-friendly health services.

As for the remaining PICTs; the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG and Samoa, all outline the importance of establishing and strengthening partnerships with other government ministries, NGOs, faith-based groups, community organisations and other stakeholders in the implementation of youth health initiatives.

Table 5: Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 3: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A significant amount of initiatives within this component have been integrated in to national youth policies (or their equivalent) and regional documentation; - The sexual and reproductive health initiative is addressed by all countries and regional documentation surveyed; - Peer-education and the provision of youth-friendly health services was addressed by approximately half of the policies, which is positive;
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental health and suicide prevention programs are neglected by many Pacific countries; - Awareness programs of non-communicable diseases and correct diet and nutrition, although addressed by some countries, needs to be made available to all youth and not just those in the formal education system; - Unplanned pregnancy and abortion needs to be more rigorously addressed in national youth policies; - Cultural restrains in providing quality sexual and reproductive health education/services; - Abuse of legal and readily available substances, i.e. glue, propane gas and home brew is rife and difficult to monitor by authorities;
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental health programs and awareness raising targeting young Pacific men with regard to pressures which may lead to self-harm and suicide; - Innovative strategies are needed in the area of sexual health education to address how cultural and religious sensitivities can be alleviated, to ensure young people are able to receive information on a full range of sexual and reproductive health issues including: teenage pregnancy, family planning, STIs, HIV, and AIDS. - Whilst reference is often made to the importance of an issue, this is often not backed up by details of how this will be addressed. - Sports figures may be helpful in communicating the 'healthy living' message, and could be used across a range of health issues.

Table 6: Country/Regional Policies: Component Three – Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>									
Country									# Indicators Integrated (8)
	Sexual and Reproductive Health	Substance Abuse	Non-Communicable Diseases	Mental Health	Suicide Prevention	Youth-Friendly Services/ Counselling	Peer Education	Partnerships	
American Samoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3					
CNMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4					
Cook Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5					
FSM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6					
Fiji	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
French Polynesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6					
Guam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4					
Kiribati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
Nauru	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
New Caledonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3					
Niue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
Palau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8					
Pitcairn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2					
PNG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
RMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
Samoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
Solomon Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Tokelau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6					
Tonga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
Tuvalu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4					
Vanuatu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5					
Wallis & Futuna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Pacific Tofamamao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5					
Pacific Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Pac Youth Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
Suva Declaration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7					
# Policies Including Specific Indicator (26)	26	21	23	14	12	16	13	10	

4.4 Thematic component four: building stronger communities

This component of the PYS2010 was constructed around the ideal that young people should be raised in a family and community environment that adequately provides for their immediate needs, as well as their long-term aspirations. Such measures will also strengthen young people's sense of pride and societal belonging, as well as motivate them into becoming productive and respected members of society. The various initiatives outlined under this component are designed to achieve these ends.

Decision-Making and Leadership

It is important for young people to participate in decision-making forums and acquire leadership capabilities to enable them to develop responsibilities, be active citizens and confidently use their energy for productive activities. However, as recognised in several of the youth policies and documents, traditional views in the Pacific region see youth as being subordinate and therefore not eligible to be involved in decision-making processes. Therefore, although most of the Pacific countries, territories and regional documents acknowledged the importance of addressing this issue and increasing youth activity in these areas, CNMI, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Wallis and Futuna, and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 did not make any identifiable references to supporting youth decision-making and leadership.

Many PICTs, including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, provide leadership training and activities to increase youth participation in this area. Some of the countries also conduct training on governance, democracy, communication and public speaking to complement their leadership activities. FSM and the Pacific Plan highlight that promoting diverse relationships and partnerships within society will also provide youth the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Another key initiative advocated by Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Pacific Youth Charter and Suva Declaration is the promotion and creation of opportunities for youth to be involved in decision-making processes and arenas across both community and government. In support of this initiative, several documents commit to supporting consultative mechanisms, such as "Youth Parliaments" in the Cook Islands, French Polynesia, PNG, Tuvalu, Pacific Youth Charter and Suva Declaration. The Pacific Youth Charter makes reference to supporting "Youth Councils", PNG and the Suva Declaration to "Youth Festivals" and the Solomon Islands to "Youth Forums". Similarly, Palau and Tonga both commit to further strengthening youth organisations to increase their ability to participate within society.

The limitations encountered by youth, in terms of acquiring leadership skills and being involved in decision-making processes, were a key concern in the consultations and discussions with young people and other stakeholders. Because of traditional societal values, adults were seen to dominate all aspects of political and community life, with young people rarely having the opportunity or confidence to share their opinions. As one youth discussant from Fiji stated, "this is part of the Pacific way of life, standing from the back and not being part of the discussion". Consequently, many youth consulted wanted further leadership training, and involvement in decision-making processes to be facilitated. It was also noted in several of the discussions that a lack of skills in this area can be associated with peer pressure, which is a catalyst for other youth issues such as substance abuse, unsafe sex and truancy.

Youth Criminality

There has been an increase in juvenile criminality within the Pacific in recent years (UNDP, 2011). PYS2010 promotes the need to implement special community-based crime prevention and restorative justice programs for young people. However, despite the importance of addressing this issue, many

PICTs and regional documents have not. No reference has been made by American Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Pitcairn, Tokelau, Wallis and Futuna, Pacific Tofamamao 2015, Pacific Youth Charter or the Suva Declaration. In addition, although Vanuatu has acknowledged the problem of increasing youth criminality and states that it will review social structures to identify weaknesses, there are no specific activities outlined in this area.

The key method being used by many of the Pacific countries and territories to address this area is to conduct awareness-raising and education programs for youth, on topics such as: criminal issues, the reality of incarceration and expected behaviour within the community. This method is being utilised by Cook Islands, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, RMI, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. In addition, Tuvalu is using young offenders to carry out this awareness-raising and education programs as part of their rehabilitation. Several of the countries, including CNMI, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands, commit to providing juvenile correctional facilities, treatment and rehabilitation services. In addition to this, Kiribati and Samoa will establish a separate judicial process and Court for juvenile offenders. Similarly, the Pacific Plan highlights the need to strengthen law enforcement training, coordination and attachments in the area of juvenile justice.

FSM, Nauru, PNG, Samoa and Tonga will also use flexible and alternative sentencing policies when sanctioning youth, which could include good behaviour bonds, community service, probation or mediation. Cook Islands, FSM and Guam will also implement support programs to help reintegrate youth offenders into the community and minimise their risk of reoffending through such activities as mentoring, supervision, crisis intervention and counselling. The Cook Islands, Guam and Palau also offer incarcerated youth the opportunity to undertake formal and non-formal education courses and skills training. A community policing program will be established in Nauru and PNG to increase interaction and partnership between youth and police to reduce criminal behaviour, and RMI will implement similar “community against crime” groups. Finally, Samoa will conduct research to establish the underlying causes of youth crime, which will help to address the increasing youth criminality rate.

Most of the consultations and group discussions with young people noted that youth criminality was increasing and needed to be addressed, and this is reflected in the UNDP/PIFS ‘Urban Youth Report’ (UNDP, 2011), which provides a rigorous analysis of the issue and appropriate policy recommendations. The consultations and group discussions gave some additional suggestions on how to address this problem. These included: separate juvenile prisons; awareness-raising at youth gatherings; prevention programs; alternative sentencing and better mentoring; and guidance and rehabilitation services. Violence against women is still a major problem and the seminal ‘Ending Violence against Women in the Pacific’ report should be used as a guidance document in this area (UNIFEM, 2010).

Family Strengthening

Family strengthening, in particular through the provision of parenting education programs, will give young people and their parents the opportunity to learn strategies for dealing with the challenges of living in rapidly changing societies. Almost half of the PICTs and regional documents have not made reference to strengthening this area, including American Samoa, Cook Islands, Guam, New Caledonia, Niue, Pitcairn, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Pacific Plan. Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Suva Declaration all recognise the need to strengthen families and increase the capacity of parents to guide youth development; however no specific activities are noted.

All of the remaining countries and documents, which include CNMI, FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, PNG, RMI, Tokelau, Vanuatu and Pacific Youth Charter, will conduct various forms of family/parent education and skills training programs. Some of the topics that will be covered in these programs include: parental roles and responsibilities, communication, parenting strategies and alternative

disciplinary actions. Fiji will also conduct research to determine quality parenting attributes and Nauru will form support groups to help families affected by alcohol.

Across the consultations and group discussions with young people and other stakeholders, problems between families/parents and young people were highlighted, and the need for family strengthening initiatives noted. There is a feeling that there is a lack of parental support, family cohesiveness and communication. In Fiji, a breakdown of family values was raised in discussions; youth indicated that parents are more concerned with Church functions and other activities than spending time with their children. This lack of family/parental support is considered a contributing factor to many youth issues, including school drop-outs, truancy, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and suicide. It was suggested in youth discussions that family relationships can be strengthened through providing training and education on spending quality time with children, effective communication, being a good role model, understanding the needs of youth and how to support youth development.

Volunteerism

Promoting a spirit of volunteerism amongst young people will enable them to play an important role in community development. However, despite the benefits of facilitating such an activity for young people, over half of the Pacific countries, territories and regional documents did not make reference to a youth volunteer scheme. This includes American Samoa, Cook Islands, Guam, Nauru, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, RMI, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna, Pacific Tofamamao 2010 and Suva Declaration. Furthermore, the Kiribati policy only commits to reviewing whether a youth volunteer scheme should be established.

FSM, Fiji, French Polynesia, PNG, Pacific Plan and Pacific Youth Charter all highlight that a youth volunteer scheme will be encouraged and introduced. Fiji initially established the scheme then refined it into an Employment Centre, and is now re-establishing a volunteer scheme. The regional youth volunteer program, as outlined in the Pacific Plan, has not eventuated, but it is unclear why this is so. Niue has indicated that it will train youth community volunteers to assist with the needs of the community and Tonga will support a youth volunteer scheme by increasing the number of formally recognised volunteer opportunities and promoting good working relationships between voluntary organisations and national agencies. Youth volunteerism is a key program priority for CNMI and several areas of involvement will be offered to youth, including in child care, mentoring, tutoring, foster care relief, fundraising and administration. Finally, Palau and Vanuatu are also implementing volunteer schemes, although they do not target all youth. In Palau, eighth grade students will adopt a community project, such as cleaning the park or tree planting. While in Vanuatu, young people who have completed a training certificate, diploma or degree will be able to volunteer their skills and services in the community for a small allowance.

Only a few of the group discussions and consultations with young people and other stakeholders addressed youth volunteerism. The value of such schemes was noted, as it will enable youth to help their community, gain experience and contribute to a sense of civic responsibility.

Exploitation, Abuse and Gender Discrimination

In line with international conventions, this component calls for the protection of young people from all forms of exploitation and abuse and the elimination of discrimination against young women. Unfortunately, despite the problems of youth exploitation and abuse, as well as gender discrimination across much of the Pacific Region, no reference has been made to these issues by American Samoa, Cook Islands, FSM, Guam, Niue, RMI, Tonga, Tuvalu or Vanuatu.

In terms of protecting young people from exploitation and abuse, several countries do not have any identifiable policy in this area, including Fiji, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna. In addition, although French Polynesia, Samoa, Pacific Youth Charter and Suva Declaration advocate for youth protection in this area and note that young people should feel safe and have their rights upheld and protected, no specific initiatives are outlined. Similarly, Pitcairn states that it has a comprehensive policy already in place on safeguarding young people, including against child abuse and neglect, however no further information on this policy could be ascertained.

The PICTs and regional documents that do address the issue of youth exploitation and abuse use varying initiatives to do so. CNMI, Kiribati and PNG will all implement awareness raising and educational activities to help prevent this problem. CNMI, Palau and PNG also highlight service related initiatives, with CNMI committing to improving services for victims and families, Palau will treat youth exploitation and abuse and PNG is creating youth-friendly centres for victim counselling. In addition to this, Kiribati, Palau and PNG will also take legislative measures, which include reviewing and improving legislation in this area, to ensure that it is adequately protecting victims and punishing offenders. Similarly, Nauru will develop and implement a “no-drop” policy on child abuse, which is thought to mean that such cases will proceed through the court system and not be dismissed in non-transparent circumstances. Finally, Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and Pacific Plan call for the implementation and strengthening of initiatives under international human rights conventions, including the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Although Kiribati and Nauru address youth abuse and exploitation, they do not make any reference to eliminating discrimination against young women. Furthermore, although Fiji, French Polynesia, Tokelau and the Pacific Youth Charter recognise that discrimination against women is a continuing problem that needs to be addressed to ensure an inclusive society with equal opportunities for all, no specific activities are outlined. One of the key methods for addressing discrimination against women, being utilised by Pitcairn, Samoa and Pacific Tofamamao 2015, will be to support various training programs that will help young women receive equal access. Similarly, Solomon Islands will provide training to young people on gender sensitisation to support equality. Samoa, Pacific Tofamamao 2015 and the Suva Declaration promote awareness-raising activities to highlight gender issues in education and employment. Sex-disaggregated statistics will be collected and analysed in New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Wallis and Futuna and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 to address gender gaps in areas such as governance, the economy, employment and education. PNG will develop a concept paper enhancing women’s rights and creating opportunities for young women, while Pitcairn will review gender issues and concerns related to development needs. The Solomon Islands and Pacific Plan also highlight the importance of ratifying and implementing appropriate international human rights instruments. Importantly, in addition to problems with discrimination against women, the Solomon Islands recognise violence against women as a common and persistent problem and have developed a national policy on it. Finally, although CNMI and Palau both view gender discrimination as a low-level problem in their societies, CNMI notes that it has a Women’s Affairs Office that implements programs in this area and Palau states that discrimination in the workplace is a persistent problem in terms of pregnancy, equality in job opportunities, salary and promotion opportunities, and that this will be addressed.

Some of the consultations and group discussions with young people and other stakeholders highlighted that youth abuse and exploitation is not being adequately addressed due to desires to protect the family name from perceived shame. Consequently, these youth are calling for the silence to be broken on issues surrounding the sexual and physical abuse of young people. Some consultations noted that young women continue to experience gender discrimination in their day to day lives, however, it was noted by many of the young people and stakeholders that violence against women is a particularly pervasive problem that needs to be the focus of interventions. Discrimination on the basis of race, sexual orientation and disability were also highlighted as issues that need to be addressed. It was also noted that these various forms of discrimination are perpetuated by cultural and religious values, for example, traditional gender

roles continue to restrain young women. Several suggestions were made on how to address these various forms of discrimination and abuse, including the enforcement of laws, application of international laws, awareness-raising and advocacy and the involvement of local celebrities as anti-violence ambassadors.

These concerns over core protection issues, such as gender-based violence, abuse at school or home, and commercial sexual exploitation, were echoed by the various stakeholders consulted. More specifically, the significantly high level of violence and abuse experienced by children and women in the Pacific presents a latent social phenomena than cannot be neglected.

Data Collection, Human Rights Conventions and MDGs

These initiatives commit to empowering young people and the community by involving them in data collection for national databases and in the implementation of human rights conventions and MDG programs. The only document to reference an activity related to this area was Pacific Tofamamao 2015, which advocated for the inclusion of youth representatives in National MDG Task Forces. Consequently, the next PYS should assess why initiatives in this area have not been adopted and either provide further awareness to PICTs as to why these initiatives should be implemented, or consider omitting this section in the forthcoming PYS2015.

Media Training

Media training needs to be provided to youth leaders, educators, counsellors and other youth service providers to enable them to utilise digital technologies to publicise information on youth issues. However, few PICTs have committed to implementing media training initiatives. Niue will provide media training workshops to young people on topics such as television production, IT and website maintenance to help in disseminating the positive involvement and contributions of youth to the community. PNG will promote youth participation in this area, utilise the media to present information on young people and develop a youth radio program. Vanuatu commits to providing media training to youth leaders and staff involved in the provision of youth services.

Regional Events and Networks

“Pacific Youth” events and regional networks are important in facilitating dialogue on priority issues affecting young people in the region, whether this is between youth themselves or Governments. Many PICTs did not include any activities that integrated aspects of this initiative. French Polynesia, New Caledonia, PNG, Pacific Youth Charter and Pacific Tofamamao 2015 all commit to encouraging, supporting and strengthening participation in regional and international youth events. Similarly, the Suva Declaration supports the formation of regional youth parliaments and festivals. Regional festivals and forums which have been held in the period since PYS2010 was drafted include: the Pacific Youth Festivals in 2006 and 2009 and the Pacific Sport and Youth Conference in 2010.

As for regional networks, Nauru and French Polynesia broadly comment that involvement in regional and international activities, including networks, is important. Similarly, Pacific Tofamamao, Pacific Plan and Pacific Youth Charter all stress the importance of establishing and supporting strong Pacific networks and consultative mechanisms between Pacific countries and territories. New Caledonia commits to increasing cultural and economic exchanges with other states and territories, Wallis and Futuna commits to furthering regional integration and CNMI will be assisted by SPC in developing networks at subregional and regional levels.

Positively, one of the consultations noted that the growing strength of Pacific Youth Council is empowering young people to engage more at regional level, while another states that the greatest success of the PYS2010 has been in implementing the Pacific Youth Festivals.

