



# Kiribati Voluntary National Review and Kiribati Development Plan Mid-Term Review

New-York, July 2018



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## FOREWORD

I am honoured to present this first Kiribati Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Voluntary National Review Report (VNR).

The VNR has provided us with an opportunity to take stock of our current stage of development and assess where our future plans will take us. It is a chance for us to engage all the people of Kiribati in helping to shape our development story to the world. It is for this reason that we have made extensive efforts to engage with our community and service organisations, the private sector, religious bodies, development partners, and all levels of government. This report is truly a product of collaboration and partnership.

Effective implementation through partnership is respected by Government. Government engages NGOs, CBOs and the private sector in many of its national committees and task forces. This is also enabling ownership of development by the community. International and Regional partnership is equally important for Kiribati, and is partner/signatory committed to a number of regional and international conventions such as the Istanbul Plan of Action, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Our national scorecard, embodied in the Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) 2016-2019, is fully integrated with the SDGs, and groups goals into six Key Policy Areas as a way of localising the SDGs into Kiribati activities. Now that we are at the mid-point of implementing the KDP it is an opportune time to review our progress on our development agenda thus far.

We still have far to go on our journey, but we have made significant gains along the way. I invite you to read our story and learn about our development challenges and successes.

I thank all stakeholders and partners that have rendered support for the production of this VNR, particularly UNESCAP and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for their close and ongoing support. I wish all,

Te Mauri Te Raoi ao Te Tabomoa

Hon Dr Teuea Toatu  
Minister of Finance & Economic Development

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## Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CYPFW	Children, Young People and Family Welfare
DCC	Development Coordinating Committee
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ESGBV	Eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
FNU	Fiji National University
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GOK	Government of Kiribati
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HIES	House Income Expenditure Survey
HRD	Human Resource Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
JSS	Junior Secondary Schools
KAIP	Kiribati Aviation Investment Project
KDP	Kiribati Development Plan
KIEP	Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy
KIT	Kiribati Institute of Technology
KJIP	Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
KNAO	Kiribati National Audit Office
KNSO	Kiribati National Statistics Office
KOIL	Kiribati Oil Company
KPA	Key Priority Area
KPF	Kiribati Provident Fund
KPPS	Kiribati Police and Prisons Service
KSEC	Kiribati Solar Energy Company
LDC	Least Developed Country
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCIC	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MCIC	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives
MCTTD	Ministry of Communication, Transport and Tourism Development
MELAD	Ministry of Environment Land and Agriculture Development
MFAI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration
MFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MFMRD	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MLHRD	Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development
MLPID	Ministry of Line and Phoenix Islands Development
MoE	Ministry of Education
MOP	Ministry Operational Plan
MPWU	Ministry of Public Works and Utilities
MTC	Marine Training Centre
MWYSA	Ministry for Women, Youth and Social Affairs
NCD	Non Communicable Diseases

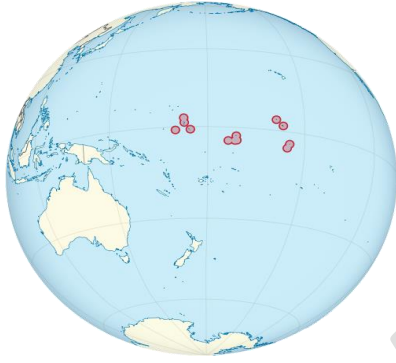
NEPO	National Economic Planning Office
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
NIR	Net Intake Ratio
OB	Office of Te Beretitenti
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PACER	Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PIPA	Phoenix Island Protected Area
PNA	Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSO	Public Service Office
PUB	Public Utilities Board
PVU	Plant and Vehicle Unit
REFR	Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SOEs	State Owned Enterprises
SOIs	Statements of Intent
SS	Senior Secondary
STAKI	Standardised Tests for Achievement in Kiribati
STSISP	South Tarawa Sanitation Improvement Sector Project
STR	Student to Teacher Ratio
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
TB	Tuberculosis
TSKL	Telecom Services Kiribati Limited
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nation Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nation Children's Fund
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WHO	World Health Organization

