

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

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## IOM Assisting the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Prepare for COVID-19

**As of late May 2020, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) are amongst the few countries which have not been exposed to COVID-19.**

IOM has used this opportunity to work with both governments to place prevention measures and help limit the spread of COVID-19 before it reaches FSM and RMI. The activities fall under IOM's strategic priorities of Coordination & Partnerships, Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE), Points of Entry (POE) & Infection, and Prevention & Control (IPC).

Under Coordination & Partnerships, IOM has been attending daily and weekly government coordination meetings across FSM and RMI, and providing technical support to help guide the COVID-19 response strategy. Within this, IOM in RMI is assisting the Mayors of each community to draft their outer-island plans for COVID-19. IOM has also involved in RCCE related activities in both countries.

This includes developing, translating and distributing hundreds of information, education and communication (IEC) materials directly to community members, and partners such as the Red Cross Society. Strong focus is on inclusive messaging, including for migrants and persons with disabilities. In RMI, IOM worked with taxi companies to display flyers in taxis. IOM has also been participating in community outreach activities to raise awareness on proper WASH techniques, including using its skiff to support Chuuk State's activities on the islands in Chuuk Lagoon.



Children being shown how to properly clean hands at a wash station built. © IOM in Yap/Philip Raffilpiy.



Left: Swearing-in ceremony for Rapid Assessment Enumerators in Majuro, RMI. © Angela Lee Saunders.



Right: IOM working with Hon Mayor Anderson Kattil, Mayor Lea Atoll to develop community plans. © Angela Lee Saunders.

Under POE, IOM has been enhancing the capacity of the government to screen passengers for COVID-19. This has included donating infrared temperature guns, as well as leading trainings designed to enhance the management of ill travellers. In Yap, IOM donated two 40-foot containers that will be used as temporary storage facilities at the international airport.

As part of IOM's IPC strategy, over 75 handwashing stations have been constructed

across FSM. Community members can use these stations to keep their hands clean and help limit the spread of COVID-19. In RMI, IOM trained 24 persons as Rapid Assessment Enumerators who are tasked with conducting a rapid vulnerability assessment of every household in Majuro. The program is designed to provide decision-makers in RMI with an accurate snapshot of the needs across the island, and helps responders to develop targeted COVID-19 strategies.

# Migration and Sustainable Development

IOM works to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. IOM works in the Pacific equipping governments with knowledge, skills and tools to develop and operationalise labour migration policies and programmes. Through programmes that aim to protect the rights and wellbeing of migrants IOM is implementing long-term sustainable development projects in migration-affected communities.

**Target 3**  
Ensure well-being through monitoring migrant health, strengthen migrant friendly health systems.



**Target 5**  
Advocate for equal gender rights, combat discriminatory migration practices including human trafficking and gender-based violence.



**Target 8**  
Protect migrant workers and their rights, counter forced labour and human trafficking.



**Target 9**  
Promote resilience to natural disasters with the aim to reduce the drivers of vulnerable and forced migration.



**Target 10**  
Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration to reduce inequalities within and among countries.



**Target 13**  
Prevent forced migration resulting from environmental factors, provide assistance to displaced populations.



**Target 17**  
Improve access to technology and data on global migration and contribute to more effective migration policies.



## Strategic and Sustainable Development, Emergency Management in the Kingdom of Tonga

IOM Tonga is proud to have two personnel in-office since its country establishment in 2018. In addition to its program, IOM Tonga has non-project commitments.

Under the Prime Minister's Office, IOM Tonga has been conducting meetings with the National Planning Division to more strategically integrate Migration into the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II (TSDF II) revision – around July this year. The TSDF II references migration throughout and draws loose connections to migration's implications for the country's development, however migration is not streamlined into the Framework.

IOM Tonga also held discussions with the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) on the possibility of establishing a new cluster known as Evacuation Centres and Displacement Management. NEMO agreed to submit a proposal to Cabinet recommending establishment of the new cluster, officially positioning IOM as the leading development partner.

Migration and Sustainable Development Policy is currently under review by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to submission to the Cabinet – to be endorsed as a national policy.