Conclusion

The level of integration of the “building stronger communities” component of the PYS2010 varied considerably across the national and regional documents examined. This ranged from PNG, which incorporated all but one PYS2010 initiative; to Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa and Suva Declaration, which incorporated approximately half of the activities; to American Samoa and Guam, who had few identifiable community initiatives.

As for the type of initiatives being integrated, most of the Pacific countries, territories and regional documents acknowledged the need to provide leadership training to youth and include them in decision-making processes and arenas, although it has also been noted that more still needs to be done in this area to address traditional cultural barriers to youth involvement in this area and peer pressure. In addition, over half of the respondents committed to implementing initiatives addressing youth criminality, and to promote family strengthening. Gender discrimination was addressed by a majority of respondents, although it was noted that more needs to be done to address violence against women and discrimination in other areas, including on the basis of race, sexual orientation and disability.

Less than half of PICTs and regional documents committed to supporting volunteerism, addressing youth exploitation and abuse or promoting regional events and networks. Only three countries integrated media training into their policies and only one addressed empowering youth and the community through involving them in data collection and the implementation of human rights conventions and MDG programs. Consequently, the forthcoming PYS needs to determine whether it will continue to promote these last two initiatives, in light of the fact that they have been adopted by so few PICTs.



Focus Group Discussion in French Polynesia

Table 7 Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 4: Building Stronger Communities

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decision-making and leadership initiatives was the highest integrated of all the initiatives within this component, which may have positive effects on strengthening governance within the region, - Youth parliament is quite popular across the region, - A number of countries committed to using alternative and flexible sentencing policies, - Programs of reintegrating youth offenders are being implemented by some countries, - Incarcerated youth are being offered opportunities for training and further education, - Most countries addressed gender discrimination
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many respondents to surveys and FGD participants did not feel they were involved enough in decision-making (i.e. talk of opportunities, but no opportunities provided to them), - Less than half of the countries addressed youth exploitation and abuse, - Few addressed promoting regional events and networks, - Very few integrated media training in to their policies, - Only one country empowering youth through involving them in data collection and implementation of human rights conventions and MDGs, this could be removed if it is not considered important by PICTs, - Violence against women is a particularly pervasive problem.
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the provision of leadership training to youth and include them in decision-making processes and arenas, - More family strengthening needed, as a breakdown of family values is being attributed to many negative social issues, - Within gender discrimination, there are still gaps with respect to violence against women, - Discrimination and abuse can be addressed by including the enforcement of laws, application of international laws, awareness raising, advocacy and the involvement of local celebrities as anti-violence ambassadors.

Table 8: Country/Regional Policies: Component Four– Building Stronger Communities

Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>										
Country	Initiatives									# Indicators Integrated (9)
	Decision-Making and Leadership	Youth Criminality	Family Strengthening	Volunteering	Exploitation and Abuse	Gender Discrimination	Data Collection, Human Rights Conv., MDGs	Media Training	Regional Events and Networks	
American Samoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
CNMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
Cook Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
FSM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Fiji	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
French Polynesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
Guam	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Kiribati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Nauru	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
New Caledonia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2				
Niue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Palau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6					
Pitcairn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
PNG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8					
RMI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3						
Samoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Solomon Islands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Tokelau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Tonga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Tuvalu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Vanuatu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Wallis & Futuna	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2				
Pacific Tofamamao	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Pacific Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
Pac Youth Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6
Suva Declaration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
# Policies Including Specific Indicator (26)	20	15	15	12	12	15	1	3	10	

4.5 Thematic component five: strengthening institutional capacity

The PYS2010 states that there is a need for dynamic review and assessment of the situation of the young people in PICTs, which ‘requires the strengthening of existing mechanisms for effectively promoting the advancement of young people in the Pacific.’

This component is named ‘strengthening institutional capacity’, and its key initiatives are:

- Devising national youth policies and strategic plans;
- Establish and promote National Youth Councils;
- Youth development awards;
- Mobilize resources to strengthen Pacific Youth Council;
- Capacity building of Youth for a Sustainable Future Pasifika (YSFP) as a youth representative body; and
- Gender-inclusive policies.

Note that gender is not explicitly identified as an initiative nor are any specific measurable gender indicators, but PYS2010 ‘advocates the continued development, implementation and evaluation of holistic and gender-inclusive national youth policies that promote a multi-sectoral approach to addressing youth issues.’ Given the utmost importance of this gender dimension, we have treated this statement like the other initiatives in this section, although it is not listed in the PYS2010 initiative, target and indicator matrix.

These initiatives are basically about creating these policies and organisations, devising plans, funding them and trying to make them sustainable. More specifically, PYS2010 calls for strengthening the capacity of these organisations through stronger working relationships and increased resource allocations, both human and financial. This is indeed where the ‘strengthening institutional capacity’ component is flawed: institutions are not merely organisations, or how they are resourced, but the formal and informal rules and constraints that shape interactions in a society and how these organisations work. The effectiveness of the national youth policies, national youth councils, mobilised resources and capacity building activities are indeed a function of ‘true institutions’, namely the social fabric, equity and stability, property rights, voice and accountability, the rule of law, transparency and more. Thus, the establishment of these policies, councils and resource commitments is analysed in this section under the initiatives set out in PYS2010, but significant ‘true institutional constraints’ are faced in establishing, resourcing and managing these organisations [or institutions] and omitting such factors from the policy has hindered PYS2010 progress here and other components, particularly health and education. By definition, the effectiveness of aid, public expenditure and organisational operations in general is conditional on their underlying ‘true institutions.’

Across countries and initiatives, key findings from the analysis were as follows:

- Consultations revealed that CNMI has very good institutional infrastructure and support systems in place, and they would be suitable for adoption by other countries, but there was a surprising absence of youth policy in this country;
- Across the region, cross and intra-sectoral cooperation and partnership is crucial for effective youth programs. This is largely due to the heterogeneous skill levels and specializations and resource constraints; collaboration is seen as the best tool to utilize human and financial resources and remove duplications. Faith-based organisations and NGOs are believed to be valuable partners for youth programs, particularly in FSM and PNG.

- In some countries, the youth believe that they are not a current priority of the government, and to be sure, some countries and territories do not integrate any components. Table 15 details cross-country integration of each youth component of PYS2010.
- The University of the South Pacific Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) team on Youth Leadership and the Environment has been providing notable training to youth on leadership issues, and the United Nations Working Group on Youth (UNYAP) plays a key role in the advocacy of youth at the regional and global level.

National Youth Policy

With regards to the creation of a National Youth Policy and long-term strategic planning, significant progress has been made in a number of countries against this initiative, but it is clear that in several cases there has been little communication and consultation around policy development. For example, in American Samoa the policy was completed and published in December 2010 but PiCED - a key educational development organisation - did not know of the policy, and it was not known by any participants in regional discussions. Conversely, in the Cook Islands, all participants were aware and familiar with the policy and its content, but not of any such implementation activities, stating that the government needs to take the youth much more seriously. Fiji echoed similar sentiments, but youth were grateful for the establishment of a “Youth hub” which assists them in finding employment, and skills workshops under the “National Youth Service Scheme”. Fiji has a National Youth Policy which was temporarily suspended in 2006 in favour of the 25 Year Strategic Development Plan of the Ministry of Youth; the National Youth Policy is however used as a guiding document for grant allocations to youth groups.

Most notably, Kiribati has developed two national youth policies, one in 2000-2005 and one 2006-2010, with assessments at the conclusions of policy periods, as well as recommendations from stakeholders to shape future policies. No in-country surveys were done to confirm this remarkable progress, just the information provided in their reports. Niue explicitly notes their collaborative cross-departmental approach to youth policy but unfortunately respondents were unaware of any initiatives. Similar reports came from Tonga, with the addition that youth currently view partnerships as being sub-standard. In the RMI, a youth advisory board has been appointed as the key advisory body to the government and regional agencies with respect to their youth policy. Samoa and RMI has specific ministries assigned to youth, PNG has put their policy into legislation and the Solomon Islands have created a special youth development division to translate policy into action through a needs-based integrated approach with their stakeholders. As a result, both UNESCO and the youth surveyed were aware of this policy and also the initiatives being implemented. Most notably, Samoa has had much success with their Towards a Legacy of Achievement Versatility Opportunity through Unity (TALAVOU) program. This program supports the implementation of selected activities to address the priorities identified in the Samoan National Youth Policy and Strategic Plan. With a mid-term review recently conducted and deemed a success, this initiative provides a sterling example of integrating youth initiatives throughout ministry activities.

Provision of Adequate Resources: Human, Financial and Networks

Across the Pacific, no country, territory or organisation was in a comfortable position with respect to their human, financial and partnership resources. A variety of reasons were given, ranging from political status, to lack of interest, to donor longevity. The consensus is that there is a major resource deficit in the area of Pacific youth development that needs urgent attention.

Several countries simply stated that they have limited resources and are constantly trying to get more, such as FSM and French Polynesia. Similarly, the Niue policy explicitly acknowledges that implementation requires financial and human resources far in excess of currently limited means, but the lead agency - the Department of Community Affairs - is advocating for more. Interestingly their policy also cautions against an over-reliance on aid, stating that it should only be used in the initial phases to establish programs, with young people encouraged to devise ways to sustain programs and 'help themselves'. Accordingly, Cook Islands discussants and their national youth policy state that they were heavily reliant on donor funding and the government does not provide any. Consistently the government stated that on their end a lack of capacity and resources was a significant barrier to policy implementation. Similar capacity constraints were noted by Palau and Nauru, with Palau highlighting the uncertainty surrounding future financial resources, because they are dependent of finite but renewable US-funding. This effectively leads to myopic programs and great uncertainty surrounding what is really a fundamental long-run investment. While discussions illuminated how government budgets are tight and highly dependent on donors, a lead donor - UNESCO - clearly stated that a lack of resources and capacity is a major issue facing them as well. New Caledonians stated that there was a discrepancy between government commitment and rhetoric to youth development and the tangible funding and actions it takes to support such initiatives.

The clear shortage of resources and funding may be a key causal factor behind Fiji, American Samoa, Kiribati, Samoa and PNG all advocating for effective coordination and partnerships as a necessary way to mitigate the resource issues and make the most of what is available, or potentially available. In Fiji, many expect the ministry to provide the resources and funding, but fiscal constraints have made many organisations turn to fundraising activities, such as hiring out their equipment, to fund their activities.

A fine example of youth strategic policy planning is shown by PNG, where their policy estimates all implementation costs across their various youth interventions. Necessary legislation and budgets are planned, considering revenue and resource mobilization strategies. The policy explicitly mentions capacity-building of community development officers and management and consistent with the aid continuity issues enumerated above, PNG stakeholders and youth stated that the sustainability of projects has been a major issue and makes many communities reluctant and unenthusiastic about new projects.

The Tongan policy stands out because it strives to improve governance in youth affairs through internal institutional restructuring, albeit without explicit strategies for financial and staffing support for this endeavour; these are key constraints that need addressing. Also in Tonga, youth congress members in the focus groups told how outer islands and rural areas receive a disproportionately smaller share of funding, and resource allocation should be more inclusive.

Similar to other American territories, American Samoans stated that there were problems with funding and this is partially due to the political status of the country. There is a common misconception that the US takes care of their territories, but the reality is that most activities are UN-funded. DYWA positively stated that a lack of funding should not stop the government and stakeholders from devising and implementing creative youth programs, highlighting their positivity and resilience.

National Youth Councils

The initiative of promoting the establishment and functioning of National Youth Councils has been quite integrated across the countries surveyed. The purpose of these is to serve as youth-representative partners in the implementation and monitoring of youth initiatives. They are also supposed to serve as an inclusive advocacy channel to articulate the needs and concerns of youth to those responsible for national and community-based responses. Accordingly, PYS2010 recommends as a key initiative that governments promote the establishment and functioning of NYCs, and these do indeed have the potential to add great

strength to the region's institutions by being an important mechanism for voice and accountability. This is represented by the call in the Suva Declaration for the establishment of National Youth Councils in all PICTs.

Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru, Palau, PNG, RMI, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu currently have established National Youth Councils, but in the case of the Solomon Islands and Tonga it is known as the National Youth Congress. Samoa is currently developing their National Youth council, with a set action plan to make this a reality, albeit without a set completion date.

Youth in the Cook Islands expressed happiness that the dormant National Youth Council was revived, now with operations and salaries funded by the government. The FSM, Nauru and Niue National Youth Councils are recognised as key partners in implementation, decision-making and performance monitoring; respective policies commit to strengthening them, but do not specify discrete actions. The PNG National Youth Council received little reference, but their provincial and district ones do. Taking into account the socio-cultural variability across provinces and districts, this is an appropriate move which should provide a better inclusive voice for youth in PNG, if well executed.

Kiribati's National Youth Council deserves a mention for declaring in the policy its crucial independence from the government, while in Palau the National Youth Council is appointed by governors of each of the 16 states. Calls have been made to democratise the process but the governors have not responded. The policy makes no provisions for the National Youth Council, and has not promoted it.

Pacific Youth Council

The PYS2010 initiative to mobilize funding and resources to strengthen the Pacific Youth Council has received almost no reference in national youth policies, apart from FSM who explicitly state that they are trying to stay active in this forum to ensure their regional and international youth representation.

The initiative of capacity-building of YSFP as the regional youth representative body overseeing implementation and monitoring of the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 Declaration has floundered, with the e-network now becoming defunct.

At the regional level, the strengthening of the Pacific Youth Council is widely recognised as being a necessary mechanism for youth advocacy in the Pacific, and indeed regional authorities have made significant progress in accordance with the PYS2010 initiative specific targets. Namely, the Secretariat has been established in 2008, and is housed in the Human Development Programme of the SPC.

The Pacific Youth Council has since increased its membership from seven disconnected national youth councils to ten coordinated councils:

- Nauru;
- Tuvalu;
- FSM;
- Palau;
- Marshall Islands;
- Cook Islands;
- Niue;
- Tonga;
- Vanuatu; and
- Solomon Islands.

While the Pacific Youth Council had little mention in national consultations or policies, it has been raised that the Pacific Youth Council has had a direct impact on the establishment and growth of National Youth Councils (NYC). Capacity-training was done in Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Nauru, and is planned for Palau, Marshall Islands, and each state in FSM.

A current partnership exists between the Pacific Youth Council, SPC and the AusAID Pacific Leadership programme, and while some argue that it is through this partnership the Pacific Youth Council and the National Youth Councils have grown to what they are today: recognised as important voices for youth advocacy in the region, they remain very much under resourced and flawed across countries for the reasons previously mentioned. There is a strong need to invest in and strengthen both the Pacific Youth Council and the National Youth Councils as the key existing potential vehicle to improving institutions in the region and give the bulk of the population a voice.

National Award Scheme

The establishment of a national award scheme was included as an initiative under PYS2010 to recognise excellence in the provision of youth services. The only countries to follow this initiative have been: Fiji, which rewards outstanding contributions of both individuals and groups in the implementation of youth projects; and Solomon Islands, where the youth consulted in our focus groups were well aware of these awards and spoke positively of them.

Gender-Inclusive Policies

“This component advocates for the continued development, implementation and evaluation of holistic and gender inclusive national youth policies that promote a multi-sectoral approach to addressing youth issues”.

An ideal statement from PYS2010, but it is not matched by any specific indicators or targets in the institutions component. It is worth noting that there is explicit mentioning of gender in other component indicators, namely health and education, and this is appropriate given that women bear a disproportionate share of the development problems with respect to education access, hunger and poverty, child mortality and maternal health, and HIV and AIDS in the region. While gender must be a cross-cutting theme and inclusion across all components, as in the MDGs, gender is crucial to strengthening institutional capacity and specific gender-related targets in the NYCs, the Pacific Youth Council and other governance related activities should have been included in this component. The cross-country relationship between improved gender equity and strengthened institutions (World Bank, 2001) – in many dimensions - is now robust and has withstood many criticisms and tests (World Bank, 2001; Swamy et al 2001; Edwards, 2010). While gender equity is far from a ‘magic bullet’ solution to poverty and development challenges, evidence suggests that it is currently one of the most powerful ways to reduce corruption, improve transparency and governance, and ensure better voice and accountability, which of course yield positive spin-offs to most, if not all, other dimensions of development. More specifically, in addition to improving institutions, gender equity is also ‘gender efficient’, shown to reinforce economic growth, social development [as proxied by health and education] and poverty reduction; all are concerns across the Pacific.

Accordingly, the extent to which gender considerations have been made across national policies and brought up in consultations will be analysed in this section. Firstly, in Fiji there was no reference to gender in their policy, but the discussants all agreed that the needs of young women are being well addressed by the government. However, one expressed concern that the governments view of women’s needs is somewhat misaligned with what the real concerns are in reality.

The Cook Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, PNG, Tonga and Samoa explicitly acknowledge the importance of gender equity in their policies and commit to gender sensitivity and equity in youth development policies.

More specifically, Nauru and the Solomon Islands commit to gender mainstreaming in all aspects of program development. Most of the focus group discussants in the Cook Islands believe that the needs of young women are assisted in the implementation of youth activities. Samoa's commitment is supplemented by reference to special-needs youth, and also a commitment to accessibility and urban/rural inclusion of all Samoans in gender mainstreaming policy. The Solomon Islands policy makes additional commitments to ensuring opportunities for women and also gender-disaggregating all data collected to identify gender gaps. However, the focus-group discussants in the Solomon Islands highlighted that the needs of young women were not actually being addressed in initiatives and stressed concern over unequal access and opportunities for disabled and marginalised youth. Similarly, Tongan interviewees do not believe that the needs of young women are being taken into account, citing the fact that vocational education in schools is only now starting to accept female students.