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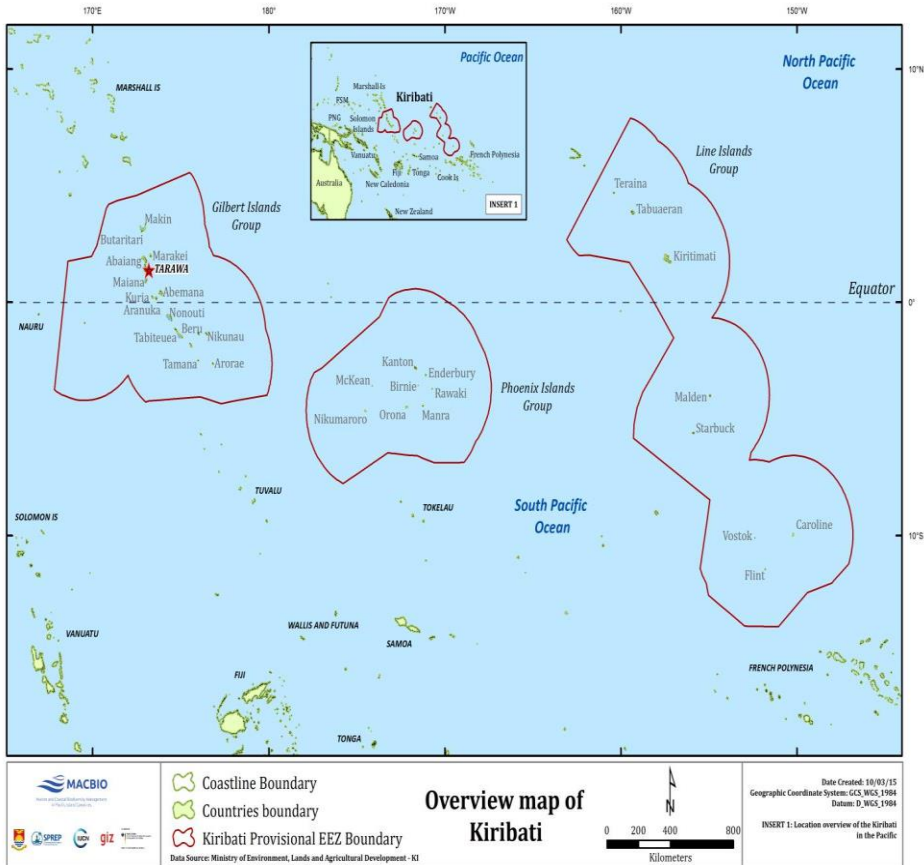
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INFORMAL DRAFT

# Map of Kiribati



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## Executive Summary

For more than 10 years, from MDGs to SDGs, Kiribati has embarked on a process of structural and macroeconomic policy reforms to achieve sustainable economic, social and environmental progress and development, for the benefit of the people of all levels in the rural and the urban settings. From the 'good governance and poverty alleviation' of the MDGs to the 'leave-no-one behind' of the SDGs, both former and current Governments have in their own approaches attempted to achieve progress ensuring inclusiveness and widespread growth that offer opportunities for all.

The following information presents how Kiribati has progressed with the KDP for Sustainable Development. Progress has shown a mixed achievement of both positive and negative:

### 1. Economic Performance and Fiscal Outlook

Real economic growth of 5.4%, 5.8% and 2.4% in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively with continued growth to 10.3% in 2015. Kiribati National Statistics Office (KNSO) figures show that Real GDP growth in 2016 was 1.1%, a steep fall from 10.3% growth experienced in 2015. The GDP table depicts improvements stabling from 2012. The IMF expects real GDP growth in Kiribati to increase from 1.1% in 2016 to 3.1% in 2017, driven mainly by growth in construction, and wholesale and retail trade. However, nominal GDP per capita in 2016 was \$2,188 remaining as one of the lowest of Pacific Island nations.

### 2. Employment

Youth unemployment is a severe problem with the youth unemployment rate at 43% in 2015. Unemployment at the 2015 census was 41%. Young people account for more than half of all unemployed people. The labor force accounted for 47,635 people over the age of 15. Of these, 27,096 people were employed in either paid or unpaid work.

Some progress is evident. Data from the Kiribati Provident Fund shows that the number of contributors in the private sector has risen sharply from 2,130 in June 2010 to 3,982 in June 2016, a rise of 87%. In the public sector, comparable figures were 6,789 for 2010 and 6,917 for 2016. While non-compliance means that not all private sector employees are covered by the KPF, the government employment data is in line with the 2015 Population Census information. This data implies that Kiribati has experienced strong growth in employment in the private sector over the past 5 years.

Seasonal Worker Programs with Australia and New Zealand have consistently contributed to youth employment and recently recorded in 2017 a total of 378 recruitments from Kiribati compared to prior years recruitment numbers of less than 30 per year. Additionally, there will be a Pacific Labor Scheme for Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru of up to 2000 workers in 2018.

### 3. Poverty

Kiribati latest update on poverty is 2006 with no later Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The incidence of basic need poverty in Kiribati was estimated at around 21.8% of the population in 2006. Food poverty was estimated to be around 5% of the population

### 4. Health

Health data is by far the most available for VNR purpose that has enabled data based assessment and reporting. Health in Kiribati is very challenging for child health and increasing NCDs. Health

performance against the indicators in 2015 and 2016 in tabulated below, depicts that whilst some progress are made there are also other remaining areas that need more focused attention: Neonatal Mortality rate (birth 1 year) that drastically increased to 32.6; tuberculosis with 48.9 increase in 2016; leprosy cases with additional 79 cases in 2016; mortality rate from road traffic injuries of 1.6 increase from 2015; and neonatal mortality rate (birth to 28 days) increase of 3.8 in 2016.