## Reviving Women Entrepreneurs for Strengthened Economic Empowerment in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

IOM Marshall Islands in collaboration with Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (NRC), the Office of Commerce Investment and Tourism (OCIT), Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA) and the Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group, are proud to announce the revival of the Women Entrepreneurs Network in the RMI.

The network has been busy recruiting women who either own, or are aspiring to start a business, and has received interest from over 50 women to date. A survey rolled out to new members has also enabled better understanding of what each woman's business interest and needs are, including challenges faced and services they would like the network to offer its members (including mentorship, training, resources, and events). Thank you to the New Zealand Consulate-General, Honolulu for their support in carrying out this important initiative!



Left: Network promotional poster Right: Members of the WEE Working Group discuss upcoming project activities.



## Ridge to Reef (R2R) – Republic of the Marshall Islands

After many months grounded in Majuro due to the dengue fever travel ban to all outer islands, the Ridge to Reef (R2R) team headed South to Ebon in February to finalize the Local Early Action Plan (LEAP) process, as well as to begin the process of determining an alternative livelihoods project by and for Ebon communities.

It was a successful trip with great inputs and ideas emerging from the workshops facilitated by IOM. Thanks to UNDP for enabling us to carry out this work!

Left: Baren Jordan, IOM Programme Assistant in discussion with Ebon atoll community members.

## Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) in Vanuatu

In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Harold which made landfall in Vanuatu on 6 April and impacted over half of Vanuatu's 272,000 residents, Vanuatu is now facing dual challenge of responding to this Category 5 Cyclone and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

With support from the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) IOM and partners, including CARE, are providing displaced populations with safe, dignified shelter through provision of emergency shelter kits, tool kits and training for around 4,000 people. Together with the NDMO, IOM is also tracking displaced populations providing essential, disaggregated data to identify and target vulnerable populations.

*Right: On 15 May, IOM conducted displacement tracking training for team members prior to departure with NDMO and volunteers from ADRA and Oxfam.*



## Displacement Tracking in Vanuatu

To support the TC Harold response, NDMO and IOM are undertaking displacement tracking to understand the locations, movements and needs of the displaced people in the affected islands of Santo, Malo, Aore, Pentecost, Ambrym and Malekula, with support from the United Nations Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF).

Following an intensive training session at the IOM offices, the team departed to Santo where they conducted key informant interviews, household interviews and damage assessments of evacuation centres.

The teams visited over 190 evacuation centres and other displacement sites, and conducted interviews with people in evacuation centres and staying with host families and relatives.

Displacement tracking targets populations most severely affected and most in need, including those with pre-existing vulnerabilities such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and single/child and female-headed households. The teams are being coordinated through the newly established Displacement and Evacuation Centre Management Cluster, led by the NDMO and co-led by IOM, aimed at improving coordination of services and protection

to displaced persons living in communal settings. The data collected will inform the NDMO's detailed assessments of the impacts of TC Harold and also be shared with partners to ensure that the most vulnerable are prioritized for interventions such as emergency shelter, health, nutrition and WASH.

Many partners are collaborating to make the displacement tracking possible, including IOM, NDMO, ADRA, Department of Local Authorities through the Area Councils/Area Administrators/Area Secretaries, Ministry of Justice and Community Services and Vanuatu Red Cross, VCC and OXFAM.

## Assessing the Socio-economic Implications of COVID-19

While the Pacific has been mostly spared from large numbers of confirmed cases, COVID-19 is already having socioeconomic implications with the region heavily reliant on tourism and remittances.

Travel restrictions implemented to protect citizens have meant Pacific Islanders who would otherwise be bound for Australia and New Zealand through circular mobility schemes are prevented from entry, just as Australian and New Zealand holidaymakers are unable to visit the region.