PNG is very strong on gender-inclusion in its national youth policies. Gender analysis and planning guarantees a better understanding of the cultural and attitudinal barriers to the advancement of young women and is an integral feature of all youth programs in PNG; these programs strive to be accessible regardless of gender, location and social, cultural and economic circumstances. This is a good sign, as HIV and AIDS is most pronounced in PNG, as is gender inequality. Successful implementation of gender-based child and youth programs should serve as both a proactive response to their gender problems worsening, and also a reactive response to their current state. Given the interdependence of HIV and AIDS with so many other aspects of development in PNG, the decline of the HIV and AIDS growth rate contemporaneous with gender mainstreaming in recent years suggest the country is finally making social development progress after a stagnant last couple of decades.

Palau, FSM, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Niue and RMI make no mention of gender in their youth policies, however Palauan interviewees stressed that the same gender inequities from across the region persist in their country too. The Palauan policy does however acknowledge the importance of including those young people with physical and mental disabilities, and other vulnerabilities in their youth programs. When considering gender issues, no reference in any national policies were made to young men. This is a major problem, and while social exclusion and discrimination is more pronounced throughout the region for women, young men suffer a whole range of other issues which have been of pertinent concern for decades (Rubenstein, 1992). Namely, youth depression, suicide, crime, drug use and violence, often against women, have been a -consistent problem for male youth in the Pacific, and true engendering of youth policy will place due concern on males. Effective gender policy for males should also help females by reducing violence, strengthening relationships and ultimately strengthening the social fabric towards a more just society where both males and females have their respective freedoms.

Regional Institutional Development

The AusAID Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) and UNDP survey respondents both states that there has been a lack of coordination, communication and partnership among relevant stakeholders. Discussions also highlighted a clear lack of resources and government support for youth initiatives, with the PLP under the belief that the Human Development Programme (HDP) struggles to acquire resources internally at SPC. Aside from UNICEF Pacific and the Commonwealth Youth Program, resources are allocated sparingly to youth initiatives. Youth and NGOs surveyed believe that large donors generally consider youth issues to be addressed through education and health programs, rather than through the PYS and its related institutional mechanisms and programs.

Several notable regional initiatives and agreements have occurred since 2005:

- The Pacific Tofamaomao 2015 Declaration on the MDGs;
- The Suva Youth Declaration;
- The Pacific Youth Charter; and
- The Pacific Tofamaomao.

The Pacific Youth Charter and the Suva Declaration emphasise the importance of working partnerships between religious, political, civil society, business groups and other associations and advocates to increase both the funding towards and the effectiveness of youth-related development activities. Both also acknowledge the crucial need to actually include young people in project cycles and governance from the beginning to end. The Suva Declaration notes that there is little development support for young people living in rural or outer island areas, young people living in urban informal settlements, and young people living with disabilities. Therefore, Pacific countries and other key stakeholders need to ensure that institutions target all young people, including minorities. A key barrier to this is that information and communication strategies do not always use local languages, knowledge or culturally appropriate methods to reach vulnerable and marginalised youth. The key difference between the Pacific Youth Charter and these other documents was that the Charter places a key focus on preserving culture and traditions.

Conclusion

Many of the youth policies highlighted the importance of cooperating, collaborating and partnering with other key stakeholders, including other Government Departments, NGOs and faith-based organisations, to ensure the effective implementation of youth initiatives. However, very few policies sufficiently outlined the financial and human resources to be provided for youth development. Instead, many policies acknowledged that they have insufficient resources to implement youth initiatives. Only about half of the policies make reference to a National Youth Council, and only a couple to the Pacific Youth Council, although nearly all of these policies fail to outline how the Government will support the functioning of its NYC. It has also been noted elsewhere that the Pacific Youth Council is taking only incremental steps in supporting the NYCs and that activities have been ad-hoc, focusing on awareness-raising rather than policy advocacy (UNICEF Pacific, 2010). Finally, very few policies outline staff development initiatives.

Table 9 Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 5: Strengthening Institutional Capacity

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The establishment of the Pacific Youth Council in 2008 and its recent resurgence marks a major achievement for youth institutions in the Pacific. - Most countries have drafted a national youth policy - Cook Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, Nauru, Palau, PNG, RMI, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu currently have established National Youth Councils, and the Pacific Youth Council works closely with these national councils - PNG has the most initiatives integrated within this component.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies are generally not gender inclusive, - Pacific Youth Council does not receive any attention in most policies and regional documents, - The national award scheme initiative was largely ignored , - Only four countries mentioned the role of their National Youth Councils within policy, - There is a major resource deficit in the area of Pacific youth development that needs urgent attention.
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender specific indicators should be included in the PYS, - Policies should also take in to account male specific issues, namely suicide, depression, drug and alcohol abuse, - ‘true institutions’, should be included in the PYS, including: the social fabric, equity and stability, property rights, voice and accountability, the rule of law, and transparency.



Table 10: Country/Regional Policies: Component Five – Strengthening Institutional Capacity

Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>								
Country	Initiatives							# Indicators Integrated (6)
	National Youth Policy	Provision of Financial Resources	Adequate Resources	National Youth Councils	Pacific Youth Council	National Award Scheme	Gender-Inclusive Policies	
American Samoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2						
CNMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1						
Cook Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4						
FSM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4						
Fiji	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3						
French Polynesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
Guam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
Kiribati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1						
Nauru	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2						
New Caledonia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
Niue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3						
Palau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1						
Pitcairn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
PNG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5						
RMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3						
Samoa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2						
Solomon Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2						
Tokelau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1						
Tonga	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1						
Tuvalu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2						
Vanuatu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2						
Wallis & Futuna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
Pacific Tofamamao	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1						
Pacific Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
Pac Youth Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0						
Suva Declaration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4						
# Policies Including Specific Indicator (26)	16	9	8	5	1	1	4	

4.6 Thematic component six: youth and identities

This component of PYS2010 outlines the importance of educating young people in their respective cultural histories through the development of their cultural identity and appreciation of traditions and customs, as well as an appreciation for ethnic diversity. However, the world is rapidly modernising, and Pacific youth are not immune to the effects that communication and technology are having on youth all over the world. The internet, television, and mobile communications are providing youth with influences (whether positive or negative) that are indelibly altering their views, expectations and desires for the future. This increased access to the world outside their village, city or province, is providing Pacific youth with a quandary; which sees their cultural heritage and tradition competing for authority over contemporary pressures.

Throughout the PYS2010 review consultations, the erosion of culture and reducing influence of tradition was raised as a concern and an issue, and one which most consultation participants felt should be addressed by government and society. However, across all seven components of the PYS2010, “Youth and Identities” is the least integrated in to government policy. Despite nearly all government youth policies highlighting the importance of preserving cultural values and traditions through the education of youth in this area, very few policies outlined actual activities to achieve this goal. Some policies committed to implementing a cultural studies program in the school curriculum, while a couple included initiatives to provide workshops in traditional skills and promote artistic self-expression. Overall, most of the initiatives outlined under this component of the PYS2010 have been largely omitted in the youth policies. Within regional documents and declarations, the preservation of culture and identity is referenced consistently, with a number of suggestions on how to do this, particularly within the Suva Declaration.

Cultural Studies Programs

Ensuring that young people are aware of their cultural identity and heritage is an important factor in the development and appreciation of traditions and customs. If this is to remain of concern to PICTs, cultural studies programs should be strengthened across education facilities, including schools and community centres. Out of all the indicators under the Youth and Identities component, this one is the least integrated indicator of them all, as indicated in Table Z Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 6 Youth and Identities Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Pitcairn, PNG, RMI, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu all incorporating such initiatives within their policies. Incorporation of these initiatives ranged from strengthening traditional cultural studies in school curriculums and through community centres, by utilising the talents of traditional elders; and encouraging and facilitating “cultural activity” competitions between schools and youth organisations, as seen in Kiribati. The Cook Islands seeks to conduct regular workshops to encourage young people in their development of skills and knowledge in the areas of culture, language, carving, tattooing, weaving, dance, language and cultural research.

Regional organisations consulted largely do not address this initiative, and regional documentation lightly touches on it, including within the Pacific Youth Charter and the Suva Declaration, which recognises the need to integrate cultural traditions into school curricula.

The survival of traditional and cultural values amongst youth is particularly critical in urban areas, where Western values and ideals may take precedence over traditional values and expectations. This can be even harder for young people who have never been to their ‘place’ of origin and who do not maintain any links with their traditional kinship group. Despite these challenges, young urban youths value traditional values and cultures, despite the challenges of a modern environment, a sentiment which was clearly articulated at the 2009 Pacific Youth Festival in Suva, Fiji (Vakaoti, 2011).

At a regional level, Pacific youth participation at events such as the Festival of Pacific Arts contributes to their awareness, connection and the regeneration of their traditions and cultures (Vakaoti, 2011). This sort of organised activity and regional awareness-raising can assist in offsetting the disintegration of traditional Pacific values and practices, and illustrates that young people of the Pacific can, with the necessary support, adapt well to globalisation. This support however, appears to be shortcoming in national youth polices and their equivalents used for this review.

Health Services and Research

This initiative seeks to include cultural perspectives in to health programmes for Pacific youth, as both these and social factors play a role in the health and well-being of young people, through the shaping of their perceptions and responses to health problems and the effectiveness of health promotion campaigns. In view of this, health services should be sensitive and responsive to both the physical and cultural needs of young people. Health research should also be conducted to understand how to best address youth health issues. Within this initiative, some targets included: researching and developing culturally based healthy lifestyle programmes, and the research and development of culture and health strategies. This initiative was essentially non-existent amongst all of the countries surveyed, apart from Kiribati, which has committed to conducting awareness campaigns that will incorporate cultural perspectives into health programs and improve understanding among young people on how such values, beliefs and practices are linked to their behaviour and health. In Vanuatu, although health research initiatives are not explicitly referenced, the policy does commit to supporting the Young People's Project (YPP), a youth-led organisation that conducts research on youth issues, youth identities, cultural values, and makes policy recommendations. The regional organisations and documentation surveyed did not cover health services and research for Pacific youth.

Encouraging Artistic Expression (and use of modern media)

This initiative seeks to encourage young artists and performers to express themselves, and through this attempt to bridge the gap between traditional cultural expressions and more contemporary forms of artistic performance. Freedom to express concerns over social issues through this medium of entertainment as well as through the utilisation of modern media was also emphasised in the strategy. Whilst CNMI, FSM, Kiribati, Niue, RMI, Samoa, Tuvalu all incorporated an encouragement of artistic expression in to their policies, only RMI and Samoa encouraged the use of modern media.

In Niue, artists have the opportunity to learn how to use traditional patterns and materials to create contemporary art pieces. There is, however, no reference to other similar initiatives, particularly on providing freedom for artistic and cultural expression using modern media. Niue also hold cultural fashion shows and other creative events; organise talent quests, traditional dance and music lessons for young people; organise ongoing programs promoting traditions that use the Niuean language, including cultural forums, oratory training, speech competitions, poetry and writing. The Suva Declaration also supports this initiative, stating that opportunities for young people to pursue careers in the performing and visual arts should be made available.

Arts/Crafts for Income Generation

The preservation of culture and tradition amongst youth can be encouraged through the creation of an environment that stimulates Pacific youth to participate in the production of traditional and contemporary artisanal craft production for income-generation. This should also be considered a desirable employment

opportunity for youth. A handful of countries addressed this initiative in their policies, including: FSM, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Samoa and Tuvalu.

FSM's policy strongly promotes the teaching and continuous practice of traditional skills in weaving, woodcarving, local dancing, singing, and other cultural practices. Specific strategies within the policy include: declaring a National Youth Cultural Week, and encouraging local cultural experts to share traditional knowledge and skills with youth. The Samoan policy commits government departments and NGOs to providing youth training in traditional arts for the promotion of traditional culture, as well as for income generation. This includes carving workshops, training in handicrafts, fine mat weaving and traditional dance. The regional documentation surveyed does not refer explicitly to this initiative, apart from the Suva Declaration which, as mentioned above, encourages young people to pursue careers in the performing and visual arts.

Institutional Involvement

Existing institutions, including museums and cultural centres, should support and collaborate with young people in activities and programs which give Pacific youth the opportunities to view, hear and learn about history, culture and art that they may no longer be exposed to. Kiribati, Palau and RMI all make specific reference to this initiative within their policies. In Kiribati, youth participation in this area will be encouraged through organised cultural events and a cultural centre that will be developed to preserve Kiribati history and traditional activities and skills. In Palau, museums and cultural centres will be utilised to provide education on culture and fine arts. RMI's policy seeks to improve the relationship between young people and relevant institutions to aid in cultural preservation. Reference to this initiative has been made by the Suva Declaration, which advocates for national culture and heritage departments to work with young people to support cultural heritage issues. The Pacific Plan also makes reference to this initiative, through the creation of an institution to advocate for and protect traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights. However this is not youth-focused and does not include strategies for including youth.

Beyond the PYS2010, good reference is made to further cultural considerations within the Suva Declaration, which suggests that Pacific countries utilise their diverse cultural values and practices, such as traditional conflict resolution, to work towards peace-building and unity by empowering young people to become peace-builders. Finally, the Human Development Programme of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is home to a culture desk which is coordinating and implementing a range of actions in the thematic area of culture.

Table 11: Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 6 Youth and Identities

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Cultural studies Program initiative has seen considerable uptake from 13 PICTs, in one form or another – whether through schools or community centres and workshops; - The Suva Declaration covers this component quite well, through its advocacy for: cultural studies programs, artistic expression through modern media, arts/crafts income generation, and institutional involvement.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the least integrated component of PYS 2010, within national youth policies; - The importance of maintaining cultural identity and preserving tradition has been referred to often in policy, but without the activities, or target programs to support these statements. - Incorporation of cultural perspectives in to health services, and research to develop culture and health strategies, have been omitted by nearly all PICTs; - Encouraging artistic expression through modern media is also not referred to in most PICT youth policies.
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporation of the Suva Declaration's suggestion to empower youth to utilise diverse cultural values and practice, such as traditional conflict resolution, and become peace-builders in their communities; - Support could be given to youth, via governments NGOs and faith based organisations, with regard to balancing the 'clash' of the old and the new: how can youth maintain a grounding in their culture, while also stepping in to and embracing the future and other cultural influences; - Does the lack of this components' integration in to national policies indicate that governments are not as interested in pursuing these initiatives? If this is the case, the initiative with the most uptake was the Cultural Studies program, which could be included within the Accessing Integrated Education component; - If national governments are serious about ensuring that youth become the guardians of their national traditions and customs, young people must be actively included in opportunities to study, observe, and through institutions such as museums and cultural centres.



Table 12: Country/Regional Policies: Component Six – Youth and Identities

Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>								
Country	Initiatives							# Initiatives Integrated (7)
	Cultural Studies Program	Health Services	Health Research	Artistic Expression	Expression and Modern Media	Arts/Crafts Income-Generation	Institutional Involvement	
American Samoa								0
CNMI				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				1
Cook Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
FSM				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
Fiji								0
French Polynesia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
Guam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
Kiribati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5
Nauru	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
New Caledonia								0
Niue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				2
Palau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							2
Pitcairn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
PNG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
RMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
Samoa				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3
Solomon Islands								0
Tokelau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
Tonga								0
Tuvalu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		3
Vanuatu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
Wallis & Futuna								0
Pacific Tofamamao								0
Pacific Plan							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0
Pac Youth Charter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							1
Suva Declaration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4
# Policies Including Specific Indicator (26)	15	1	0	7	3	5	4	

4.7 Thematic component seven: research information and data on youth

To ensure youth development programs are translating to tangible benefits for young people, this component is about information gathering and analysis. This is essentially a cross-cutting component that reinforces the other six. Aside from the need to develop and maintain national databases, regional and international development indicators present many gaps when it comes to the Pacific. Such information gaps severely limit not only monitoring and evaluation of development progress in the region, but also quantitative analysis, research, social commentary and general interest. More research into Pacific youth issues is needed.

This component is a crucial tool to ensure follow up with youth policy implementation by giving a better snapshot of the current youth issues, as well as identifying emerging ones. The deficiency in information and data – particularly youth data - in the Pacific tends to keep youth outside a society at a time where they are all eager to be involved in and committed to bringing a change in their country.

It is important for data to cover key youth measures, youth profiles from census data and ongoing national surveys of young people. This is consistent with the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation around the LMIA Mission¹²: that there is a pressing need to collect labour market information and analysis in the Pacific through regional partnerships and capacity buildings. These should specifically target the development indicators of the most disadvantaged young people.

The three major initiatives under this component are establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework, developing national and regional databases, and encouraging research work on youth development.

Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation

A framework for monitoring and evaluation is a prerequisite to monitoring PYS programmatic effectiveness, and a crucial tool needed to improve long-term planning. Among many official declarations in the Pacific region, only the Pacific Plan discloses the importance of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework including success indicators and sources of verification. Concerning the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework, we observe three categories of countries. Firstly, countries which have not implemented a specific framework (please refer to Table 14). Secondly, countries such as Kiribati and RMI whose policies have recognised the importance of producing regular monitoring reports to follow up with the implementation of youth initiatives. However, their policies do not give any guidance on how this reporting process will be conducted and whether or not it will count on youth participation. Finally, the last category of countries includes American Samoa, the Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Their policies contain a clear implementation and monitoring schedule for all activities. They all acknowledge that effective monitoring and evaluation of youth strategies is necessary to measure effectiveness, to foresee emerging issues and to provide adequate solutions. For instance, in Nauru, stakeholders are required to submit reports and the Directorate prepares an update for the Ministry of Youth Affairs at the end of each quarter. In Niue, the

12 Details available online at: <http://www.ilo.org/asia/whatwedo/events/lang--en/docName--WCMS 145866/index.htm>

Youth Coordinator will develop an annual progress report that records all the activities implemented by stakeholders, identify problems and make appropriate recommendations. At the end of each fiscal year, all of those involved in policy implementation will provide reports to the Department of Community Affairs.

Database

To aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the PYS2010, national youth databases should be developed. These should contain youth-related development indicators derived from censuses, surveys, administrative records and research reports. Noteworthy to point out that only the Pacific Plan mentions the creation of country and regional statistics across all sectors and none of the Tofamamao Declaration, the Pacific Youth Charter and the Suva Declaration refer to the establishment of a national and regional database. Table 14 points out all countries whose policies have not attained to establish a comprehensive statistical information system, neither have they outlined any guidance on implementing a national database. CNMI, Guam, Kiribati and Vanuatu acknowledge the importance of youth database for initiative planning. They also intend to create a national statistical centre. However, their policy does not clearly specify whether or not the requirements of PYS2010 will be met in terms of containing youth-related development indicators as no guidance is stated on how it will occur. American Samoa has been collecting statistics on teenage obesity and pregnancy but work remains to be done to develop a national database. Samoa policy stated that it will develop a national collection system which will enable youth to be identified, monitored, and this will hopefully establish a database as it is envisaged in the PYS2010. Along with those countries efforts, PNG has commenced the creation of a national database on youth issues and population statistics that is accessible by all development stakeholders and young people themselves. Fiji is an example of policy that commits to strengthening the existing database of information and statistics on youth and will provide financial and adequate resources. Finally, the competent Ministry in the Solomon Islands will host a database on the situation of young people in the Solomon Islands and conduct or coordinate necessary research to collect information about youth development programs. Positively, the SPC is undergoing a significant expansion of their data collection inclusive of all countries and territories, but there are only a few youth indicators in this proposed 142 indicator database and there is certainly room to amend this to 'en-youth' the different indicators areas to all include youth specific data. Positively, the proposed PRISM indicators are sufficiently gender disaggregated and this must remain.

Supporting Research

This component seeks to mobilise and promote research on youth and development issues in PICTs. The objective is to use this research work for relevant discussion papers and to conduct consultations among the youth. There is no official declaration encouraging governments to support research on youth development issues, but a few country policies vaguely foster regular policy reviews without explicitly referring to the information their analysis is based on. Nevertheless, the Cook Islands, Nauru, Niue, PNG and Tuvalu have facilitated youth and other stakeholders' participation in research. They furthermore converge on the idea of providing accessible research work to young people and the various stakeholders involved in initiatives. For instance, in Nauru, reports are tabled at a National Youth Forum for the purpose of discussing certain outcomes and the review to integrate it into policy implementation where necessary. Comparatively, in Niue, research is supported through the consultation process with the Niue Youth Council and stakeholders who will appoint a Youth Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Committee to discuss the progress report and produce an annual report on policy activities implemented and make recommendations. Indeed, in the academic literature, youth in the Pacific is a highly niche area. A rigorous literature survey will return very little relevant research to inform future youth policy development.

Table 13 Strengths and Weaknesses in Thematic Component 7: Research Information and Data on Youth

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPC is undergoing a significant statistical expansion which has the capacity to highly strengthen monitoring and evaluation across the entire region; this statistical expansion is highly engendered. - The Pacific Plan is the prominent regional policy framework, and it refers to the importance of supporting a monitoring and evaluation framework, and developing and maintaining databases. - Some countries have successfully managed to implement a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework as well as engaging with youth (National Youth Councils) and others stakeholders - Commitment from some Pacific islands to strengthening the existing database and others have expressed their will to develop a national database - Efforts in involving youth and various stakeholders to support research on youth-related development indicators
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional declarations do not explicitly encourage the initiatives of establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework, creating and maintaining regional database and supporting research - The initiative of implementing a monitoring and evaluation framework seems to be completely left aside as many policies do not mention it or, if mentioned, policies do not give clear guidance on how it will occur - Database need to and must be explicitly focused on youth-related development indicators - The national level data hides sub-national inequalities which can be very harmful for youth development. Therefore disaggregating the data is very important to move forward, but this will come at a cost.
Lessons Learnt and Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote more regional concerted efforts through official declarations which do not include yet some of the initiatives mentioned above - A crushing need to collect information and data particularly focused on youth development indicators at national and regional level - Some policies have successfully engaged young people within the monitoring and evaluation framework, in conducting research and have involved them in discussion meetings to produce comprehensive reports on success stories and problem-solving responses

Table 14: Country/Regional Policies: Component Seven – Research Information and Data on Youth

Reference Made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Reference: <input type="checkbox"/>				
Country	Initiatives			# Indicators Integrated (2)
	Monitoring and Evaluation	Database	Supporting Research	
American Samoa				0
CNMI				0
Cook Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
FSM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Fiji	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
French Polynesia			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1
Guam		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1
Kiribati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1
Nauru	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
New Caledonia				0
Niue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Palau				0
Pitcairn				0
PNG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
RMI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			1
Samoa		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		1
Solomon Islands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3
Tokelau				0
Tonga				0
Tuvalu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Vanuatu		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2
Wallis & Futuna				0
Pacific Tofamamao				0
Pacific Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		2
Pac Youth Charter				0
Suva Declaration				0
	11	7	9	

5.0 Discussion and analysis

5.1 Youth trends

Supported by institutional findings from the World Bank, IMF, and ADB in the region, youth unemployment continues to be a major issue, and this trend of pervasive unemployment shows no signs of waning. The analysis conducted throughout this review makes it clear that this problem is far more complex than the simple unemployment rate, and a sustainable solution must be far more organic and multi-dimensional than just creating jobs. The rest of this section will highlight factors that are key causal links to the current and unsustainable employment situation in the Pacific. It is noted however, that these are only the reasons for unemployment, and successful interventions in long-term systemic trending areas will yield powerful and natural spin-offs in employment and sustainable livelihoods.

Across all countries surveyed, there was a clear problem with linking graduates to employment opportunities. Focus-group discussions consistently highlighted problems between producing graduates – both high school and university – and then placing them in employment. Intuitively there are three areas that this is seemingly protracted:

- The quality of the education has not been at a globally competitive level and programs to increase enrolment have not necessarily made students more literate or numerate. Ever prevalent in the development literature, the quality dimension to education is crucial in making true economic and social progress in the 21st century. This is consistent with FGDs stating that graduates are simply not getting hired.
- Extending this previous point, the FGDs showed that there is a misalignment between the training and study options offered and the actual skills and knowledge needed to gain, or create, employment and sustainable livelihoods across the Pacific.
- Even where quality and relevant education is attained, youth often report the lack of direct and indirect links between study and employment. There is little training provided to students in the skills required to find, apply for, and successfully 'get the job'.

In the health component, significant progress has been made in acknowledging and prioritising reproductive health issues, but across most countries there is still a big stigma attached to talking about sex and the equitable treatment of women. This is a systemic problem which can only be addressed by doing the very opposite: open-dialogue and complete gender mainstreaming. Fortunately, this is recognised as a priority across regional administrative bodies. Teen pregnancy is still a very large problem, and although youth marriage rates and teen pregnancy is slightly falling, it is still high when compared with other regions (UNDP, 2010). Raw data suggests that gender inequality is still pervasive (World Bank, 2011) despite it being a crucial policy issue, and this trend remains a major obstacle to progress in health development (Schultz 1993, 2002; Summers 1992). Consultations highlighted the intra-country and regional disparities in the prioritisation and treatment of gender-related health issues and respective programs.

Many PICTs report problems related to substance abuse, at times with low cost substances such as home brews or glue; which are difficult to regulate and control. Similarly, there is a cross-country trend in the lack (or complete absence) of concrete programs to address mental health and suicide amongst youth, and this has a largely male dimension. While targeted interventions may be appropriate to address suicide problems, it is acknowledged that these systemic issues related to self-worth, opportunities for employment and civic engagement, social inclusions, and overall satisfaction with life in general.

Several youth policies and consultations have highlighted that social inclusion is a long-running issue that needs to be addressed. This is particularly interesting because the consultations were generally with youth already tapped into networks. Youth policies and consultations stated that disabled people were still discriminated against in many Pacific societies, as were sexual minorities (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual). This holistic problem of social exclusion has many corollaries, including disparities in resource allocation and service provision to rural areas. This has led to wide-spread rural/urban drift and the inability of urban centres to deal with these population pressures, creating a range of new social problems. A breakthrough study from Vanuatu looking at different dimensions of poverty exemplifies this divide, and shows half of the dimensions of multi-dimensional poverty tend to be worse in rural areas, while the other half are worse in urban areas (UNICEF Pacific, 2010). This implies that poverty and hardship is different across the Pacific, and can be partially characterised by this urban/rural division; however both suffer major hardships and deprivations.

Across the Pacific, every country surveyed has an institutional deficiency in some form or another. This is highly related to social exclusion mentioned previously, as inequality nurtures and propagates bad institutions. Several FGDs highlighted that there was not only a major disconnect between the youth ministries and the main ministries, but also the youth themselves and their youth ministries. This reflects the regional trend that there is essentially a lack of voice given to youth; despite rigorous programs and commitments, reality on the ground indicates that youth have little say in how their countries are run, or more importantly, the opportunities and capabilities they can develop. Currently, there is little accountability for youth programs, and without effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms there is little incentive for governments or multi-lateral agencies to adhere to their policies, plans and targets. This corresponds to the major trend that a lot of policies, declarations, and agreements say they are going to do things, but these may not be followed through with action.

While most developing countries have their interest groups, inequality and institutions drawn down ethnic, income, gender and elite lines, the Pacific institutions are dominated by an age divide, which is now synonymous with the rich, elite and capital owners. Youth have expressed a concern over having little say, and basic political economy models demonstrate that one entrenched interest group in political and business decision making will almost always favour their own: the older, upper/middle class. From a dynamic perspective, this equates to less investment in youth across all dimensions of their economic, social and civil engagement, and threatens the future of the region. Consultations highlighted how many youth believe that things will get better as they get older, but the reality is that the demographic and economic situation is entirely different to that which the previous generation faced when they were the current youth's age. This means that such an assumption is far too optimistic given the current plight of youth in the region, as the foundations for their progression assumed to this better life are currently absent.

Across all components and most countries in the Pacific, gender inequality still persists. While this problem has been acknowledged for quite some time and mainstreaming gender is occurring in several Pacific countries, in many countries violence against women and domestic violence is still commonplace and seldom reported. Moreover, their integration into political institutions and the management component of the private sector is minimal and low by all global standards. PNG has been coined the most 'masculine country on the face of the Earth' (Denoon, 1989), and gender inequality data suggest that little progress has been made past this point over 20 years ago (UNDP, 2010); this sentiment and situation is not limited to PNG, but throughout the Pacific and particularly in rural areas. Recent evidence suggests that addressing gender issues is essentially a policy win-win: a win in human capital accumulation, a win in economic development, and a big win in institutional development, which in turn also strengthens human capital and economic development as well.

Since the Nobel Prize winning work of Douglas North in 1991, we now know a lot more about institutions than we once did. One thing we know is that better institutions also tend to come with better economic development and growth; something the Pacific has not yet been given. Stylized cross-country evidence shows that countries might just buy good institutions; that is, as they get more resources to endow these institutions with, they tend to improve as they can afford them. Every country and territory in the Pacific showed problems with resources and funding their youth strategies. That is, no one country reviewed in the policy survey or FGDs reported being adequately resourced, with just about all saying that budgets were either tight, or falling far short of what is required to make their desired and planned youth investments. This deficit was consistent across all components and countries.

More systemically, the governments of the Pacific can be divided into resource-and-aid-dependent, or solely aid-dependent; PNG and the Solomon Islands fall in this first category with the rest in the latter. Both categories do not currently have the resources to meet their needs, and this has led to almost all policies and FGDs citing the need for increased partnerships, both in quality and quantity. New and more effective partnerships could better capture synergies and efficiency from the resources currently available, as well as perhaps gaining access to more, but the fundamental failing is that people under 24 make up more than half the population. Failing to account for and take care of the development of half of the population is a 'global public bad' and failing of the multi-lateral development architecture, which now well and truly recognise the responsibility to protect and take care of the marginalised. These countries and territories are on the verge of a demographic transition which can potentially have the largest proportion of a working force without dependents, translating to immense productivity increases. Turning these vulnerable twenty-plus countries and territories into emerging economies would yield benefits for the global economy. It is now time the global community took care of this overdue investment and allowed the youth situation in the Pacific to turn from a problem into a seized opportunity.

Similarly, several countries committed to collecting youth-specific data, but this has not been done in any country to a satisfactory level to date. Importantly, national statistics commonly used can hide the intra-country disparities, which can erode the youth development process. It is important that all data is spatially disaggregated; this is a prerequisite to crafting poverty reduction strategies which can then effectively target the most marginalised youth. Where data has been collected in reports, studies, and surveys it is rarely available freely online and if it is, it has generally been difficult to retrieve and quite sparse. As the World Bank clearly state in the position statement on youth activity in the Pacific, effective data collection and monitoring is crucial to evaluate programmatic successes and understand the youth programs themselves (World Bank, 2011). PYS initiatives related to youth databases, research, and monitoring and evaluation activities have not been largely integrated, even though some countries did seemingly make substantial commitments. Positively, there is a universal recognition that any data collected must be gender disaggregated. Several FGDs stressed the need for better data, youth indicators, and monitoring and evaluation activities; the absence of these were deemed at least partially responsible for the lack of accountability in implementing youth programs and investments. This component can be particularly costly given the geographic and technological challenges facing the region and failure in this area is directly related to the funding shortages previously discussed.

It is worth noting that the 'Child Poverty and Disparity Study in Vanuatu' examines both the expenditure approach to poverty and the multi-dimensional deprivations (UNICEF/SPRC 2010). This type of framework exemplified by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and 2010 HDR allows the data to create a more complete picture of development and poverty and will be a powerful tool for analysing youth poverty in the Pacific, particularly with respect to the most marginalised; targeting these groups in programs systematically has the biggest 'bang-for-buck' in poverty reduction. Crucially, the PICTs are the only region in the world for which this multi-dimensional poverty measure has not been calculated or measured, again showing how marginalised this region is in mainstream development

literature and discourse. Credit should be given to SPC, which is currently undertaking a bold expansion of their statistical capabilities and holdings to hundreds of indicators for each country, through PRISM. However, the seven youth-specific indicators do not explicitly look at inequality, social exclusion, marginalisation, or multi-dimensional poverty; this should be addressed immediately as part of this large undertaking.

5.2 Comparative analysis

PICTs are characterised by their diversity: diversity of culture, religion, ethnicity, industry, geographic spread, colonial heritage, and wealth. While commonalities exist, as described in the previous section, the region is extremely heterogeneous in both youth characteristics and development indicators. This is clear within countries, across countries, and across regions. As expected, progress and integration of the PYS2010 differs greatly in these regards.

Firstly, it is important to consider the population differences. Melanesia is home to 8.8 million people, over half of the region's population, with almost 6.5 million residing in PNG. Micronesia has a population of 546,000 and Polynesia 668,000, with the small nation of Pitcairn home to just 66 people (SPC, 2011). PYS2010 progress and more importantly, resource allocation, seem at least somewhat correlated to this spread of people.

The Pacific economies can be divided into those which are resource rich, and resource poor. The resource rich, PNG and the Solomon Islands, are Melanesian countries accounting for most of the population. Consistent with empirical fact that resource dependence tends to retard social development and foster conflict (Avom and Carmignani, 2010; Collier, 2006), these countries have also had recent conflict and civil unrest and low social development indicators, as indicated by the Human Development Index (UNDP, 2011). However, these economies are well above the others with respect to current economic growth trends; whether this is due to post-conflict reconstruction and stimulus or the commodity price boom is ambiguous, but it is clear the respective fiscal capabilities are much stronger than their neighbours. For these reasons PNG and Solomon Islands have borne the global economic crisis far better than the smaller and resource-poor Pacific countries. Interestingly, World Bank youth development activities only currently take place in these Pacific countries.