Health Indicators	Up to 2014	2015	2016
Maternal mortality rate		193.6	179
Neonatal Mortality rate – birth to 1 year		10.3	32.6
Under five mortality rate		59.1	52.4
Life expectancy at birth		75.1	68,9
Infant mortality rate		32.4	32.6
Adult mortality rate NCDs		45.9	43.4
Malnourished children		5.7	6,2
Tuberculosis		421.1	470
Tuberculosis treatment success		79.7	90
Leprosy (cases)		162	241
Mortality rate from road traffic injuries		0.2	1.8
Neonatal Mortality rate – birth to 28 days		10.2	14
HIV & Aids (total number from 1991)	61	-	-

## 5. Education

Issues of inequality and social exclusion can best be addressed through education and training and education is also an important pre-requisite to achieving the SDG and KDP Goals. With this realization, Kiribati has adopted no-fee approach in the Education Act 2013 for Forms 4-7. The Act and the inclusive Education Policy 2015 are Government attempts to ensure inclusivity, non-discriminatory, and gender sensitivity allowing vulnerable families to enroll their children, particularly targeting the girl child where often boy children get the better when there are limited resources for education. Government has made Junior Secondary School available in all of the islands improving accessibility reachable and easy addressing cultural barrier of parental concerns in sending their girl children far from them for school which had deterred girls from continued education to higher levels.

An uptrend in school enrolments between 2013 and 2016 in primary school is observed however trends for junior secondary showed decline. Literacy and numeracy levels improved between 2012 and 2015 recording 29% to 73% for literacy and 66% to 93% in numeracy for Year 4. For Year 6, literacy and numeracy also improved from 40% to 56% and from 43% to 72% between 2012 and 2015 respectively (PILNA results 2015). Teacher qualification trend appeared to show overall better outlook for teachers in Kiribati schools however the number of certified teachers in Senior Secondary School are lower than that of the Junior Secondary Schools and Primary School levels. Challenges remain in the Survival rates which showed decline between 2014 and 2016; there is a good portion of children that lack basic education.

Amongst many factors, quality education is highly dependent on the quality of the teachers delivering education as well as the teacher-ratio standard. The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) is high (1:35) in the Primary schools and JSS on South Tarawa and lower on the outer islands (1:20). The government goal to have qualified teachers through the Kiribati Teachers College (KTC) over the years is expected to reduce the PTR to desired levels. The Primary curriculum has undergone major reforms and the reform for JSS curriculum is expected to be finalised in 2019.

Tertiary institutions in Kiribati include KIT, KTC, MTC, and USP. The report notes that available seats are incompatible to the growing school leaver numbers; a limited number of school leavers manage to get a place. The level of quality of training in the institutions are elevated to meet international standards, particularly the MTC and KIT to prepare trainees well for international potential employment.

The Government of Kiribati is committed to the establishment of an internationally respected national Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector with the support of the Australian Government to the TVET Strengthening Program. TVET is expected to play a pivotal role in improving national economic growth and increasing employment opportunities for young women and men both domestically and abroad.

Other noted progress and initiatives to address education issues and way forwards, are as in the summary table below:

#### Summary of Progress

Programs	Dates started	Brief notes
Reform on School Curriculum & Assessment	2012	New syllabi and teacher guides and student materials for Year 1 – 8 have been developed. Year 7 curriculum is now being implemented this year 2018 while Y1-6 is being reviewed and recommendations will be provided to improve students' literacy and numeracy. The review has also addressed late issues of gender equality and violence against women and girls and climate change,
Primary School Rehabilitation Program (for Urban Schools)		Improved classrooms standards for a better learning environment. Piloted with 6 schools in 6 outer islands All schools in LPI have been rehabilitated and schools on Sout Tarawa and Betio with one more very last one to work on in South Tarawa.
KTC Institutional Reform		Part of the reform is meeting the Pacific Quality Framework standards. Programs structure have been reformed.
TESOL programs	2015	Support to teachers improving their proficiencies in using English in classroom deliveries. Application by teachers is important to ensure expected results are made
School Leadership (LLL)		Professional development of School Leaders through the LLL program.
Pre-Primary (Pre-school)	2017	Early Childhood Care and Education Act recently passed.
Tablet Trial Program	2018	Innovative way being explored where basic education could be delivered differently to enhance student centred approach especially for Y4 students.
Community Engagement		Involving parents and the community in STAKI results that informs developing the School Improvement Plan
Ministry Executive Management		Build capacity of the MOE senior staff with skills to effectively spend its annual budget as per planning and resources available.

#### 6. Non-Government Organizations

A sustainable development agenda requires strategic and inclusive partnership between Government and national and international stakeholders - the private sector, civil society at all levels, intergovernmental organizations and development partners. Government and NGOs/CS including the private sector are partners in the development of Kiribati. Churches are partners in education

providing JSS and SSS levels of education to children, and are closely monitored and guided by national policies and agreed standards.

At decision making level, engagement of NGOs/CSOs/CBOs and Private Sector (KCCI) are practiced in Kiribati to partner with Government at the planning, implementation and evaluation stages of nation development. Representatives of these organizations are present on Key National Committees. KANGO and KCCI for instance sit on the National Human Resource Planning Committee of the Public Service Office in the Office of the President. The two key NGO/CSO are also part of the National Anti-Corruption Committee and also form part of the KNEG (Kiribati National Expert Group for Climate Change). The National Trade Committee also has representatives of NGOs and KCCI, to name a few. On steering committee level, Government partners with these organizations through representatives as well as donor partners.