With funding from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, and the IOM Development

Fund, IOM is contributing to improved understanding of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on labour mobility. The rapid assessment is based on interviews and surveys with policymakers and migrants scheduled to depart overseas in Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, as well as Pacific migrants and diaspora communities in Australia and New Zealand. Initial analysis reveals Pacific migrants currently in Australia and New Zealand who were scheduled to return have largely been redeployed to new employers facing labour shortages. Remittances continue to be sent though the frequency and value of money remitted is expected to decrease. This may have long

term implications on household income and public debt. A range of stimulus measures have also been introduced to assist migrant-sending households, though there are concerns some migrants awaiting departure are being overlooked. COVID-19 has also had a range of social impacts, creating mental and psychosocial issues for migrants and the families from which they are separated, migrants unable to depart, as well as increasing pressure to repay loans.

The rapid assessment suggests COVID-19 is likely to exacerbate issues related to human security. Improving understanding of such impacts will support the design of effective and appropriate interventions to assist migrant workers and their families.

# Preparedness, Response and Recovery from Disasters in the Pacific

IOM continues to support partners to address displacement related challenges by helping to build capacities to ensure displaced populations are protected from and resilient to the impact of natural disasters in the Pacific. Programmes in the Pacific are utilising IOM's global tools and methodologies in the areas of preparedness, emergency response and resilience building.

**Target 5**  
Advocate for equal gender rights, combat discriminatory migration practices including human trafficking and gender-based violence.



**Target 6**  
Deliver Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assistance and coordinate WASH assistance in internally displaced person (IDP) sites.



**Target 10**  
Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration to reduce inequalities within and among countries.



**Target 13**  
Prevent forced migration resulting from environmental factors, provide assistance to displaced populations.



**Target 16**  
Ensure displaced populations, migrant and communities are more resilient. Counter xenophobic rhetoric and racism.



**Target 17**  
Improve access to technology and data on global migration and contribute to more effective migration policies.



## Emergency & Disaster Management Highlights – the Kingdom of Tonga

In its emergency and disaster response management, IOM Tonga is cooperating with NEMO under the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC). COVID-19 has certainly had its implications affecting education, businesses, and travel plans of many locals and foreigners in the Kingdom. To date, Tonga is proud to be one of the few remaining countries free of COVID-19.



Vakaloa resort destroyed (TBU Western side).

TC Harold moved towards Tonga at Category 4 after hitting Vanuatu and Fiji at Category 5. The cyclone entered Tongan water at approximately 1:00am on 9 April and had left by 5:00pm the same day. TC Harold arrived at high tide during a full moon with sea running inland approximately one metre above its usual maximum level as a result. Tsunami-like waves hit Tongatapu, Ha'apai and 'Eua coastlines.

No life was lost and no injuries reported, though the coastal storm surge caused many houses and public infrastructures to be inundated whilst roads and wharf structures were damaged by the intense wave pressures. Strong winds caused chaos to crops and vegetation (especially edible plants) in Tongatapu and 'Eua particularly.

TC Harold caused a total of 2,678 people to flee to Evacuation Centres with approximately

400 houses suffering some level of damage. To date, eight households in 'Eua previously living in tents (tarpaulin) have been re-evacuated to community and church halls to avoid intense rainfall during the month of May, as well as to allow access sanitation facilities and utilities.

Negotiation between 'Eua government representatives and town/church leaders will allow these households to temporarily live in halls until they fully recover/ rebuild their homes.

## Pacific Response to Disaster Displacement – Solomon Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga

IOM, in partnership with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Platform for Disaster Displacement (PDD), held national consultations in the Solomon Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga in March 2020 to discuss the EU-funded Pacific Response to Disaster Displacement.

The Response will provide better protection to Pacific communities against the risks and adverse effects associated with natural disasters and climate change. Consultations involved key government, humanitarian, and civil society stakeholders, including the respective National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs).

The 32-month multi-country project is being implemented in the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu, supporting regional and national efforts in the Pacific to reduce risks and impacts of disaster displacement. Project partners are working with national governments and regional organisations to improve systemic knowledge generation, enhance risk-informed policy development, and build response capabilities of NDMOs in each country.

In collaboration with participants, IOM and project partners planned and coordinated the project activities – committing to align these with government work programmes and broader development initiatives. Participants also highlighted the need to increase understanding of disaster displacement risk, improve the use of risk information, and strengthen institutional capacity development.

