FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
Second Voluntary National Review
2025

NAVIGATING OUR FUTURE:
BALANCING TRADITIONAL VALUES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Health & Well-being

Education & Human Capital

Peace & Security

Cultural Heritage

Governance & Institutional Strengthening

Gender Equality & Social Inclusion

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Resilience

Sustainable Economic Development

Infrastructure Development & Sustainability

Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BSRP	Building Safer and Resilient Project
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COFA	Compact of Free Association
COM-FSM	College of Micronesia-FSM
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTF	Compact Trust Fund
DECEM	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DHSA	Department of Health and Social Affairs
DOE	Department of Education
DOFA	Department of Finance and Administration
DOJ	Department of Justice
DR&D	Department of Resources and Development
DTC&I	Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure
DTF	Domestic Trust Fund
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EMIS	Education Management Information System
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JEMCO	Joint Economic Management Committee
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MCO	Multi-Country Office
MIRAB	Migration, Remittances, Aid, and Bureaucracy
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSO	National Statistics Office
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PEFA	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability
PFM	Public Financial Management
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PRTC	Pacific Regional Tourism Capacity Building Program
PV	Photovoltaic
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
USP	University of the South Pacific
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Foreword

It is with great pride and a deep sense of duty that I present the Federated States of Micronesia's 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This report is more than a national assessment—it is a statement of our shared commitment to building a future that is inclusive, resilient, and rooted in the values and traditions of our island communities. As a nation of four culturally rich and geographically dispersed states, FSM faces complex development challenges. Yet we also carry with us a deep reservoir of resilience, knowledge, and unity that has guided us through uncertainty and transformation.

Our progress since 2015, while uneven, has been driven by community strength, regional solidarity, and growing innovation. From expanding access to health and education, to improving digital connectivity and protecting our natural environment, we have taken concrete steps to improve the well-being of our people and future generations. Our efforts are particularly urgent in the face of climate change, which continues to threaten our islands and our way of life.

This VNR is the product of nationwide consultations, state-level collaboration, and extensive engagement with civil society, development partners, and youth. It reflects our determination to leave no one behind, and it reinforces our call for strengthened partnerships that respect our sovereignty, honor our culture, and support our aspirations for sustainable growth.

As we look to 2030 and beyond, the Federated States of Micronesia remains unwavering in its pursuit of a more just, equitable, and sustainable future. I invite all our partners, domestic and international, to walk with us on this path. Together, we can ensure that our islands remain not only habitable, but thriving, for generations to come.

I am honored to present the Federated States of Micronesia's second Voluntary National Review—a reaffirmation of our steadfast commitment to the 2030 Agenda and to the global vision of a more just, resilient, and sustainable world for all.

For us in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Sustainable Development Goals are not abstract ideals. They are lifelines. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) spread across the vast Pacific Ocean, our challenges are many—but so too is our resolve. Climate change, for us, is not a future threat, it is a daily reality. Rising seas, changing weather patterns, and marine ecosystem degradation are existential threats to our homes, our food systems, and our cultural heritage.

Yet despite these daunting odds, we have not stood still. Since our first VNR in 2020, we have made important strides. We expanded early childhood education and strengthened local health systems in the wake of COVID-19. We launched digital education tools and improved access to clean water and sanitation in schools. Our commitment to climate action has seen the establishment of environmental monitoring systems and the advancement of a Marine Spatial Planning Bill—ensuring our ocean resources are protected for generations to come.

Economically, we are laying groundwork for greater self-reliance. We adopted a Trade Policy to attract investment and support local entrepreneurship. Our Fisheries Investment Plan, renewable energy projects, and transport improvements are all aligned to build a more resilient, inclusive economy.

This progress has been hard-earned. As a federation of four distinct states—Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—we continue to strengthen national unity, while honoring the diversity of our traditions and governance structures. The FSM Strategic Development Plan 2024–2043 serves as our blueprint for a unified future—one that integrates traditional values with modern development goals.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our development partners, and we continue to advocate for equitable access to climate financing, technology, and global trade systems. The establishment of the UN Multi-Country Office in Micronesia has deepened our engagement with the international system and enhanced our capacity to deliver on the SDGs.

Looking ahead, our vision is clear: Our Lives, Our Responsibility, a sustainable and self-reliant Micronesia, where development is defined not only by economic growth but by the well-being of our people, the strength of our communities, and the protection of our islands and ocean.

To our friends and partners across the globe, I say this: Micronesia is navigating its future with courage, clarity, and commitment. We call on the global community to walk with us—to uphold the spirit of multilateralism and to ensure that no island is left behind. With tradition as our compass and sustainability as our destination, the people of the FSM remain unwavering in our resolve to chart a better future—for ourselves and for our shared planet.

H.E. Wesley W. Simina
President
Federated States of Micronesia

Executive Summary

Vision: Navigating a Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable FSM

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) presents its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) as a reflective journey toward sustainable development, rooted in cultural wisdom and guided by strategic planning. Like a traditional canoe navigating vast Pacific waters, FSM charts its course through nine national development priorities, drawing from traditional values and steering toward inclusive growth. This report offers a comprehensive overview of progress and gaps across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It highlights how a geographically dispersed Small Island Developing State (SIDS) is mobilizing its cultural heritage, traditional governance, and strategic partnerships to chart a more inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable future.

Key Achievements:

- Over 30% of marine areas and 20% of terrestrial ecosystems are now under formal protection (SDG 14 and 15).
- Renewable energy capacity doubled, expanding off-grid electrification to remote islands (SDG 7).
- High childhood immunization rates maintained, with improved maternal health outcomes (SDG 3).
- Legal reforms and pilot initiatives in gender-responsive budgeting and women's leadership (SDG 5).
- Digital platforms launched for aid coordination and data sharing, boosting SDG 17 implementation.

Persistent Challenges:

- Over 40% of SDG indicators lack reliable data due to institutional and statistical capacity gaps.
- Youth unemployment exceeds 25%; skills mismatches continue across sectors (SDG 8).
- Social protection coverage remains at 20%, exposing many to economic vulnerabilities (SDG 1).
- Geographic inequities in services, especially in outer islands, hinder SDG equity.
- Fragmented policies and weak coordination across federal and state levels continue to be a barrier (SDG16).

Strategic Development Priorities: The new Strategic Development Plan (2024–2043) anchors this journey across nine Thematic Areas, each representing a sail of FSM's development canoe. FSM has identified six integrated national priorities: (1) climate resilience and adaptation, (2) economic self-reliance, (3) human capital development, (4) infrastructure expansion, (5) cultural preservation, and (6) governance and institutional strengthening. These priorities align with FSM's systems-based approach to accelerating the achievement of SDGs and building resilience.

Leaving No One Behind: FSM reaffirms its commitment to the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB). Priority focus is placed on expanding services for persons with disabilities, empowering women and youth, and addressing the marginalization of remote island populations. Targeted interventions—such as inclusive education, GBV prevention, localized climate adaptation, and disaggregated data systems—are essential for equitable progress.

Partnerships and Financing Innovation: Recognizing its aid dependency, FSM is working to reform coordination mechanisms and scale innovative financing. Through blue and green bonds, carbon credit schemes, and diaspora engagement, the country aims to strengthen resilience financing. The VNR process itself became a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement, drawing participation from traditional leaders, civil society, youth, and development partners.

The Road to 2030: FSM stands at a critical crossroads facing disproportionate vulnerabilities but also demonstrating innovation, ownership, and resolve. As FSM navigates the SDG landscape, the country commits to leaving no island or person behind. Strategic investments, stronger partnerships, and adaptive systems remain essential to FSM's voyage to 2030.

1.0 | Introduction
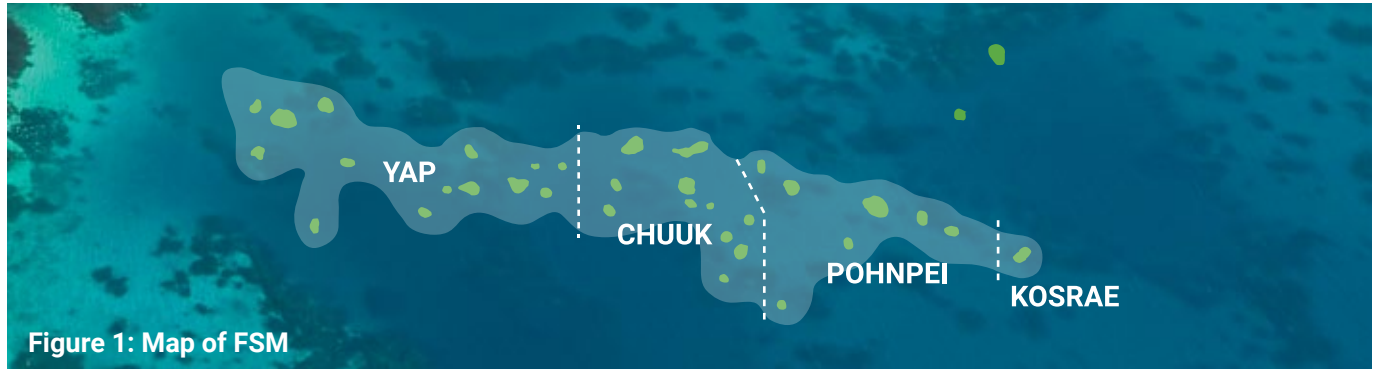
Figure 1: Map of FSM

1.1 A Nation of Islands in Transition

FSM's development story is best understood as a voyage a traditional canoe navigating turbulent seas with courage, ancestral knowledge, and modern tools. This second VNR reflects how FSM balances tradition with innovation, honoring its roots while adapting to new challenges. With four culturally distinct states and over 600 islands, FSM must chart a unique course that respects local autonomy while sailing together toward shared national goals. Though its landmass totals only 702 square kilometers, FSM's exclusive economic zone spans more than 2.6 million square kilometers. This unique geography presents profound development challenges, particularly in ensuring service delivery and access to infrastructure in remote atolls, while also offering rich cultural and ecological assets.

FSM operates under a federal governance structure where national and state governments share responsibilities. While the national government manages external affairs and development strategy, service delivery is largely decentralized to the states. The country's economic model—rooted in migration, remittances, and public-sector aid—mirrors the MIRAB framework. Persistent youth outmigration, especially under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the United States, has led to demographic shifts and skills shortages, further constraining the FSM's growth prospects.

1.2 National Vision and SDG Integration

FSM's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024–2043 is the overarching national roadmap guiding inclusive and sustainable development. Anchored in the vision "Our Lives, Our Responsibility," the SDP integrates the 2030 Agenda across nine thematic areas (TA)) mapped directly to the five SDG Pillars—People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnership:

- Health and Well-Being (TA3) shows strong alignment with the People Pillar (11 targets).
- Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience (TA8) has the highest integration under Planet (13 targets).
- Governance and Institutional Strengthening (TA5) and Peace and Security (TA6) are strongly aligned with Partnership and Peace pillars, respectively.
- Sustainable Economic Development (TA7) demonstrates balanced cross-pillar alignment, especially under Prosperity and Planet.

Each state has aligned its planning frameworks to the national SDP, supported by budget integration and performance monitoring. Regionally, FSM's development vision is reinforced by alignment with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development.

Figure 2: SDG Target Alignment to Each FSM SDP Thematic Area by SDG Pillar (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, Partnership).

FSM SDP Thematic Areas	PEOPLE (SDG 1-6)	PROSPERITY (SDG 7-11)	PLANET (SDG 12-15)	PEACE (SDG 16)	PARTNERSHIP (SDG 17)
Cultural Heritage	1	4	1	2	0
Education & Human Capital	6	5	0	0	3
Health & Well-being	11	1	0	2	3
Gender Equality & Social Inclusion	9	5	0	4	1
Governance & Institutional Strengthening	2	4	1	4	9
Peace & Security	2	1	5	5	3
Sustainable Economic Development	5	9	9	0	3
Environmental Sustainability & Climate Resilience	2	5	13	0	4
Infrastructure Development & Sustainability	4	7	3	0	4

1.3 Strategic Priorities and Structural Barriers

FSM has identified six core national development priorities:

1. **Climate Resilience and Adaptation** – Addressing sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and climate shocks.
2. **Economic Self-Reliance** – Strengthening fisheries, agriculture, and tourism to reduce dependency on aid.
3. **Human Capital Development** – Expanding inclusive education and health services.
4. **Infrastructure Development** – Improving connectivity and basic services, especially in outer islands.
5. **Cultural Preservation** – Promoting Indigenous Knowledge and Identity as Enablers of Development.
6. **Governance and Institutional Effectiveness** – Strengthening transparency, data systems, and coordination.

Persistent challenges, including geographic fragmentation, weak statistical capacity, and fragmented policy implementation, continue to hinder SDG acceleration. Many national policies remain outdated, and the data gap affects more than 40% of SDG indicators.

1.4 Enabling Conditions: Digital Transformation and Global Positioning

FSM is investing in digital infrastructure to bridge service gaps and unlock new development opportunities. Submarine cables and national broadband strategies aim to improve access in underserved areas. Digital platforms also enhancing governance, disaster preparedness, and citizen engagement.

Geopolitically, the FSM remains a strategic partner to the United States through the COFA, while also maintaining relations with China, Japan, Australia, and the European Union. This multipolar engagement presents both opportunities and risks, requiring careful alignment with national priorities and sovereignty.

1.5 A Path Forward

Despite facing some of the world's most severe climate and geographic constraints, FSM is committed to building an inclusive, data-driven, and resilient development pathway. Through strategic investments in people, systems, and partnerships, the country is striving to ensure no community is left behind in the decade of SDG delivery.

2.0 | Objectives and Methodological Approach

2.1 Overview of Approach

FSM's 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) process was designed to be inclusive, evidence-informed, and aligned with both national and global frameworks. The methodology reflected FSM's navigational ethos, guided by traditional knowledge, inclusive decision-making, and the use of new tools, such as digital scorecards and satellite mapping. Participatory methods ensured every stakeholder was a crew member shaping the national direction. Building on the first VNR in 2020, this second review emphasizes systems-thinking, stakeholder voice, and local relevance, anchored in FSM's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024–2043 and the global 2030 Agenda.

2.2 Objectives of the 2025 VNR

- Assess FSM's progress on SDGs since the 2020 VNR.
- Identify accelerators and bottlenecks for sustainable development.
- Strengthen national and state-level alignment with the 2030 Agenda.
- Promote inclusive, evidence-based planning grounded in stakeholder inputs.
- Share progress, lessons, and innovations with the global SIDS and SDG community.

2.3 Process and Stakeholder Engagement

The VNR process was nationally led and grounded in state consultations across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. Inputs were gathered from:

- National and state government officials
- Traditional leaders and village councils
- Youth and women's organizations
- Civil society, academia, and development partners

These dialogues not only validated SDG progress but also highlighted contextual challenges and community-driven solutions. Engagement was supported by the UN system and regional partners.

2.4 Analytical Framework and Tools

FSM applied a multi-layered framework:

- SDG–SDP alignment matrices to track institutional coherence
- Use of global SDG indicators and Pacific-specific proxy indicators
- Integrated analysis across the FSM SDP 2024-2043 thematic areas
- Cross-cutting lens on gender equality, climate resilience, and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

To address data gaps, qualitative narratives, community storytelling, and case studies were included alongside available statistics.

2.5 Outcomes and Learning

The VNR served as both a monitoring tool and a capacity-building process. State engagement helped institutionalize SDG monitoring and budget alignment mechanisms, while national reflection workshops enabled prioritization of SDG accelerators.

A detailed account of the methodology, data sources, limitations, and consultation results is available in **Annex I**.

3.0 | Policy and Enabling Environment

3.1 Expanding National and State Ownership of the SDGs

Since FSM's first Voluntary National Review in 2020, national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has undergone significant evolution. The SDGs are now firmly embedded in the nation's development vision, planning systems, and institutional processes. State-level engagement in implementing the SDGs has notably increased. State governments were actively involved in shaping the FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024–2043 and now have articulated roles in delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Some jurisdictions have taken it a step further by integrating SDG targets into their long-term plans, particularly in priority areas such as climate resilience and sustainable resource management. **See Annex 2**.

To strengthen coordination and ensure more effective implementation, the government has proposed establishing a dedicated coordination mechanism to align national and subnational development efforts. This approach is informed by recent evaluations of past development plans and is intended to enhance oversight, policy coherence, and monitoring across sectors and administrative levels. It also aims to address institutional gaps that emerged following earlier governance reforms.

Traditional and community leaders are increasingly recognized as key stakeholders in the development process. In several locations, they now participate in regular planning and coordination forums, contributing to local initiatives that advance environmental sustainability, land management, and community well-being. Their involvement reflects a growing emphasis on inclusive governance that respects cultural systems while supporting sustainable development objectives.

3.2 Institutionalizing Public Engagement and Multi-Stakeholder Participation

National SDG awareness has expanded through UN-supported consultations and the participatory SDP planning process, which engaged multiple stakeholders across the four states. These efforts have helped frame the SDGs not as external goals, but as tools that align with FSM's traditional values and development priorities.

Building on this momentum, steps have been taken to institutionalize more inclusive and sustained stakeholder participation in development processes. While implementation is still evolving, the following mechanisms have been introduced or initiated:

- State-Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues: Several states have initiated regular dialogue platforms that bring together government departments, traditional leaders, civil society organizations, and community representatives. These spaces provide opportunities to discuss local development priorities and improve coordination on SDG implementation.

- Citizen Feedback Channels: An initial framework for citizen engagement is being explored through digital and in-person formats to improve public input into development planning and service delivery. This includes piloting tools for community feedback and dialogue.

- Structured Partnerships with Civil Society and the Private Sector: The FSM Alliance of NGOs (FANGO) is increasingly involved in national planning, contributing particularly to discussions around gender equality and community empowerment. The private sector has also expressed growing interest in supporting sustainable development through local enterprise development and employment initiatives.

While these platforms are at various stages of development, they reflect a broader shift toward embedding public participation and inclusive governance as core components of FSM's development pathway. Continued investment in coordination, capacity-building, and state-level engagement will be key to fully operationalizing these efforts.

Figure 3: **Vulnerable Groups in FSM**

Photo: **UNDP**

Vulnerable Groups in FSM

Photos: **UN RCO Micronesia**

3.3 Integrating the SDGs into National Planning and Budgeting Frameworks

The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024–2043 represents FSM's first national development framework to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) explicitly. Each of its nine thematic areas is aligned with relevant SDG clusters, laying the foundation for more coherent tracking of national priorities alongside global targets. Moving forward, FSM aspires to strengthen this integration by adopting tools such as SDG budget tagging. This is expected to improve the alignment of planning and budgeting processes with sustainable development goals but will require sustained technical assistance and institutional capacity support to be fully implemented and effectively utilized.

3.4 Ensuring Inclusion and Leaving No One Behind

The principle of **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)** is central to FSM's national development agenda and embedded across the SDP 2024–2043. Equity and inclusion are prioritized through dedicated planning, targeted programs, and improved data systems aimed at reaching the most vulnerable populations.

Recognizing persistent service and opportunity gaps across outer islands, low-income households, and marginalized groups, FSM has expanded access to essential services and strengthened institutional mechanisms to support inclusion. Key efforts include the establishment of Disability Coordination Offices in all four states, rollout of gender-responsive policy action plans, and implementation of youth-focused vocational and digital skills programs. The government has also accelerated solar electrification in remote communities and scaled up telehealth services, improving connectivity and basic services in underserved areas.

These actions are grounded in a commitment to equity, supported by ongoing investments in the collection of disaggregated data, policy monitoring, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. By systematically identifying and addressing exclusion, FSM is working to ensure that no community or individual is left behind in its development journey.