Equally important is the need to engage in stronger partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and development partners for effective implementation of the KDP and the KV20 in the context of the broader UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With strong international partnerships that Government has, it will continue to strengthen and foster these relationships for effective resource mobilization and sustained good governance guided by the relevant international treaties and obligations.

#### **7. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction**

Kiribati is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the effects of climate change. The country's ability to respond to climate risks is hampered by its highly vulnerable socio-economic and geographical situation. Low-lying atolls, isolated location, small land area separated by vast oceans, high population concentration, and the costs of providing basic services make Kiribati, like all Small Island Developing States (SIDS), especially vulnerable to external shocks including the adverse impacts of climate change. Sea-level rise and exacerbated natural disasters such as drought and weather fluctuations pose significant and direct additional threats to sectors and resources central to human and national development and the provision of basic human needs.

Streamlining climate change and disaster risk management have already started with education curriculum to raise awareness and understanding with appreciation by the new generation. The Kiribati people are very much aware of climate change not only through government's efforts, but also through the events experienced with changes in the environment and climate patterns affecting their communities. Experienced storms surges, sea level rise uprooting a number of communities to move further inland and or reside in neighboring villages (Tebunginako village in Abaiang relocated), inundation, the long droughts, and increasing temperatures experienced are evidence of the changes going on around them, affecting the health of the people and the children in particular.

Government is consultatively developing National Climate Change Policy 2016 to identify important areas to address to focus on common experienced issues including Coastal Protection, Food, Water Security, Energy Security, Environment Security, Health Risks, Human Rights associated Risks and others.

The KJIP is a long-term National Adaptation Plan for the country that encourages an integrated approach to managing climate change impacts, maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of its existing capacities, ensuring new initiatives are well integrated and have maximum impacts. The KJIP is a

vehicle which integrates and mainstreams climate change and disaster risks and more importantly looks at strengthening the coordination of implementation for climate change and disaster, thus promoting a holistic approach that involves the cooperation of Government, CSO/NGOs and the private sector. The KJIP is currently under review to update it and to align it with key Government planning documents KDP and KV20, as well as the SDG. Importantly, gender and inclusiveness perspectives are incorporated in the review to 'leave no one behind'.

#### **8. Gender Equality and Human Rights**

Kiribati has made progress in policy, legal environment, awareness raising etc., at both government, non-government and community level. The Education Act and Policy, the new family peace act 2014 and its implementation plan launched in Dec 2017, early education and child care act 2017, juvenile justice act 2015. Kiribati has made some progress towards gender equality in education, although overall performance, and retention of pupils at school, needs improvement. The Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan, being in the process of review had held consultations with gender stakeholders in recognition of the importance of equal participation of men and women in the development of climate change initiatives, as well as the effective engagement of vulnerable groups.

The Government of Kiribati ratified the CRPD in 2013 and is currently drafting a national disability policy (Kiribati National Disability Policy) to provide framework for all stakeholders and communities to improve the lives of persons with disabilities, dismantle the barriers in society, and raise awareness about disability rights and needs.

Services for survivors of domestic violence are undergoing improvements in partner services providers including social welfare, health, police, judiciary and NGO. With the support of donor partners, are working together in a multi-sectoral approach for better coordination and support to the vulnerable women and children, and people living with disabilities. A new Kiribati Women and Children Support Center recently opened 31 Jan 2018 under the umbrella of the Kiribati Family Health Association with plans to transition the center into an independent NGO.

Work on EVAWG has recently received support to extend primary prevention work to communities. The Strengthening Peaceful Villages project, a four-year project in MWYSSA is technically supported by UN Women with full funding provided by DFAT. It targets to involve community advocates to work collaboratively with project staff, piloting the program in Betio and TUC selected areas.

The draft Gender Equality and Women Development policy addresses women issues that closely align with the CEDAW and SDGs expectations. The key priorities are women economic empowerment, EVAWG, gender mainstreaming, stronger informed families and women leadership and political empowerment. There has not been any follow up study on family health (violence) and using the 2010 Family Health Report as baseline. MWYSSA's draft Strategic Plan 2016-2019 notes the need to undertake a secondary survey on violence against women.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Following the adoption in September 2015 of the Development Program for 2030 incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the international community, Kiribati has firmly committed and taken ownership of these Goals in the formulation of its Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) for the period 2016-2019.

The Kiribati Development Plan (KDP) for 2016-19 is the guide for formulating policies and programs to advance inclusive economic development in Kiribati. The preparation of the plan has been assisted through consultation between government, civil society and the private sector.