The points made here are important for considering PYS2010 because it effectively shows that we are dealing with two different types of economies, with at least two different capability constraints; the resource poor economies are almost entirely aid-dependent for their implementation of PYS2010, and their larger development strategies, whereas the resource-rich countries are in a unique position to leverage off the private sector activity and increased tax revenues from commodities. With this strength however comes an entirely different set of problems too, which should be a priority in the resource-dependent economies of PNG and the Solomon Islands. Resource dependence has been shown to:

- Reduce the competitiveness of other sectors of the economy through the currency appreciation effects and decreasing total factor productivity (harming youth livelihoods) (Sachs and Warner, 2001);
- Systematically retard social development (harming youth health and education) (Avom and Carmignani, 2010);
- Increase macroeconomic volatility, which harms long-term growth and can be very dangerous for those living close to the poverty line. For example, one price shock has the potential to plummet hundreds of thousands of people below the poverty line (Ramey and Ramey, 1995).
- Increase rent-seeking activity and degrade institutions (harming youth inclusion and institutional strengthening (Collier, 2008); and

- Increase inequality (further marginalising youth not benefiting from this sector, which is unfortunately the bulk of the population).

Thus, even though these countries may have a higher capacity to invest in youth development, it is no surprise that they still report resource shortages in dealing with challenges faced. A larger and more dynamic population coupled with a pronounced version of the resource curse not only compound youth development issues, but also socioeconomic and human development.

Within all countries, disparities still persist, including:

- *The urban and rural divide;*
- *The ruling aged elite and the youth populous;*
- *Tribal and modern communities;*
- *Business communities and the informal sector*

These intra-country disparities are highlighted in many consultations, as several youth and youth groups highlighted that the perceived importance of, funding allocated to, and implementation of PYS2010 across different PYS2010 dimensions (gender for example) varied considerably not just across the region, but within countries themselves.

At the national level, several countries were outliers in making progress towards integration of PYS2010 in to policy; these were Kiribati and Niue, which had highly integrated PYS2010 into their national policies. Niue received positive feedback in the form of real youth progress and also youth commendation in the consultations. Two other cross-country differences were:

- **Global economic crisis resilience:** Solomon Islands and PNG have been quite resilient to the recent global economic crisis (GEC) and their strong economic position places them in a better fiscal position to implement their youth programs. This is highlighted by the rigorous planning documents and resources that PNG has currently devoted to youth; however the country is not commended to the same level as Niue as these plans have not yet translated to tangible results.
- **Colonialism:** There is a distinction that can be drawn between the Pacific Islands with respect to their relevant colonial administrator. This is relevant for youth and PYS2010 evaluation because several people consulted in the American territories stated that their multi-lateral and regional support for youth activities was heavily undermined by the general assumption that the US provides most of their support, when the reality is that most comes from UN institutions. Also, the French territories in the region seem to have higher indicators in the health and education components of PYS2010. This correlates with the French territories having the highest per capita income in the region and is consistent with the stylized fact that income, health and education tend to move together.

The disparities of PYS integration across sub-regions and countries are shown in Table 15. Certain countries indicated no initiatives from some components, while others did them all and the levels of cross-country integration differ considerably across the countries and sub-regions. The countries with the highest proportion of PYS2010 initiatives integrated were FSM (51%), Fiji (50%), Kiribati (53%), Niue (51%) and PNG (65%). The rest of the countries and territories integrated less than 50% of the PYS2010 initiatives into their national policies and American Samoa, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Wallis and Futuna all integrated a low 17% or less across all components. It is important for PYS2015 that the document encapsulates a set of universal goals for youth development in the region that all Pacific countries share a commitment to meet.

Table 15: Overview of Country-level Initiative Integration - by Components

	Accessing Integrated Education (9)	Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods (7)	Promoting Healthy Lifestyles (8)	Building Stronger Communities (9)	Strengthening Institutional Capacity (6)	Youth and Identities (7)	Research Information and Data on Youth (3)	Average Proportion of Integration
	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Number of Initiatives Integrated	Proportion of Integration
American Samoa	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	12%
CNMI	2	3	4	6	1	1	0	30%
Cook Islands	5	3	5	2	4	1	2	47%
FSM	3	3	6	4	4	2	2	51%
Fiji	3	5	7	4	3	0	2	50%
French Polynesia	2	2	6	6	0	2	1	36%
Guam	2	4	4	1	0	1	1	27%
Kiribati	9	2	5	5	1	5	1	53%
Nauru	6	3	5	5	2	1	2	49%
New Caledonia	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	13%
Niue	3	4	7	3	3	2	2	51%
Palau	5	4	8	6	1	2	0	46%
Pitcairn	4	1	2	2	0	1	0	17%
PNG	2	4	7	8	5	1	3	65%
RMI	4	1	7	3	3	4	1	46%
Samoa	1	4	7	5	2	3	1	46%
Solomon Islands	0	3	4	4	2	0	3	39%
Tokelau	4	0	6	3	1	1	0	26%
Tonga	4	2	7	3	1	0	0	30%
Tuvalu	2	3	4	2	2	3	2	40%
Vanuatu	5	2	5	5	2	1	2	45%
Wallis and Futuna	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	9%
Pacific Tofamamao	3	5	5	4	1	0	0	33%
Pacific Plan	2	2	3	6	0	0	2	32%
Pacific Youth Charter	1	2	6	6	0	1	0	28%
Suva Declaration	2	4	7	5	4	4	0	49%
<i>Total number of initiatives integrated / average proportion of initiatives integrated</i>	74	69	135	103	44	36	27	37%

5.3 EMERGING ISSUES

Emerging issues for PICTs are many and varied, the most significant of which will be examined here. Governments, regional agencies, CSOs and FBOs should already be aware of these addressing them in some form, and if not, need to very quickly get on board. Whilst many developed countries are facing an aging population and its attendant challenges of high dependency rates, the Pacific's youth bulge presents the region with a significant opportunity to create a robust, healthy and well-functioning region. However, a lack of action in engaging this burgeoning youth population will present PICTs with a ticking time bomb, which upon explosion may result in a situation that sees the region descend in to stagnation and disrepair.

At this point in the trajectory of Pacific development, the size of the potential working population is large and growing increasingly larger. An expanding workforce with fewer children (due to lower fertility rates) and elderly to support provides a unique window of opportunity to invest in health, education and the MDGs. This low dependency rate may last up to forty years, depending on the age of fertility decline, which is providing the Pacific with a potential powerhouse of workers who collectively may be able to thrust PICTs in to a new era of productivity, wealth and health. However, an enabling environment for youth to realise their potential is needed, and this must be supported by policy. The development of human capital in the region will be significantly hampered if policy failures that affect Pacific youth continue to persist, such as the failure to provide or finance adequate public services when markets for these are not working or absent.

As costly as public investment may be, getting it right today can result in a huge payoff for the future of young people in the region. More than 40% of the higher growth in East Asia (over Latin America) from 1965-1990 was due to faster growth of its working age population through better policies for trade and human capital development (UNDP, HDR 2007). Failure to invest in human capital, which is most profitable for the young, means there is no hope to reap the demographic dividend. PICTs need policies and institutions that broaden the opportunities for human capital creation and development, and the opportunities to apply it in gainful employment. Indeed, overall skills of a labour force are built largely in childhood and youth strongly affect the investment climate in firms (UNDP, HDR 2007)

Employment, education and opportunities

Pacific youth will leave their countries if opportunities are not available to them. If there is not a supportive environment for them to grow and flourish - namely a strong and sustainable economy, opportunities for employment, and reliable governance structures - the 'brain drain' will continue and indeed grow.

Lack of employment opportunities was raised as a significant issue during the consultations, with youth across countries indicating that it was an issue in their communities and countries. Youth unemployment rates vary considerably across the Pacific, ranging from 45% in the Solomon Islands, through levels of 30% in FSM and Tonga, to levels around 2.5% in Kiribati (Pacific 2020, 2006), and is often at least three times the rates of the adult unemployment rate (UNDP, 2011). In most instances within the region, the youth demographic is growing at a much faster rate than employment levels, leaving a large number of well educated but frustrated and disenfranchised youth, searching for opportunities to apply their knowledge and finding little (UNDP, 2011).

If more job opportunities are not being encouraged by PICT governments, the formal and informal education system needs to ensure that it is better attuned to the opportunities available in the employment sector and that graduates are 'work ready' when they leave school. Pacific school-leavers often find

themselves inadequately equipped to participate in the workforces of their countries. If rural livelihoods are one of the only viable livelihood options to Pacific school leavers, school curricula should be responsive to this, and any existing stigmas related to taking the option of a rural livelihood as a career should be addressed. A very good guidance document for countries in the region, regarding agricultural livelihoods is the Pacific Youth and Agriculture Strategy 2011-2015. Likewise links should be made with employers in other viable employment sectors, with feedback sought on the qualifications and qualities they would like to see in their employees.

During consultations with youth, several groups indicated that their quality of education is low. When asked to attribute why this was, many identified underqualified teachers as a reason. Some also indicated that teacher absenteeism was an issue. Any increased investment in the quality of Pacific education systems at a primary and secondary level will need to closely examine teacher training, support systems, mentoring and working conditions. The concerted global MDG push to increase the number of children educated at a primary level has seen many developing countries face an acute shortage of good teachers, and subsequently there has been an increase in the number of underqualified and badly trained teachers entering schools.

A lack of education quality in the region is evident in observing that many elite and leaders of Pacific countries send their children to school overseas to achieve globally competitive qualifications. If there was a serious commitment to improving the circumstance of Pacific youth, leaders in the region would place a high priority on creating world-class education institutions in their home countries.

During the consultations, it emerged that there is a need for community and parental education on the importance of keeping girls in school. As in other developing regions, girls are often the first to be pulled out of school to assist with the household chores or seek work to assist the family income. It is



now well known that educating girls leads to an array of positive flow on effects at an individual, familial and community level. This yields one of the highest returns of all development investments, including: a reduction of child and maternal mortality; lower fertility rates; improved female political participation rates; improvements in economic productivity and growth; and the protection of girls from abuse and exploitation (World Bank, 2009; World Bank, 2001; Summers 1992).

Finally and most fundamentally, not creating jobs and livelihood structures for youth is not just a situation of 'not getting results' but rather making the situation worse. That is, a lack of attention and investment in youth is actually detrimental and can cause stymie development; governments create problems when they ignore needs. As mentioned in the previous section, a major problem is the increase of the dependent population that the government has to cater for in a variety of ways; youth should not be in the dependent population and these factors truly limit the national capacity to develop.

Core Social Protection

The issue of violence and protection of youth should be (and in the most parts is) a significant concern in the region. Abuse suffered by youth within the home, at school, and through commercial sexual exploitation, will preclude youth from realising their future potential. Sufferers of this abuse may be scarred for many years, if not life. Awareness raising and policies of zero tolerance to abuse and violence should be strongly supported by governments, CSOs and FBOs. Abuse and violence in the Pacific often has a significant gender and power dimension, which must be incorporated in to any targeted awareness campaign on violence. Further insight in to this issue can be drawn from the Child Protection Baseline Research conducted by UNICEF (2008).

Peace and Stability

The importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Pacific cannot be underestimated. Whilst the Pacific have managed to avoid protracted and large scale conflicts as seen in African and Middle East regions, local-level conflict and instability - as seen in Melanesia, particularly the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and PNG - significantly degrades governance quality, harms economic growth through reduced foreign direct investment and a reduction in infrastructure investment, social services are rolled back, and rent-seeking behaviour is exacerbated. An unstable political climate often results in short-sighted policy decisions being made in favour of long term investments in human development. Socio-economic divisions are also deepened and further entrenched, as volatility tends to hurt those living on the poverty line or below, far greater than middle class populations, due to lower levels of resilience.

The Pacific has been predominantly conflict free in recent years, and efforts must ensure the continuance of stable and conflict free region. Studies have shown that the longer a country retains a stable and peaceful political climate, the chance of future civil unrest diminishes considerably (Collier, 2009). Peace and stability brings a wealth of enabling factors and opportunities to strengthen countries. A stable political climate can: encourage increase foreign direct investment (FDI), improved governance levels (which can encourage better investments and policy decisions made by government), foster a more robust private sector through increased confidence, business activity and new trade agreements, encourage job creation, and boost tourism levels.

Emigration

Negative migration rates in the region are not a surprise, with many push factors in existence within the region, identified throughout this review. Emigration rates for the region currently sit at -1.2% (SPC, 2011). Broken down by region, the rates are: Melanesia -0.6, Micronesia -2.1, Polynesia -8.5 (SPC, 2011). Within these regions, there are some major outliers, including Guam with a net increase in migration of 13%, and Niue with a net decrease in migration of -28.1% (SPC, 2011).

Should PICTs wish to stem the flow of the general emigration trend, the onus is placed squarely on the governments' shoulders to foster national living standards within which people can develop to their full potential. Sluggish economies, low quality education systems, and a lack of employment opportunities are all major barriers to achieving stable or positive migration. Taking advantage of the youth bulge in the region will not be possible if the youth exodus continues.

Climate change

Climate change is linked closely to migration rates, and is rapidly emerging as one of the most significant challenges ever faced by the Pacific, and particularly youth, who will face the brunt of its effects in the coming decades. Some low-lying countries such as Kiribati, Tuvalu and FSM are facing the very real likelihood of eventual inundation, while they are already feeling the effects of higher salinity levels in their food and water sources. These and most other Pacific countries will face to a greater or less extent: climate volatility, rising sea levels, diminishing arable land, and a loss of infrastructure based along coastlines. The subsequent impact on agricultural industries and the attendant food security issues will place many PICTs in a very vulnerable position. Resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change in the Pacific will need to be a priority action for all PICTs, and indeed a lot of action has already been taken by regional and national bodies.

Although the issue of climate change only came up in a couple of the youth consultations, there is undoubtedly concern held by Pacific youth over climate change and this is duly noted in the Suva Declaration. Renewable energy and energy efficient investment in the region is gaining traction, which is promising.

Food Security

As indicated above, climate change will have a significant effect on food security in the Pacific and is a significant emerging issue for the region. According to a UNICEF report commissioned in 2008, PICTs are also particularly vulnerable due to:

- *high cost of commodity transportation,*
- *pre-existing levels of poverty especially among urban squatter settlements, rural areas and outer islands,*
- *lack of robust social protection mechanisms and safety nets in all PICTs, except Fiji which has a Family Assistance Programme,*
- *increasing demand for modern, imported foods because of changing diets and lifestyle aspirations,*
- *the isolation of inhabited islands,*
- *poor infrastructure and transportation facilities effecting both intra and international trading,*
- *unfavourable fiscal policy environments, and;*
- *weak budgetary positions.*

The effect of this issue on youth is considerable and will present another potential push factor for emigration out of the region if it is not effectively addressed by PICTs. Women, children and growing youth are the most vulnerable segment of the population, with the following potential impacts occurring (UNICEF, 2008):

- micronutrient deficiencies will increase, causing vulnerability to illness and death, low birth weights, stunting and wasting; all are high risks to infant and children's health and wellbeing;
- reduced levels of performance at school, due to the inability to concentrate on an empty stomach and general malnutrition;
- an increase in the student drop-out rate, as there will likely be a need to engage in income generating activities coupled with an inability to afford lunch/school fees/transport fees;
- increased child abuse and exploitation;
- increased pressure on fragile health and education systems, with government withdrawing funds from social services to pool in economic sectors, resulting in women, children and youth being most affected.

As of 2008 the countries identified as 'medium-to-high' and 'high' priority for food scarcity mitigation measures were: Kiribati, RMI, FSM, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji Islands, Niue and Tuvalu (UNICEF, 2008).

PICTs must address and commit to concrete and positive progress within these emerging issue areas, and some if not all of these included in to the next PYS.



6.0 Evaluation of PYS2010

6.1 Purpose

The original purpose of PYS 2010 was to further augment PYS 2005, provide the region with a strategic framework for youth development, and prepare young people to take responsibility for their overall development and well-being. The strategy aimed at bringing together seven components that Pacific youth ministers determined were of importance to youth development in the Pacific region, and represented a commitment to providing more opportunities for Pacific youth to realise their potential and contribute to the social, economic and cultural well-being of their societies. The strategy aimed to cover all of the initiatives currently being covered by Pacific governments, as well as development agencies working in the Pacific.

6.2 Development and inception

The process of putting together PYS2010 was largely guided by SPC's Pacific Youth Bureau and its Youth Development Adviser. Eight youth advisers across the region were asked to provide inputs to fine-tune a draft strategy, which was based on national youth priorities highlighted in PICT national youth policies and youth-related reviews that had been conducted in the Pacific during the two preceding years. Initiatives in PYS 2010 were also aligned to regional and international declarations and conventions on youth development (including the Pacific Tofamamao 2015 Declaration and the Youth Statement on the Pacific Plan). The process of consultation was intended to be region-wide, which to a limited extent it was, however it was not inclusive or highly consultative, and took a 'top-down' approach. It is not clear whether other sectors (CSOs/FBOs/ private sector) were actively included in the drafting of the strategy, and the youth inputs provided were taken from an established network of representatives, which excluded marginalised youth.

The initial PYS2010 had five components, with two additional components (Youth and Identities, and Research, Information and Data on Youth), added to the strategy by Youth Ministers at the Second Conference of Youth Ministers of the Pacific Community in Port Moresby, and held in December 2005. One of the components also went through a rename during the meeting: Component Two 'Earning a Living' was changed to 'Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods'.