Figure 4: **SDG National and State Coordination Mechanisms**

National FSM Government Executive Branch	Sustainable Development Council
National FSM Government Departments	SDG Task Force / SDP Working Group
State Government Departments	State SDP Committee (Chuuk) / State SDP Committee (Kosrae) / State SDP Committee (Pohnpei) / State SDP Committee (Yap)
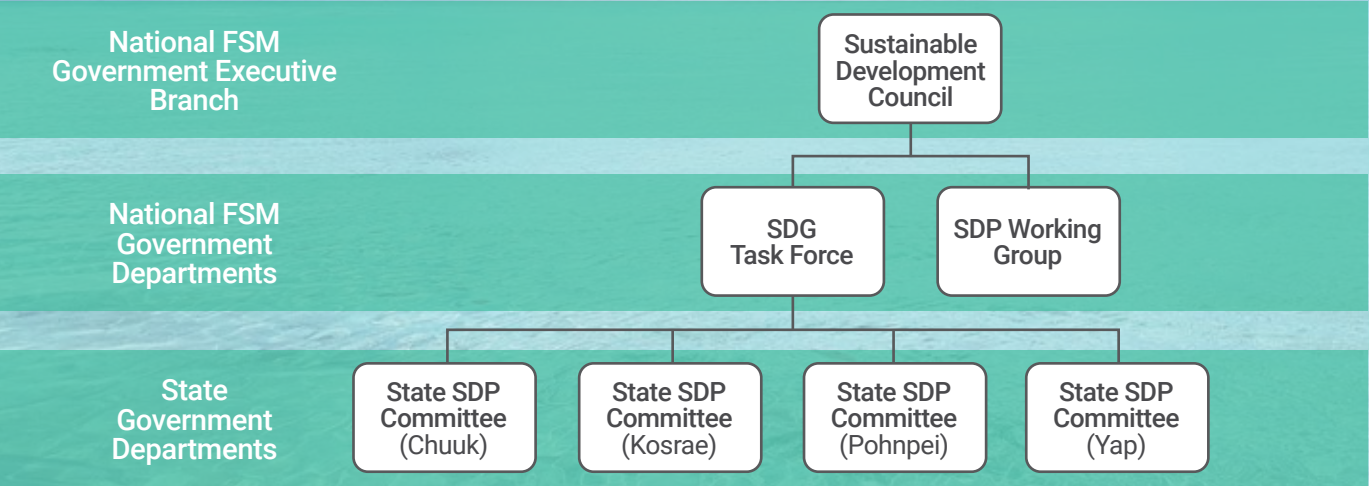
3.5 **Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Monitoring Systems**

A strengthened institutional ecosystem now supports the implementation of the SDGs. The Sustainable Development Council leads strategic coordination, while the SDP Working Group and SDG Task Force ensure alignment across sectors and levels of government. At the state level, dedicated planning and coordination committees oversee localized SDG implementation. **See Annex 3.**

Photo: **FSM Government**

FSM has introduced a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, including:

- **Annual progress reviews**
- **A mid-term review in 2033**
- **A final evaluation in 2043**

To improve data management, a national data platform is being explored to enhance data collection and coordination at the National and State levels and supporting coordination efforts to the SDP Team.

Capacity development has been prioritized across all states. Priority areas include:

- **Results-based management**
- **Data analytics**
- **Integrated planning and monitoring**

These efforts will be supported by regional peer learning and technical partnerships.

Together, these reforms reflect FSM's commitment to embedding the SDGs into its institutions, budgets, and communities, making sustainable development a nationally owned and contextually grounded reality.

Chuuk Consultation

FSM-UN Joint Steering Committee

Kosrae Consultation

FSM-UN Joint Steering Committee

Yap Consultation

Pohnpei Consultation

4.0 | Progress on the Goals and Targets

4.1 Overview of National Progress and Trends

FSM's development journey continues to be shaped by its geographic dispersion, climate vulnerability, fiscal dependence, and limited institutional capacity. Despite these systemic challenges, notable achievements have been recorded, including the reduction of disaster-related deaths, declines in child mortality, increased access to clean energy and sanitation, and broader digital connectivity. The government has adopted localized and culturally grounded strategies to reform food systems, strengthen urban resilience, and improve delivery of education and justice services.

However, persistent implementation bottlenecks hinder sustained progress. These include inadequate disaggregated data, coordination gaps across sectors and states, underdeveloped domestic resource mobilization, and inequitable access to services in remote and outer islands. High levels of outmigration continue to deplete the national talent pool, while uncoordinated donor assistance and underdeveloped SDG tracking systems hinder effective development.

To address these challenges, the government is promoting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach anchored in strong partnerships, robust data systems, and inclusive policy reforms. The following section provides an integrated snapshot of progress, highlighting performance across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identifying disparities, and proposing forward-looking strategies to accelerate implementation.

4.1.1 Summary of SDG Progress in FSM

FSM has achieved varied progress across the SDGs. **See Annex 4**. A summary of trends includes:

- Strongest progress is seen under SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water), with FSM exceeding global benchmarks in renewable energy deployment and marine conservation.

- Moderate progress is noted in SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), and SDG 15 (Life on Land), particularly in reducing urban poverty and expanding forest conservation.

- Mixed progress is recorded for the 2025 HLPF spotlight goals: SDG 3 (Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work), and SDG 17 (Partnerships), where improvements in service coverage and digital access coexist with systemic gaps in equity, employment, and public finance.

- Limited or concerning progress is reported in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Infrastructure and Innovation), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption), reflecting structural and financial constraints.

4.1.2 Trends in SDG Data Availability

FSM's ability to monitor SDG progress has improved through recent investments in statistical capacity and evaluation systems. Key trends include:

- Improved data availability for SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17, supported by the 2023 Census, thematic consultations, and administrative data systems.

- Significant data gaps persist for SDG 9 (Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption), which limit comprehensive analysis and program targeting.

- The development of FSM's National Data Management Platform, linked to the SDP Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Framework, is expected to improve data integration and disaggregation, particularly at the state level.

- Proxy indicators, stakeholder inputs, and qualitative assessments were used to complement quantitative trends where official data was lacking. **See Annex 5**.

Figure 5: FSM – SDG Dashboard of Target Level Progress

SDG	Target	Status
1 NO POVERTY	1.3 Social protection	🔴
	1.4 Access to basic services	🟡
	1.5 Resilience to disasters	🟡
	1.a Resources for poverty programs	🟢
2 ZERO HUNGER	2.2 Malnutrition	🔴
	2.a Investment in agriculture	🟡
	2.c Food price anomolies	🔴
3 GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING	3.1 Maternal mortality	🟢
	3.2 Child mortality	🟡
	3.3 Communicable diseases	🟡
	3.4 NCD & mental health	🔴
	3.5 Substance abuse	🟢
	3.8 Universal health coverage	🟡
	3.9 Health impact of pollution	🟡
	3.b R&D for health	🟡
	3.c Health financing & workforce	🟡
	3.d Management of health risks	🟡
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.2 Early childhood development	🔴
	4.5 Equal access to education	🔴
	4.a Eductaion facilities	🟡
	4.6 Scholarships	🔴
	4.c Qualified teachers	🟡
5 GENDER EQUALITY	5.5 Women in leadership	🟡
6 CLEAN WATER & SANITATION	6.5 Transboundary water cooperation	🟡
	6.a Int. cooperation on water & sanitation	🟡
7 AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY	7.1 Access to energy services	🟡
	7.2 Share of renewable energy	🟡
	7.3 Energy efficiency	🟡
	7.a Int. cooperation on energy	🟢
	7.b Investing in energy infrastructure	🟡
8 DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.1 Per capita economic growth	🔴
	8.4 Material resource efficiency	🔴
	8.9 Sustainable tourism	🟢
	8.a Aid for Trade	🟢
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE	9.2 Sustainable/inclusive industrialization	🔴
	9.a Resilient infrastructure	🟡
	9.c Access to ICT & the Internet	🟡
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	10.a Special & differential treatment (WTO)	🔴
	10.b Resource flows for development	🔴

SDG	Target	Status
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES	11.5 Resilience to disasters	🟡
	11.6 Urban air quality & waste mgmt.	🔴
	11.b Disaster risk management policies	🟡
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION	12.2 Sustainable use of natural resources	🔴
	12.a Support for R&D capacity for SD	🟡
	12.b Sustainable tourism monitoring	🟡
	12.c Fossil-fuel subsidies	🟢
13 CLIMATE ACTION	13.1 Resilience & adaptive capacity	🟡
14 LIFE BELOW WATER	14.1 Marine pollution	🔴
	14.5 Conservation of coastal areas	🟡
	14.7 Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs	🟡
15 LIFE ON LAND	15.1 Terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems	🟡
	15.2 Sustainable forests management	🟡
	15.4 Conservation of mountain ecosystems	🟢
	15.5 Loss of biodiversity	🟡
	15.6 Utilization of genetic resource	🔴
	15.8 Invasive alien species	🔴
	15.a Resources for biodiversity & ecosystems	🟢
16 PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS	16.6 Effective institutions	🟡
	16.7 Inclusive decision-making	🟡
	16.a Capacity to prevent violence	🟡
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	17.1 Tax & other revenue collection	🟢
	17.3 Additional financial resources	🟡
	17.6 Science and tech int. cooperation	🟡
	17.7 Transfer of technologies	🟢
	17.8 Capacity building for ICT	🟡
	17.9 Capacity building for SDGs	🔴
	17.10 Multilateral trading system (WTO)	🟡
	17.11 Exports of developing countries	🟢
	17.12 Duty-free market access for LDCs	🟡
	17.18 National statistics availability	🟡
	17.19 Statistical capacity	🔴

Legend:
- 🟢 On Track (Improving trends)
- 🟡 Needs Acceleration (Stagnant or mixed trends)
- 🔴 Regressing (Worsening trends)
- ⚪ Insufficient data (Not enough data to assess trends)

169 total: 13, 40, 18, 98

4.2 Review of National Progress Across the SDGs aligned to the SDP

As the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) enters the Decade of Action for sustainable development, it is increasingly evident that transformative change must be grounded in the country's unique cultural identity, ecological realities, and federal governance structure. While national-level SDG trends offer essential insights, FSM's real progress lies in how development is lived and led at the community level—through cultural resilience, local innovation, and adaptive service delivery.

This next section of the 2025 Voluntary National Review provides a detailed, thematic analysis of SDG implementation across FSM's nine Strategic Development Plan (SDP) thematic areas. Drawing from state-level consultations, evaluation findings, and case studies, the analysis highlights both success stories and persistent gaps. It identifies where FSM is advancing, where progress is lagging, and where strategic investments, more substantial policy alignment, and inclusive partnerships are most needed.

Each thematic area is explored through the lens of relevant SDGs, focusing on:

- Success stories that demonstrate innovation, community leadership, and measurable results;
- Systemic gaps in policy, institutional capacity, and service delivery;
- Emerging trends and data from recent surveys, administrative systems, and monitoring tools;
- Forward-looking priorities to accelerate progress and strengthen resilience.

These thematic analyses reaffirm that development in FSM is not a one-size-fits-all process. Instead, it must embrace cultural diversity, enable intergenerational knowledge transfer, and foster localized approaches that align with national and global ambitions.

Photo: **UN RCO Micronesia**

Photo: FSM Government

SUCCESS STORY
Starlink Meets Culture: Blending Tradition with Technology

Initiative: Yap Schools Go Online

SDG 4.7 | **SDG 11.4**

Yap's education department integrated Starlink internet into three island schools, allowing students to blend traditional learning with digital exploration. Lessons on local navigation and history are now delivered alongside online STEM modules.

This approach strengthens cultural identity while building digital literacy—equipping youth for a future grounded in both heritage and innovation.


Photo: **ITU**

THEMATIC AREA 1

Cultural Heritage

"Pride in tradition must be matched by protection in policy. FSM's cultural legacy is fading without national safeguards, formal education, or resilient funding. Preserving heritage means embedding it into curricula, law, and the economy—before it's lost to time."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS:

4.7	8.3 8.9	10.2
11.4	12.b	16.7 16.10

Photos: **FSM Government**
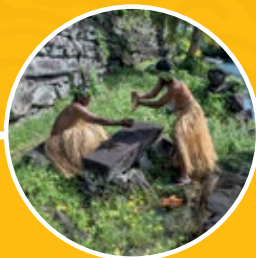
Overview:

FSM's cultural heritage is foundational to national identity, social cohesion, and resilience. From sacred sites and customary law to navigation and oral traditions, culture influences all dimensions of life. Yet, weak documentation, limited legal protections, and declining intergenerational transfer threaten cultural continuity. While FSM has ratified UNESCO conventions, there is no national cultural heritage policy or inventory of heritage assets. Initiatives across states — such as heritage trails, sacred site mapping, and canoe-building — remain fragmented and underfunded.

Progress Updates:

- No national cultural heritage policy or legal framework.
- Cultural content sporadically included in schools; no national curriculum.
- Creative sectors operate informally with limited market access.
- Heritage tourism exists in Yap and Pohnpei but lacks scale and funding.
- Customary law plays a role in justice but is inconsistently recognized.

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
National cultural policy	Not developed	—	No legislative or institutional framework
Cultural site registration	Not operational	—	Sacred sites lack protection
Cultural curriculum in schools	Low integration	↔	Few structured heritage learning programs
Community-led cultural projects	Sporadic	↔	Often donor-funded and short-lived
Recognition of customary law	Partial	↔	Varies by state; not codified nationally

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- Absence of a national heritage strategy or legislation
- Sacred and historical sites remain undocumented and vulnerable
- Cultural education lacks national framework and teacher training
- Limited institutional integration between customary governance systems and formal state structures.
- Creative and tourism sectors lack enabling support structures

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Cultural Policy & Law	Draft national cultural heritage act and align with UNESCO conventions
Curriculum Integration	Embed culture into education systems and train teachers in cultural modules
Cultural Archives	Establish a digital and physical inventory of FSM's cultural assets
Creative Economy	Support crafts and traditional arts with market linkages and grants
Customary Law Integration	Formalize traditional leader roles in governance and justice
Resilient Cultural Tourism	Develop infrastructure for sustainable, climate-conscious heritage tourism

Photo: FSM Government

SUCCESS STORY
Pathways Through Education

Initiative: Education Success in Chuuk

SDG 4.6 | **SDG 8.6**

Education reforms in Chuuk improved school retention and opened new learning pathways for out-of-school youth. Programs focused on after school support, career guidance, and bridging gaps for girls and rural students.

Preliminary results show improved attendance and re-enrollment, with parent-teacher engagement a key success factor.

Photo: **Chuuk Youth Council**

THEMATIC AREA 2

Education and Human Capital

"Enrolment is not the same as empowerment. FSM must now invest in qualified teachers, digital equity, and lifelong learning to ensure that every child not only enters school—but thrives, transitions, and contributes to national development."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS: | 4.1 - 4.c (All) | 5.b | 8.2 8.5 8.6 | 9.c | 10.2 | 16.6 16.7 | 17.9 17.19

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
Primary Net Enrollment	93.1%	↔	Retention a concern in later grades
ECE Participation	<35%	↑	Community centers growing access
Secondary Retention	<70%	↔	Highest dropout in Chuuk and Kosrae
Certified Teachers	67%	↔	Recruitment challenges in remote schools
TVET Participation	↑15%	↑	Increased in all four states
Girls in STEM	~30%	↔	Cultural barriers remain

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- High secondary dropout, especially in outer islands
- Shortages of trained and certified teachers
- Weak monitoring of learning outcomes
- Infrastructure gaps in ECE and special education
- Gender inequality in technical and digital fields
- Digital divide limits equitable learning opportunities

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Secondary Retention	Introduce scholarships and track student progression
Teacher Certification	Scale training and mentoring across states
Early Childhood Access	Invest in ECE centers and community caregivers
Girls in STEM	Launch campaigns and programs targeting gender parity in TVET
Digital Equity	Expand ICT and blended learning in remote schools
Inclusive Education	Operationalize disability-inclusive guidelines and teacher resourcing
Learning Assessment	Improve national student testing and data disaggregation

Overview:

Education is central to FSM's human development strategy. While primary enrollment is high, learning outcomes and retention beyond primary remain uneven. FSM is making strides through Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) and digital learning initiatives, but key barriers include geographic dispersion, teacher shortages, and gender gaps in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and vocational education. Inclusive education and early childhood programs are expanding but require scaled investment and infrastructure.

Progress Updates:

- Primary enrollment over 93%; secondary retention under 70%, lowest in Chuuk
- Early childhood education (ECE) participation below 35%; growing through church and community centers
- 67% of teachers are certified; outer island shortages persist
- Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) participation rose 15%; new courses in tourism, information and communication technology (ICT), and maritime
- Girls remain underrepresented in STEM fields
- Over 300 schools received digital learning tools; outer island access limited

Photo: UNICEF Pacific 2024. Magangat

Clean Water, Healthier Homes

Initiative: Palikir Water System Expansion

SDG 6.1 | **SDG 3.9**

The Palikir Water Project brought clean, reliable drinking water to over 200 households through new deep wells and chlorination systems. Before the intervention, residents relied on untreated catchment water or had to haul water long distances.

Community members were trained in water safety and basic maintenance. FSM's Public Utility Corporation will oversee long-term sustainability.

"Now, clean water flows right at home." – Palikir resident

Photo: **IOM. Haimanot Abebe**

THEMATIC AREA 3

Health and Well-being

"Service access is expanding—but health resilience demands more. FSM must go beyond immunization and invest in systems that prevent NCDs, protect mental health, and reach the most remote families with quality, continuous care."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS:

1.3 1.4	2.1 2.2	3.1-3.5 3.7-3.9 3.c-3.d
5.6 5.c	6.1 6.2	10.2 10.3
16.6 16.7		17.6 17.10 17.3

Photos: **UNICEF Pacific 2024. Magangat**

Photo: **UNICEF Pacific 2024. Santos**

Overview:
Health is a foundational pillar for sustainable development in FSM. Despite strong immunization foundations and donor-supported health infrastructure, FSM faces ongoing challenges including rising non-communicable diseases (NCD), fragmented service delivery, youth mental health concerns, and uneven access to essential services—especially for outer island populations. The COVID-19 pandemic strained an already limited health workforce and revealed the fragility of referral and emergency systems. National strategies prioritize universal health coverage (UHC), community-based care, and digital health innovations, but implementation remains uneven.

Progress Updates:
- DTP3 immunization coverage remains high at 93%; Measles-containing-vaccine second-dose (MCV2) coverage dropped to 73%, especially in remote areas
- Over 85% of births are institutionally delivered; outer island access still limited
- Youth wellness clubs expanded mental health services; suicide ideation is an emerging concern
- NCDs affect over 40% of adults; youth tobacco use remains high
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) access in health facilities reached 92%, though waste disposal remains inconsistent
- Telemedicine pilots linked hospitals in Pohnpei and Yap to remote providers but face bandwidth issues

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) Coverage	93%	↔	Among highest in the Pacific
MCV2 Coverage	73%	↓	Geographic disparities persist
Institutional Deliveries	>85%	↔	Access in outer islands still a gap
Adult NCD Prevalence	>40%	↑	Hypertension, diabetes rising
Youth Suicide Ideation	↑	↑	Emerging concern; needs national tracking
WASH in Health Facilities	92%	↑	Waste management remains inconsistent

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:
- Fragmented health systems and inconsistent delivery across states
- Health worker shortages and high turnover
- Persistent urban-rural health inequities
- Insufficient mental health services for adolescents
- Lack of national surveillance for NCDs and suicide
- Underdeveloped digital and emergency referral systems

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Outer Island Access	Mobile health units, maternal transport support
NCD Prevention	Community screening, school nutrition programs
Mental Health	Adolescent services and surveillance systems
Workforce Retention	Incentives for remote health professionals
Health System Resilience	Invest in WASH, cold chains, emergency systems
Digital Health Innovation	Expand telemedicine, e-health records

Photo: FSM Government

THEMATIC AREA 4

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

"Breaking barriers requires more than milestones. FSM's first woman senator is a breakthrough, but true inclusion means women, youth, and persons with disabilities have equal power in policy, finance, and public life. Equality must be built into every system."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS: | 1.3 1.4 | 3.7 | 4.5 4.7 4.a | 5.1-5.5 5.c | 8.5 8.6 | 10.2 -10.4 | 11.7 | 16.1-16.3 16.7 16.c | 17.18

Overview:

FSM has taken important strides toward gender equality and inclusive development, but systemic inequalities and cultural norms continue to restrict opportunities for women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. While legal protections exist, implementation remains weak, and women's representation in public life is minimal. FSM elected its first woman senator in 2023, a landmark moment, but broader gender disparities in employment, access to finance, political participation, and gender-based violence (GBV) services remain.