The KDP 2016-19 takes into account various international obligations that the Government of Kiribati has assented to. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Istanbul Plan of Action, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Annex A shows the links between these obligations and the KDP. In particular, all SDG targets and indicators have been reviewed and assessed for relevance to Kiribati's context, including initial country conditions in each Key Priority Area and accounting for progress possible in the four-year timeframe of the Plan. A pathway approach to progressing towards achievement of the SDGs was adopted, cognizant of guiding principles underscored in the 2030 UN Development Agenda, namely the need to account for national realities, capacities, levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

As part of the Mid-Term Review of the KDP, indicators in each KPA must be assessed and presented to Government, community and development partners. As the KDP fully aligns to the 2030 Agenda, this process also serves as the main vehicle for reviewing Kiribati's progress on the SDGs – the two processes are tightly interwoven. As the KDP is fully localised, this report is structured around the evaluation of each KPA, as is required under the Kiribati Mid-Term Review. As will become evident through the report, this approach also reports on a large portion of the SDGs, thereby serving the twin goal of acting as Kiribati's Voluntary National Review.

The KDP 2016-2019 illustrates Government commitment to achieving the SDGs recognizing the need to make sufficient progress in the social economic and environmental challenges facing Kiribati and the world at large. The KV20 is a further illustration of Government's commitment – a dream and a statement of its strong aspiration to transform Kiribati into a wealthy, healthy and peaceful nation. KV20 is focused on two areas of priorities - Fisheries and Tourism and will be implemented through maximizing return of our resources and harnessing of our natural, human and cultural capital.

## II. METHODOLOGY & REPORT PREPARATION

The process of preparation and drafting of the VNR has involved a number of steps and activities and has been guided by the work plan for the production of the VNR report and the Common Reporting Guidelines for VNR. Key in the process of report production are:

### 1. VNR Institutional Preparation

December – Cabinet approved the commencement of the VNR process in Kiribati in December 2017 and with the support of the relevant UN Agency/s the establishment of the National SDGs Taskforce and the recruitment of the National SDGs Consultant were effective during 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2018. VNR secretariat was entrusted with key Ministry SDGs counterpart, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for which National Economic Planning Office took up the role, supported by the National Consultant.

### 2. Preparation and Information Collection:

The preparation and information collection was made possible through the various SDGs stakeholder consultations undertaken, literature review including findings of the KDP 2012-2015 review report and other relevant reports and Government official papers and documents, site visits to stakeholders as well as internet research.

Preparation and Information Collection started with the first consultation held early Feb 2018 with the Government SDG focal points to conduct SDG sensitization and discuss the outline of the SDGs Indicators, VNR Outline and SDG Roadmap with key stakeholders. This consultation helped to identify and mobilize the SDG stakeholders, within the framework of the information collection and consultation exercise and in accordance with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also enabled key stakeholders (the SDG VNR Taskforce) to develop and adopt the relevant concept note, VNR work plan, terms of reference and schedule of monitoring and coordination meetings and facilitated the mobilization of information and data inputs from their own sectors.

The first meeting for the exchange and sharing of information with all stakeholders (central and decentralized administration, civil society, private sector, development partners), was held on Wednesday 24 January 2018. It served to explain the underlying mechanism behind the High-Level Political Forum and to present the scope of the report and its formulation process. Presentations were made on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the KDP 2016-2019 and the Kiribati VNR highlighting data needs and progress updates by KDP and SDG partners in both Government and non-government sectors.

Greater involvement and consultations with non-government sector were made to ensure full awareness and to create sense of ownership of the SDGs by all. Through sector-organized and sponsored workshops and meetings, VNR Team piggy-bagged for wider outreach for awareness and info collection at the listed sessions below:

- 26<sup>th</sup> January – SDG/VNR presentation/create awareness to KANGO AGM
- 8<sup>th</sup> March – Presentation to Private Sector through Kiribati Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI)
- 14<sup>th</sup> March – Presentation at PIPSO Kiribati National Roundtable Workshop – Promoting Nutritious Food Systems in the Pacific Islands Sub-Regional Nutrition Workshop
- 15<sup>th</sup> March – Presentation at PIFS Civil Society preparations workshop for Pacific Leaders Meeting
- 16 March – 2<sup>nd</sup> National VNR Stakeholder Workshop 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- April – SDG/VNR presentation to Members of Parliament and to Island Council Mayors and Team

Capacity building support to data providers and SDGs partners at all levels was provided with support of CROP/UN SDWG Team the Data Providers Workshop 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. and reps from different sectors were

present (attendance list). The workshop served also to increase awareness of the SDGs and VNR for Kiribati and to ensure ownership by the sectors.

Monitoring and Technical Support to NEPO and the national consultant were also provided through both distant mode (skype meetings) and in-country technical visits of UN partners (CROP/UN SDWG) discussing VNR work plan, progress, needs of VNR process to facilitate wide consultation with all sectors and required support and needed inputs by the UN Team.

Data hunting/collection from sectors and ministries was a continuous process undertaken during the months of Feb and March 2018. Through this process VNR process gathered relevant and available data and information on progress of implementation of the SDGs and KDP related KPAs. During the data collection, search for other VNR presentation median was made and approved by the SDGTF to use other modes including video, success and challenges stories/case studies, etc.

### **3. VNR Coordination and Monitoring:**

The SDGTF met on weekly basis to monitor progress of information/data collection and report writing. The first meeting agreed on the proposed TOR and draft outline of the report. Thereafter, the Committee agreed and conducted weekly meetings to see weekly outputs on data/information gathered etc., as well as progress on the write up.