A few youth departments and stakeholders in the PYS2010 review consultations indicated that there was not enough 'ownership' of the strategy, indicating that there was not enough inclusion of national youth departments and other youth stakeholders. This resulted in a framework that had limited roll-out and a reduced level of commitment from most youth development stakeholders in the region.

6.3 Implementation, monitoring, evaluation

The strategy was very ambitious and presented a wide remit for governments and youth stakeholders to cover with regard to their youth policies and/or national policies which relate to youth. However, there was no implementation plan or direction provided on how governments, CSOs, NGOs, FBOs and private sector should have used PYS 2010, nor any guidance given on how to develop national priorities with regard to youth. This is despite the fact that the strategy preamble includes a statement which calls for the recognition that "all sector of society have the responsibility to nurture and support a safe environment in which the children and young people of the region can develop as the next generation of leaders".

The strategy called for governments and stakeholders in youth development in the Pacific to make a 'concerted effort' towards the implementation of the PYS 2010, and that a meeting will be held in 2008 to review progress on the implementation of the strategy. The targets put in place for governments to reach, and the indicators used to measure progress were difficult to benchmark due to an absence of baseline data, as well as being overly ambitious and unfeasible to measure. There was no obligation or accountability mechanism put in place for reporting on progress relating to the components and youth initiatives; this accountability to youth was largely neglected. There was only one scheduled meeting of Youth Ministers (in 2008, held in Alofi, Niue) to review progress on the implementation of PYS2010, which is very deficient in maintaining momentum and incentives to keep youth issues on the agenda of Pacific leaders.

Retaining youth issues on Pacific leaders' agendas remains a very difficult task, which is symptomatic of the low priority given to addressing the increasingly complex situation facing Pacific youth. This may be due to a general attitude of older generations that youth will come in to their own when it is 'their time', just as the older generations waited for 'their turn'. Conversely, the present issues and challenges faced by Pacific youth will not self-correct and will become an enormous cross to bear for the region if it is not addressed now.

The main agencies responsible for youth activities in the Pacific (Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) South Pacific, UNESCO, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), SPC, and UNICEF) should hold their Regional Youth Stakeholders' Coordination Meeting on an annual basis, to discuss and report youth progress within the region, share lessons learned, and address weaknesses or gaps that may be filled by regional efforts and funding.

Evaluation of the progress made by countries in implementing the initiatives proposed within PYS2010 is extremely difficult without baseline data to draw upon for comparison. Drawing a causal link between the drafting of PYS2010 and youth initiatives implemented after this is close to impossible, thus only very loose connections can be made with regard to the effect the strategy has had upon national youth policies or their equivalent.

6.4 Effectiveness

As mentioned in the previous section, a lack of baseline data information presents a considerable challenge to an evaluation of the effectiveness of PYS2010. An analysis of national youth policies (or in the absence of such, their equivalent) and the degree to which components have been integrated, has been conducted. However drawing a causal link between the PYS2010 and the adoption of its suggested initiatives in to national policies has been very difficult to determine. It was hoped that the survey responses and consultations would provide information with regard to how much of an influence PYS2010 had over national youth departments and ministries. As there were limited responses across the region, it was difficult to get a representative sample of opinions on this. In the responses received through surveys, stakeholder consultation meetings and interviews, general feedback indicated that PYS2010 was not widely known, nor was it consistently used or referred to by respondents as the framework it was intended to be. It appears that the promotion and dissemination of the document within countries was limited and often stopped within the youth departments or ministries, without travelling much further afield to the NGO/CSO/FBOs of each country.

Table 16 provides a detailed overview of the number of times each initiative of each component was integrated into a national or regional policy in the documents analysed. The second column states the number of policies which were integrated per initiative, and the third column expresses this as a percentage of the 26 policies scanned. Integration of PYS2010 components in to national policies varied considerably across component areas. One of the least integrated components was 'Youth and Identities', whilst a number of countries made references to the importance of maintaining culture and traditional

customs by including youth in the process, very few carried through with concrete actions regarding implementation of initiatives. Another component which was only loosely integrated was ‘Strengthening Institutional Capacity’, which sought to strengthen existing mechanisms for effectively promoting the advancement of young people in the Pacific. The most highly integrated component was ‘Promoting Healthy Lifestyles’, which saw almost all Pacific countries largely integrating initiatives relating to: Sexual and Reproductive Health, Substance Abuse, and Non-Communicable Diseases. The upcoming PYS should examine the levels of integration identified in this table, and determine whether a renewed emphasis needs to be directed at those initiatives with low levels of integration in to policy.

Table 16: Overview of Component Integration – by Initiative and Component

	Number of Policies integrated per initiative*	Proportion of total
Accessing Integrated Education		
Leadership Development	6	23%
Truancy prevention measures	3	12%
Career and vocational counselling	9	35%
Internship/ work experience	5	19%
Civic Education	2	8%
ICT Education	6	23%
Providing/upgrading vocational and skills training	17	65%
Apprenticeships/work placement	9	35%
Life Skills	17	65%
Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods		
Poverty Reduction Strategies	4	15%
Support Youth Employment	21	81%
Small business development and mentoring	17	65%
Youth Trade Shows	4	15%
Participation in ICT Businesses	2	8%
Food Security Micro-projects	3	12%
Resource Management and Environment	18	69%
Promoting Healthy Lifestyles		
Sexual and Reproductive Health	26	100%
Substance Abuse	21	81%
Non-communicable Diseases	23	88%
Mental Health	14	54%
Suicide Prevention	12	46%
Youth-friendly Services/Counselling	16	62%
Peer Education	13	50%
Partnerships	10	38%
Building Stronger Communities		
Decision making and Leadership	20	77%
Youth Criminality	15	58%
Family Strengthening	15	58%
Volunteerism	12	46%
Exploitation and Abuse	12	46%
Gender Discrimination	15	58%
Data, Collection, Human Rights Convention and MDGs,	1	4%
Media Training	3	12%
Regional Events and Networks	10	38%

Continued	Number of Policies integrated per initiative*	Proportion of total
Strengthening Institutional Capacity		
National Youth Policy	16	62%
Provision of Financial Resources	9	35%
Adequate Resources	8	31%
National Youth Councils	5	19%
Pacific Youth Council	1	4%
National Award Scheme	1	4%
Gender-inclusive Policies	4	15%
Youth and Identities		
Cultural Studies Program	15	58%
Health Services	1	4%
Health Research	0	0%
Artistic Expression	7	27%
Expression and Modern Media	3	12%
Arts/Crafts Income-generation	5	19%
Institutional Involvement	4	15%
Research Information and Data on Youth		
Monitoring and Evaluation	11	42%
Established Database	7	27%
Supporting Research	9	35%

7.0 Recommendations and conclusion¹³

7.1 The opportunity cost of inaction

Linear trend forecasts were performed for ten of our PICTs, namely Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, RMI, FSM, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. The data was taken from the World Bank's WDI database and a complete set of the extrapolated data is included in Appendix Five. PNG was omitted from the sample because its annual growth rate of almost ten percent combined with low unemployment is very inconsistent with the rest of the region. If we are to assume no output growth - which is realistic in all these stagnant non-resource-rich economies - the 385 000 unemployed in the region last year rises to 530 000 unemployed in 2015, and up to almost 700 000 unemployed by 2020. This effectively means that the unemployed population in the Pacific excluding PNG can reasonably be expected to almost double in the next decade if their economies continue to idle. This is a very large scale problem, as populations of both Polynesia and Micronesia today are far less than 700 000. Furthermore, the majority of unemployed throughout the region are youth and this is expected to grow as the youth bulge becomes more protrusive. Thus, the costs of inaction will grow exponentially as more time passes.

This youth inactivity and unemployment has immense costs to the Pacific Island economies. If we assume no output growth but let the population continue to grow at trend levels in the same sample of countries, output lost in 2010 due to unemployment was estimated at 828 million USD. This will skyrocket to 2.049 billion by 2015, and 3.18 billion in 2020. This forecast implicitly implies that per capita incomes fall because the population growth will well outstrip output growth, thus making a rather conservative estimate. If we re-estimate this allowing for per capita incomes to rise at their long-run rate (which is still very low across the sample), this opportunity cost of not providing sustainable livelihoods and employment will spiral up even further. 828 million of lost income in 2010 is forecast to rise to 2.2 billion in 2015, and a further 3.5 billion by 2020. This is a huge concern considering that these countries are just a proportion of those in the region, and if the others and PNG are included the number would be much greater. In other words, this large number is conservative and ignores all the other crucial non-monetary dimensions of development, but we can reasonably expect the annual monetary costs of inaction to at least triple in the next decade.

7.2 Proposed components and indicators

Six years since PYS2010 was created and agreed upon, its level of integration into national policies has not been as high as hoped. As mentioned above, a number of stakeholders indicated that PYS2010 was not widely known or used as a reference framework as originally intended. Indeed, just 14 out of 43 of the initiatives analysed were integrated in more than half of the policies surveyed, with 17 of these 43 initiatives not even making it into 20% of the national and regional youth policies or equivalent document. While the resulting levels of integration are mixed, there are clear trends across components. Nurturing Sustainable Livelihoods, Promoting Healthy Lifestyles, Accessing Integrated Education and Building Stronger Communities had higher levels of integration across policies, but the other three were relatively neglected across the board.

There are two crucial questions we must consider in thinking about re-engineering PYS2015 based on the lessons from PYS2010:

- Are the Strengthening Institutional Capacity, Youth and Identities and Research Information and Data on Youth components less important to policy-makers because they have not been integrated very much? Why?

¹³ See appendix Five for calculation of forecasts

- Did the integration of components actually result in significant improvements in these dimensions? Why?

Firstly, it would not be inappropriate to assume that a greater priority was placed on the first four components rather than the last four. After all, virtually every politician in a developing country vows to invest in health and education (components one and three raise economic growth and improve livelihood opportunities (PiPP, 2011). The Building Stronger Communities component made significant progress in its integration as well, and the four of these components are well justified by both theory and cross-country evidence. Improving health tends to improve education, and improving education tends to improve health; they are endogenously determined and share a number of common policy issues around incentive structures and quality. Furthermore, increased economic development – a reasonable proxy for component two – generally improves health and education, and indeed, they both are robust determinants of long-term economic development. Aside from being a basic human right and focus of the MDGs, the health and education components of PYS2010 have received significant attention across the Pacific, but improvement in indicators are not commensurate with the investment that has taken place. For example, a World Bank (2007) study pinpoints issues such as implementation efficacy issues, governance, and gender inequality as some key reasons for a lack of human development progress in PNG. More generally, though national issues such as a skills gaps, not matching education to employment demands, poor diet, non-communicable diseases, and poor institutions for service delivery were commonly noted by participants and stakeholders as the more fundamental reason why health and education issues persist in the face of heavy investment.

Similarly, youth unemployment and underemployment in the region is at unprecedented levels and most PICTs are experiencing little to no economic growth; and some are contracting. In the Building Stronger Communities component, the three initiatives that were most integrated had the biggest potential development dividend [within that component] if effective:

- Decision-making and Leadership: By including youth in decision-making and training them to be leaders, these initiatives promote accountability and social inclusions, thus strengthening institutions.
- Family Strengthening could promote a positive demographic shift to lower fertility, as well as increasing the transmission and retention of parental educational capital.
- Gender Discrimination: Exhaustive studies have found overall that reducing gender discrimination supports all important dimensions of development, be it economic, social or institutional (Edwards, 2010).

Given the very limited resources in the Pacific allocated to youth development, the remaining components require more imagination to empirically or theoretically justify. For example, the research data and information on youth is a necessary precondition to monitor progress in any other component, and therefore create the incentives and proof that programs work in order to repeat them or increase their scale. Similarly, research is necessary to actually understand the issues properly, and it is quite scarce across the region. As mentioned in the previous sections, the Strengthening Institutional Capacity component was mistaken; the initiatives in this component primarily refer to establishing and funding organisations, but pay little attention to underlying institutional strength. The component on Building Stronger Communities contained more initiatives related to strengthening institutional capacity than the institutional component itself, with initiatives including: eliminating gender discrimination, media training, and youth inclusion in leadership and decision-making. For the purpose of moving the Pacific forward, institutions can be defined as:

‘The rules of the game in a society or, more formally, are the humanly devised constraints that shape human interaction [...] In consequence; they structure incentives in human exchange, whether political, social, or economic.’ (North, 1991)

Some examples of appropriate and important institutional indicators are as follows:

- Control of corruption;
- Civil liberties;
- Political rights;
- Political stability;
- No violence;
- Voice and accountability;
- The rule of law;
- Business-friendly environment; and
- Quality of polity.

The fundamental fact is that institutional quality is not only a key determinant of economic growth (Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson, 2001; 2004), but also the factor that conditions effectiveness of public spending and aid (Collier and Goderis, 2007; Knack, 2001; Mehulm et al 2006). Reiterated, all investment in PYS2010 components – and youth development in the Pacific in general – is vulnerable to being rendered impotent in the presence of poor institutions. The widely accepted institutional indicators from the World Governance Indicators, Freedom House and Transparency International suggest that this may indeed be a problem in the Pacific, as mostly all countries are well below global averages. In addition, Sugden (2008) finds that institutional problems in the Pacific are sufficiently large to be their ‘most binding constraint’ to development. Furthermore, bad institutions tend to perpetuate themselves (Savoia et al, 2010) and harm development by increasing inequality and fostering the inefficient allocation of available resources, retarding growth, and increasing social fractionalisation (Li et al. 2000; Llundberg and Squire, 2003; Carmignani, 2009). In the case of youth, there is limited integration of youth into decision-making at the community, district, provincial and national levels because they are traditionally subordinates who should be seen but not heard. As they now make up the bulk of the population, perpetuating this culture can only weaken governance, institutional effectiveness and accountability in the region.

The first starting point for PYS2015 should be strengthening institutions. Tackling corruption, increasing transparency, and building trust and accountability in governments should be the national and regional priority. This is currently not at all explicit in PYS2010. One of the most effective policies to strengthen institutions is addressing gender discrimination, and this should continue to be a recurrent theme in PYS2015, mainstreamed across all youth and national development policies.

The pervasive data gaps need to be filled in at the national, sub-national, and regional levels, and then used to target, monitor, and evaluate youth programs. Data must cover key youth measures, youth profiles from census data and ongoing national surveys of young people. They should specifically target the development indicators of the most disadvantaged young people.

Policy commitments should be made publicly available and well-known, as should the movement of public and international aid money. By strengthening the underlying institutions, potential economic growth will rise^w and capital may return to the region because there will be less uncertainty surrounding investment and greater incentive to invest. This will feed into the natural creation of sustainable employment opportunities for youth. This will require not only good institutions, but improved equity and opportunities. An improved human capital (better health and education) environment will compound this enabling environment and allow for a much greater chance of attracting private sector activity and capital to the region.

The government is the largest employer in many PICTs. Public finances must be sustainable because so many are reliant on the government for their income and livelihoods. Whilst many institutional reports continually commit to spending more and seeking more funding, the reality is that aid is falling, as is the

¹⁴ Azariadis and Stachurski, 2005; North, 1991; Easterly and Levine, 1997; Hall and Jones, 1999; Rodrik et al. 2002; Knack and Keefer, 1995; Acemoglu et al. 2002 and 2005

current tax base across many PICTs (namely, income). The best way to increase the tax base is simply more economic activity, and higher incomes and investment. The informal sector must also be sustainable and supported, as it is essentially the main social safety net which prevents millions from falling further into poverty. Given the importance of agriculture, rural life skills need to be more integrated into school curriculums and stigmas about traditional life and rural livelihoods, addressed.

As with PYS2010, health and education must remain key components. Their intimate interdependence means they could even effectively be combined into one component. Aside from the institutional constraints previously mentioned, there are a few other issues that severely limited progress in the region in health and education. Firstly, many participants and reports surveyed noted the poor quality of teachers and service providers. Often, the services were not deemed appropriate and matched to the requirements of society. For example, education gained was reported to not match up with education needed for employment. Health issues such as mental health and suicide, unplanned pregnancy and abortion, and cultural restraints around reproductive health services, are commonly neglected despite a clear demand and social need. Secondly, limited access to health and education services for Pacific minorities and rural dwellers remains a persistent problem across the region. This is a concern because it has the potential to reinforce inequalities that will hamper development progress across a range of other dimensions.

In sum, the components included in PYS2015 need to be highly engendered, inclusive and accountable to have the potential to be effective. Reliable data collection must occur across all components to ensure effective monitoring, evaluation and therefore results. The two most critical components should be 'strengthening institutions' and 'access to quality education and health services'. As highlighted above, focusing on relevance, quality and inclusion are the most important factors to ensuring effective youth programs. Their effectiveness will all be conditioned upon the underlying institutions responsible for their design and execution, so significant progress in this component is a paramount prerequisite for any other component to have any chance of being effective. This should all be taken in to account within the PYS2015 implementation and rollout plan.

These two components are crucial long-run investments that are necessary for the youth in the region to shift to a positive development trajectory, and should be supplemented by initiatives in livelihoods and local industrial development for youth employment, cultural enrichment and preservation, and much more. The diversity of the region means that these other components must be customised for each country's particular circumstances in order to be effective. The dimensions of gender equity, inclusion, strengthened institutions and accountability, and better health and education are generally universal across the region and important youth goals. However, the other components of PYS2010 should be more relevant to the unique development challenges of each country, to be effective.