Progress Updates:

- FSM elected its first woman senator in 2023; broader female representation remains low
- Women make up 27% of the formal workforce; wage gap data is unavailable
- Over 30% of youth are not in employment, education, or training (NEET); rates are higher among young women
- GBV referral services available in all states; implementation quality varies
- Disability access remains low, especially in outer islands
- Girls' participation in STEM and TVET is under 15%

SUCCESS STORY
Mainstreaming Gender, One Scorecard at a Time

Initiative: 2024 FSM Health Summit

SDG 5.c   SDG 16.b

The 2024 Health Summit served as a national platform for gender policy reform. With over 200 multisectoral participants, the Summit launched state-level gender action plans and scorecards that track progress on key indicators like political representation, gender-based violence, and access to services.

Gender focal points were reestablished in key ministries, and a Gender Development Unit was institutionalized under FSM's Department of Health and Social Affairs.

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
Women in Parliament	1	↑	First female senator elected in 2023
Female Workforce Participation	27%	↔	Stagnant; wage parity data unavailable
NEET Youth	>30%	↔	Particularly high among young women
GBV Referral Systems	All states	↑	Service quality uneven
Disability Access (Poorest)	13%	↔	Low; significant gaps remain
Girls in STEM TVET	<15%	↔	Low; cultural and logistical barriers persist

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- Limited disaggregated gender and disability data
- Inadequate legal enforcement and protection services
- Deep-rooted norms reinforce gendered roles
- Weak local capacity for inclusive policy implementation
- Gender budgeting is not systematically applied

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Women's Leadership	Expand political mentorship and public awareness on gender equity
GBV Prevention and Response	Improve services, shelters, and legal pathways for survivors
Disability Mainstreaming	Develop a national disability strategy and inclusive protection systems
Inclusive Education and TVET	Promote female participation in STEM and vocational training
Gender Data Systems	Improve sex-disaggregated data and institutionalize gender budgeting
Community Norms Change	Launch national campaigns promoting equality and shared responsibility.

Photo: IOM, Haimanot Abebe

SUCCESS STORY
Smarter Borders, Faster Trade

Initiative: Sustainable Digital Innovation in Customs and Trade

| SDG 8.1 | SDG 9.c | SDG 17.1 |

FSM's adoption of the ASYCUDA World system transformed customs operations from manual paper-based procedures to fully digital trade clearance. Implemented across all ports, the system reduced customs clearance time by 40% and increased national revenue by 12%. Real-time data collection now supports evidence-based fiscal policy and cross-border coordination.

This digital transformation was made possible through a strong partnership between FSM's Department of Finance and UNCTAD. Training for local customs officers, port authorities, and logistics agents built national capacity to manage the new platform. The initiative represents a leap forward in improving the business environment for importers and exporters.

"ASYCUDA has transformed our ports into smart gateways."
– Vice President of FSM

The system is now being expanded to integrate e-payment, trade statistics reporting, and e-commerce facilitation.

THEMATIC AREA 5
Governance and Institutional Strengthening

"Digital reforms are promising, but governance must be grounded in people and data. Strong institutions require trusted justice systems, aligned state-national policies, and reliable statistics that drive decision-making and accountability."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS: | 1.a 1.b | 8.3 | 9.c | 10.4 10.6 | 12.7 | 16.5-16.7 16.10 16.a | 17.1 17.3 17.9 17.14 17.6 17.16 17.17 17.18 17.19

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
PEFA Score (overall)	2.5	↑	Moderate improvement across key dimensions
Open Budget Index	N/A	—	Not yet assessed
Access to Justice (coverage)	>50 villages	↑	Community legal services scaled-up in Chuuk
E-Government Platform Coverage	All four states	↑	Digital maturity varies by state
SDG Indicator Coverage	~60%	↑	Still lacks disaggregated and real-time data

Note: ⟷ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- Out-dated national development cooperation policy for aid alignment
- Uneven access to legal services and lack of enforcement mechanisms
- Fragmented governance between national and state levels
- Statistical systems underfunded and underutilized
- Limited civil society engagement in formal oversight functions

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Legal Reform	Strengthen laws on transparency, rights, and anti-corruption enforcement
Decentralized Governance	Improve coordination platforms for federal-state policy alignment
Digital Public Services	Scale e-platforms for citizen access to services and feedback
Evidence-Based Policy	Invest in statistical systems and SDG-aligned data disaggregation
Civil Society Engagement	Provide core funding and technical support to CSOs
Development Cooperation	Finalize policy framework to align external aid with national priorities

Overview:

Strong institutions and accountable governance are critical enablers of sustainable development. In FSM, improvements in public sector transparency and digital governance have emerged, but structural gaps in institutional coordination, legal reform, fiscal capacity, and service delivery continue to hinder progress. Public confidence in governance remains mixed due to persistent perceptions of corruption, limited access to justice, and uneven implementation of reforms across the states.

Progress Updates:

- FSM improved the public expenditure and financial accountability (PEFA) scores but still lacks medium-term expenditure frameworks
- Government Cloud established and e-platforms launched in all states.
- Roadmap and MEL Action System to 2030 to operationalize the FSM Sustainable Development Strategic Framework developed and implemented.
- Legal outreach and community justice expanding, but formal services remain uneven
- SDG-aligned monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system piloted; gaps remain in policy coherence and statistical data
- Civil society inclusion rising, but capacity and funding shortfalls persist

Photo: UN RCO Micronesia

SUCCESS STORY
Youth Leading the Frontlines

Initiative: Chuuk Youth-Led COVID-19 Response

SDG 3.d   **SDG 16.7**

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, youth in Chuuk mobilized swiftly. Over 100 volunteers — organized by the Chuuk Youth Council — delivered hygiene kits, conducted awareness sessions, and assisted elders and vulnerable families across remote communities.

This grassroots initiative complemented state-level health efforts and demonstrated the capacity of young people to lead in times of crisis. Youth leaders have since been included in resilience planning and emergency taskforces.

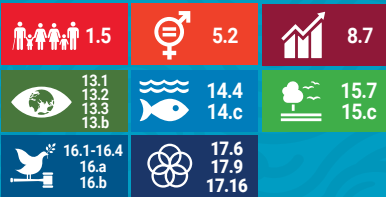Photo: **UNICEF Pacific. Magangat**

THEMATIC AREA 6

Peace and Security

"FSM's peace is rooted in community—but must adapt to modern risks. From GBV to climate shocks, security requires local preparedness, youth leadership, and inclusive safety systems that protect all people, in all places."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS:

1.5   5.2   8.7
13.1 13.2 13.3 13.b   14.4 14.c   15.7 15.c
16.1-16.4 16.a 16.b   17.6 17.9 17.16

Photos: **UNODC Pacific | UN RCO Micronesia | UN RCO Micronesia**

Overview:

Peace and security in FSM are underpinned by traditional values, low crime rates, and strong community cohesion. However, new and emerging threats — such as GBV, youth disengagement, and climate-induced conflict — are straining this foundation. Legal protections remain underdeveloped, and enforcement is uneven across states. While the national security strategy is in place, operationalizing it in a federated, geographically dispersed context remains challenging. FSM's resilience to both natural and human-induced threats depends on localized conflict prevention, inclusive safety mechanisms, and improved gender-responsive security systems.

Progress Updates:

- All states operate GBV referral systems, with the Family Safety Bill passed in 2023
- Disaster Risk Management (DRM) capacity expanded nationally, but local preparedness is inconsistent
- Legal anti-trafficking frameworks exist, but public awareness and enforcement are weak
- Youth civic education and peace training scaled up, but no unified youth strategy

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
GBV referral services	Available in all states	↑	Uptake growing, but still low in outer islands
Reported GBV cases	1,200+	↑	Reflects improved reporting systems
Disaster preparedness plans	40+ municipalities	↑	Implementation gaps persist in remote areas
Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Ranking (US State Dept)	Tier 2 Watch List	→	Legal framework in place; limited enforcement
Youth in peace programs	400+	↑	Mainly in main island schools

Note: ←→ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- Survivor-centered GBV services remain limited in outer islands
- Weak enforcement of trafficking laws and victim identification
- Local-level disaster response systems lack consistent resources
- Absence of a national youth peacebuilding framework
- Low investment in community policing and restorative justice mechanisms

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
GBV Prevention and Response	Expand safe spaces, referral systems, and survivor services in all islands
Community Preparedness	Support municipal-level disaster planning and risk mapping
Youth Peacebuilding	Finalize and implement national youth strategy with peace and safety pillars
Human Trafficking	Strengthen case management, victim support, and awareness campaigns
Local Policing	Train and deploy community peace officers in high-risk areas
Traditional Justice	Institutionalize dialogue between law enforcement and traditional leaders

SUCCESS STORY
From Yard to Market: Homegrown Food Security

Initiative: Multisectoral Food Security

SDG 2.1 **SDG 8.3** **SDG 12.2**

FSM's Department of Resources & Development launched a food security initiative that reached over 30 communities across Pohnpei.

Residents were trained in home gardening, composting, seed preservation, and food processing. Within a year, household fresh food availability increased by 25%, reducing reliance on imports.

Women's groups and youth networks took lead roles, creating a ripple effect of microenterprises selling banana chips, jams, and organic produce. Schools have now integrated food gardens into their curriculum.

"This training is exactly what our families need." – Farmer, Pohnpei

Sustainability is reinforced by peer mentoring networks and municipal food plans.

Photo: **FSM Government**

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
Youth NEET Rate (15–24)	>30%	↔	Highest in Chuuk; gender gaps persist
MSMEs created (2023)	20	↑	Youth-led startups supported via bootcamps
Agriculture orientation	0.18	↑	Improved policy focus; limited finance
Food price anomaly index	1.07	↑	Import-driven instability
Informal employment	~70%	↔	Mostly in agriculture and petty trade
Female labor force rate	<35%	↔	Persistent gender disparity
Official agriculture flows	↓ 50%	↓	Decline in donor funding

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:
- Weak access to capital, mentoring, and markets for small enterprises
- No national job placement or labor market tracking system
- Informal labor remains unprotected and widespread
- Scale limitations due to geography, market size, and trade barriers
- Poor cross-sector policy coordination on trade, agriculture, youth, and ICT
- Rural communities lack access to stable digital infrastructure

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Youth Employment and Skills	Expand TVET, apprenticeships, and youth entrepreneurship
MSME Support	Create national innovation hubs and seed grant facilities
Agricultural Revitalization	Promote climate-smart farming, co-ops, and post-harvest tech
Blue/Green Economy	Develop national blue economy framework and ecotourism plans
Trade Access	Utilize PACER Plus for trade readiness and regional market integration
Digital Transformation	Expand ICT access and rural broadband infrastructure
Gender-Inclusive Growth	Provide targeted support for women entrepreneurs and digital inclusion
Economic Data	Build national labor and enterprise databases for SDG tracking

THEMATIC AREA 7

Sustainable Economic Development

"Growth must go beyond numbers. FSM's economy will only be resilient when young people can find decent work, farmers access financing, and women lead enterprises. Informality, exclusion, and fragility must be replaced with opportunity and inclusion."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS: 1.4 | 2.3 2.4 2.5 | 4.3 4.4 | 5.a | 8.1-8.6 8.9 8.10 | 9.1-9.3 9.b 9.c | 10.2 | 17.10 17.11 17.18

Overview:

FSM's path to sustainable economic development remains constrained by structural challenges: a narrow economic base, underdeveloped private sector, youth unemployment, and a high dependence on external aid. Despite these barriers, progress has emerged in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) development, vocational training, agriculture, tourism, and digital innovation. State-led initiatives focusing on youth enterprise, trade capacity, and blue economy strategies signal a shift toward inclusive growth. However, integration, coordination, and financing remain key limitations.

Progress Updates:

- NEET rate remains >30%, with disparities by gender and geography
- Youth enterprise bootcamps generated over 20 MSMEs; follow-up support remains limited
- TVET programs expanded but certification and job matching systems lag behind
- Agricultural orientation index improved, but production and farmer support systems remain weak
- Marine tourism and blue economy initiatives launched in Yap and Pohnpei, lacking a national framework
- Digital innovation pilots successful; connectivity gaps hinder expansion
- The Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus trade initiatives ongoing, but import reliance and cost barriers remain

Photo: FSM Government

THEMATIC AREA 8

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience

"Ambition is not enough—action must follow. FSM is a global leader in marine protection, yet forests are disappearing, and risks are rising. Nature-based solutions, enforcement, and climate finance must move faster to safeguard what sustains us."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS: 3.9 | 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.6 | 7.1-7.3 7.a 7.b | 11.5 11.6 11.b | 12.2-12.4 | 13.1-13.3 13.a 13.b | 14.1-14.5 14.a | 15.1-15.3 15.5 15.8 15.9 | 17.7 17.9 17.16 17.17

Overview:

FSM's environmental sustainability and climate resilience efforts remain central to national survival amid intensifying climate risks. Rising sea levels, biodiversity loss, and recurrent natural disasters continue to threaten ecosystems, health, and livelihoods. National and state disaster risk plans, coral and forest conservation efforts, and renewable energy initiatives are gaining traction. However, persistent gaps in enforcement, inter-agency coordination, and climate finance access hinder long-term resilience. Community-driven models such as ridge-to-reef and youth-led reef monitoring reflect local leadership in building back better.

Progress Updates:

- All states finalized updated DRM Plans; early warning systems now reach 60+ outer island communities
- FSM's second NDC (2023) outlines renewable energy targets and coastal adaptation priorities
- Access to basic sanitation (90.5%) and water services (90.1%) improved, but gaps persist in Chuuk
- Renewable energy increased from 17% to 21%, with new solar/hybrid systems in Pohnpei and outer islands
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) expanded to cover 28% of FSM's EEZ; enforcement remains limited
- Community-led recycling and waste legislation passed in all states, though implementation varies

SUCCESS STORY
Roads that Withstand the Storm

Initiative: Climate Resilient Road Infrastructure Program

SDG 9.1 | **SDG 11.5** | **SDG 13.1**

In FSM's climate-vulnerable landscape, transportation infrastructure often bears the brunt of storms and rising seas. This program rehabilitated and climate-proofed over 56 km of roads across Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap. Upgrades included slope stabilization, raised culverts, and durable pavements to reduce flooding risk.

Community consultations emphasized inclusivity — designs factored in disability access, school and clinic proximity, and safety for women and children. The Department of Transport and its partners embedded maintenance systems through local contractor training and budget allocations.

"We now reach clinics even during floods. These roads are lifelines." – Kosrae resident

The project is a model for combining climate adaptation with infrastructure investment. The system is now being expanded to integrate e-payment, trade statistics reporting, and e-commerce facilitation.

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
Share of Renewable Energy (RE) in Electricity	21%	↑	Improved via solar microgrids
Access to Basic Sanitation	90.5%	↑	Gains in Yap and Kosrae; Chuuk still lags
Forest Cover Loss (5 yrs)	-5.1%	↓	Linked to land clearing and infrastructure
Coastal Area Protected	28% EEZ	↑	MPA expansion continues; enforcement limited
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions	88 ktCO$_2$e	↔	Very low globally, but adaptation needs are high
Disaster-Affected Persons	13,268 per 100k	↑	Typhoons and flooding increasing in frequency

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- Limited domestic climate finance; dependency on Green Climate Fund (GCF) / Global Environment Facility (GEF) pipelines
- Weak enforcement in MPAs and environmental legislation
- Coordination issues across state and national climate bodies
- Capacity gaps in renewable energy maintenance and adaptation infrastructure
- Incomplete climate-risk integration in land use and planning
- Rising exposure due to unplanned coastal settlements

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Climate Finance Mobilization	Develop bankable GCF/GEF projects and local implementing entities
Renewable Energy Scale-Up	Expand hybrid systems and maintain solar tech in remote islands
Ecosystem-Based Adaptation	Scale coral restoration, mangrove rehab, and agroforestry programs
Water Security	Invest in decentralized, climate-resilient water systems
Integrated Land Use	Finalize frameworks linking food, land, climate, and conservation
DRM and Early Warning	Strengthen localized warning and real-time hazard data systems
Waste and Pollution Control	Harmonize waste laws and pilot scalable public-private recycling systems
Climate Education and Inclusion	Promote youth-led climate action and community literacy campaigns

Photo: FSM Government

THEMATIC AREA 9

Infrastructure Development and Sustainability

"Infrastructure must connect more than places—it must connect people to opportunity. From power to roads to internet, FSM must ensure that systems are climate-proof, community-driven, and equitably reach even the most remote households."

SDG GOALS AND TARGETS: 1.4 1.5 | 6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 | 7.1-7.2 7.b | 9.1 9.4 9.a 9.c | 10.2 | 11.1 11.2 11.3 11.a 11.b | 13.1 13.2 | 14.7 | 17.6 17.7 17.8 17.17
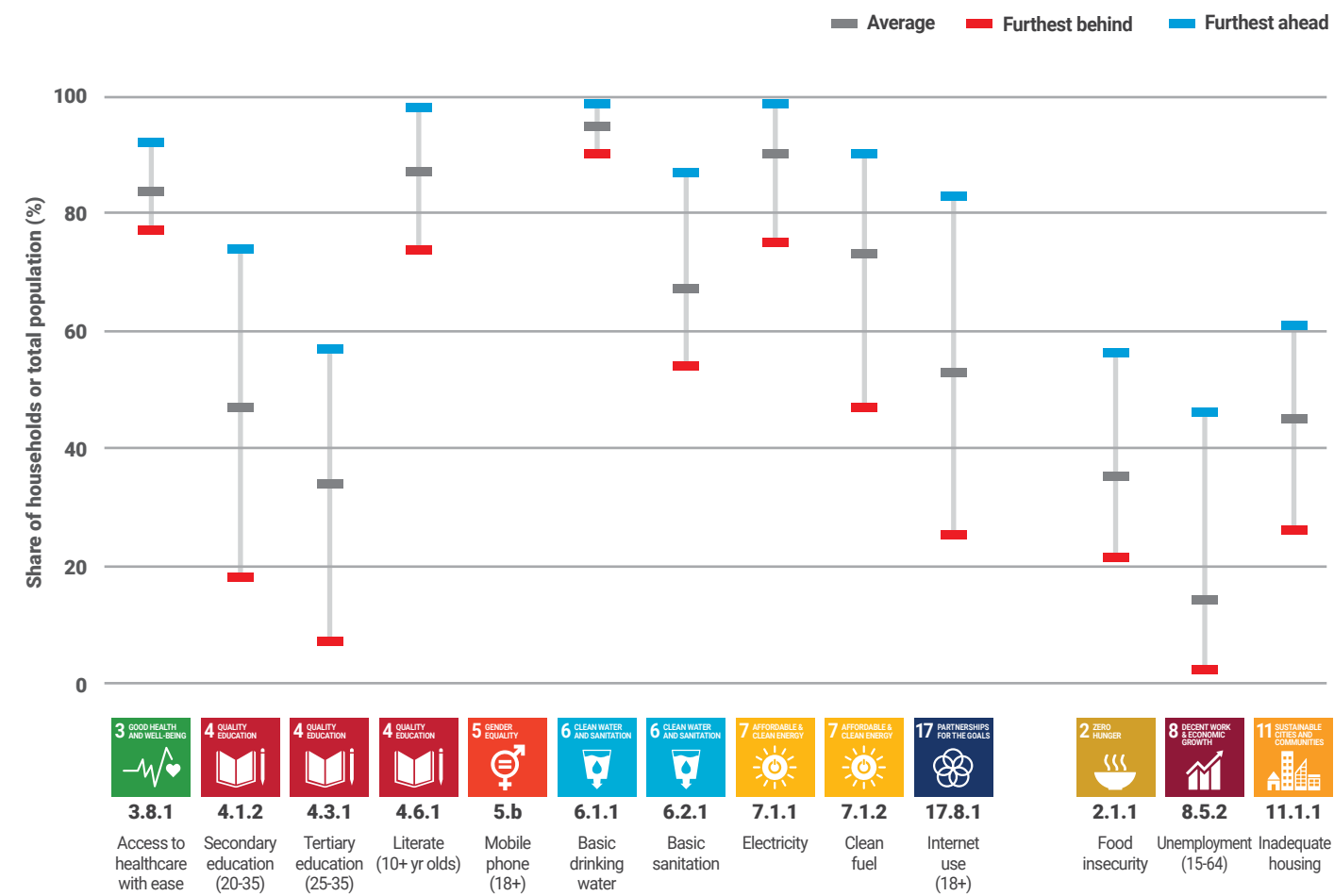
Overview:

Reliable, inclusive, and climate-resilient infrastructure is a critical enabler for FSM's sustainable development. While investments in roads, renewable energy, broadband, and resilient public buildings have accelerated, geographic disparities remain — especially in remote and outer islands. FSM's Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) and Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) have guided major upgrades, but challenges persist in affordability, maintenance, and long-term planning. Digital connectivity is improving through subsea cable expansion, yet infrastructure gaps still hinder equitable service delivery and disaster resilience.