### **4. Drafting and Validation**

Writing up of the report by the secretariat with technical support of the (UNDP) local TA and the Director of NEPO. Owing to time limitation and to ensure completion of the VNR meet deadlines, drafting of the report commenced immediately and as data and information came. Information and data didn't come in easily and as quickly and complete as required and the drafting had to make do with what is available making it necessary to do both quantitative and qualitative reporting.

A first draft of the VNR was presented to the Stakeholders 10 March 2018 for comments and shared with the SDGTF. At this stage, the SDGTF noted the slow flow of required data and information from sectors and the write up was encouraged to use existing and available data appreciating that constant re-visit to the report to update it will be required as information and data flow in. The Zero Draft was completed 5 April 2018 after which work on the Key Messages commenced and completed in early June, together with 2<sup>nd</sup>/final VNR Draft. Stakeholders comments and further inputs had validated the 0-Draft facilitating completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft and approval of the SDGTF. The draft went through a further refining process of finalizing on SDGTF discussions, editing and proof reading for final production and printing and launching at the Development Partners Meeting held mid-June 2018.



### III. GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE SDG'S IN THE PLANNING STATEMENTS

The KDP 2016-2019 and the KV20 are national frameworks for nation development in Kiribati that puts people in the center committed to international conventions of the United Nations and regional obligations as a member of the Pacific Forum with dedication to pursue them in the interest of Kiribati and its citizens, considering national realities, capacities, respecting national policies and priorities. The KV20 intends to fast track economic development for the economy and the people in alignment to the SDGs.

Under current obligations agenda are the commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Small Islands Developing States and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. These global and regional commitments reinforce and complement Kiribati's national priorities and Kiribati is committed to achieve the associated goals and objectives. The table below illustrates how the KDP maps against global commitments.

The Link between the KDP, Sustainable Development Goals,

Kiribati Development Plan	Sustainable Development Goals	Istanbul Plan of Action	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)	Framework for Pacific Regionalism (2015 Forum meeting priorities)
<b>KPA 1: Human Resource Development</b>	Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Human and social development - education and training and youth development	Investment in all forms of education and training for decent work for all	
<b>KPA 2: Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction</b>	Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries	Trade (not an explicit target area in KDP) Economic shocks - global impact on prices, currency, remittances, FDI, tourism Social protection	Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all Food security and nutrition	Increasing economic returns from fisheries resources
<b>KPA 3: Health</b>	Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all	Population and primary health	Health and non-communicable diseases	Substantial burden that cervical cancer places on women and girls in the Pacific region
<b>KPA 4: Environment</b>	Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	Agriculture, food security and rural development Climate change and environment sustainability Disaster risk reduction	Disaster risk reduction Climate change Oceans and seas Sustainable production and consumption Biodiversity Invasive alien species Management of waste and chemicals	Ensuring the sustainable management of fisheries Climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific
<b>KPA 5: Governance</b>	Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies	Gender equality and empowerment of women Good governance at all levels	Gender equality and empowerment of women Social development	
<b>KPA 6: Infrastructure</b>	Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Productive capacity - infrastructure; energy; and technology Water and sanitation	Sustainable energy Water and sanitation Sustainable transport	Unprecedented economic and educational opportunities that Information Communications Technologies (ICT) offers, including access to world markets and global knowledge
<b>Means of Implementation</b>	Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building	Means of implementation, including: a) Partnerships; b) Financing; c) Trade; d) Capacity	

Kiribati Development Plan	Sustainable Development Goals	Istanbul Plan of Action	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)	Framework for Pacific Regionalism (2015 Forum meeting priorities)
		(domestic revenue, ODA, external debt, FDI, remittances)	Building; e) Technology; f) Data and Statistics; g) Institutional Support for SIDS	

One of the main tasks for Government includes integration of the SDGs into the planning, policy, legal reviews/development, budgetary process and development projects aligned to priorities of the KDP and KV20 to implement the SDGs. This task is on-going with different government sectors', policy reviews/development, law reforms, ministry strategic planning and eventual implementation.

Sectors, namely education, health, energy, waste management, fisheries, water and sanitation, climate change and disaster management (KJIP), national food and nutrition security policy, elimination of sexual and gender based violence, gender equality and women development policy (draft), trade policy to name a few, have incorporated the SDGs into respective policy documents and action plans. For instance, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services has developed a National Food and Nutrition Policy (2016-2030) that is in line with SDG 2. The policy targets to eliminate hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. It also takes into account other SDGs related to health, poverty, gender equality, water and sanitation, responsible production and consumption, and climate change. In addition to this, the Health Master Plan (2016-2019) is developed with nine underlying principles to ensure relevant and pro-poor health services, realistic and achievable outcomes, evidence based, efficient and cost effective, and sustainable. The KDP 2016-2019 aligned to the 2030 Agenda is one of the frameworks adopted in developing the Health Master Plan.