Feedback from the consultations also highlighted the need to strengthen the operational response capacity for early preparation and contingency planning in both Tonga and the Solomon Islands – through tailored technical support, advice, and training around relevant policies and guidelines.

The emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic has put in-country consultations on hold in

both Vanuatu and the Republic of Marshall Islands, and project partners are now scheduling virtual consultations and utilising the support of in-country IOM staff to ensure the reflection of the government's needs and opinions in the design and delivery of the programmes, as well as to assist project partners in ensuring the relevance of the initiative.



Hassan el Maaroufi (IOM Programme Officer), Lynette Sifa (IOM Project Assistant), and Naca Speigh (IDMC) meet with officials from Tonga's Planning Division Lupe Feiloaki, Ma'ata Mafi and Hon. Fatafehi Tuita Filipehe.

# National Committee COVID-19 Awareness and Capacity Support in the Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands IOM National Human Trafficking Coordinator supported the National Protection Committee from 5-18 May to facilitate COVID-19 protection, awareness and capacity building in Western and Choiseul Provinces.

This covered issues around human trafficking, child protection, GBV, disability, and the social impacts of COVID-19 – all vital during this global crisis.

The Western and Choiseul Provincial Protection Committees have been successfully established with official recognition from the

National Disaster Management Office and the two provincial governments. The key task was to ensure that Standard Operating Procedures are ready to activate in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak or natural disaster, and to clearly outline the guiding principles of protection and how to practically apply these at the community level.

The overarching goal is to ensure that all high-risk communities at the Solomon Islands western borders are reached and are prepared. The safety and protection of frontline workers is also paramount in ensuring that survivors of abuse and

violence have access to relevant resources, thus allowing for the practical application of knowledge within their communities, quarantine sites, and isolation units.



Choiseul Provincial Protection Committee.

## IOM Aid Communities Affected by Conflict – Papua New Guinea

IOM supplied materials to construct community halls and safe drinking water points in selected communities affected by conflict in Southern Highlands Province (SHP) with funding from the UN Peace Building Fund's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative (PBF GYPI).

A survey conducted by IOM in 2017, profiling displaced persons in the country, found that tribal conflict accounted for 12.5% of displaced persons, many of whom continue to experience various challenges including the lack of adequate standard of living. In the Highlands, where the survey only had limited reach, the percentage of displacement owing to conflict is projected to be even higher.

Under the PBF GYPI project, IOM worked with selected conflict affected communities in SHP to sustain peaceful resolution of conflict, build local capacities for peace, and promote community-led sustainable development initiatives.

developing Community Peace for Development Plans (CPDPs) that, among others, promote an enabling community environment for women and youth.

The training guided women, men, and youth through practical concepts of peace building and community participation in mainstreaming peace building through various community activities. The exercise helped communities identify factors affecting their security and means to better address and mitigate such factors.

Empowered through the CPDPs development process, women and youth participated in the decision-making process identifying the construction of a community hall and installation of potable water sources among their priority needs. The hall would provide a common gathering place for community members to meet, discuss and achieve community consensus on important issues; plan for sustainable development initiatives; and conduct community level trainings. Women and youth identified access to safe drinking water as an issue that had both security and community development implications.

IOM responded to these needs through supplying materials including steel poles, roofing sheets and water tanks for construction of community halls (5) and water points (10) across five communities. The communities complemented this contribution through providing local materials and labour for construction. The interventions will benefit at least 9,000 people.



Construction of a Community Hall by local community members in Kumin © Peter Muroreora/IOM 2020.

## Building Resilience in Disaster Prone Communities – Papua New Guinea

In line with the country's National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework (2017-2030), IOM continues to build the resilience of local communities to disasters induced by natural hazards. This is being achieved through Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programming in selected communities across 16 provinces. IOM's CBDRM approach places local communities at the heart of decision making and implementation of DRM, thus promoting greater community ownership of disaster risk reduction efforts at the local level.

Vunakabi settlement in East New Britain Province is host to people formerly displaced from Valaur and Tavanar Wards and is one of IOM's project sites. Funded by USAID, IOM responded to the community's prioritization of improving household food security by convening a training on Conservation Farming.