Progress Updates:

- 60 km of rural roads upgraded in Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae; maritime facilities expanded in Chuuk and Kosrae
- Sanitation coverage improved to 90.5%; Kosrae reached near-universal access
- Access to electricity rose to 75.3%, led by solar microgrids; reliability varies by location
- Broadband penetration improved from 31.5% to 40.5%; cable projects launched with donor support
- Twelve public facilities — including schools and clinics — were built or retrofitted to cyclone-resilient standards

SUCCESS STORY
Daycare as Economic Infrastructure

Initiative: Yap Women Association Daycare Center

SDG 4.2 | SDG 5.5 | SDG 10.2

A community-led initiative transformed a deteriorating daycare into a vibrant center for over 120 children. With trained caregivers, inclusive play spaces, and educational materials, the daycare became a model for early childhood development and parental support in Yap.

By freeing up women to work or pursue education, the center contributed to gender equity and improved family income. FSM's Department of Health and Social Affairs provided oversight, while the Yap Women Association handled daily management and volunteer coordination.

"This center gave me peace of mind to go back to work." – Mother, Yap

Photo: **FSM Government**

Trends in Key Indicators

INDICATOR	LATEST VALUE	TREND	NOTES
Access to Basic Sanitation	90.5%	↑	Kosrae nearing 100%; Chuuk still behind
Access to Electricity	75.3%	↑	Uneven in outer islands
Broadband Internet Users	40.5%	↑	Expanded through subsea cables and telecom upgrades
Rural Road Coverage (upgraded)	60 km	↑	Mostly in main islands; outer island road access limited
Resilient Public Facilities	12 buildings	↑	Schools and health centers cyclone-proofed
Households with Piped Water	~60%	↔	Stagnant since 2020; outer island access low

Note: ↔ means stable

Key Implementation Challenges:

- No integrated infrastructure tracking system linking IDF to SDG progress
- High construction and maintenance costs in remote locations
- Coordination gaps between national and state infrastructure plans
- Vulnerability of roads and utilities to typhoons and flooding
- Underdeveloped public-private partnerships (PPP) for financing
- Digital infrastructure remains weak in several outer islands

Forward-Looking Priorities and Opportunities

PRIORITY AREA	PROPOSED ACTION
Infrastructure Planning	Develop centralized SDG-linked project tracking aligned with IDP and IDF
Climate-Resilient Design	Apply national building codes and hazard screening to all new infrastructure
Rural and Outer Island Access	Expand ferry services, road networks, and broadband to underserved areas
Utilities Reform	Strengthen FSM Utilities Corporation and introduce cost recovery measures
Renewable Energy Infrastructure	Scale solar mini-grids and ensure local maintenance training
PPPs and Financing	Pilot partnerships in water, housing, and waste sectors
Inclusive Infrastructure	Ensure disability access and gender-sensitive designs in all public projects

Figure 6: **Gaps Between Furthest Ahead and Furthest Behind (Selected SDG Indicators)**

Legend: Average — Furthest behind — Furthest ahead

SDG	Indicator	Description
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	3.8.1	Access to healthcare with ease
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.1.2	Secondary education (20-35)
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.3.1	Tertiary education (25-35)
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	4.6.1	Literate (10+ yr olds)
5 GENDER EQUALITY	5.b	Mobile phone (18+)
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	6.1.1	Basic drinking water
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	6.2.1	Basic sanitation
7 AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY	7.1.1	Electricity
7 AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY	7.1.2	Clean fuel
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	17.8.1	Internet use (18+)
2 ZERO HUNGER	2.1.1	Food insecurity
8 DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH	8.5.2	Unemployment (15-64)
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.1.1	Inadequate housing

Source: Preliminary Census Data

4.3 **Who Is Being Left Behind?**

4.3.1 **An Assessment from the Joint LNOB Analysis**

Over the past decade, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has made notable progress in expanding access to basic services. As of 2023, access to clean drinking water (95%), electricity (90%), healthcare (84%), and literacy (87%) has reached near-universal levels. However, these national averages mask deep, overlapping inequalities. The populations furthest behind remain disproportionately located in outer islands, low-income households, youth-headed families, women, and

persons with disabilities. In 2024, FSM's government—in collaboration with ESCAP—conducted a robust Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) assessment using disaggregated data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census and 13 SDG-aligned indicators. This analysis applied dissimilarity indices and intersectional profiling to determine who is being systematically excluded from the benefits of sustainable development.

The figure above presents the magnitude of disparities (in percentage points) between advantaged and disadvantaged subgroups across key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators, providing a stark visual representation of inequality in FSM.

4.3.2 **Unequal Progress Across Geography, Income, Gender, and Disability**

The LNOB analysis revealed that geography is a significant determinant of exclusion. Households in Chuuk, Yap, and the outer islands of Pohnpei consistently showed the lowest access to critical services, especially clean fuels (11% deprived), electricity (9%), and sanitation (9%). These areas suffer from chronic underinvestment and logistical constraints, which reduce the effectiveness of national programs.

In addition to geography, poverty and low educational attainment compound exclusion. Households in the bottom 40% income group, especially those headed by younger individuals (under 45) or with only primary or secondary education—face a cascade of disadvantages. These include higher rates of food insecurity (13%), poor literacy outcomes (13%), unemployment (14%), and limited access to mobile phones (11%) and clean water (10%). This intersectionality of deprivation reinforces cycles of disadvantage and exclusion.

Young people, especially those aged 15–24, face some of the highest risks. Over 30% are not in education, employment, or training (NEET). This rate is higher among young women and youth in Chuuk, pointing to structural barriers in accessing technical and

vocational education (TVET), job placements, and digital opportunities. A notable insight from the LNOB study is that tertiary education was the most consistent trait among groups with better development outcomes, appearing in 9 out of the 13 indicators. This highlights its transformative potential in disrupting intergenerational cycles of poverty.

Persons with disabilities remain largely invisible in-service planning. Less than 13% of the poorest households that include a person with a disability have access to essential services such as healthcare, education, or communication tools. Similarly, gender-based inequality persists. While FSM elected its first female senator in 2023, women still account for only 27% of the formal workforce, and participation in STEM or TVET programs remains below 15%. Moreover, although all four states operate gender-based violence (GBV) referral systems, services in outer islands are severely limited, with minimal legal, shelter, or counseling support.

A notable insight is that tertiary education emerges as the most frequent common trait among the furthest ahead groups across 9 of the 13 SDG indicators. This underscores the transformative potential of higher education for breaking cycles of exclusion.

4.3.3 Multidimensional Deprivation in FSM: Indicator Summary

To quantify these overlapping vulnerabilities, the LNOB assessment identified the proportion of the population affected by key indicators of deprivation. The table below summarizes these findings, along with the population profiles most at risk:

INDICATOR	% AFFECTED	VULNERABLE PROFILE
Food Insecurity	13%	Chuuk, households with lower/secondary education
Access to Healthcare	16%	Top 60% income, Chuuk & Pohnpei, households with a disability
Secondary Education (20-35)	15%	Bottom 40% income, Chuuk, male
Tertiary Education (25-35)	15%	Bottom 40% income, Chuuk, male
Literacy (10+)	13%	Bottom 40% income, Chuuk, male
Mobile Phone Ownership (18+)	11%	Bottom 40% income, lower educational attainment
Drinking Water Access	10%	Bottom 40%, Chuuk & Pohnpei, HH head age 45+, no disabled members
Sanitation	9%	Pohnpei and Yap, Household (HH) head <51, low education levels
Electricity	9%	Chuuk, HH head <39
Clean Fuel	11%	Bottom 40%, Chuuk & Yap, HH head <45
Unemployment (15-64)	14%	Chuuk, lower education

Figure 7: An overview of inequality in SDG indicators

(Bar chart — Dissimilarity Index)

Tertiary education (25-35)
Mobile phone (18+)
Inadequate housing
Secondary education (20-35)
Internet use (18+)
Food insecurity
Basic sanitation
Clean fuel
Average
Unemployment (15-64)
Access to healthcare with ease
Electricity
Literate (10+ yr olds)
Basic drinking water

Dissimilarity Index — 0.00, 0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.40, 0.50

Source: Preliminary Census Data Note: This chart visually highlights the concentration of deprivation in terms of education, income, geography, and age. Households that exhibit three or more of these vulnerabilities are more likely to experience sustained exclusion across multiple sectors, particularly those in Chuuk's outer islands.

Photo: **FSM Government**

4.3.4 Progress in Bridging Gaps: A Decade of Inclusive Transformation

Despite persistent structural challenges, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has made significant progress from 2010 to 2023 in narrowing development gaps and expanding services for its most marginalized communities. Notably, internet access more than tripled—from under 15% in 2010 to over 53% in 2023—with usage among the furthest behind increasing from 5.6% to 17%. Mobile phone ownership also rose steadily, from 22% in 2013 to 37% nationally, although rural coverage gaps remain. Targeted investments in clean energy and resilient housing have improved living conditions in remote and outer island areas, particularly through solar electrification initiatives. Healthcare inclusion has advanced, with services for households affected by disability now integrated into the national Strategic Development Plan (SDP). Progress in gender parity is also evident, with most states nearing equality in basic education enrollment, though rural women continue to face limited access to tertiary education. Furthermore, the expansion of telehealth and broadband has begun to transform healthcare and educational outcomes in underserved areas. These gains reflect FSM's commitment to inclusion, but also underscore the urgent need for continued, targeted investment to close persistent last-mile gaps and ensure that all communities can fully benefit from sustainable development.

4.3.5 Conclusion and Policy Implications

FSM's experience underscores that development gaps are not coincidental; they are shaped by persistent, intersecting disadvantages—geographic, economic, social, and institutional. To fulfil the SDG pledge to "leave no one behind," equity and inclusion must become central to all facets of governance, including national planning, budgeting, service delivery, and monitoring. This requires an explicit focus on the most marginalized groups—those in outer islands, women, youth, and persons with disabilities—who continue to face structural exclusion.

To accelerate inclusive development, FSM should prioritize the following actions:

- Scale up place-based solutions tailored to the unique needs of underserved communities.
- Mainstream gender and disability inclusion across all policy, program, and budgeting frameworks.
- Expand digital infrastructure and digital literacy training to bridge the growing divide in access to information and opportunity; and
- Strengthen disaggregated data systems to monitor LNOB progress across all SDGs and improve decision-making.

By concentrating its efforts on those furthest behind, FSM can ensure that development is not only sustained but equitably shared, advancing a future that is resilient, inclusive, and truly leaves no one behind.

5.0 | SDG Spotlight Priority Goals

5.1 Accelerating National Pathways through SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17

FSM's second VNR provides a focused examination of five SDGs prioritized for review at the 2025 HLPF: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

These goals are deeply interlinked with FSM's development priorities and reflect core challenges of remoteness, limited infrastructure, human capital constraints, and climate vulnerability.

This section distils progress, persistent bottlenecks, and acceleration opportunities for each SDG, drawing on sectoral data, community insights, and national consultations.

An Inclusive Crew: Empowering Women and Youth to Lead

⚥ SDG 5: Gender Equality
Status: Moderate | **Data Availability:** Limited

Women's representation has reached a historic high (15.4%), GBV services exist in all states, and a national gender policy provides direction. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) ratification and ministerial gender focal points signal growing institutional alignment.

Photo: UN RCO Micronesia

Persistent Gaps:
- Only 27% of women in formal labor force
- No national GBV prevalence data
- Limited support for unpaid care economy and informal work
- Social norms continue to restrict mobility and opportunity

Strategic Priorities:
- Conduct national GBV survey
- Expand MSME and training access for women
- Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting and planning
- Address intersectional exclusion (disability, LGBTQ+, outer island women)

Key Insight:
Gender equality is not only a rights issue; it's an economic and governance imperative. Closing gender gaps could boost the gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 10%.

Health as the Hull: Keeping Our Nation Afloat

⎍⌁♥ SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
Status: Mixed | **Data Availability:** Moderate

FSM's health system is undergoing adaptive transformation through mobile outreach, telemedicine, and community-led care. Initiatives like "Health on the Move" have expanded coverage to remote islands, while maternal and neonatal indicators have shown significant improvement.

Photo: Pohnpei State Government

Persistent Gaps:
- Immunization rates plummeted (MCV2: 74%→ 38%)
- NCDs cause over 40% of adult deaths
- Youth mental health crisis rising
- Workforce shortages and aging infrastructure persist

Strategic Priorities:
- Scale UHC implementation across states
- Expand school-based and digital health interventions
- Rebuild trust for vaccine uptake
- Prioritize youth mental health and NCD prevention
- Strengthen rural health workforce and data systems

Key Insight:
Health is a system-wide accelerator — impacting education, productivity, and equity. FSM must double down on local innovation, data use, and inclusive delivery to ensure no one is left behind.

Charting Our Economic Course: Jobs, Skills, and Innovation

📈 SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Status: Mixed | **Data Availability:** Moderate

Economic diversification is nascent, but youth enterprise programs, wage reform efforts, and TVET pilots are creating momentum. The labor market information system (LMIS) and digital finance systems offer potential to close data and inclusion gaps.

Photo: UN RCO Micronesia

Persistent Gaps:
- Over 30% of youth are NEET
- Private sector under 10% of total employment
- Skills mismatch with future labor market demands
- Migration continues due to limited opportunity

Strategic Priorities:
- Localize TVET and entrepreneurship programs
- Promote inclusive financial services
- Finalize youth employment strategy
- Leverage digital skills and climate-smart sectors for growth

Key Insight:
A youth-centered economy is essential for resilience. Systemic reforms are urgently needed in education-to-work transitions, rural livelihoods, and financial inclusion.

Our Ocean Map: Stewardship of FSM's Blue Heart

🐟 SDG 14: Life Below Water

Status: Mixed | **Data Availability:** Moderate

FSM leads regionally in marine protection, achieving the 30x30 target and chairing the Micronesia Challenge 2030. Community-driven MPA models are revitalizing reef health and building ocean literacy.

Photo: **FSM Government**

Persistent Gaps:
- Coral reef health declining (45% → 38%)
- Marine data fragmented; enforcement capacity weak
- Climate risks and marine pollution accelerating
- Blue economy sectors underdeveloped

Strategic Priorities:
- Strengthen fisheries data and enforcement systems
- Integrate ocean resilience into climate adaptation plans
- Expand inclusive ocean-based livelihoods
- Mobilize regional and climate finance

Key Insight:
FSM's ocean is its greatest asset — and most vulnerable resource. Strategic investments in marine governance and innovation can unlock sustainable blue growth.

Partnerships as the Sail: Propelling Forward Together

✼ SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Status: Mixed | **Data Availability:** Moderate

FSM is taking bold steps to reform aid management and results reporting. A national development information platform is under construction, and stakeholder engagement is growing through the VNR process.

Photo: **FSM Government**

Persistent Gaps:
- No formal development coordination mechanisms
- 40% of SDG indicators unreported
- Fragmented donor coordination
- State–national alignment still evolving

Strategic Priorities:
- Finalize and implement development coordination mechanisms
- Operationalize public-facing official development assistance (ODA) tracking systems
- Align partner support with national priorities and SDGs
- Leverage new financing instruments (blue/green bonds, diaspora capital)

Key Insight:
Effective partnerships require more than funding — they need transparency, coordination, and national leadership. Strong systems are the foundation of sustainable sovereignty.

Photo: **FSM Government**

5.2 Strategic Insights from the HLPF Priority SDGs

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) spotlight on SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17 highlights both significant progress and systemic barriers in FSM's development trajectory. Building on the deep-dive analysis presented earlier, this synthesis outlines the key challenges, integration opportunities, and immediate policy actions needed to accelerate progress by 2030.

Persistent Systemic Challenges

Despite promising initiatives and community-driven innovations, FSM continues to face structural development barriers:

- Limited access to essential health services, particularly in outer islands
- Persistent gender inequality, reflected in labor force gaps and underreported GBV
- High youth unemployment and skills mismatch with labor market demand
- Marine ecosystem degradation and underdeveloped blue economy sectors
- Fragmented aid coordination, weak data systems, and limited policy alignment with national priorities

Opportunities for Strategic Integration

To unlock systemic transformation, FSM must shift from siloed interventions to integrated, equity-driven strategies that reinforce its Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024–2043:

- SDG 3 (Health): Link mobile outreach and telehealth with investments in education, nutrition, and digital infrastructure to enhance service delivery.
- SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Align gender-based violence response systems with reforms in political representation, labor laws, and gender-responsive budgeting.
- SDG 8 (Decent Work): Integrate technical and vocational education reforms with inclusive MSME policies and diaspora-led entrepreneurship.
- SDG 14 (Life Below Water): Scale community-managed MPAs alongside coral reef restoration, marine data modernization, and sustainable aquaculture pilots.
- SDG 17 (Partnerships): Formalize a development cooperation policy, operationalize real-time aid tracking, and integrate platforms like UNINFO for better planning, monitoring, and transparency.

Priority Actions for Acceleration

To close critical gaps and deliver on national priorities, FSM should prioritize:

- Launch of an SDG Acceleration Taskforce to lead intersectoral coordination
- Strengthening real-time, disaggregated data systems for service targeting and policy accountability
- Mobilization of Compact-linked and climate finance to unlock catalytic investments
- Expansion of integrated pilot initiatives, such as youth economic empowerment programs that combine health, gender, and financial inclusion
- Empowerment of traditional leaders and communities as co-implementers in program design and delivery

6.0 | Island Ingenuity as Our Guiding Star: Innovation in Isolation

6.1 Overview: Culture, Connection, and Courage in the Periphery

In the Federated States of Micronesia, remoteness is not a barrier—it's a vessel for innovation. Across Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae, local communities are demonstrating that sustainable development thrives where people are empowered to lead. Through a fusion of traditional knowledge, youth leadership, and digital solutions, outer island communities are advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on their own terms. These stories illustrate how resilience is built in classrooms, coastal villages, and community halls—not just in national capitals.

Photo: UNICEF Pacific 2024, Magangat

Chuuk Youth Leading Public Health Response

SDG Alignment: 3.8, 5.5, 16.7

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted access to health services across FSM's outer islands, youth in Chuuk mobilized faster than any formal agency. Over 400 youth, trained by the Micronesia Red Cross and UNICEF, led door-to-door hygiene awareness, distributed kits, and collected real-time feedback from 3,000 households across lagoon and outer island communities. By incorporating local dialects, trusted community figures, and culturally appropriate practices, they boosted community trust and vaccine uptake from 47% to over 75% in six months.

"People listened to us because we came from their own villages. We weren't outsiders—we were their children."

— Marie Ewar, youth volunteer, Chuuk Lagoon

Photo: World Bank

Starlink in the Sky, Learning on the Ground – Digital Inclusion in Kosrae and Beyond

SDG Alignment: 4.1, 9.c, 17.8

The installation of FSM's first Starlink satellite gateway in Kosrae in early 2025 marked a turning point in digital inclusion. Installed with World Bank support and under the leadership of FSM Telecom, this leap in connectivity now serves over 150 schools, clinics, and community hubs across the islands. For the first time, over 3,800 students—including in remote atolls like Nema and Satowan—attend real-time virtual classes, receive e-health consults, and access government services.

"We used to wait weeks for paper exams. Now, my son has video lessons from teachers on the main island every day."

— Josaiah Likiaksa, parent, Kosrae Outer Island

Photo: ITU

Digital Tradition – Yap Schools Blend Culture with Connectivity

SDG Alignment: 4.7, 11.4, 13.3

Yap's education system is pioneering a model that doesn't abandon tradition—it digitizes and celebrates it. With expanded Starlink access, schools have begun recording local chants, navigation techniques, and legends in student-created videos. Lessons in Yapese and outer island dialects are streamed across classrooms, preserving linguistic heritage and local knowledge even as digital skills are developed.

"We use laptops to write our ancestors' stories. My grandfather smiles when he hears his words on the screen."