In terms of the education sector, it is important to note that the election manifesto of the current administration makes specific provisions for 'free education' beyond junior secondary school and supporting the pre-school level of education. Accordingly, a new law on Early Education and Child Care was recently passed in 2017 reflecting Government commitment to inclusive education.

The Kiribati Integrated Energy Roadmap 2017-2025 provides a framework that will enable Government to achieve its vision of an energy sector that contributes to energy independence and sustainable development. The KIER also demonstrates Kiribati's commitment to deploying renewable energy and addressing the challenges of climate change responding to SDG 7. The objectives of the policy include promoting energy conservation and efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix, and improving the reliability and sustainability of electricity while increasing national energy security.

The sustainable and sound management of waste is a big challenge in Kiribati in terms of protecting human health, marine life and the environment. Waste management is addressed in the Environment Act 2007. The recycling project for cans and plastic bottles has alleviated Kiribati of the waste problem. A special Act was passed to enable sustainable operation of the project under a private contractor arrangement through a \$0.01 charge to consumers. Education curriculum is streamlined to address climate change, gender equality and other issues including proper waste management to encourage positive behavior changes.

In the fisheries sector, Kiribati continues its engagement with regional and international partners in making the fisheries in the Pacific Ocean sustainable through proper monitoring and control systems and policies. Kiribati is a member of the FFA and a party to the Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA) and recognizes the need to be part of regional and international treaties in pursuance of ensuring sustainable use and conservation of tuna resources. The 10-year national fisheries policy 2013-2025 which continues to be relevant for Kiribati and sustainability objectives of marine resources is a key guiding document to managing fish and other marine resources that highlights key policy areas that

include population and food security, revenue and employment, climate change and others. The policy is relevant to SDGs on economic development, food security, employment, marine resources conservation and climate change.

In water and sanitation, efforts are on-going to provide access to safe drinking water across the country and improved sanitation in priority areas where child health and safe water are of gravest concerns with outlook to improve sanitation across the country. To this regard, the government manifesto, KDP and KV20 pledge the supply of safe drinking water to all islands, and improving storage and catchment for rain to ensure water security across the country. Kiribati developed a National Water Policy in 2008 which key objectives and strategies are continued by current administration. The policy's three goals respond to fifteen priority areas related to health issues arising, water quality, protection, conservation and management, demands in urban areas, provision services, rainwater collection and storage, losses in leakages in reticulation systems, sustainability, education and capacity building, and limited supply. The policy accordingly, addresses a number of SDGs including health, food security, climate change impacts.

In the legal sector, government has in place laws that are compliant to the SDGs which are appropriately updated as required. For example, the Environment Act 1999 was amended pursued reforms to ensure safety of the environment (TRNTM and appropriate service for all from violence Act 2014), inclusiveness (Education Act 2013), climate change, food security (Bio-security Act 2011).

The table below comprises of Acts, new and amended that government has made:

ACT	DATE	Details	Objective
Fisheries Act 2010	Amended 2015	To address issues raised by EU Commission – to identify Kiribati as a possible non-cooperating 3 <sup>rd</sup> country in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	To comply with international and regional rules applying to the conservation and management of fishing resources in accordance with Article 62 of the UN convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS)
Native Lands	Amended 2015	The Act prohibits a provision in a lease agreement which precludes the right of the leaser (land owners) to give or refuse consent for a subletting of the land comprised in the lease or sublease	Empower land owners to decide on the use of their land leased by government or to be leased
Occupational health and safety	2015	Newly passed in 2015 in the interest of the employee and the employer	To ensure employees are safe and well protected from risks and hazards, and protecting the employer from potential liabilities for injuries or death
Police service	Amended 2015	Amended to include special constables under 'members of the police service'	Empower them to act as police constable
Juvenile Justice	2015	Newly passed in 2015 to fairly protect and deal with juvenile cases	For special protection of a child during any investigation relating to the commission or possible commission of an offence by a child or young person by setting up a juvenile