7.3 Proposed pys2015 process

Looking towards the next iteration of PYS, the review team has several recommendations:

- Increase funding, time taken in formulation, and resources dedicated to the PYS2015, with a solid commitment from regional agencies, governments and donors.
- Research costs within the region are high and if the process for formulating the next PYS is not consultative, it will be virtually worthless, as full ownership by all Pacific countries and territories (including NGOs and CSOs) is crucial to its success as a reference point document for the region.

- CSOs and NGOs working with, or who are able to identify pockets of marginalised youth should be used to feed in to the next PYS. The next PYS must include the perspectives of the youth Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual communities, youth living with HIV and AIDS, and young people with mental and/or physical disabilities.
- Build in concrete commitments to the PYS, with measurable progress points and accountability mechanisms. Universal Pacific ‘Youth Development Goals’ could be an option.
- There should be built in accountability to the goals set within PYS, such as ensuring that a particular position or department within government is responsible for ownership and delivery of particular goals.
- Have a rigorous third-party peer-review of the final draft to assess the strategy’s feasibility objectively, perhaps by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the IMF’s Asia-Pacific Department, the World Bank, or other high-level academics.
- PYS2015 should be reviewed by youth groups, through the NYCs and Pacific Youth Council; however this process must ensure the representation of marginalised youth throughout the review process as well as construction.
- PYS2015 should be highly engendered and address social inclusion and equity concerns pre-emptively.
- Collect measurable, gender disaggregated, baseline data as soon as PYS2015 is finalised to ensure effective monitoring and evaluation; try to better capture current data collections (through SPC, national data available, UN, WB), followed by a rapid identification of gaps to be filled in data collection.
- A comprehensive implementation plan is needed within the strategy, and should specify all necessary resources, provide explicit directions and frameworks for all stakeholders.
- If self training of the PYS does not seem appropriate or is not possible, a rollout of national training workshops should be conducted by experts, with an ongoing mentoring and development process for staff managing coordination and implementation of PYS2015 across the region.
- A regional and independent monitoring and evaluation (M & E) taskforce should be formed and deployed every two to five years to support and oversee the self-reporting of governments and to ensure goals are actually being met. This could be linked to conditional development assistance in regards to bilateral and multilateral aid and loans; that is, countries must demonstrate commitment to and progress in meeting their youth development targets to be rewarded by additional support.
- With regard to monitoring and evaluation, the World Bank’s Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) stresses the importance on monitoring and evaluation of youth programs, and highlights the parallels between youth development and development more generally. From all information available online, it seems that this process has been followed well, and given the Bank’s strategic comparative advantage in monitoring and evaluation of development programs, partnership or technical assistance in this area would be ideal.

7.4 Recommendations by sector:

The following list of recommendations is not designed to be an exhaustive list, and some of the recommendations may already be incorporated by individual Pacific governments or organisations, but are simply not general practice across the region.

7.4.1 Regional administration and cooperation /spc/ pifs

- Following the Pacific Plan 2010 Annual report, we agree that youth issues should be mainstreamed into the national development agenda and across ministries, to ensure there is not a competition of resources and space for 'youth issues'. Youth should be a broad cross cutting theme.
- There needs to be mechanisms for regional cooperation and cross-government national progress pressure; such as annual or biannual reporting, meetings, recognition and ranking for progress. Perhaps something similar to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) reporting requirements, to ensure governments properly integrate youth issues in to policy.
- The Regional Youth Stakeholders, including: CYP South Pacific, UNESCO, PIFS, SPC and UNICEF, should meet on an annual basis, to discuss and report youth progress within the region, share lessons learned, and address weaknesses or gaps that may be filled by regional efforts and funding.
- The review team echoes the call made by UNDP in their 2011 Urban Youth in the Pacific report; youth issues should be a standing agenda item on the Forum Minister meeting agenda.
- SPC and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) should consider a high-level regional panel with high-profile academics and national leaders to help shine a light on the issue and move the youth agenda to the forefront of Pacific Island and Territories' focus.
- Tap in to and take advantage of World Bank data capabilities, through their World Development Indicators, to strengthen PRISM. Cross-pollination of data will greatly strengthen data collection in the region.
- Strengthen the Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM) by looking at the World Bank's Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) program statistic collection, as there is potential to share technical capacity on collection, dissemination and maintenance of databases. PRISM should be the central repository for all Pacific related statistics, and the 'go-to' place for data collection.
- The National Youth Councils that comprise the Pacific Youth Council should ensure that they continue to target marginalised youth, rather than those who are already 'tapped in' to existing networks.
- Communication channels to youth need to be strengthened, perhaps using social media and mobile phone technologies.
- SPC Youth desk should have more funding allocated, as presently there is only one person to take care of this section.
- Regional organisations should seek to identify and fill gaps in national funding of youth initiatives, to backstop national governments and avoid duplication of efforts.
- SPC should consider monitoring particular youth throughout the region during the next implementation period and measure progress with respect to the PYS2015. These could include a random sample that is representative of the diversity of youth across the whole population, but more importantly, marginalised focus groups. Such indicators to be monitored would not only include the standard health, wealth, employment and income indicators, but also youth perceptions about access to government and services, their reliability and quality; this should provide crucial empirical insights into the changing dynamics of youth social exclusion.
- Install a funding mechanism to make NYCs independent of governments.
- Administer a grant program funding youth-focused NGOs through a competitive bidding and proposal process, to channel funds to programs targeting marginalised youth and programs, similar to the

Enterprise Challenge Fund (ECF). This program would require that NGOs demonstrate that a project or activity meets one or more of the targets from PYS2015. A similar program could be administered for the private sector, making links with their corporate social responsibility activities. A fund 'matching' scheme could be considered, which would see a contribution made from the private sector company, and a matching amount given from the grant.

7.4.2 National governments

- Mainstream youth issues across existing ministries, to ensure that it does not fall through the cracks, or that it has to compete for resources against the major ministries such as health and education.
- National youth policies must be married with the priorities and goals of the major ministries, with a representative body responsible for ensuring ministry cooperation on integrating youth issues. The Samoan TALAVOU programme provides a good example of this.
- National governments should actively seek to improve the knowledge-based sector and ICT, because this will better allow for the diffusion of knowledge throughout society and also individual voice and accountability, thus reinforcing investments and policy commitment made in the crucial areas of education and institutions.
- Cross-country evidence now suggests that even when good institutions are in place, resource dependence systematically retard social development and human capital accumulation. Given these deficiencies faced in the region, particularly by the resource-rich countries, state-captured rents and taxes from resource extraction should be significant and earmarked for long-run human development investments to pre-emptively offset this damage caused and the undermining of the sustainable development process.
- Hire popular sporting identities to promote national and regional youth issues.
- Strengthen NYCs to be more inclusive and more effectively partner with NGOs, CSOs and FBOs.
- New census data should be analysed to identify vulnerable youth populations, especially in terms of illiteracy, gender and sexual minority, and disability. Census questions should disaggregate youth to tap into sub-national inequalities and identify vulnerable and marginalized youth populations. The disaggregation of the information is crucial. Social vulnerability and social exclusion have been very well addressed by UNDP in Central and Eastern Europe¹⁵.
- PYS2015 should be used by governments as a major reference point for their youth policies, to provide guidance and a checklist of what they should be doing. This should be supported by appropriate incentive structures, such as a regional youth fund from which adherent countries could be provided with budget support for youth initiatives.
- National governments must mainstream youth in development policies. A particularly useful option could be mainstreaming youth through the medium-term development strategies (MTDS) and poverty-reduction strategy papers (PRSP); this way, it could be enforced by donors and receive additional valuable technical input and assistance. Given the centrality of youth to the future long-run development of every country studied, it would not be an exaggeration to say that these national development strategies should be very similar to National Youth Strategies; the focus in any future-oriented development policy should indeed be youth.

¹⁵ <http://vulnerability.undp.sk/> and <http://europeandcis.undp.org/poverty/show/A3C29ADB-F203-1EE9-BBOA277C80C5F9F2>

- A specific parliamentary committee should be established to ensure budget and legislative support for youth issues, and champion issues relevant and important to young people with a gender and equity focus.

7.4.3 Local/provincial/ csos/ngos/ faith-based organisations/private sector

- NGOs/CSOs/FBOs should: identify marginalised youth and provide linkages to youth initiatives; utilise social media; and coordinate work with National Youth Councils and the Pacific Youth Council.
- Assist in the collection of baseline data to feed into PRISM; conduct impact assessments, and provide feedback to statisticians at SPC who administer PRISM data collection. This will ensure a broader picture is gathered for the region rather than what is currently available.
- Create partnerships between NGOs and private sectors to target youth issues.
- The private sector needs to provide more graduate positions or junior positions, with on the job training to support youth transitioning into the workforce. This could be monitored through legislation or incentives provided by government.

7.4.4 Donors: international, multilateral, foreign companies

- It is strongly recommended that donor-country national policies should be consistent with – and give more attention to - the PYS2015 objectives and ideals. For example, their aid programmes should reinforce the domestic and regional youth development activities.
- Donor-country migration policy should move towards offering opportunities abroad for Pacific youth to develop, grow, and earn a living in the absence of such opportunities at home. Recent evidence suggests that the ‘brain drain’ may actually be a brain gain, as many ex-pats have a tendency to send a large amount of remittances and also start businesses back in their home countries after attaining education or employment abroad. This is particularly pertinent to the Pacific because many of these educational and employment opportunities simply do not exist.
- Donor-country trade policy should support the industrial development of youth-related industries in the Pacific and promote their growth; that is, conflicts of interest between trade policy and international development policy must be recognised and mitigated.
- Following the recommendation in the previous section, the IMF and World Bank should enforce youth mainstreaming in national MTDSs and PRSPs by making loans, aid and technical assistance conditional on correct youth policy. We believe that youth mainstreaming into national development policies is consistent with a long-run dynamically optimal investment program.
- The World Bank should provide data support to SPC and the development of the PRISM. The Bank’s open-source data collection is an exemplary source for data for every other region of the world, and the Pacific should be included in here. Moreover, the Bank has a key strength in data collection and could provide valuable technical assistance to SPC to roll out a statistics and monitoring program that will be consistent across the multi-lateral organisations. There should also be an option for current and past researchers to share their data in one key repository, which is easy to navigate and search. Having such a collection readily available will also serve as an impetus for further research on youth in the Pacific.
- Bi-lateral and multi-national budget support should remain generous and a priority, as currently total overseas development assistance (ODA) funds received across the region has been in decline for a number of years.

- Furthermore, most of this budget support must be prioritized and earmarked towards youth activities, or even conditional upon it being invested in long-run youth development.
- AusAID's Office of Development Effectiveness and other donor equivalents should endeavour to share any data collection or findings with regard to impact assessment, with SPC and PRISM statisticians.
- Increase programmes and funding allocated for Pacific youth, noting that this may need to be conditional on a considerable improvement in monitoring and evaluation of these programs in-country to boost performance. Donor concerns of limited absorptive capacity should be navigated around by investing in building this capacity in young people.
- Technical Assistance (TA) could be provided towards youth-related activities where the local capacity does not exist. This should seek to build local capacity, whilst avoiding the tendency to just fly in experts, and then fly them out. On-going mentoring and support would be needed. TA has the benefit that it is non-inflationary, but it should only hire foreign staff where absolutely necessary and should seek to hire local specialists or other Pacific Nationals.
- Donors should collaborate to create an effective tracking, reporting and oversight mechanism to provide impartial and critical feedback to the regional and national youth policy implementation authorities.

7.5 Final remarks

The process of reviewing PYS2010 has uncovered many and varying strengths and challenges facing Pacific governments with regard to youth and youth issues in the region. The next steps taken in relation to youth will be crucial in determining the region's future prosperity. This prosperity is completely contingent upon investment and involvement in youth; that is, this is a non-negotiable prerequisite for potential success.

Youth are central to every facet of Pacific development and should no longer be considered as an afterthought, or an area which will simply take care of itself. With the unprecedented size of youth bulge in the Pacific, the issues facing Pacific Youth today are extremely different from those faced by previous generations, and they continue to grow rapidly. The importance of a completely integrated approach to youth policy by national governments cannot be stressed enough. The role of other sectors - namely collaboration between government, the private sector and civil society - is also crucial in ensuring outreach of the PYS, and should be actively encouraged within the next design of the strategy.

Although this review identified weaknesses in PYS2010, there have been a lot of lessons learned in the process. With effective regional participation in the drafting, rollout, implementation plan, ongoing guidance and comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanisms; PYS2015 can serve as an effective focal point of agreement on youth development issues between Pacific governments, donors, NGOs, CSOs and FBOs; and be an effective vehicle for regional agency cooperation on youth issues.

The potential for success in the region is substantial, but requires considerable commitment by Pacific leaders and youth stakeholders, in addressing the concerns outlined within this review. Capitalising on the current youth bulge, and the potential for growth that this brings, will ensure that a robust and healthy Pacific region is within reach. However, neglecting the challenge at hand will undoubtedly assure that the growing youth bulge becomes a millstone around the neck of the Pacific region, propagating further stagnation and a gloomy outlook for Pacific development.

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Appendix one: list of survey respondents*

- Adolescent Health and Development Program, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
- Department of National Heritage, Culture and Arts, Fiji
- Department of Youth and Women's Affairs, American Samoa
- Drodrolagi Movement, Fiji
- International Labour Organisation, Vanuatu
- Ministry of Agriculture, Cook Islands
- Pacific Islands Center for Educational Development (PiCED), American Samoa
- Pacific Leadership Program (AusAID)
- Regional Rights Resource Team
- Territorial Committee for the Voice of New Caledonian Youth
- The New Caledonia Youth and Sports Department
- The Southern Province, New Caledonia
- Tonga National Youth Congress
- UNESCO, Samoa
- UNICEF, Pacific
- United Nations Development Programme, Pacific Centre
- Youth & Sports Division – Ministry of Internal Affairs, American Samoa

*not including anonymous youth surveys

Appendix two: list of people, organisations and departments from in-country consultations

- Boy Scouts of American Samoa
- Ba’hai Faith Representative, American Samoa
- Seventh Day Adventist Representative, Samoa
- Rotaract, Cook Islands
- Family Welfare Association, Cook Islands
- Youth Ambassadors and Youth Peer Educators, Cook Islands
- Cook Islands Division of Youth and Sports, Department of International Affairs
- Youth Champs for Mental Health, Fiji
- Rescue Mission, Fiji
- Fiji Red Cross Society
- Namara (Kadavu) Urban Youths
- Saint John Ambulance, Fiji
- Board of Directors, and Silvain Pauwels, Manager, PYS (Polynesian Youth Society) – “Union Polynésienne pour la Jeunesse”
- New Caledonia Member of the Assembly of the Southern Province, in charge of Youth Affairs
- New Caledonia Special Adviser to the President of the Southern Province
- New Caledonia Voice of Youth Committee
- “Education, Training & Youth” Commission of the New Caledonia Custom Senate
- Special Advisor to the Government on Youth and Sports, New Caledonia
- Director of the Department of Youth and Sports, New Caledonia
- Red Cross, Papua New Guinea
- Marie Stopes Papua New Guinea
- City Mission Papua New Guinea
- Child Fund Papua New Guinea
- Anglicare Papua New Guinea
- Oxfam International, Papua New Guinea
- National Department of Health (Reproductive Health), Papua New Guinea
- Tonga National Youth Congress
- Tonga Ministry of Youth Employment, Training Opportunities and Sport

- Vanuatu Ministry of Youth and Sport
- Samoa Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
- Samoa National Council of Churches
- Samoa Ministry of Agriculture
- Samoa Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
- Samoa Ministry of Finance
- Samoa AIDS Task Force
- Faataua le Ola
- National Youth Council of Palau,
- National Youth Council Marshall Islands
- National Youth Council Federated States of Micronesia
- Federated State of Micronesia Youth Councils: Yap State, Pohnpei State and Chuuk State

Appendix three: reviewed country youth policies or equivalent document, and regional policies and plans

- CNMI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan 2009-2014
- CNMI State Plan on Children and Families 2000-2005
- CNMI-SPC Joint Country Strategy
- Cook Islands National Youth Policy 2003-2006
- Fiji National Youth Policy 2003-2005
- Fiji Strategic Plan for Youth Development 2006-2025
- FSM National Youth Policy 2004-2010
- Guam Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2003
- Kiribati National Youth Policy Strategies 2009-2013 (draft)
- National Youth Policy of PNG 2007-2017
- Nauru Footpath Education Strategy 2007-2012
- Nauru National Youth Policy 2008-2015
- Nauru Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth 2005
- New Caledonia-SPC Joint Strategy Paper
- Niue National Youth Policy 2003-2008
- Pacific Tofamamao 2015: Declaration of the Pacific Youth Summit for MDGs
- Palau National Youth Policy 2005
- Palau Situation Analysis 2008
- RMI National Youth Policy 2010-2014
- Samoa National Youth Policy 2001-2010
- Solomon Islands National Youth Policy 2010-2015
- Suva Declaration
- The Pacific Plan
- The Pacific Youth Charter
- Tokelau Situation Analysis of Children, Women and Youth 2006
- Tonga National Youth Strategy 2007-2012
- Tuvalu National Youth Policy 2005-2010
- Vanuatu National Youth Policy 2007-2011
- Vanuatu Youth Empowerment Strategy 2010-2019
- Wallis and Futuna-SPC Joint Strategy Paper

Appendix four: sample survey

Regional and international organisations and the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010

Includes all the agencies in the Inter-Agency Task Force on Youth (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, ILO, UNDP, CYP, FSPI, and others such as Commonwealth Local Government Association, Save the Children, Oxfam World Vision). The Development partners, JICA, AusAID, NZAID, EU Aid, should also be asked these questions.