— Lani Kamas, Grade 8 student, Rumung

Photo: FSM Government

Growing Food, Growing Futures – School Gardens in Kosrae

SDG Alignment: 2.1, 13.2, 8.6

In Kosrae, where rising import costs and climate risks threaten food security, students are reclaiming nutrition from the soil up. Through school-based gardens, hundreds of young people now learn how to grow, cook, and sell local produce, including taro, bananas, and breadfruit. These programs link agriculture to climate action, entrepreneurship, and family health. In 2024 alone, students produced 3.2 tons of fresh food and sold over $5,000 worth of goods in school-led markets.

"Now I know how to plant food for my family—and sell some to save for college."

— Elaine Talley, student farmer, Lelu Elementary School
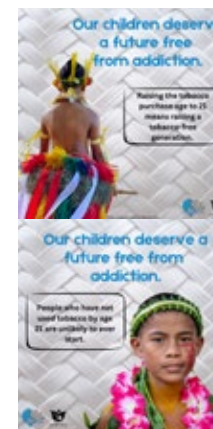
Tobacco-Free Generation – T-21 Movement Gains Ground

SDG Alignment: 3.a, 5.b, 12.8

FSM's Tobacco 21 legislation found its strongest champions not in government halls, but in island schoolyards. In Pohnpei, Yap, and outer islands, students formed health clubs, ran anti-smoking campaigns, and even conducted compliance spot checks. In 2024, youth-led efforts in Yap's high schools led to a 25% drop in reported teen smoking. School murals, peer-to-peer talks, and SMS campaigns all played a role.

"We are not the problem—we are the solution. We're protecting our future lungs and our future leaders."

— David Salalu, student leader, Yap High School

6.2 Conclusion: Advancing the SDGs from the Edge

These stories prove that FSM's outer islands are not development outposts—they are innovation epicenters. Whether delivering public health, reinventing classrooms, preserving culture, or leading social change, these communities exemplify SDG localization in action. Their approaches are not only effective they are also scalable and replicable across other Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

As FSM continues to invest in connectivity, climate resilience, youth engagement, and cultural integration, these island innovations offer a powerful blueprint for inclusive and resilient development.

7.0 | Navigating the Storm: FSM emerging Risks

7.1 Emerging Challenges

A dynamic and uncertain regional and global landscape increasingly shapes FSM's development trajectory. While institutional reforms, improved services, and infrastructure gains have laid foundations for progress, a complex interplay of climate threats, economic fragility, and demographic shifts risks reversing hard-won achievements. These intersecting challenges underscore the urgency of building resilience, strengthening systems, and fostering policy foresight.

7.2 Climate Vulnerability and Environmental Risks

FSM remains among the most climate-vulnerable countries globally. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, saline intrusion, and intensified typhoons are disrupting agriculture, water systems, and infrastructure. Since 2004, the estimated economic cost of climate-related disasters exceeds $150 million.

Outer islands face existential threats: saltwater intrusion has decimated taro patches; breadfruit yields are falling; and nearshore fisheries are migrating. While FSM has adopted ecosystem-based adaptation policies, implementation remains constrained by limited financing (only 25% of needs met) and technical capacity. These risks threaten core livelihood systems and call for accelerated investment in nature-based solutions, climate-resilient infrastructure, and localized adaptation planning.

7.3 Fragile Connectivity and Geographic Dispersion

With 607 islands spread across 2.6 million square kilometers, FSM's geography imposes structural constraints on service delivery and economic integration.

While internet access rose from 38% (2020) to 52% (2023), many remote areas remain digitally disconnected.

Transport infrastructure is particularly fragile. Domestic shipping is irregular; air links are limited; and emergency logistics frequently experience delays. These constraints affect education continuity, health referrals, and post-disaster response. FSM SDP 2024-2043 thematic area on infrastructure (Thematic Area 9) identifies over $1.2 billion in infrastructure needs over the next decade, yet current financing meets only 30% of the requirement. Closing this gap is crucial for enhancing resilience, promoting mobility, and fostering economic inclusion.

7.4 Economic Vulnerability and Limited Diversification

Aid dependence, narrow revenue bases, and limited private sector dynamism shape FSM's economy. Tourism and fisheries hold significant potential but face challenges in workforce readiness, transportation, and policy integration.

COVID-19 further exposed structural weaknesses: tourism declined, remittances slowed, and inflation rose. Without diversified economic pathways, including value-added in fisheries and agriculture, digital services, and the blue economy, sustainable growth will remain elusive. Strengthened investment in Sustainable Economic Development (Thematic Area 7) is critical.

7.5 Data and Institutional Gaps

Data constraints hinder evidence-based policymaking and SDG monitoring. Only 42% of SDG indicators are currently reported, with notable gaps in gender, disability, and geographic disaggregation. Fragmented data systems across sectors and states exacerbate inefficiencies.

Photo: **FSM Government**

Institutional capacity remains uneven. The absence of a central planning body has weakened coordination. To strengthen coordination and ensure more effective implementation, the government has proposed establishing a dedicated coordination mechanism to align national and state development efforts. It also aims to address institutional gaps that emerged following earlier governance reforms. Investments in administrative data systems and M&E frameworks are also underway but require acceleration.

7.6 Migration, Social Cohesion, and Human Capital Flight

Outmigration under the COFA has facilitated remittances but has also contributed to a persistent brain drain, depleting FSM's skilled labor pool. This undermines service continuity in critical sectors such as education, health, and public administration, and weakens institutional memory across government systems. Beyond the economic impact, migration also disrupts traditional family structures, contributes to youth disconnection from cultural and community life, and deepens disparities between urban centers and rural outer islands.

7.7 Geopolitical Tensions and Development Alignment

FSM's strategic location places it at the center of intensifying regional geopolitics. While renewed COFA assistance offers financial stability, the risks of external influence on domestic priorities have grown.

FSM affirms a sovereign, neutral development posture, guided by transparency, accountability, and cultural values. The FSM SDP 2024–2043 emphasizes principled partnerships that align with national priorities. As FSM navigates strategic competition, strengthened development cooperation frameworks and policy alignment mechanisms will be key to ensuring aid effectiveness and coherence with SDG goals.

8.0 | Delivering Results: Strengthening FSM's Capacity to Implement the 2030 Agenda

Photo: **UN Human Rights**

FSM's commitment to sustainable development is anchored in the newly adopted Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2024–2043, which outlines a bold vision for a unified, inclusive, and prosperous future. However, realizing this vision hinges on effective implementation mechanisms, sufficient financing, modernized data systems, institutional capacity, and digital transformation. This section reviews the enabling conditions for implementation and identifies key constraints and opportunities to accelerate the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

8.1 Financing for Development

FSM continues to navigate the challenges of securing reliable, long-term financing to support its sustainable development goals. While renewed external funding arrangements provide a degree of fiscal predictability through 2044, they also underscore the importance of preparing for a future marked by greater financial self-reliance and resilience.

To achieve this, FSM is prioritizing the development of a more diversified and sustainable financing framework. Strengthening domestic resource mobilization, enhancing the efficiency of public financial management, and fostering an enabling environment for inclusive economic growth are key elements of this approach.

In parallel, there is growing momentum to leverage innovative financing tools — such as climate and blue finance, blended financing instruments, and results-based approaches — that align with national development priorities and the SDGs. Enhanced coordination with development partners, increased use of country systems, and a shift toward pooled and outcome-driven funding modalities will be critical to building a financing ecosystem that supports long-term, inclusive, and climate-resilient development.

8.2 Human and Institutional Capacity

Capacity gaps at national and state levels continue to undermine implementation. Staff shortages, high turnover, and limited technical training have slowed progress in policy design, project implementation, and monitoring. A lack of standardized planning templates, disjointed workflows between national and state agencies, and absence of a centralized coordination unit have contributed to inefficiencies.

The proposed coordination mechanism offers a potential solution. It will facilitate joint planning cycles, integrated SDG monitoring, and resource tracking. Strengthening the capacity of line departments, state departments, and local governments through targeted training and retention policies is equally important.

Photo: **IOM 2024. Haimanot Abebe**

8.3 Data and Digital Systems

Only 42% of SDG indicators are currently backed by available data in FSM. Key gaps include the lack of disaggregated data by sex, disability, location, and income status. Moreover, data collection remains siloed across line departments with varying quality, formats, and update cycles. This impairs effective policy targeting and evaluation.

FSM is developing a National Data Strategy that will enhance data governance, digital tools, interoperability, and data use in decision-making. Investments in ICT infrastructure, open data platforms, and skills development in statistics and M&E are necessary to close the data gap by 2030. Integration with Pacific regional data platforms will also improve harmonization and comparability.

8.4 Partnerships and South-South Cooperation

Delivering the SDGs requires a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. FSM has made progress in formalizing multi-stakeholder dialogue processes. However, engagement with civil society, youth, persons with disabilities, and traditional leaders remains uneven.

Future implementation efforts will include structured consultation mechanisms within the planning cycle, community-driven development pilots, and increased investment in social accountability. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), especially with other SIDS, will continue to be leveraged for peer learning, technical exchange, and knowledge partnerships.

8.5 Implementation Roadmap

The table below outlines immediate and medium-term priorities:

FOCUS AREA	ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE
Planning and Coordination	Operationalize coordination mechanism; integrate SDG dashboard into SDP 2024-2043 M&E	By mid-2026
Domestic Resource Mobilization	Tax reform, fiscal decentralization; public financial management (PFM) capacity	2025–2027
Digital Infrastructure	Expand rural connectivity; launch e-Gov platforms	2025–2028
Data Systems	Implement National Data Strategy; harmonize sectoral data	Ongoing to 2030
Capacity Building	State-level training, recruitment pipelines; technical assistance	Ongoing

FSM's ability to deliver on its SDG commitments will depend on its agility to implement reforms, the scale of resources mobilized, and the inclusivity of its development partnerships. The next phase must be one of acceleration — where systems, financing, and results match vision.

9.0 | From Reflection to Acceleration

9.1 FSM's Path Forward

FSM's second VNR marks a pivotal point in its sustainable development journey. It reflects a nation rooted in resilience, shaped by its geographic realities, and driven by an enduring commitment to the 2030 Agenda. FSM's sustainable future demands partnership, policy courage, and bold investment in equity. We must act not only to protect what we have but to build what we need: a resilient, inclusive nation where no island and no person is left behind.

This VNR offers a transparent and evidence-informed assessment of national progress and underscores the structural reforms needed to accelerate SDG achievement. While highlighting hard-won gains in areas like renewable energy, marine protection, and climate governance, the review also reveals persistent vulnerabilities from limited fiscal space and service inequities to data gaps and coordination challenges. The process reaffirmed that resilience in FSM must be systemic, locally grounded, and underpinned by inclusive development principles.

This concluding section outlines five critical findings, six strategic priorities for the medium term, and concrete national and international enablers that will shape implementation through 2030.

9.2 Key Findings from the VNR Process

The VNR surfaced five major insights:

- **Uneven SDG Progress:** Progress in SDGs 7, 14, and 15 is offset by stagnation or regression in SDGs 2, 4, and 8
- **Geographic Dispersion:** Spatial inequality limits access to services and reinforces disparities
- **Climate Vulnerability:** Escalating environmental risks require far more ambitious adaptation measures
- **Data and Institutional Gaps:** Only 42% of SDG targets are backed by reliable data
- **Coordination Challenges:** National-state planning gaps undermine coherence, despite ongoing reforms

9.3 Strategic Priorities for 2025–2028

FSM will pursue six core actions:

- **Operationalize the coordination mechanism** to align planning, budgeting, and SDP M&E
- **Launch a National Data Strategy** to improve disaggregation and real-time reporting
- **Scale Resilience Across Sectors** with localized climate plans
- **Bridge the Digital Divide** to ensure 75% population coverage by 2028
- **Boost Domestic Resource Mobilization** to increase revenue
- **Implement a Youth Opportunity Strategy** with a focus on skills and jobs by 2027

9.4 International Cooperation Needs

FSM's aspirations require global solidarity:

- **Climate Finance:** $500 million needed; only 25% currently available
- **Technology & Infrastructure:** Support for renewable energy and early warning systems
- **Capacity Development:** Long-term technical assistance is essential
- **Trade Access:** Improve market entry for fisheries and niche exports
- **Education:** Expand scholarships and digital platforms

9.5 Enabling Implementation

FSM will strengthen delivery through:

- **Integrated Planning:** Align national and state dashboards
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Embed civil society, private sector and youth voices
- **Innovative Finance:** Explore green/blue bonds and Public-Private Partnerships
- **Digital Governance:** Advance interoperable platforms
- **South-South Links:** Leverage regional cooperation

Photo: **IOM 2024. Haimanot Abebe**

9.6 National Commitments to 2030

FSM affirms the following targets:

AREA	COMMITMENT BY 2030
Renewable Energy	≥50% electricity from renewables
Marine Protection	≥50% EEZ designated as MPA
Safe Water Access	95% safe water; 92% sanitation
Social Protection	50% of vulnerable covered
Disaster Preparedness	Early warning system (EWS) on all populated islands
NDCs	FSM NDCs 2030 goals are all met

Our course is set, but the tide demands courage. With tradition as our compass and partnership as our sail, FSM navigates toward 2030 determined that no island is left adrift.

Annex 1: Detailed Methodology

Objectives and Methodological Approach

The 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) reflects a nationally owned, evidence-based, and culturally grounded assessment of sustainable development progress. It was guided by six strategic objectives:

1. Assess progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since the 2020 VNR;
2. Identify implementation challenges and opportunities.
3. Strengthen national and state-level ownership of the 2030 Agenda;
4. Enhance coherence across national, regional, and global frameworks;
5. Foster participatory, whole-of-society engagement; and
6. Share lessons with other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and international partners.

The methodology followed the best international practices while being tailored to FSM's unique governance, cultural, and geographic context. A defining feature of the 2025 VNR is its strategic integration with the evaluation of FSM's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2004–2023, conducted between October 2023 and September 2024. This provided a strong foundation of existing data, state-level consultations, and institutional arrangements, ensuring coherence and minimizing duplication.
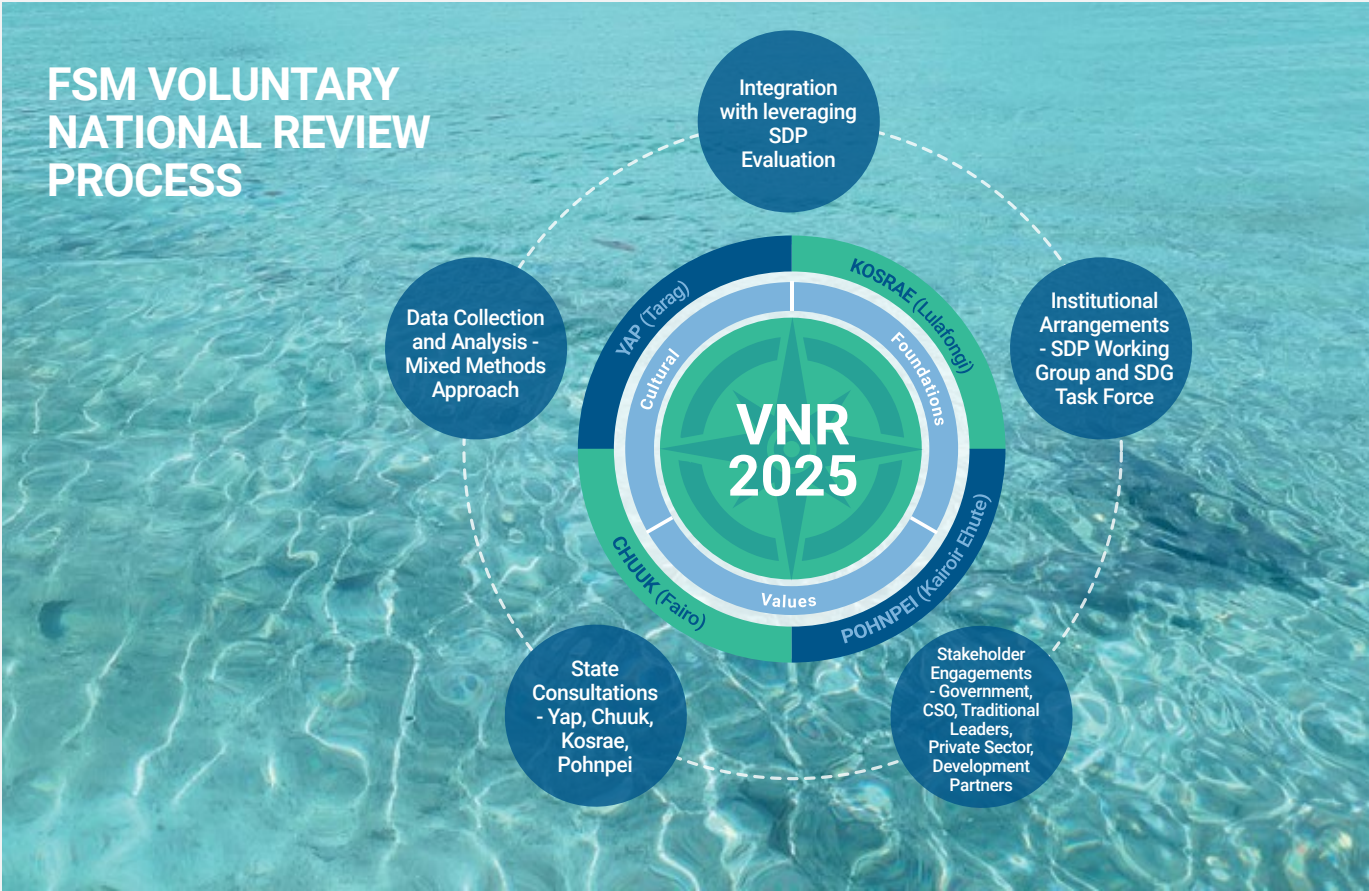
FSM's VNR was culturally grounded in values drawn from all four states: Yap's *Tarag* (planning), Chuuk's *Fairo* (respect), Kosrae's *Lulafongi* (spiritual reverence), and Pohnpei's *Kairoir Ehute* (unified vision). These values guided a respectful, inclusive, and locally meaningful process, in alignment with global expectations for transparency and national ownership.

FSM 2025 VNR Process Timeline

Integration of SDP Evaluation and VNR Process

The VNR methodology was deliberately built upon the evaluation of the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2004–2023, recognized as the national framework that encapsulates FSM's development priorities. The integration of the VNR with the SDP evaluation enabled:

- Efficiency through process consolidation
- Evidence-based reporting using validated data and analysis
- Consistency in national narratives
- Reduced consultation fatigue among stakeholders

The VNR process ran from February to July 2025, immediately following the SDP evaluation (October 2023 to September 2024), providing a seamless transition between assessment and reporting.

The methodological framework adopted a phased, mixed-methods approach:

- Use of national development frameworks (SDP) as the entry point for SDG alignment.
- Mixed qualitative and quantitative data analysis.
- Integration of Leave No One Behind (LNOB), gender, youth, and disability principles.
- Wide-reaching consultations and participatory validation mechanisms.

Consultation Process and Stakeholder Engagement

State-Level Consultations

The VNR methodology leveraged the comprehensive state consultations conducted during the SDP evaluation, which covered all four states of FSM. These consultations took place in Kosrae from August 19-23, 2024; in Yap from August 26-30, 2024; in Chuuk from September 2-6, 2024; and in Pohnpei from September 9-12, 2024. These consultations employed a mixed-methods approach including outcomes harvesting workshops, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Each state consultation was designed to capture the unique context, priorities, and challenges of the state while ensuring alignment with the national framework.

Stakeholder Diversity and Inclusion

The consultation process ensured diverse participation across multiple stakeholder groups. Government representatives from national and state levels participated alongside traditional leaders representing customary governance structures. Civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, community-based groups, and faith-based entities, brought their perspectives to the discussions. Private sector voices came through business associations and individual enterprises. Special attention was given to vulnerable groups, with dedicated efforts to include women, youth, persons with disabilities, and representatives from outer islands. Development partners, including international and regional organizations supporting FSM's development, also contributed their insights.

Gender balance was a priority throughout the consultations, with women comprising approximately 45% of participants across all consultation activities. Youth engagement was facilitated through dedicated youth forums in each state, creating safe spaces for younger voices to be heard. Disability inclusion was supported through partnerships with disability-focused organizations to ensure accessibility of consultation venues and materials, allowing persons with disabilities to participate meaningfully in the process.