Seventy-one individuals (41 women and 30 men) participated in the training delivered with technical support from OISCA Rabaul Ecological Technology Training Centre. The training introduced participants to upland rice farming techniques, and IOM provided farmers with drought tolerant rice seeds and watering cans so that those trained can immediately apply the learnings in the community.

## IOM Support to Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in the Solomon Islands

Through the National Disaster Operation Committee (N-DOC)'s Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Committee, IOM Solomon Islands supported the Solomon Islands Government by establishing guidelines for COVID-19 Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) as a measure of preparedness and response work.

This support was a direct request from the Solomon Islands Government through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The compilation of the guidelines was successful as it supported the CCCM Committee to set up Institutional Quarantine Sites (IQS) in the declared Emergency Zone of the Western and Choiseul Provinces, respectively.

A team of CCCM Committee members together with NDMO staff visited the two Provinces and helped to set up their IQS as well as share information on SOP guidelines pertinent to COVID-19 preparedness and response. It is crucial that vulnerabilities to the global pandemic be addressed to reduce risk of its spread if the virus enters the country.

# Promoting Safe and Orderly Migration

IOM implements integrated border management training and the rollout of border management tools and systems. IOM contributes to durable solutions for migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries by providing assisted voluntary return and reintegration in line with international human rights principles.

## Target 8

Protect migrant workers and their rights, counter forced labour and human trafficking.



## Target 10

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration to reduce inequalities within and among countries.



## Target 16

Ensure displaced populations, migrant and communities are more resilient. Counter xenophobic rhetoric and racism.



## IOM Migrant Assistance Services

IOM provides a number of migration services to humanitarian entrants, refugees and migrants:

### Refugee Resettlement Program

for Australian and New Zealand government-funded refugees and special humanitarian program entrants (SHP).

### No-Interest Travel Loan Fund,

availed by the Australian Government, can assist proposers meet the travel costs of SHP visa holders. The fund provides up to 75% of the travel costs, to be repaid after their arrival in Australia.

### Migration Services to Australia,

a fee-paying service, provides migration advice and visa application assistance to individuals and businesses through Registered Migration Agents.

### Community Support Programme

enables communities, businesses, families and individuals to collaborate in sponsoring persons to arrive in Australia, integrate and achieve financial independence.

### Self-Payer Travel Assistance

through which IOM can offer a range of discounted fares and concessional baggage allowance with carriers operating to Australia and New Zealand for migration as a humanitarian entrant, a family visa holder or skilled visa holder.

**In the July 2019 to July 2020 financial year, a total of 9,016 movements to Australia were assisted and 960 to New Zealand.**

## Reunited After 14 Years

**On Wednesday 6 February 2020, Jane\* was reunited with her 14-year-old daughter Aminata\* at Perth international airport. Until that moment, she had last seen Aminata when she was 8 months old.**

This 'overwhelming' and special mother and daughter reunification was captured in a series of heartwarming photos. Jane was happy for IOM to share these.



Jane and Aminata at the arrivals terminal – Perth International Airport.

Leading up to the momentous occasion, Jane was supported by the IOM Canberra Resettlement team, (Ibrahim), who guided her through the process. Naturally, she was worried, noting that "Every mum would be." Jane appreciated the supervision provided for her daughter. The process was "very safe", dignifying and "very well organised" from the country of departure (Sierra Leone), through transit, to arrival, and Jane was most appreciative for the reassurances she was provided throughout the process.

Jane expressed her appreciation for a phone call from Ibrahim a week prior to the arrival, confirming Aminata's flight details and ensuring that she would be there to welcome her at the airport. She added that, as advised by IOM, the airline (Emirates) also called on the day to ensure that she was at the terminal well in advance of her daughter's arrival. IOM Canberra also made a follow up call to Jane to ensure she did not miss the arrival time.

When Aminata arrived, she told Jane of her experience; watching television, playing games,

sleeping on the plane, and meeting other young travellers who were also travelling without their legal guardians. Not only was she relieved to know that her daughter was safe and happy, Jane was also especially impressed to have the information she had been provided by IOM – that the Organization would be involved in every step, that her daughter would be safe. All this confirmed to Jane that Aminata's travel to Perth had been conducted in accordance with the IOM mission to "promote humane, orderly and safe migration."