National efforts to implement the many initiatives articulated in PYS2010 require ongoing assistance in the areas of funding support to community-based youth-led projects, and technical assistance for national capacity-building programmes and regional initiatives.

This questionnaire has two parts: the first asks questions relevant to the review of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010 and the second part seeks information relevant to the Report on the State of Pacific Youth 2010. Available also in a separate document is the summary matrix from the PYS2010 to be used in conjunction with Attachment 1.

Name:

What is your official position?

Email:

1. What activities related to youth does your organisation support? What funding is allocated to these activities? What are the sources of this funding?
2. Does your organisation have a specific strategy in place related to Pacific youth?
3. Have you heard of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010?
4. Was the PYS2010 an important influence on decision-making about youth issues in your organisation? Please rate its importance on a one-to-five scale, from 1 = not important at all to 5 = very important.
5. Does your organisation support any initiatives in the areas outlined in the PYS2010? If so, which ones (please use the summary list in Attachment 1 and refer to the summary matrix from the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010. A spreadsheet form is also available to use to fill in the information).
6. Please provide us with details of how well you think the initiative worked? Did it reach the proposed targets? Was performance of the initiative measured by the proposed indicators? (see Attachment 1).
7. How well did the initiative involve girls and young women? (see Attachment 1)
8. What specific age groups were involved in the initiative? (see Attachment 1)
9. Has your organisation responded to requests from national governments for support in implementing any of the initiatives proposed in the PYS2010? If so, which ones?
10. Has your organisation provided support for regional PYS2010 capacity-building initiatives?

11. Has your organisation offered support for regional and national research studies on youth issues related to the PYS2010?
12. Has your organisation conducted consultations on specific youth issues related to the PYS2010?
13. Has your organisation supported the participation of young people in relevant regional and international events related to the PYS2010? If so, please provide details.
14. How valuable to your organisation was the State of Pacific Youth Report 2005 as a tool for understanding the situation of youth in the Pacific region? Please rate its importance on a one-to-five scale, from 1 = not important at all to 5 = very important
15. What aspects of the report were particularly valuable for internal analysis?
16. How valuable has the 2005 report in guiding internal decision-making on measures to address youth issues?
17. What major collaborations has your organisation made with other development agencies in the Pacific region since 2005 to address priority youth issues?
18. How well has the SPC's Youth officer served as the central agency for the coordination, implementation, monitoring and review of PYS2010? Please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements about these aspects of its role. Please rate each statement on a one-to-five scale with 1= Disagree strongly to 5=Agree strongly

	Strongly disagree	disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	1	2	3	4	5
The SPC Youth officer has been good at coordinating the PYS2010 at a regional level					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at implementing the PYS2010					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at monitoring the PYS2010					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at mobilising resources to support PYS2010 initiatives					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at reviewing the PYS2010					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at promoting the active participation of young people in development at all levels of society					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at helping young people become more involved in decisions that affect their lives					
The SPC Youth officer has been good at raising the profile of Pacific youth through information exchange and networking					

In relation to the review of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010

19. What do you think have been the greatest successes in implementing the PYS2010? Have these successes been documented? Is this documentation available?
20. What do you think have been the most significant barriers to implementing the PYS2010? Have these obstacles been referred to any documents?
21. What do you see as the new or emerging issues facing the youth that you would like to see addressed in the next Pacific Youth Strategy? What evidence can you refer us in relation to a new or emerging issue?
22. In terms of the next Pacific Youth Strategy, what elements need to be better supported to ensure that the strategy is implemented? Is there any document you can refer us to support this assessment?

Questions for regional and international agencies for the the report of the state of Pacific youth

23. Do you have any survey data, other statistics or case studies on the situation facing youth in the Pacific since 2005?
24. Can we get copies of the data or the write up of these results?
25. Has your agency undertaken any initiatives in relation to young people and the UN Right to Development with a specific focus on young people's participation and contribution to economic, social, cultural and political development? If yes, what specific rights are these? Please give us information about these initiatives.
26. Article 1 of the United Nations on the Right to Development (1986) states, "...[e]very human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development..." This right is relevant for all people of all ages.
27. Can you cite evidence and/or success stories for the following achievements by development partners and other agencies, outlined in the Suva Declaration:

Recent improvements	evidence & success stories
Improvements in preventative health services, access to clean water and sanitation facilities;	
The continuous development of education services in the Pacific is an essential means of equipping young people with important skills for life;	
The hosting of regional and national cultural festivals, sporting activities are important means to promote Pacific culture and identity and to provide opportunities for holistic youth development;	
Significant development in sports and recreational activities has provided new opportunity and promotes healthy living for young Pacific Islanders;	
There is also increasing support and commitment by Pacific Island countries towards increasing knowledge and understanding of sexual and reproductive health, HIV & AIDS, cultural identities, climate change and good governance, peace and security;	

New policies and legislation promoting and enforcing good health and nutrition in schools and communities, regulating pollution emissions will have positive outcomes;	
Increased partnerships and collaborative efforts by governments, development agencies and non-government agencies to address youth development issues, pool resources and increase effectiveness;	
Young people are more empowered to engage in development agendas in traditional, national and regional level.	

The following youth issues have been identified by young people in the *2009 Suva Declaration from The 2nd Pacific Youth Festival actioning The Youth Agenda*. Can you please cite any evidence in relation to any of these issues - official statistics, survey data, the results of consultations or case studies. We are interested in data and stories that show all sides of the situations outlined below.

1. Important youth development issues:	Evidence - stories, data or case studies?
1.1 These include mental health, sexual and reproductive health, the rights of women, sexual minorities and children, environmental breakdown and loss of traditional knowledge, new forms of media and technologies to ensure their wellbeing, strengthen national identity, promote peace, equality and unity and to harness new opportunities to safeguard futures and to have decent and productive employment and livelihood for young people.	
1.2 Young people are in dire need for professional mental health services including counselling facilities and suicide prevention programs to change negative and discriminatory perceptions of sufferers of mental illness and provide crucial resources for the holistic development of young Pacific Islanders.	
1.3 The major proportion of young people in the Pacific still do not receive opportunities to develop critical life-skills to equip themselves with protective defences such as positive self-determination, self-esteem, motivation and decision-making skills to negotiate adolescence, negative peer pressure, reduce risk-behaviour, teenage pregnancy and drugs and substance abuse. Many parents do not support or guide their children in developing life-skills. Young people's shyness and lack of voice may be interpreted as a sign of respect, but figures as a significant obstacle to their development;	
1.4 Groups of young people remain marginalised from the main thrust of development and service delivery. There is little development support for young people living in rural areas or outer islands, young people living in urban informal settlements and young people living with disabilities;	

1.5 Many young people lack skills for employment such as project and business management skills. Opportunities for formal employment are few. Unemployment breeds discontent, loss of identity and low morale, causing many young people to practice risky behaviour or engage in exploitative work;	
1.6 Violence, abuse, discrimination and exploitation still exist in many Pacific communities particularly against women and children - both girls and boys. Discriminatory attitudes towards women, sexual minorities, youth and children contribute to abusive and exploitative behaviour;	
1.7 Information and communication strategies do not always use local languages, local knowledge and culturally appropriate methods to reach vulnerable and marginalised youth of the island nations and communities or effective approaches and hence, levels of awareness or change in behaviour are not evident in parts of the Pacific.	
1.8 Levels of STI infections and teenage pregnancy remain high and the spread of HIV infection is of great concern in many Pacific Island nations. Many young people do not know where to access information, for example available opportunities for training;	
1.9 Many youth development programs are poorly managed, are not supported by research and evaluations are not documented;	
1.10 The nature of our small island populations renders the Pacific region vulnerable to global pandemics and crises. The lack of disaster preparedness places our nations at great risk;	
1.11 Financial resources remain a critical need to support and sustain the scale of intervention required to sufficiently address youth issues.	

2. Promoting Healthy Lifestyles:	Evidence -stories, data or case studies?
2.1 Suicide amongst youth in the Pacific is in some countries the lead cause of death, or at least one of the top three causes of death. Many young people do not have access to professional support and counselling services. Mental health policies do not exist.	
2.2 Pacific communities often have unhealthy eating habits and are reluctant to change towards healthy living, leading to high levels of lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular problems;	
2.3 Provision of sexual and reproductive health services are often inconvenient, are not youth-friendly, not confidential or are not readily available or easily accessible;	

2.4 Up-to-date legislative and policy environments, their monitoring and enforcement to regulate consumption of tobacco and other drugs and substances remains weak, enabling many young people to abuse substances.	
3. Pacific Identities: Evidence -stories, data or case studies?	
3.1 There exists a weakening of traditional knowledge and lack development focus in preserving Pacific heritage. Some Pacific languages are dying out and many young Pacific Islanders do not have an understanding of cultural protocols and values;	
3.2 The need to integrate culture and tradition into school curricula to offer new opportunities for future employment and livelihood, develop cultural industries and strengthen national identities;	
3.3 The lack of focus on rural and outer island development increases incentives to move to urban areas and creates imbalance and disintegration of traditional values and practices;	
3.4 There is a lack of acknowledgement and knowledge of the emerging 'urban youth culture' and its impact on young peoples sense of identity.	

4. Climate Change Adaptations:	Evidence -stories, data or case studies?
4.1 Changing non-environmentally friendly attitudes and practices proves to be a continuous challenge. Many traditional and national leaders remain to be convinced of the magnitude and severity of this issue and hence, do not support the issue and youth initiatives. In addition, many young people are not aware of these critical issues affecting all of our futures;	
4.2 There is no strategy to hold our nations accountable to protecting our people from the effects of climate change;	
4.3 The loss of our island and ocean biodiversity is one of the most serious obstacles to sustainable development for the benefit of today's youth. Unsustainable fishing, forestry and agricultural practices and the disastrous impacts of mass migration to urban centres and industrialisation have serious impacts on food and productive security and waste management. The protection and sustainable use of biodiversity is also the most practicable means of adapting to climate change and economic breakdown;	
4.4 Some communities already are living with the consequences of climate change and have little access to clean water and sanitation due to salinisation of fresh water lenses. Others are facing erosion of coastal areas due to sea level rise;	

4.5 Our coral atoll nations are at risk of losing their ownership rights of their land and ocean territory, and their national identity.	
5. Governance, Peace and Security:	Evidence -stories , data or case studies?
5.1 Lack of involvement of young people in all sectors of national development processes and little understanding of the importance of such and the negative impacts of not being involved. Traditional and cultural values and expectations hinder the active and effective participation of young people.	
5.2 Negative attitudes toward supporting youth and women in political participation and decision-making, including few gender equality policies in the region;	
5.3 There is little civic education and a lack of awareness of active youth citizenship amongst young people and decision-makers at national, institutional and local level.	
5.4 Few resources are allocated for the engagement of youth in development;	
5.5 Integrity and other important virtues are not widely practised amongst our leaders nor constituents. Many leaders have failed to deliver their promises to young people;	
5.6 Political instability across the Pacific region is a hindrance to young people's development;	
5.7 Inadequate mechanisms for young people to engage in development agendas;	
5.8 Many Pacific island rural and outer island communities do not have access to provision of security;	
5.9 Finally, we acknowledge the limited resources available in the region however; we identify strategic options for sound investment and action. These options can be further enhanced through adoption and integration into regional, national and local development strategies.	

Assessment of summary matrix for PYS2010					
Components	Implemented?	Targets achieved?	Data for indicator available?	Focus on girls & young women?	Which age groups benefited the most?
See PYS2010 for the listing of each initiative	Yes, no, partially - if no, why?	Yes, no, partially - summary of about actual results-to-date	Yes, no, partially, comment about data quality	Yes, no, partially	10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29
Accessing integrated education					
AIE1					
AIE2					
AIE3					
AIE4					
AIE5					
AIE6					
AIE7					
AIE8					
AIE9					
AIE10					
Nurturing sustainable livelihoods					
NSL1					
NSL2					
NSL3					
NSL4					
NSL5					
NSL6					
NSL7					
NSL8					
Promoting healthy lifestyle					
PHL2					
PHL3					
PHL4					
PHL5					
PHL6					
PHL7					
PHL8					
PHL9					
PHL10					
PHL11					

Assessment of summary matrix for PYS2010 (continued)					
Components	Implemented?	Targets achieved?	Data for indicator available?	Focus on girls & young women?	Which age groups benefited the most?
See PYS2010 for the listing of each initiative	Yes, no, partially - if no, why?	Yes, no, partially - summary of about actual results-to-date	Yes, no, partially, comment about data quality	Yes, no, partially	10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29
BSC2					
BSC3					
BSC4					
BSC5					
BSC6					
BSC7					
BSC8					
BSC9					
BSC10					
BSC11					
BSC12					
Strengthening institutional capacity					
SIC1					
SIC2					
SIC3					
SIC4					
SIC5					
SIC6					
SIC7					
Youth and identities					
YAI2					
YAI3					
YAI4					
YAI5					
Research information and data on youth					
RID1					
RID2					
RID3					

Appendix five: data extrapolations

This data was first extracted from the World Bank's World Development Indicators Index, dating back to the 1960s. Simple basic linear forecasts were then extrapolated from each data set to produce the projections provided below. In all cases, per capita GDP is the GDP divided by the population.

Total across whole sample:

	2010
Unemployment rate	0.155056536
No. unemployed	386790
No. employed	2107721
income foregone	\$1,680,189,198.78

Disaggregated National Projections:

Country Name	gdp			p			trend gdp pc			proj gdppc no output growth		
	2010	2015	2020	2010	2015	2020	2010	2015	2020	2010	2015	2020
Fiji	2004249617	2159657836	2315066055	856341.6952	884547.2131	912752.731	2340.47884	2441.54049	989142.0575	2340.47884	2265.848095	2026.250529
French Polynesia	4513697067	5063623280	5613549494	273986.2952	293148.0631	312309.831	16474.17096	17273.26194	340748.5274	16474.17096	15397.32864	13246.41694
Kiribati	81901813.83	90796536.2	99691258.57	99496.1619	107088.0548	114679.9476	823.16556	847.8680129	121107.1787	823.16556	764.80812	676.275467
Marshall Islands	129032566.3	135458532.4	141884498.5	59943.21024	63631.38007	67319.5499	2152.58018	2128.800794	65913.68805	2152.58018	2027.813418	1957.598947
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	230931255.9	234878371.3	238825486.7	110528.381	111787.2024	113046.0238	2089.33899	2101.120399	114306.7199	2089.33899	2065.81121	2020.277164
New Caledonia	2705280577	2729723170	2754165762	254725.6001	275346.3638	295967.1276	10620.37179	9913.779618	259328.5637	10620.37179	9825.00927	10431.86504
Palau	130031365.8	134486586.9	138941808.1	20991.14017	22055.34351	23119.54684	6194.583274	6097.687252	22429.56498	6194.583274	5895.68536	5797.320009
Papua New Guinea	4289853868	4589754125	4889654382	6850653.114	7575102.561	8299552.007	626.1963344	605.8999318	7808500.487	626.1963344	566.3096749	549.3825447
Samoa	357231618.1	409749448.3	462267278.5	181959.7714	185544.0036	189128.2357	1963.245036	2208.368044	235460.8161	1963.245036	1925.3202	1517.159517
Solomon Islands	509270999.4	525734476.8	542197954.1	532240.8667	589938.9917	647637.1167	956.8430974	891.1675346	566652.9399	956.8430974	863.26045	898.7352991
Tonga	221560941.4	238415106	255269270.6	104299.2381	106849.4702	109399.7024	2124.281494	2231.317623	120167.3466	2124.281494	2073.580158	1843.769939
TOTAL	15173041691	16312277470	17451513248	9345165.474	10215038.65	11084911.82	1623.624722	1596.888473	1574.348406	1623.624722	1485.363121	9637664.47
TOTAL - PNG	10883187822	11722523344	12561858866	2494512.36	2639936.086	2785359.812	4362.851833	4440.457254	2879276.984	4362.851833	4122.519435	3779.833578

PROJECTION SUMMARY:

Unemployed w/ no output growth			
	2010	2015	2020
Sample without PNG	386,790.44	532,214.17	677,637.90
Total	9,345,165.47	10,215,038.65	11,084,911.82
Income foregone: at trend GDP per capita growth			
	2010	2015	2020
Sample without PNG	\$15,173,041,690.65	\$16,312,277,469.52	\$17,451,513,248.39
Income foregone: no output growth, but trend population growth			
	2010	2015	2020
Sample Without PNG	\$1,687,509,401.08	\$2,194,063,263.39	\$2,561,358,477.05