VNR-Specific Consultations

While leveraging the SDP evaluation consultations, targeted VNR-specific consultations (April-May 2025) addressed gaps in SDG-specific data, with a particular focus on the five priority SDGs (3, 5, 8, 14, and 17). These included a national SDG validation workshop, thematic consultations on priority areas, and virtual consultations with outer island communities to ensure inclusive representation despite geographic challenges.

Data Collection and Analysis

Qualitative and Quantitative Methods

The VNR utilized a mixed-methods approach to data collection, building upon the methodologies employed in the SDP evaluation. Qualitative methods included key informant interviews with more than 45 stakeholders across government, civil society, private sector, and development partners. Focus group discussions organized by industry and stakeholder groups allowed for collective reflection and dialogue. Outcomes harvesting workshops in each state identified significant changes that had occurred during the implementation period. Document review of policies, strategies, and program evaluations provided additional context and evidence.

Quantitative methods complemented these qualitative approaches. The team analyzed national statistics and administrative data to track progress on key indicators. Sector-specific surveys and assessments provided more detailed information on particular development areas. Surveys of development partners and government secretaries gathered structured input from these key stakeholders. An SDG indicator mapping and gap analysis helped identify areas where data was available and where additional information was needed.

Data Sources and Integration

The VNR drew upon multiple data sources: the comprehensive SDP Evaluation Dataset as a foundation; national statistics and administrative data from government departments; sectoral assessments and evaluations; and development partner reports. This integration of diverse sources enabled triangulation and validation, strengthening the evidence base for conclusions about FSM's sustainable development progress.

SDG Mapping Approach

The VNR employed a systematic approach to translate the SDP evaluation findings into the SDG framework. First, a Thematic-SDG Mapping analyzed how each of the ten SDP thematic areas (Private Sector Development, Public Sector Management, Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Environment, Health, Education, Gender, and

Infrastructure) contributed to multiple SDGs. This mapping recognized the interconnected nature of development, where progress in one thematic area often contributes to multiple sustainable development goals.

Next, a Progress Assessment evaluated advancement toward SDG targets based on available data and stakeholder insights. This assessment considered both quantitative indicators and qualitative evidence of change. The Synthesis of State-Level Insights consolidated findings from each state to provide a comprehensive national picture while acknowledging sub-national variations. This approach recognized the diversity within FSM and the importance of understanding development progress in each state's unique context.

Finally, the team conducted deeper analysis of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17 as the focus goals for the 2025 HLPF cycle. This focused approach allowed for more detailed examination of these priority areas while still maintaining coverage of all SDGs through the thematic mapping. This mapping approach ensured comprehensive coverage of all SDGs while maintaining alignment with FSM's national planning framework, creating coherence between national priorities and global sustainable development goals.

Institutional Arrangements and Quality Assurance

Coordinating Structures

The VNR process was coordinated through an institutional structure that built upon the arrangements established for the SDP evaluation. The SDP Working Group provided overall guidance and coordination for both the SDP evaluation and the VNR process, ensuring consistency between these interconnected efforts. The SDG Task Force worked in close coordination with the SDP Working Group to provide SDG-specific expertise, helping to translate national development priorities into the global sustainable development framework. A dedicated VNR Team was responsible for developing the VNR, drawing upon the findings of the SDP evaluation and conducting additional analysis as needed. State Focal Points, designated

officials in each state government, coordinated state-level input, ensuring that perspectives from all four states were adequately represented.

This integrated institutional arrangement ensured coherence between national development planning and SDG reporting while leveraging existing coordination mechanisms, avoiding the creation of parallel structures that could fragment the development planning landscape.

Participating Institutions

Key institutions participating in the VNR process included national government departments (led by Resources & Development), all four state governments through their planning departments, non-governmental organizations representing civil society perspectives, private sector entities through business associations, and development partners providing technical expertise and resources. This multi-stakeholder approach ensured comprehensive representation across sectors and governance levels.

Validation Process

The VNR underwent a rigorous quality assurance and validation process to ensure accuracy, credibility, and ownership. Data validation ensured that all information used in the VNR was verified for accuracy, reliability, and validity. This involved triangulation with multiple sources to cross-check findings, expert review of technical data to ensure correct interpretation, and comparison with international standards where applicable to provide context for FSM's progress.

Stakeholder validation brought diverse perspectives to bear on the VNR findings. A national validation workshop in May 2025 gathered representatives from across the federation to review and validate the draft report. State-level review meetings allowed each state to confirm that their context and priorities were accurately reflected. Sector-specific validation sessions engaged experts in particular development areas to verify technical content related to their fields.

Technical review by the SDG Task Force, relevant sectoral experts, and development partners with technical expertise ensured the analytical rigor of the

VNR. This multi-perspective review identified any gaps, inconsistencies, or areas requiring further clarification or evidence.

High-level approval completed the validation process, with the SDP Working Group, the Cabinet, and ultimately the President's Office reviewing and endorsing the final draft. This high-level endorsement ensured that the VNR represented FSM's official position on its sustainable development progress.

This multi-layered validation process ensured the accuracy, credibility, and ownership of the VNR, making it a truly national document reflecting FSM's collective assessment of its sustainable development journey.

Limitations, Challenges, and Mitigation Strategies

Process challenges included FSM's dispersed geography making comprehensive participation difficult, capacity limitations in specialized assessment areas, and time and resource constraints affecting the depth of analysis. To address these limitations, FSM employed strategic approaches: integration with the SDP evaluation to maximize efficiency, technical assistance from development partners, virtual consultations for remote stakeholders, use of proxy indicators where SDG-specific data was unavailable, and transparent acknowledgment of limitations. Looking forward, the VNR identifies specific actions to address data gaps and strengthen monitoring systems for future reporting.

Annex 2: FSM SDP 2024-2043 Thematic Area Goals, Strategic Outcomes (SO) and Development Priorities (DP)

Cultural Heritage

Goal 1: The FSM aspires to ensure culture and traditions are integrated at all levels of society promoting unity and ensuring equitable and accessible development.

SO 1.1: Cultural Safeguarding: Protect and promote cultural heritage, including use of local languages, as well as cultural knowledge, values and skills, in order to strengthen national identity, pride, and community engagement [Cultural Safeguarding]

DP 1.1.1: Cultural education programs in schools emphasizing cultural diversity including a greater emphasis on language instruction and local language curriculum [Cultural Education Programs]

DP 1.1.2: Storytelling and local language events focusing on community participation and maintaining the use of local dialects throughout the FSM [Community Language Events]

DP 1.1.3: Cultural related events are coordinated nationwide through schools and community programs and platforms (digital and traditional platforms) [Cultural Event Coordination]

DP 1.1.4: Legal and policy framework ensuring safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, including oral traditions languages, and musical expressions [Legal Framework]

SO 1.2: Cultural Industries: Integrate culture into development strategies, promote diversity, and stimulate creative and cultural industries [Cultural Industries]

DP 1.2.1: The creative economy expands through investment, grants and incentives for artists, filmmakers, designers, and musicians [Creative Economy]

DP 1.2.2: Local economies stimulated through investments in tourism, creative industries (such as film, music, and arts), and cultural heritage preservation [Local Economy Stimulation]

DP 1.2.3: Targeted incubator programs for cultural entrepreneurs accelerating growth in creative sectors including art, fashion, publishing, and media [Cultural Entrepreneurship]

SO 1.3: Cultural and Historical Sites: Promote the understanding of cultural and historical knowledge and the importance of FSM cultural and historical sites [Cultural Sites]

DP 1.3.1: Enhanced coordination among all stakeholders in order to identify, memorialize and commemorate FSM cultural and historical sites [Stakeholder Coordination]

DP 1.3.2: Framework for funding the registration and preservation of FSM cultural and historical sites [Preservation Funding]

Education and Human Capital

Goal 2: The FSM aspires to an education system that is high performing, inclusive, and culturally grounded

SO 2.1: Student Success: Maximize student achievement, foundational, career, technical, digital literacy and life skills through improvements to the quality of the FSM education system

DP 2.1.1: Culturally relevant and inclusive curriculum in place resulting in enhancing the cultural awareness of all FSM students

DP 2.1.2: Improved teacher and school leadership capacity, retention, and well-being

DP 2.1.3: The latest teaching methods and technologies are available and accessible for FSM teachers and education leaders

DP 2.1.4: Student performance maximized

SO2.2: Community Engagement: Access to local education systems for community and parental engagement is actively pursued and promoted including expanding the use of technology and e-communications

DP 2.2.1: Inclusive community and parental engagement in education

DP 2.2.2: Community and parental engagement coordinated and expanded through access to teachers and school through digital platforms and comprehensive learning management systems

SO2.3: Qualities of Education Programs & Services: Education programs and services including development of human capital respond to the growing economic and technological demands of society

DP 2.3.1: Strengthen formal and non-formal education programs, including but not limited to lifelong learning opportunities for adult education, vocational training and special education

DP 2.3.2: Scholarship and financial assistance opportunities expanded ensuring equitable access to funding sources

SO2.4: Education Management Information System (EMIS): An FSM education management information system providing high quality data collection and promoting increased accountability

DP 2.4.1: Education system infrastructure and technology access expanded

DP 2.4.2: Data collection, monitoring and accountability systems enhanced

DP 2.4.3: A standardized FSM School Accreditation system providing accreditation and monitoring of school performance

DP 2.4.4: Capacity development programs providing training in areas identified from the School Accreditation's results

Health and Well Being

Goal 3: The FSM aspires to a sustainable, equitable, and high-quality healthcare system resulting in the enhanced health and well-being of all citizens through improved access and services.

SO 3.1: Leadership, Governance, and Management: Strengthen accountability, sustainability, quantity, quality of health service delivery.

DP 3.1.1: Strengthen and establish governance structures between national and state governments including health professional regulatory bodies, and state stakeholders.

DP 3.1.2: Strengthen and establish a partnership policy providing a framework outlining how governing bodies address issues such as human rights and gender equality.

DP 3.1.3: Ensure efficient utilization of resources including workforce, facilities, transportation, equipment, pharmaceuticals, and finances.

DP 3.1.4: Ensure accessibility to grants/funds/finances supporting healthcare challenges while focusing on coordination of health care financing.

SO 3.2: Human Resources for Health (HRH): Accelerate progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) in order to achieve the vision of "Better Health for All" by ensuring equitable access to competent, performing, and motivated health workforce throughout health service delivery.

DP 3.2.1: Coordination with regard to developing health human resources capacity throughout FSM.

DP 3.2.2: Institutional linkages strengthened between FSM health facilities and education institutions for programs providing specialized training.

DP 3.2.3: Collaboration with development partners and donors regarding access to funding for priority fields of study in health.

DP 3.2.4: Collaboration arrangements in place with COM-FSM to design courses regarding requirements for identified categories of health workers.

DP 3.2.5: Collaboration with national/state DOE for scholarship opportunities, returned services, and health career advocacy.

SO 3.3: Health Service Delivery: Achieve universal access to essential healthcare.

DP 3.3.1: Strategies for awareness regarding all aspects of primary, secondary and tertiary services.

DP 3.3.2: Integrated planning to ensure appropriate maintenance is carried out and diagnostic services are in place.

DP 3.3.3: Pharmaceutical capacity building at all levels of the healthcare system.

DP 3.3.4: Internal and external partnerships between public and private clinics and hospitals are strengthened.

DP 3.3.5: Service delivery covers the entire scope of health services (including NCD, Behavioral Health, Mental Health, Eye Care, Communicable Diseases, and Pharmaceuticals).

SO 3.4: Health Information, Planning, and Surveillance: National and state healthcare policies aligned ensuring a seamless and effective health care system.

DP 3.4.1: Mechanisms providing standardization,

oversight and security for all health systems.

DP 3.4.2: Private sector participation in health information, collection, data sharing and reporting.

DP 3.4.3: Health information planning and surveillance capacity building resulting in improved harmonization of health surveillance systems.

DP 3.4.4: Expand the digital health infrastructure including strengthening data security.

SO 3.5: Health Through the Life Course (From Womb to Tomb): Reduce morbidity, mortality, and promote well-being.

DP 3.5.1: Standards, guidelines and policies that address maternal and child health.

DP 3.5.2: Expanded collaboration regarding guidelines for adolescent and youth health.

DP 3.5.3: Community engagement in addressing health and well-being through the life course (respective of cultural norms and values).

SO 3.6: Social and Environmental Determinants of Health: A supportive and sustainable social and physical environment resulting in improved health.

DP 3.6.1: Food safety and security (availability, affordability, accessibility, sustainability and utilization) is improved.

DP 3.6.2: Age, gender, youth, child protection and disability programs strengthened.

DP 3.6.3: Social protections and safety nets for the most vulnerable, high risk and remote populations expanded.

DP 3.6.4: Secure access to funding supporting health development through expanded sports programs, coordinating with relevant stakeholders.

DP 3.6.5: Data on social and environmental determinants of health is more accessible as a result of improved national and state health management information systems.

SO 3.7: Health Financing: Increase financial stability ensuring universal access to health services.

DP 3.7.1: Financial risk protection available for all FSM citizens with regard to access to health care services.

DP 3.7.2: Increase access to grant opportunities to: 1) strengthen the health sector to be more effective and efficient with regard to securing budget support, and 2) to ensuring national, and/or state/local matching funds, that fulfill requirements for eligible health programs/grants.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Goal 4: The FSM aspires to fostering a nation where all individuals have equal opportunities to access and benefit from services, ensuring equitable inclusivity for all people to thrive.

SO 4.1: Gender and Social Inclusion: Gender and social inclusion is advanced through cross-sectoral policy mainstreaming, promoting equitable access to services and resources.

DP 4.1.1: FSM laws and policies, strategic development frameworks, and plans are inclusive and people centered.

DP 4.1.2: FSM gender, human rights, and social inclusion commitments in national, regional, and global development frameworks are aligned with FSM legislation.

DP 4.1.3: Monitoring and accountability mechanisms including disaggregated databases, facilitating improved understanding of social inclusion policy implementation.

DP 4.1.4: A socio-economic, inclusive environment where all individuals regardless of gender, age, disability, or geographic location can lead, thrive and make impactful contribution to FSM society.

DP 4.1.5: A coordinated framework for gender mainstreaming of public policies and legislation ensuring efficient allocation of resources, promoting equality.

SO 4.2: Disability: An inclusive and accessible society where people with disabilities enjoy equal rights, access, and freedoms, as well as experiencing equal opportunities and full participation in all aspects of everyday life.

DP 4.2.1: Coordinated policies promoting inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in everyday life.

DP 4.2.2: Coordination with NGOs and other stakeholders to identify gaps in current disability inclusion frameworks.

SO 4.3: Human Rights and Culture: FSM cultural and local values are promoted in coordination with a strengthened human rights framework.

DP 4.3.1: Cultural and local values are reflected with regard to international commitments to human rights, ensuring respect for the cultural diversity of the FSM.

DP 4.3.2: Framework promoting human rights in the FSM centering around a national Human Rights Institution.

SO 4.4: Gender-based violence (GBV) and Child Protection: Effective prevention and protection mechanisms including laws, policies, services and programs protecting women and girls from violence, abuse, exploitation, and harmful practices.

DP 4.4.1: A coordinated legal framework and enforcement mechanisms with regard to GBV and child protection.

DP 4.4.2: Enhanced program delivery capacity for all stakeholders with regard to high quality, inclusive and integrated GBV and child protection services.

DP 4.4.3: Communities are better informed, equipped, and supported to promote transformative, protection-based programs in order to prevent and address violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful practices.

DP 4.4.4: Strengthened collaboration among government, private sector, NGOs, churches, traditional and community partners with regard to protection and prevention services and programs to eliminate all forms of GBV.

DP 4.4.5: An enabling environment increasing access to safe spaces and support services for women and girls including access to online safety support programs.

SO 4.5: Aging and Social Protection: A comprehensive and inclusive social protection system ensuring the well-being, dignity, protection and participation of older adults.

DP 4.5.1: Framework of adaptive social protection systems, mechanisms and programs including development and implementation of social protection policies and legislation.

DP 4.5.2: Coordinated framework among relevant government and non-government stakeholders that improves access to programs including health care, nutrition, poverty alleviation, economic inclusion, and social protection for the aged population.

SO 4.6: Youth: Foster the development, well-being and leadership of youth through engagement in sports and physical wellness and encourage active participation in social, cultural, political and economic activities.

DP 4.6.1: A comprehensive policy framework guiding the development and coordination of sports initiatives throughout the FSM.

DP 4.6.2: Coordination among relevant stakeholders to review, revise and strengthen physical education curriculum to promote healthy lifestyle awareness for all.

DP 4.6.3: Link inclusive social and cultural events with sports and sport programs.

DP 4.6.4: Empower youth with regard to participation in political and economic activities and with a focus on personnel well-being, leadership, and culture.

DP 4.6.5: Empowerment of girls in sports and increasing girls' participation in sports.

DP 4.6.6: Increasing youth participation in organized sports programs in order to promote physical wellness, healthy lifestyles.

Governance and Institutional Strengthening

Goal 5: The FSM aspires to an effective, efficient, transparent, and accountable public sector, empowering state and local governments to deliver quality services.

SO5.1: Service Delivery: All FSM citizens experience improved quality of life through the provision of, and access to, a broad range of public services, including health, education, transportation and basic utilities.

DP5.1.1: The scope of public services broadened and strengthened ensuring equitable access to services throughout the FSM.

DP5.1.2: An enabling environment supporting the development of private sector capacity to supplement the delivery of public services

SO5.2: Workforce: An efficient and effective public service workforce.

DP5.2.1: A comprehensive public sector workforce development program outlining standards and service delivery expectations.

DP5.2.2: Public service workforce capacity building strategies including implementation of quality assurance programs.

SO5.3: Systems and Technology: A governance infrastructure system using available technology to monitor and manage the delivery of public services.

DP5.3.1: Adaptive public sector management systems including monitoring, archiving, and reporting capabilities.

DP5.3.2: "Right sizing" of government structures and systems.

DP5.3.3: Design and implementation of e-government

infrastructure and digital service platforms.

SO5.4: Accountability and Transparency: Transparent and accountable processes and institutions, delivering efficient and effective public services.

DP5.4.1: Anti-corruption measures and accountability systems providing oversight to government actions and programs.

DP5.4.2: Collaborative platforms for public-private dialogue and civil society engagement providing information sharing at all levels of government.

DP5.4.3: Independent prosecutor providing oversight and effective enforcement of all laws and regulations.

SO5.5: Public Financial Management (PFM): A PFM system promoting and enhancing transparency and institutional capacity in critical PFM areas including, but not limited to, improving resource mobilization, aligning planning and budgeting and strengthening of the overall Financial Management Information System (FMIS).

DP5.5.1: Revenue collection, public expenditure management and procurement is improved through capacity building, upgraded FMIS and increased oversight.

DP5.5.2: Automation and integration of PFM systems facilitating efficient and effective execution and compliance of all financial management processes.

DP5.5.3: Mitigate risks through enhanced controls during budget formulation, execution, monitoring and reporting.

SO5.6: Overseas Development Assistance (ODA): Oversight on the monitoring and evaluation of ODA and its impact on the economic development and social well-being of the FSM.

DP5.6.1: ODA appropriation is in alignment with development priorities as identified in the SDP (National and State).

DP5.6.2: The donor and income base are diversified resulting in an enhanced economic outlook of the FSM.

DP5.6.3: Establish a process of disseminating ODA opportunities that promotes transparency and is inclusive of all stakeholders.

Peace and Security

Goal 6: The FSM aspires to the safety and security of the people and protecting the economy, infrastructure, and information systems from all man-made and natural internal and external threats.