After the heart-warming mother-daughter reunification, Ibrahim, behalf of IOM, simply noted, "That is all we are looking for."

Jane was extremely pleased with IOM Canberra's collaboration throughout the process and has advised that she will be recommending IOM's services to her network. She will be using the service again to facilitate her mother's travel to Australia – and was delighted for her story to be shared.

\*Pseudonym used

## Community Support Programme – Finding Family and Freedom in Australia

In fear of persecution for their Christian faith, Ammar's\* parents were forced to move their family to Syria from their home in Iraq when he was just a child.

Initially, they were able to practice their faith freely, and Ammar joined his father's business where they managed several construction sites. However when the Syrian civil war broke out, practising their faith again became a challenge. Following attacks and death threats, Ammar was forced to move. Separated from his family, he made the decision to go to Thailand, where he remained for five years, unable to work.

When his brother-in-law agreed to sponsor Ammar under the IOM Community Support Programme, he was finally given the chance to reunite with his parents and siblings in Australia.

Initially settling in Victoria, Ammar moved in with his sister and brother-in-law as he prepared to begin a job as a truck driver. Just one month after arriving, his brother in Sydney suggested that he may be able to get a job at his workplace. Ammar was quickly employed as a mechanic and has been working in the same role for the past 8 months.

*"I like everywhere in Sydney. It is beautiful city. I come here and make new life and live with my mum, my brother, my relatives here. It is new life..."*

Ammar now attends his local church every week. While currently focusing on his work, he hopes to soon become further qualified through TAFE.

*"I want to make myself... better. I want to make myself a good person for this good country and serv[e] this country more and more and more."*

*"... Everything has changed. Before I [didn't] have any hope in this life. When I tried for this program, it ... changed everything."*

\*Pseudonym used

## Migration Services to Australia Continuing to Assist Students Through COVID-19

**Responding to the information needs of international students amidst uncertain and challenging conditions, Migration Services to Australia has adapted and expanded our information session services to deliver a series of online sessions in partnership with University of Technology in Sydney and the University of Canberra.**

In the COVID19 environment, we have to date delivered free online information sessions to approx. 250 international students with further sessions scheduled in 2020.

The information sessions are designed to provide a forum in which international students receive up to date information on the Australian Government's temporary measures relevant to their student visa, provide general information about their future migration pathway options potentially affected by the current situation and to ask questions.



IOM Marshall Islands hand over verifier equipment to the Division of Immigration and the Attorney General's Office. Photo Credit: David Krzesni, 2020.

## Strengthening Migration Management in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

**For the past 3 Years, IOM Marshall Islands has been working closely with the Ministry of Justice, Immigration and Labor, and in particular the Republic of the Marshall Islands Division of Immigration, providing technical assistance for improved border management.**

On Friday January 17, 2020, with funding from the IOM Development Fund project "Strengthening Migration Management in the Republic of the Marshall Islands", Head of Sub Office Angela Saunders and Consultant Ross Norton officially handed over the verifier equipment and Division of Immigration Standard Operating Procedures to the Division of Immigration and the Attorney General's Office.

The project has also supported the Ministry to complete an Integrated Border Management road map and will continue to provide additional support including professional development, website design

and border management trainings. IOM would like to thank all the partners for their continued coordination and support from the IOM Development Fund. We look forward to additional partnerships in 2020!



Angela Saunders, IOM Head of Sub-Office hands over SOP documentation to Division of Immigration Acting Director Mercyba Baos.

## Vanuatu – Ninety-five Victims Assisted to Return to Bangladesh

The Department of Immigration has extended visas for the remaining eight victims.

The Department of Labour is considering allowance of a temporary work visa until

the borders open and flights resume.

IOM Vanuatu continues to support the victims with weekly food distributions, now with additional support from New Zealand High Commission.

