COVID-19 Response - Regional Initiatives
Forum COVID-19 Statements

- Forum Foreign Ministers Statement – 17 July 2020
  Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers – Joint Statement on the Blue Pacific Response to COVID-19 – Forum Sec

- Forum Economic Ministers Statement – 13 August 2020

- Pacific Islands Forum Statement UNGASS on COVID-19 – 3 December 2020
  Access for all to vaccine, Climate action for one Blue planet — Natano leads Forum call at COVID-19 UNGASS – Forum Sec

- Secretary General of the PIF Statement at UNSG Meeting with Heads of Regional and Other International Organisations – 24 November 2020
  Do more with less, keep to multilateralism: Dame Meg to UN, global orgs – Forum Sec
Regional Response to COVID-19 – Policy Framework

COVID-19 ERT

Policy Development

PHP-C

Political Positioning

SEIA TF

Engagement/Advocacy/Coordination

COVID-19
Pacific Humanitarian Pathway on COVID-19 (PHP-C)
Implementation Update

- Ministerial Action Group (MAG) and Regional Task Force (RTF) established
- 5 protocols for the PHP-C
- Received assistance from a number of partners
- Delivered medical supplies to 15 Member Countries
- Currently working with WFP to facilitate more flights
- Planning ongoing to support repatriation of Forum Nationals within and from outside the region
- Potential Regional Quarantine Facility
- RTF focus on vaccines and sea-farers
ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19
COVID-19 Economic Recovery Taskforce

- Mandated by the Forum Economic Ministers Statement on COVID-19
- Objectives:
  - Progress inter-sessional discussion, coordination and policy advocacy of actions to support the economic recovery of FICs;
  - Provide policy advice related to regional priorities, including health, digital economy and connectivity, food security, agriculture, resilient and sustainable economies;
  - Support engagement with Development Partners and international institutions around innovative financing approaches including grant financing.
- Support engagement with the 3rd Annual Regional Development Partners Roundtable.
- Taskforce comprising senior officials (Permanent Secretaries of Economy/Finance/Foreign Affairs) met for the first time on 21 October with Kiribati appointed as Chair.
- Currently finalizing the TOR and workplan and likely to settle on 3 or 4 priority issues (incl. Travel bubble) to mobilise resourcing and implementation efforts with support from development partners – only regional Member driven mechanism mandated to address the economic impact from COVID-19
SOCIO IMPACTS OF COVID-19
SEIA CROP TASKFORCE

The Secretariat and SPC, in collaboration with CROP agencies will undertake the following:

▪ Conduct a comprehensive region-wide socio-economic impact assessment in consultation with Member countries to analyse and compile data and information on the impacts of COVID-19 through macro and national level statistical systems and reporting.

▪ Provide a regional report on the socio-economic impact assessment for Forum Leaders with proposed policy options under the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway-COVID 19 mechanism and identify opportunities for resourcing and financing partnerships to support the region’s recovery plan across all sectors.
Implementation Update

- Taskforce has been meeting fortnightly to ensure regional coordination and planning is consistent and aligned to Members needs.

- An annotated bibliography containing 251 such assessments, as at 30 July 2020 is being analysed by SPC. This assessment will identify data gaps and provide relevant information for the SEIA regional report, which will further provide to Members policy interventions for consideration as the region works toward long term recovery plans.

- The Taskforce noted that the UN agencies are conducting similar assessments in the Pacific, guided by the global UN Socio-Economic Framework and has since engaged with UNDP to leverage on existing regional work and consider lessons learnt that will guide the regional SEIA Taskforce

- The Taskforce is currently in the process of developing the methodology required for regional SEIA drawing on expertise and technical input of the CROP agencies.

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week of November and will continue to work closely with the CERT to ensure synergies between the efforts.
Concluding Remarks

▪ The Pacific is contending with a three-pronged crisis

▪ Uncertainty vis-à-vis coping capacities

▪ Reaffirming the value of Regionalism/Multilateralism