SO 6.1: Mechanisms in place for identifying and addressing potential conflicts

DP 6.1.1: Systems and personnel are in place to meet any and all internal and external threats to the national security of the FSM

DP 6.1.2: Coordination with international partners ensuring adequate capacity building is available as needed for security and diplomatic personnel training programs

DP 6.1.3: Enhancing awareness and empowering communities regarding local conflict prevention and resolution issues

SO 6.2: Legal frameworks and institutions in place ensuring justice, accountability, and protection of human rights

DP 6.2.1: A legal framework in place addressing gaps with regard to human rights

DP 6.2.2: Capacity of judges and legal practitioners strengthened regarding human rights and accountability

SO 6.3: Foster collaboration among Pacific Island nations to enhance collective security and address shared challenges, including 1) cyber security and data safety, 2) transnational crime, 3) human trafficking, and 4) controlling the spread of weapons in the region, particularly nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction

DP 6.3.1: Regional cooperation and understanding enhanced with regard to regional security challenges

DP 6.3.2: Capacity of local and regional law enforcement officials strengthened

DP 6.3.3: Regional information sharing using secure information sharing platforms including countries in the regions, NGOs and other stakeholders

SO 6.4: Frameworks regarding national security, maritime security and border control addressing issues such as illegal fishing, human trafficking, migration and marine pollution through coordinated regional approaches and strengthened law enforcement

DP 6.4.1: Coordination within the pacific region to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and human trafficking

DP 6.4.2: A strengthened legal and regulatory maritime and border security framework

DP 6.4.3: Coordination with the private sector to enhance monitoring and protections of maritime resources

DP 6.4.4: Capacity of border security personnel strengthened regarding accountability effectiveness and oversight

DP 6.4.5: Augment cybersecurity and cybercrime capacity for government and relevant stakeholders within relation to the implementation of regard to both the Boe Declaration and possible future accession to the Budapest Convention

SO 6.5: Address existential threats of sea-level rise, environmental degradation and address climate change as security threats

DP 6.5.1: Promote sustainable practices in agriculture, fishing, and resource management through community workshops, trainings and exercises

DP 6.5.2: National and Regional Environmental Cooperation Agreements: Foster agreements between FSM States and Pacific nations to collectively address environmental threats

DP 6.5.3: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies: Create and implement region-specific strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities

DP 6.5.4: Coordinated climate security risk assessment framework

Sustainable Economic Development

Goal 7: The FSM aspires to a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable economy that drives sustainable growth and improves living standards.

SO 7.1: Private Sector and Business Environment: An economic environment that promotes private sector growth.

DP 7.1.1: A business enabling environment that promotes a diversified economic base including import substitution, e-commerce, digital marketing, and loan guarantees.

DP 7.1.2: Promoting environmental sustainability in the private sector.

DP 7.1.3: Resilient infrastructure supporting sustainable and equitable trade.

SO 7.2: Workforce Development (Including SMEs): A strong and diverse private sector workforce.

DP 7.2.1: Prioritizing workforce development programs based on market needs.

DP 7.2.2: Equitable access to formal and non-formal education in public schools.

DP 7.2.3: Alignment of scholarship priorities, ensuring a diverse workforce is being developed.

DP 7.2.4: Targeting technical assistance to promote workforce development priorities.

SO 7.3: Data and Information Systems: A workforce data management system providing information to enable informed decisions regarding private sector workforce development issues.

DP 7.3.1: Accessible data and information systems throughout the private sector.

DP 7.3.2: Digital data system network that enhances coordination among job seekers and employers, resulting in the right people in the right jobs.

DP 7.3.3: Workforce related regulations ensuring the enforcement of equitable workforce policies.

SO 7.4: Sustainable & Regenerative Tourism: Progressively develop the FSM tourism sector to become a leading sustainable & regenerative tourism destination.

DP 7.4.1: Improved governance and institutional strengthening in the tourism sector.

DP 7.4.2: Increased tourism sector investment focusing on infrastructure, marketing and development of international markets.

DP 7.4.3: Increased capacity building and workforce development in tourism related sectors increasing availability of skilled tourism workforce for quality of services.

DP 7.4.4: Destination Management through expansion and diversification of product development (local products) for domestic and international markets.

DP 7.4.5: Coordinate destination marketing with private sector, and international partners (tourism promotion and marketing).

DP 7.4.6: Tourism industry quality standards developed implemented and maintained.

SO 7.5: Oceanic Resources: Optimize the contribution of oceanic resources to the sustained growth of the economy (sustainable economic development).

DP 7.5.1: A framework for management of oceanic resources coordinated by an oceanic management resources authority.

DP 7.5.2: Maintain and enhance resource sustainability while supporting growth of fisheries private sector.

DP 7.5.3: Increase fisheries contribution to sustainable economic growth through job creation, and establishment of public/private sector partnerships.

DP 7.5.4: Promote and incentivize foreign direct investment in the oceanic fisheries through onshore investments and creation of support/manufacturing enterprises.

DP 7.5.5: Facilitate and coordinate port side infrastructure investments directly targeted at supporting and promoting investments in oceanic fisheries.

SO 7.6: Marine Resources: Maximize the long-term value from marine resources for the benefit of FSM's economy.

DP 7.6.1: Sustainable development of marine resources.

DP 7.6.2: Protection and conservation of marine environment and resources.

SO 7.7: Agriculture (Food Security/Commercial Farming): A vibrant, robust and productive agriculture/forestry sector that sustainably supports food security, productive forestry, healthy lifestyles, strong social safety nets, and promotes a greener economy.

DP 7.7.1: National food security, safety and nutritional health priorities are realized.

DP 7.7.2: Bolster farm and forestry incomes, livelihoods and productivity with particular focus on gender and vulnerable groups.

DP 7.7.3: Re-enforce socio-cultural safety nets in the areas of agriculture and forestry.

DP 7.7.4: Preserve and protect culture, traditional knowledge and practices in agriculture.

DP 7.7.5: Enhance sustainable economic growth with regard to agriculture and forestry (balance of trade).

DP 7.7.6: Strengthen management of all FSMs natural resources.

SO 7.8: Trade: Promote export-led sustainable economic growth, with a focus on private sector.

DP 7.8.1: Enhanced access for participation of women, youth and persons with special needs in private sector workforce.

DP 7.8.2: Incentive programs to attract and retain domestic labor force coordinated across FSM.

DP 7.8.3: Centralized and integrated Trade and Investment Database Management System (TIDMS) for planning and policy-making promoting local entrepreneurship.

DP 7.8.4: Enhanced customs and trade management framework including a fully implemented ASYCUDA.

DP 7.8.5: Development and use of E-commerce platforms, and an FSM Trade Portal to diversify domestic trade markets.

DP 7.8.6: Intellectual property rights (IPR) created resulting in domestic market innovation and expansion.

DP 7.8.7: Enhance foreign investment regimes resulting in foreign capital infusions for the development of new industries, and the support of current industries.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Goal 8: The FSM aspires to support ecosystem integrity and develop a framework on climate change response focusing on mitigation, resiliency and management of natural resources.

SO 8.1: Resiliency Adaptation and Mitigation: Action plans and coordination mechanisms that ensure the social, economic, environmental and infrastructure framework is in place so that communities can withstand the impacts of natural disaster and climate change.

DP 8.1.1: Climate-resilient infrastructure and early warning systems are operational across all states; net zero emissions targets are monitored and on track to meet UNFCCC commitments.

DP 8.1.2: Robust partnerships and funding mechanisms for environment projects are designed and coordinated in order to ensure prioritization of funds to meet climate and resiliency targets.

DP 8.1.3: A flexible framework of adaptation and mitigation plans in place, that can respond to evolving climate challenges, ensuring FSM has the capacity to address the impacts of natural and man-made disasters.

SO 8.2: A functional climate change and environmental monitoring and reporting system coordinated across all of FSM providing information on climate change and resilience implementation.

DP 8.2.1: Climate change and environmental awareness and education programs are integrated into all levels of society including the formal education system.

SO 8.3: Environmental Quality: A healthy ecosystem and living environment throughout the FSM.

DP 8.3.1: A healthy, non-toxic ecosystem and

environment for all FSM citizens ensuring air soil and water quality meets international standards.

DP 8.3.2: Coordinated project review process with regard to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

DP 8.3.3: Recycling and composting facilities are available and accessible.

DP 8.3.4: In coordination with development partners, design and implement resilient and accessible WASH programs.

DP 8.3.5: A coordinated response framework addressing solid and hazardous waste management.

SO 8.4: Natural Resource Management: Environmental policies and plans that promote effective management of FSM ecosystems and natural resources with specific focus on biodiversity, invasive species, ecosystems integrity, regenerative agriculture and sustainable fisheries.

DP 8.4.1: Comprehensive environmental policies and regulations enforced across all States.

DP 8.4.2: A network of protected areas covering at least 50% of marine and 30% terrestrial ecosystems is established and effectively managed.

DP 8.4.3: Sustainable resource management practices are widely adopted in fishing, agriculture, and waste management.

DP 8.4.4: Sustainable utilization of renewable sources of energy to offset carbon emissions.

DP 8.4.5: Coordinated framework focusing on managing critical issues including ecosystem integrity, biodiversity loss, waste management/pollution, and invasive species.

DP 8.4.6: Design and development of systematic, evidence-based monitoring of ecosystems to assess the effectiveness of natural resource management strategies.

SO 8.5: Renewable Energy: Diversify energy options and improve energy access and security while reducing the carbon footprint of the FSM.

DP 8.5.1: Reduction of imported energy through expanded implementation of renewable energy sources.

DP 8.5.2: Increase capacity building and employment opportunities in the energy field.

DP 8.5.3: Diversified energy supply providing FSM population with access to cleaner and less costly energy supply options.

DP 8.5.4: Encourage increased engagement of energy

stakeholders as well as cross-sector collaboration in order to improve renewable energy capacity.

Infrastructure Development and Sustainability

Goal 9: The FSM aspires to building efficient, effective, and affordable infrastructure that meets community needs while promoting sustainability.

SO 9.1: Service Access and Delivery - Equitable, affordable and sustainable access to services, including transport, energy, communications, water/sanitation, health, education, solid waste collection and coastal/environmental protection

DP 9.1.1: Road networks throughout the FSM providing reliable transportation network

DP 9.1.2: Efficient power generation and distribution with capacity that meet state requirements

DP 9.1.3: Water and waste systems with the capacity to meet current and projected demands for the FSM

DP 9.1.4: Well-maintained public services infrastructure (government administration buildings, health, education, utilities) providing uninterrupted and timely services.

DP 9.1.5: Enhanced climate proofing of government infrastructure, including coastal protection improvements.

DP 9.1.6: Communication networks providing effective and efficient services to the FSM.

SO 9.2: Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Livelihoods - The quality of life and access to economic opportunities in the remote communities and the outer islands of the FSM is enhanced through expanding access to climate-resilient infrastructure, sustainable livelihoods and services that focus on public buildings, connectivity, transportation, energy, clean water and environmental protection.

DP 9.2.1: Enhance the quality of life and access to opportunities for the citizens in remote areas by improving infrastructure frameworks for maritime, air, water/sewage, solar and pedestrian facilities.

DP 9.2.2: Expand ICT access to rural and marginalized population through extending broadband and fiber-optic services, including expanding 4G/5G coverage to remote, rural, and previously unconnected areas, ensuring broad access to voice and data services to those who currently do not have access to services.

DP 9.2.3: Improve rural community water systems through improvements to water catchment systems

and make water lens use more efficient.

SO 9.3: Investment for Productive Economic Activities - Increased opportunities for investment and productive economic activities, by expanding and upgrading economic infrastructure networks and facilities designed to meet the demands for sustainable development and economic diversification

DP 9.3.1: Road networks with the capacity to support private sector development including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing

DP 9.3.2: Access to increased resources and capacity development for small scale fisheries development and aquaculture

DP 9.3.3: Renewable energy source capacity in line with the Energy Master Plan resulting in reduced costs of energy to businesses and households

DP 9.3.4: Economic and capacity-based incentives that focus on the development of a viable FSM construction industry

SO 9.4: Institutional Framework (Regulation, Management Sustainability) - An effective institutional framework for the regulation, management, and sustainability of infrastructure services, primarily in the areas of maritime transportation, infrastructure maintenance, the management of public utilities, environmental protection and conservation and natural resources management

DP 9.4.1: Knowledge base for environmental management and climate change adaptation expanded

DP 9.4.2: Capacity development for transportation agencies enhanced

DP 9.4.3: Robust natural resources management

DP 9.4.4: Institutional and legislative frameworks resulting in liberalized public services where relevant

DP 9.4.5: Enabling a conducive environment to implement project mobilization at the state level

SO 9.5: Information Communication Technology (ICT) - Support the transition to a digital economy, positioning the country as a leader in technological adoption and economic competitiveness by leveraging e-digital and ICT advancements to drive innovation across all sectors and improve public services

DP 9.5.1: A seamless digital environment supported by a robust ICT infrastructure, integrating telecommunications and digital platforms supporting government services, businesses, and individuals

DP 9.5.2: Cybersecurity frameworks and policies that protect digital assets, safeguard public services, and maintain trust in digital infrastructure

DP 9.5.3: Modernization of business and government Infrastructure through the development of secure, high-speed telecommunications infrastructure enabling the adoption of digital services, cloud computing, and data-driven innovation resulting in efficient and secure digital service delivery for public and private sectors

DP 9.5.4: E-government platforms are available and accessible, allowing citizens to access essential services online, including healthcare, public safety and emergency communication networks

DP 9.5.5: Robust local capacity in managing, operating, and innovating within digital and telecommunications sectors, ensuring long-term sustainability and self-reliance

DP 9.5.6: Digital inclusion initiatives available ensuring equitable access to technology, digital literacy, and services for marginalized groups, including rural communities, women, and youth.

Annex 3: Sustainable Development Council Rules of Procedures

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RULE 1. PURPOSE AND INTERPRETATION

Section 1. The purpose of these Rules of Procedure ("Rules") is to provide for simplified procedures and practices governing the operation and functioning of the Council on Sustainable Development (Council), conduct of meeting, making decisions, taking action, and otherwise carrying out the mandate, duties and responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Executive Order updated and signed on December 2, 2021 ("Executive Order") re-affirming the Council.

Section 2. In implementing and interpreting these Rules, the Council shall give effect to the plain meaning of the text of these Rules unless such text expressly indicates a different meaning. The Department of Justice shall provide advice on interpreting these Rules.

RULE 2. ADOPTION

Section1. The Council has adopted these Rules at a meeting duly called to consider, among other things, the adoption of these Rules.

Section 2. Once adopted, these Rules apply to all meetings of the Council and conduct of its business.

Section 3. Meetings conducted and decisions made prior to the adoption of these Rules are deemed consistent with these Rules unless the Council expressly repudiates such prior meetings and decisions at the meeting held when these Rules were originally adopted.

RULE 3. MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Council shall be comprised of the representatives of the following departments, agencies or offices:

- Department of Finance & Administration
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Resources & Development
- Department of Health & Social Affairs
- Department of Justice
- Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure
- Department of Education
- Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)
- FSM Association of Chambers of Commerce
- 4 State Representatives (preferably the Governor or Lt. Governor)

Section 2. The heads of the national departments and offices are free to designate their representatives in the Council for the purpose of meeting consistent with Section 2 (C) of the Executive Order that such representatives shall be no lower than assistant secretary/director level. The Representative of the FSM Association of Chambers of Commerce shall be a senior member of the Association. The State Representatives should be the Governor, Lt. Governor, or an appointed person no lower than a Director or the Chief of Staff. The Chair has discretion to inquire anytime into the qualification of members with a view towards satisfying the requirements of this section.

Section 3. The Chair of the Council will be set by the Presidential Executive Order for the first year, and then in subsequent years, the Chair of the Council will rotate between the FSM Departments. Each Department will be Chair of the Council once in every eight years. Departments can self-nominate or be nominated by the Council through a motion with subsequent discussion and voting to select the new Chair. This will be done on an annual basis beginning each fiscal year.

RULE 4. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings are either regular or special. A regular meeting is every quarter at such time and venue set by the Chair or as agreed by the Council.

Section 2. The Council may meet more often than quarterly at the call of the Chair or as agreed by the Council. Three-fourths of the members may call for a meeting on behalf of the Chair. (5 members)

Section 3. To the extent possible, a proposed meeting agenda shall be circulated prior to a meeting. The members may suggest additional items to the proposed agenda.

Section 4. Meetings, especially regular meetings, are typically conducted in person with a virtual component for the off-island state representatives. However, in exceptional circumstances where a face-to-face meeting is not possible, alternative modes of conducting a meeting could be used, including teleconference, videoconferencing, email communication, and others, on the condition that a number of members constituting a quorum are in attendance or participating. The Chair shall exercise discretion and caution to ensure that such alternative mode of conducting meeting reasonably captures the views and intent of the members participating in such meetings. The Chair shall have discretion of taking extra measures to correct any error or deficiency in the proceeding arising from alternative modes of conducting meetings.

Section 5. The regular meetings via any of the alternative modes stated in section 4 of this rule shall require the prior consent of a majority of the members of the Council. Special meetings via any of the alternative modes may be conducted any time at the call of the Chair in the absence of objection from any two members of the Council.

RULE 5. QUORUM AND VOTING

Section 1. Eight members constitute a quorum. Quorum is required in order for the Council to convene and make valid decisions.

Section 2. The Council shall make decisions by consensus. Consensus means the absence of serious objection from any member of the Council. Where a consensus is not reached, the Council may take a vote on a matter under consideration and any such decision must enjoy the support of the majority of the members present in a meeting, provided that the members favoring a decision shall be no less than eight.

Section 3. Voting is made by show of hand, by voice, by secret ballot, or by other means at the discretion of the Chair.

Section 4. Any member can raise questions regarding irregularity in the voting or decisions made without it. The Chair shall resolve any such questions being raised with the advice and assistance of the Department of Justice.

RULE 6. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Council may create a technical advisory committee for the purpose of reviewing proposals, gathering information, and making recommendations to the Council. The members of the technical advisory committee shall be those designated by the Chair.

Section 2. The Chair may assign duties and responsibilities to the technical advisory committee. In discharging such duties and responsibilities, the technical advisory committee may coordinate, consult, and collaborate with the relevant government agencies, funding partners and outside sources on such matters assigned to it.

Section 3. The technical advisory committee shall meet at the call of the Chair or as agreed by its members.

Section 4. The technical advisory committee shall observe such rules of procedures it has established by agreement of its members when making decisions or formulating recommendations to the Council, which shall not be inconsistent with these Rules. In the absence of express agreement of the members of the steering committee, the provisions of these Rules, to the extent practicable, apply to the proceedings of the steering committee. The chair of the steering committee is free to modify its procedure when needed.

Section 5. The chair of the technical advisory committee shall make a report on any matter assigned to it during the regular or special meeting of the Council whenever needed or as required by the Chair of the Council.

RULE 7. SUBCOMMITTEES

Section 1. The Co-chairs may create such subcommittees at any time as may be needed.

Section 2. The chair and members of the subcommittees shall be those as may be designated by the Council's co-chairs.

Section 3. The governing rules and procedures of the subcommittee are those agreed to by their members, which shall not be inconsistent with these Rules. In the absence of express agreement of the members of the subcommittee, the provisions of these Rules to the extent practicable apply to the proceedings of the subcommittee. The chair of the subcommittee is free to modify its procedure when needed.

RULE 8. REPORTING

Section 1. The Co-chairs of the Council shall give an update and report to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia as required by the Executive Order.

Section 2. The members of the Council may recommend to the Co-chairs such reports or other matters to be shared or provided to the President.

RULE 9. AMENDMENT; SUSPENSION OF RULES

Section 1. Any provision of these Rules may be amended by majority vote in accordance with Rule 5.

Section 2. Except for Rule 5, any provision of these Rules may be suspended.

These Rules have been adopted by unanimous vote of the members of the Council on Sustainable Development.