## Strengthening Human Trafficking Protection Mechanisms Across the North Pacific

**In efforts to strengthen coordination between counter-trafficking stakeholders and build the capacity of government and civil society partners, IOM has provided direct assistance to the Anti-Trafficking Task Forces in the FSM, RMI and Palau, including the provision of secretarial assistance.**

With the support from IOM FSM, the Pohnpei Task Force submitted an Annual Report on Human Trafficking in Pohnpei to the Governor and Pohnpei State Legislature and presented the Report to the Council of Traditional Chiefs (Mwoalen Wahu) and the Pohnpei Municipal Leaders (Mayors). The Report included an overview of progress, as well as key issues and recommendations. IOM FSM also supported the installation of a billboard outside the Pohnpei State Administration Building, which highlights the FSM National Anti-Trafficking Hotline phone number.

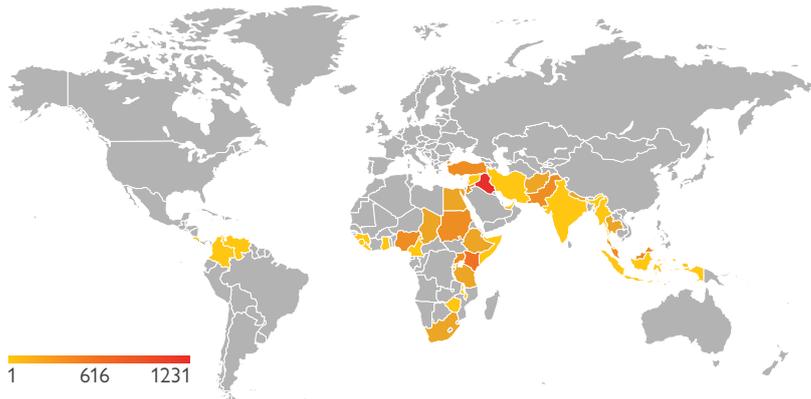
IOM completed the review of each country's anti-trafficking legislations in the three main areas of prosecution, protection, and prevention. The review identified existing gaps in each country's legislative framework to combat human trafficking and provided recommendations in accordance with international best practices.

The findings from the reviews are expected to inform counter-trafficking efforts of each country. In total, 111 beneficiaries have been reached during the project's outreach activities so far.

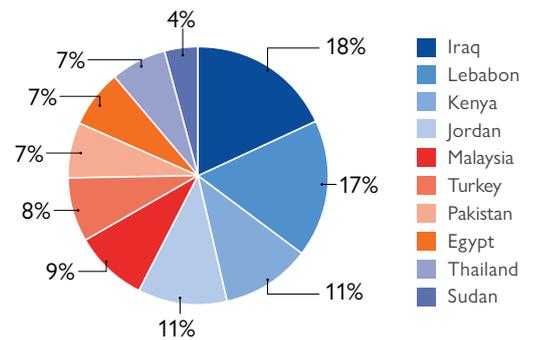
Members of the Pohnpei State Inter-Agency Task Force stand in front of the Anti-Trafficking Billboard located in front of the Pohnpei State Administration Building. © IOM 2020/Lee Perez.



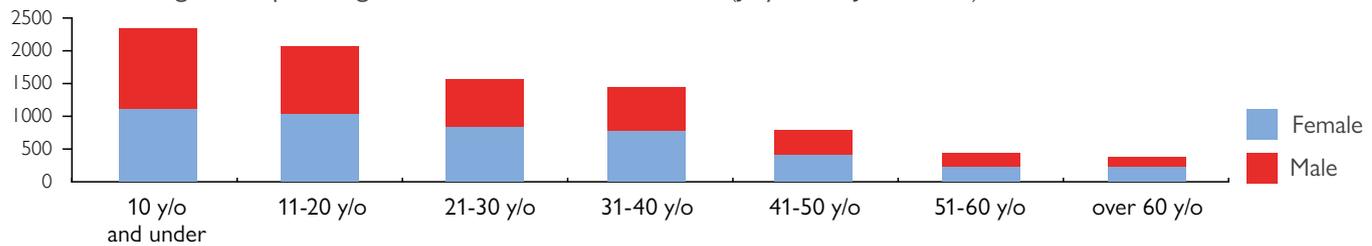
IOM Australia-managed migration movements to Australia (July 2019 – June 2020)



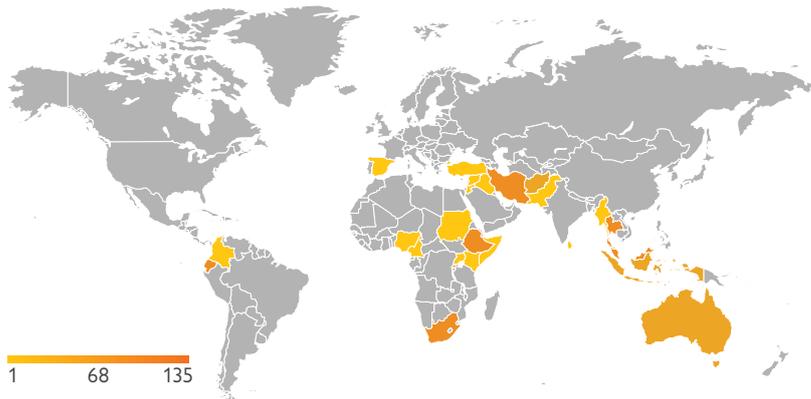
Top 10 Origin Countries – Migration to Australia (July 2019–June 2020)



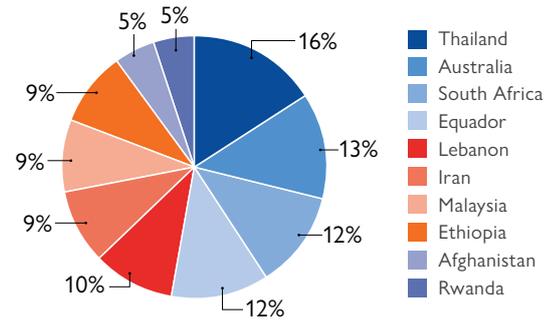
Gender and Age Group of Migrants who arrived in Australia (July 2019-June 2020)



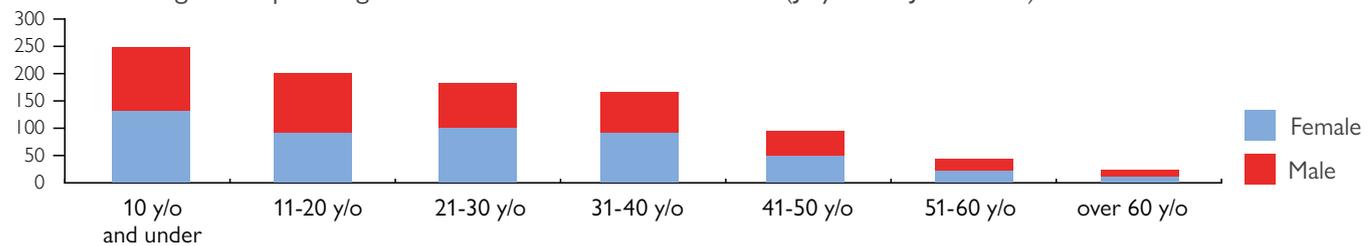
IOM Australia-managed migration movements to New Zealand (July 2019 – June 2020)



Top 10 Origin Countries – Migration to New Zealand (July 2019-June 2020)



Gender and Age Group of Migrants who arrived in New Zealand (July 2019-June 2020)



IOM programs across Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the Pacific have been made possible through the generous support of the **Bali Process**, **European Delegation**, **Global Environment Facility**, **IOM Development Fund**, **Pacific Community (SPC)**, **Youth to Youth** as well as the Government of **Australia** (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Home Affairs), Government of **Canada** (Department of Foreign Affairs), Government of **New Zealand** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Immigration, Aid Program, and High Commissions), Government of the **Republic of Marshall Islands** (Division of Immigration), Government of **Papua New Guinea** (Immigration & Citizenship Service Authority), and Government of the **United States of America** (US Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assist (OFDA), Department of State/Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons). As have the **World Bank** and **United Nations** (Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Development Programme (UNDP), Peace Building Fund (MPTF), Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), and Environmental Program (UNEP).