Annex 4: SDG Progress Summary Table

SDG 1	No Poverty	Moderate progress; urban poverty declining, but outer island disparities persist. Social protection remains limited.
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	Regressive trends; increasing food imports and insecurity. Domestic agriculture remains underdeveloped.
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being (HLPF Priority)	Mixed results; strong vaccination coverage (70%) and improved maternal health, but critical health workforce shortages (1.9 doctors/10,000).
SDG 4	Quality Education	Regression; declining learning outcomes and school completion rates, especially in rural and outer islands.
SDG 5	Gender Equality (HLPF Priority)	Slow progress; women's workforce participation rose to 51.7%, but political representation remains at 0%.
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Gradual improvements in water access; sanitation coverage remains inadequate, particularly in outer islands.
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Strong progress; significant increase in solar energy projects and off-grid electrification.
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth (HLPF Priority)	Limited progress; youth unemployment at 25.3%, with uneven post-COVID economic recovery. Over 300 new businesses supported.
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Stagnant; limited investment in transport and innovation, especially in remote areas.
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	Inconclusive; inadequate data but evidence of widening rural-urban and inter-state gaps.
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Moderate progress; urban planning and resilience initiatives expanded, but implementation remains uneven.
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Early-stage progress; some action on waste, but no substantial change in consumption patterns.
SDG 13	Climate Action	Strong policies in place, but financing and implementation remain constrained.
SDG 14	Life Below Water (HLPF Priority)	High progress; 30% of EEZ protected, fisheries revenue up 35%. Coral reef health declining due to bleaching.
SDG 15	Life on Land	On track; forest protection and invasive species control are yielding positive outcomes.
SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Gradual improvements in governance and rule of law, but institutional capacity remains a key barrier.
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals (HLPF Priority)	Mixed progress; external aid steady (~35% GNI), internet penetration up to 53%, but domestic resource mobilization remains low (14.5% of GDP).

Annex 5: SDG Statistical Indicators for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

SDG Indicator	Series	Unit		Value		Trend
1.3.1	Population covered by at least one social protection benefit	% of population		19.4 (2019)	20 (2021)	↗
	Proportion of children/households receiving child/family cash benefit	% of children/household		6.8 (2019)	6.8 (2020)	→
	Proportion of population receiving a pension	% of population above statutory pensionable age	Total	100 (2019)	97 (2021)	↘
			Female	100 (2019)	97 (2021)	
			Male	100 (2019)	96.9 (2021)	
	Vulnerable population covered by social protection floors/systems	% of vulnerable population receiving social assistance cash benefit			2.2 (2019)	Insufficient data
	Proportion of population with severe disabilities receiving disability cash benefit	% of population			16.1 (2021)	Insufficient data
1.4.1	Population using basic drinking water services	% of population		90.2 (2015)	90.1 (2020)	→
	Population using basic sanitation services	% of population		86.4 (2015)	90.5 (2020)	↗
1.5.1	Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters	Per 100,000 population		8.22 (2015)	0 (2021)	↗
	Directly affected persons attributed to disasters	Per 100,000 population		6943 (2015)	13268 (2021)	↘
1.5.2	Direct economic loss attributed to disasters	Million USD		40 (2015)	0.03 (2021)	↗
1.5.3	Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework	Index		0.5 (2016)	0.43 (2021)	↘
1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national DRR strategies	%		0 (2015)	11.67 (2021)	↗
1.a.1	Official development assistance grants for poverty reduction, by recipient countries	% of GNI		0.73 (2015)	1.49 (2022)	↗
	Proportion of total government spending on essential services	%		17.9 (2015)	16.2 (2020)	↘
	Proportion of total government spending on essential services, education	%		9.0 (2015)	6.9 (2020)	↘
2.2.3	Prevalence of anaemia in women	% of female aged 15-49		23.5 (2015)	25 (2019)	↘
2.a.1	Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	Index		0.07 (2015)	0.18 (2020)	↗
2.a.2	Official flows (disbursements) for agriculture, total, by recipient	Million 2022 USD		1.92 (2015)	0.89 (2022)	↘
2.c.1	Indicator for Food Price Anomalies (IFPA), by Consumer Food Price Index	Index		0.14 (2015)	1.07 (2023)	↗
2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population	Percent			23 (2023)	Insufficient data

SDG Indicator	Series	Unit		Value		Trend
3.1.1	Maternal mortality	Deaths per 100,000 live births		63.8 (2015)	74.3 (2020)	↘
3.2.1	Infant mortality rate	Deaths per 1,000 live births	Total	25.3 (2015)	20.5 (2022)	↗
			Boys	28.5 (2015)	23.1 (2022)	↗
			Girls	21.9 (2015)	17.7 (2022)	↗
	Under-five mortality rate	Deaths per 1,000 live births	Total	30.3 (2015)	24.2 (2022)	↗
			Boys	34.1 (2015)	27.1 (2022)	↗
			Girls	26.5 (2015)	21 (2022)	↗
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	Deaths per 1,000 live births		16 (2015)	12.6 (2022)	↗
3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence rate	Per 100,000 population		119 (2015)	53 (2022)	↗
3.3.4	Hepatitis B (HBsAg) surface antigen prevalence	% of children under 5		0.89 (2015)	0.89 (2020)	→
3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases	Probability (%)	Total	39.7 (2015)	40.5 (2021)	↘
			Men	45.0 (2015)	46.2 (2021)	↘
			Women	34.3 (2015)	35.1 (2021)	↘
3.4.2	Suicide	Per 100,000 population	Total	27 (2015)	28.2 (2019)	↘
			Female	12.2 (2015)	12.7 (2019)	↘
			Male	41.3 (2015)	43.2 (2019)	↘
3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption	Liters per annum, population aged 15+	Total	2.09 (2015)	2.12 (2019)	↘
			Female	0.71 (2015)	0.72 (2019)	↘
			Male	3.47 (2015)	3.53 (2019)	↘
3.8.1	Universal health coverage, service coverage index	Index		46 (2015)	48 (2021)	↗
3.9.2	Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene	Per 100,000 population		3.6 (2016)	14.0 (2019)	↘
3.b.1	Proportion of the target population who received 3 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine	% of children aged 1		72 (2015)	69 (2022)	↘
	Proportion of the target population who received a 3rd dose of pneumococcal conjugate (PCV3) vaccine			67 (2015)	65 (2022)	↘
	Proportion of the target population who received measles-containing-vaccine second-dose (MCV2)			74 (2015)	38 (2022)	↘
	Proportion of the target population who received the final dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine	% target population		62 (2017)	70 (2022)	↗
3.b.2	Official development assistance to medical research and basic heath sectors, total gross disbursement, by recipient	Million 2022 USD		0.38 (2015)	3.46 (2022)	↗
3.c.1	Nursing and midwifery personnel density	Per 10,000 population		20.7 (2018)	22.0 (2019)	↗
	Physicians' density			7.6 (2018)	9.6 (2020)	↗
3.d.1	International Health Regulations capacity (SPAR 2021 onward), average of 15 components	%		43 (2021)	52.6 (2023)	↗

SDG Indicator	Series	Unit		Value		Trend
4.1.1	Proportion of children and young people:(b) at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in literacy (Pacific Proxy)	% of students		47 (2015)	48 (2021)	↗
	Proportion of children and young people:(b) at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in numeracy (Pacific Proxy)			71 (2015)	56 (2021)	↘
4.2.2	Adjusted net enrolment rate (one year before the official primary entry age)	%	Total	72.1 (2016)	58.4 (2022)	↘
			Female	73.2 (2016)	60.6 (2022)	↘
			Male	71.0 (2016)	56.4 (2022)	↘
4.5.1	Gender parity index for participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	Female-to-male ratio		1.03 (2016)	1.07 (2022)	↘
	Gender parity index of teachers who are trained	Female-to-male ratio	Pre-primary	1.28 (2018)	1.66 (2021)	↘
			Primary	1.02 (2018)	0.94 (2021)	↘
			Secondary	1 (2015)	0.81 (2021)	↘
			Lower Secondary	0.94 (2015)	0.63 (2021)	↘
			Upper Secondary	0.84 (2015)	1.10 (2021)	↗
4.a.1	Schools with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	%	Primary	31.5 (2021)	31.5 (2022)	→
			Lower Secondary	30.1 (2021)	30.1 (2022)	→
			Upper Secondary	34.3 (2021)	34.3 (2022)	→
	Schools with access to basic drinking water	%	Primary	50.3 (2019)	86.7 (2022)	↗
			Lower Secondary	49.3 (2019)	85.3 (2022)	↗
			Upper Secondary	60.0 (2019)	91.4 (2022)	↗
	Schools with access to computers for pedagogical purposes	%	Primary	21.4 (2019)	32.2 (2022)	↗
			Lower Secondary	32.6 (2019)	33.1 (2022)	↗
			Upper Secondary	88.6 (2020)	80.0 (2022)	↘
	Schools with access to electricity	%	Primary	35.4 (2018)	79.0 (2022)	↗
			Lower Secondary	33.6 (2018)	77.9 (2022)	↗
			Upper Secondary	50.0 (2018)	94.3 (2022)	↗
	Schools with access to internet for pedagogical purposes	%	Primary	28.3 (2019)	42.0 (2022)	↗
			Lower Secondary	43.5 (2019)	39.7 (2022)	↘
			Upper Secondary	74.3 (2020)	68.6 (2022)	↘
	Schools with access to single-sex basic sanitatio	%	Primary	70.4 (2019)	76.9 (2022)	↗
			Lower Secondary	68.9 (2019)	74.3 (2022)	↗
			Upper Secondary	65.7 (2019)	82.9 (2022)	↗

SDG Indicator	Series	Unit		Value		Trend
	Schools with basic handwashing facilities	%	Primary	45.5 (2019)	86.0 (2022)	↗
			Lower Secondary	44.9 (2019)	84.6 (2022)	↗
			Upper Secondary	51.4 (2019)	91.4 (2022)	↗
4.b.1	Official flows for scholarships, total, by recipient	Million 2022 US dollars		0.2 (2015)	0.06 (2022)	↘
4.c.1	Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications	%	Pre-primary	26.7 (2018)	14.0 (2021)	↘
			Primary	39.7 (2018)	27.5 (2021)	↘
			Secondary	4.9 (2015)	31.1 (2021)	↗
			Lower Secondary	6.3 (2015)	31.7 (2021)	↗
			Upper Secondary	2.3 (2015)	30.3 (2021)	↗
5.2.1	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months	%			28.1 (2018)	Insufficient data
5.5.1	Seats held by women in national parliament	% of seats		0 (2015)	21.4 (2025)	↗
5.b.1	Individual mobile phone ownership	% of population aged 18+			37 (2023)	Insufficient data
6.1.1	Proportion of population using improved drinking water services.	%			93 (2023)	Insufficient data
6.2.1	Proportion of population with basic handwashing facilities on premises	%			92 (2023)	Insufficient data
6.5.1	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (%)	%		38 (2017)	49 (2023)	↗
6.a.1	Official development assistance (total gross disbursement) for water supply and sanitation, by recipient	Million 2022 USD		1.81 (2015)	1.74 (2022)	↘
7.1.1	Access to electricity (SDG)	% of population	Total	73.0 (2015)	90.0 (2023)	↗
			Rural	68.0 (2015)	79.4 (2022)	↗
			Urban	90.1 (2015)	98.6 (2022)	↗
7.1.2	Population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies for cooking	% of population	Total	12.9 (2015)	13.2 (2022)	↗
			Rural	4.2 (2015)	2.7 (2022)	↘
			Urban	34.1 (2015)	32.0 (2022)	↘
7.2.1	Renewable energy share of total final energy consumption, renewables consumption (SDG)	% of total final energy consumption		1.71 (2015)	2.08 (2021)	↗
7.3.1	Energy intensity level of primary energy (SDG)	Megajoules per unit of GDP in 2017 PPP		6.43 (2015)	6.46 (2021)	↘
7.a.1	International support for clean energy and renewable energy	Million 2021 USD		4.45 (2015)	2.64 (2022)	↘
7.b.1	Renewable electricity capacity, total	Watts per capita		17 (2015)	39 (2022)	↗
8.1.1	GDP per capita growth rate (2015 US dollars, average annual)	% change per capita per annum		4.2 (2015)	-1.5 (2022)	↘
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption intensity	Kg per 1 USD (2015) GDP		1.51 (2015)	1.87 (2022)	↘

SDG Indicator	Series	Unit	Value		Trend
	Domestic material consumption total	Tons per capita	4.36 (2015)	5.16 (2022)	↘
8.5.2	Unemployment rate	%		11.5 (2023)	Insufficient data
8.6.1	Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training	%		39.0 (2023)	Insufficient data
8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP	% of GDP	1.7 (2015)	1.8 (2018)	↗
8.a.1	Aid for trade, total official flows (commitments), by recipient	Million 2022 USD	10 (2015)	42.7 (2022)	↗
9.2.1	GDP by activity: Manufacturing	% of GDP (2015 USD)	0.42 (2015)	0.62 (2023)	↗
	GDP by activity: Manufacturing	2015 USD per capita	12.1 (2015)	17.2 (2023)	↗
9.a.1	Total official flows for infrastructure, by recipient	Million 2022 USD	11 (2015)	11.8 (2022)	↗
9.c.1	Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	% of population	15 (2015)	15 (2021)	→
	Population covered by at least a 4G mobile network	% of population	0 (2015)	0 (2021)	→
10.a.1	Tariff lines applied to imports with zero-tariff, all products	%	56.4 (2015)	37.1 (2022)	↘
10.b.1	Total assistance for development (ODA+OOF+private), by recipient	Million USD	879 (2015)	208 (2021)	↘
11.5.3	Disruptions to basic services attributed to disasters	Number	24 (2015)	75 (2020)	↘
11.6.2	Annual mean concentration of PM2.5, urban	Micrograms per m3	7.94 (2015)	8.13 (2019)	↘
11.b.1	Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework	Index	0.5 (2016)	0.4 (2021)	↘
11.b.2	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national DRR strategies	%	0 (2015)	11.7 (2021)	↗
12.2.2	Domestic material consumption intensity	Kg per 1 USD (2015) GDP	1.51 (2015)	1.87 (2022)	↘
	Domestic material consumption, total	Tons per capita	4.36 (2015)	5.16 (2022)	↘
12.3.1	Food waste, total	Kg per capita	137.2 (2019)	76.2 (2022)	↗
12.4.1	Hazardous waste and other chemicals, average Basel/Montreal/Stockholm/Rotterdam convention compliance	%	44.4 (2015)	48.3 (2020)	↗
12.a.1	Renewable electricity capacity, total	Watts per capita	17 (2015)	39 (2022)	↗
13.1.2	Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework	Index	0.5 (2016)	0.4 (2021)	↘
13.2.1	Number of countries with nationally determined contributions	Number		Yes (2023)	Insufficient data
14.1.1	Beach litter per square kilometer	Number	847000 (2017)	37200 (2022)	↗
	Chlorophyll-a deviations, remote sensing	%	0.77 (2015)	2.17 (2022)	↘
14.5.1	Proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected area status	%	1.6 (2015)	1.6 (2023)	→
14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP	% of GDP	8.8 (2015)	9.6 (2019)	↗
15.1.1	Forest area	% of land area	91.8 (2015)	92.0 (2020)	↗
15.1.2	Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity	%	0.02 (2015)	0.02 (2023)	→

SDG Indicator	Series	Unit	Value		Trend
15.2.1	Above ground biomass in forest	Tons per hectare	500 (2015)	500 (2020)	→
15.4.2	Mountain green cover index, Total-Land cover: Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI)	%	99.3 (2015)	99.3 (2018)	→
15.5.1	Red list index total	Index	0.69 (2015)	0.65 (2024)	↘
15.6.1	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), contracting party	Yes (1)/No (0)	0 (2015)	0 (2023)	↘
	Leg., admin./policy framework reported through Online Reporting Sys. on Compliance of the Int. Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture	Yes (1)/No (0)	0 (2016)	0 (2023)	↘
	Legislative, administrative and policy framework reported to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House	Yes (1)/No (0)	0 (2021)	0 (2023)	↘
	Nagoya Protocol, country party	Yes (1)/No (0)	1 (2021)	1 (2023)	↗
	Reported number of Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs) transferring plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the country	Number	2 (2015)	4 (2023)	↗
15.8.1	Legislation, Regulation, Act related to the prevention of introduction and management of Invasive Alien Species (1 = YES, 0 = NO)	Yes (1)/No (0)	1 (2016)	1 (2022)	↗
	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets alignment to Aichi Biodiversity target 9 set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	Yes (1)/No (0)	0 (2016)	1 (2022)	↗
15.a.1	Official development assistance for biodiversity, total, by recipient	Million 2022 USD	0.43 (2015)	0.91 (2022)	↗
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as share of original approved budget	%	69.8 (2015)	111.5 (2021)	↗
16.7.1	Women's representation in parliament (from the age of eligibility), Lower Chamber or Unicameral	Ratio (women's share in parliament over share in total population)	0 (2021)	0.3 (2024)	↗
16.9.1	Proportion of births registered with a civil authority	%		75 (2021)	Insufficient data
16.a.1	Countries with National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	0 = No status; 1 = partially compliant; 2 = fully compliant	0 (2015)	0 (2023)	→
17.1.1	Government revenues (budgetary central government)	% of GDP	34.9 (2015)	33.8 (2020)	↘
17.1.2	Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	%	22.9 (2015)	23.4 (2020)	↗
17.3.2	Personal remittances received	% of GDP	7.37 (2015)	5.50 (2022)	↘
17.6.1	Fixed-broadband subscriptions	Per 100 Population	2.99 (2015)	5.71 (2022)	↗
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the internet	% of population aged 18+		53 (2023)	Insufficient data

Annex 6: SDG Target Alignment to Each FSM SDP Thematic Area and contribution to SDG Targets

FSM SDP Thematic Area	PEOPLE (SDG 1–6)	PROSPERITY (SDG 7–11)	PLANET (SDG 12–15)	PEACE (SDG 16)	PARTNERSHIP (SDG 17)
1. Cultural Heritage	4.7	8.3, 8.9, 10.2, 11.4	12.b	16.7, 16.10	
2. Education and Human Capital	4.1 - 4.c (All), 5.b	8.2, 8.5, 8.6, 9.c, 10.2		16.6, 16.7	17.8, 17.9, 17.19
3. Health and Well-Being	1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 - 3.5, 3.7 - 3.9, 3.c - 3.d, 5.6, 5.c, 6.1, 6.2	10.2, 10.3		16.6, 16.7	17.6, 17.10, 17.3
4. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	1.3, 1.4, 3.7, 4.5, 4.7, 4.a, 5.1 - 5.5, 5.c	8.5, 8.6, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 11.7		16.1 - 16.3, 16.7, 16.c	17.18
5. Governance and Institutional Strengthening	1.a, 1.b	8.3, 9.c, 10.4, 10.6	12.7	16.5 - 16.7, 16.10, 16.a	17.1, 17.3, 17.9, 17.14, 17.6, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 17.19
6. Peace and Security	1.5, 5.2	8.7	13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.b, 14.4, 14.c, 15.7, 15.c	16.1 - 16.4, 16.a, 16.b	17.6, 17.9, 17.16
7. Sustainable Economic Development	1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 4.3, 4.4, 5.a	8.1 - 8.5, 8.9, 8.10, 9.1 - 9.3, 9.b, 9.c	12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.8, 14.2, 14.4, 14.7, 14.b, 15.1		17.10, 17.11, 17.18
8. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience	3.9, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.6	7.1-7.3, 7.a, 7.b, 11.5, 11.6, 11.b	12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.a, 13.b, 14.1-14.5, 14.a, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9		17.7, 17.9, 17.16, 17.17
9. Infrastructure Development and Sustainability	1.4, 1.5, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4	7.1-7.2, 7.b, 9.1, 9.4, 9.a, 9.c, 10.2, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.a, 11.b	13.1, 13.2, 14.7		17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.17

Annex 7: Shared circumstances of furthest behind groups by SDG indicators

Indicator	Income	State	Age	Sex	Education	Disability	Size
Food insecurity		Chuuk			Lower or secondary		13%
Access to healthcare	Top 60	Chuuk and Pohnpei				At least 1 HH member	16%
Secondary education (20–35-year-olds)	Bottom 40	Chuuk		Male			15%
Tertiary education (25–35-year-olds)	Bottom 40	Chuuk		Male			15%
Literate (10+)	Bottom 40	Chuuk		Male			13%
Mobile Phone (18+ year olds)	Bottom 40				Lower		11%
Basic drinking water	Bottom 40	Chuuk and Pohnpei	HH head 45+			No persons with disability	10%
Basic sanitation		Pohnpei and Yap	HH head <51		Lower or secondary		9%
Electricity		Chuuk	HH head<39				9%
Clean fuel	Bottom 40	Chuuk and Yap	HH head <45				11%
Unemployment (15-64)		Chuuk			Lower		14%
Inadequate Housing	Bottom 40	Chuuk and Yap	HH head <46				12%
Internet usage (18+ year olds)	Bottom 40				Lower		18%

Source: Preliminary Census Data