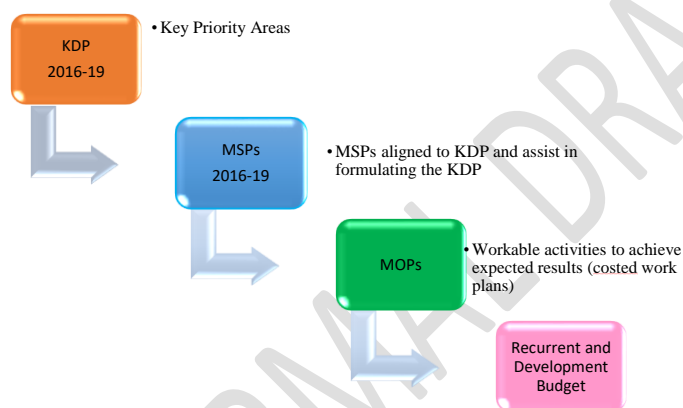
			justice system that prevent crime by addressing the circumstances underlying a juvenile's offending behaviour, re-habitates juveniles who commit offences and reintegrate them into society; ensure that a juvenile is subject to meaningful consequences for the offence for the long-term protection of the public.
Procurement Act 2002	Amended 2016		To provide for a legal avenue to enable any person to apply for judiciary review of any action or mission of the act entity which is not in compliance with the provisions of the procurement act 2002.
Employment and Industrial Relations Code	2015	A code to make provision for the regulation of employment contract, industrial relations and the settlement of employment dispute and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith	To improve work conditions and hand industrial relations dispute.
Leaders code of conduct	2016	A new regulation that specify interpretation, obligations of a leader, machinery provisions, investigations of violation, penalties, offence and regulations.	To support a commitment under the Biketawa Declaration to the principals of good governance whereby leaders are required to lead with fairness, transparency and accountability.
Education Act 2013	Amended 2016	Government assistance to students from form 4 up to form 6 in senior secondary schools in terms of school fees and book allowance	Free education for all that pass the entry exams
Seabed minerals Act	2017	New Act passed for proper regulation to improve the ordinance 'mineral development licensing ordinance 1977'	To govern seabed minerals addressing outdated and inadequate to address mining seabed minerals activities through appropriate governance by a secretariat established, technical advisory committee, specified areas for mining, duties and responsibilities of individuals. Licensing, Sponsorship, Research, Fiscal arrangements and others (miscellaneous) are specified.

Kiribati Audit Act	2017	New Act passed obligating the republic to comply with the Act.	Establishing a new board to oversight the Auditor General role, responding to Principle 5 of the Mexico Declaration where it states, the Auditor General should have the obligation to report on the discharge of functions generally. A new accountability regime that now involves an external body to review the performance of the Auditor General.
Maritime Act	2017	Merging three Acts of 1983, 1990, and colonial days Harbour Ordinance, as Maritime Act	2017A new Act to improve maritime law and coordination and relevance to maritime conventions for compliance by foreign and domestic shipping operators. To ensure safety of passengers and efficient service of shipping.
Traffic Act 2002	2017	To replace the 2002 Act	For updating with changes in traffic in Kiribati and to be consistent with international good practice with safety in mind, and the need for easy enforceable approach in Kiribati
Public Service Commission Act 1983	Amended 2017	Governs the public service recruitment, appointment, dismissal, disputes etc., of public service employees.	Removing immunity of the PSC from legal challenges against its decision and advices

#### IV. PROCESS FOR OWNERSHIP OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The process of enabling ownership of the SDGs is largely through integration of the SDGs in the KDP 2016-2019 Key Priority Areas (KPAs) upon which Ministry Strategic Plans and Ministry Operation Plans are formulated. Work plans of ministries identify relevant and needed activities to implement the MSPs for the KPAs of the KDP.

The KDP 2016-19 takes into account various international obligations that the Government of Kiribati has assented to. These include the Sustainable Development Goals, the Istanbul Plan of Action, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. Annex B shows the links with these obligations and the KDP. The KDP is the guide for formulating policies and programs to advance inclusive economic development in Kiribati and has an objective of fast-tracking the implementation of the SDGs.



As well, discussions about the nature and purpose of the Plan has occurred at inter-government level, civil society and NGOs, and the private sector whose feedback on the plan facilitated production of the final plan. NEPO conducted a series of awareness activities with government ministry partners, and with the NGOs/CSOs at the various stages of KDP review and formulation for the current KDP. Through participatory consultations held with Donors where NGO/CSO partners were also present, and in particular the development and validation of the UNPS (UNDAF), much discussion and work on ensuring alignment of the KDP and UNPS was undertaken and this has resulted in both documents closely aligned. This process supported and encouraged ownership by the people and partnership between Kiribati and donor agencies for the implementation of connected KDP and SDGs.

All projects proposed by Ministries, agencies, NGOs and Island Councils should align with the KDP. The KDP provides a framework for development so that donors and government agencies have a clear understanding of the policy directions of the Government. The Plan proves an invaluable reference for development partners in aligning their assistance objectives with the priorities of the Government of Kiribati.

The processes for ownership has created an 'enabling environment' for close integration of the SDGs into national planning frameworks and in the development of relevant policies, legal reviews and updates that enhance efforts to address key priorities of the KDP and implementation of the SDGs.

## V. PROCESS FOR INTERGRATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

- **The Kiribati Vision (KV20) 2016 – 2036 Framework**

The KV20 is a 12—year long-term development blueprint for Kiribati that covers the periods 2016 to 2036, motivated by a collective aspiration for a better society in 20 years' time. The vision of the KV20 is for Kiribati to become a wealthy, healthy and peaceful nation. It seeks to achieve the development aspiration by maximizing the development benefits from fisheries and tourism as key productive sectors. The development of the sector is expected to stimulate the development of other sectors through backward and forward sectoral linkages. The contribution of the fisheries and tourism sectors to the country's development aspirations is expected to directly contribute towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for I-Kiribati by 2036 some six years after 2030.

The Vision is anchored on four pillars: Wealth; Peace and Security; Infrastructure; and Governance. The Wealth Pillar aims to develop the natural capital, human capital and cultural capital to improve economic growth and reduce poverty, addressing SDGs 1 End Poverty in all its forms everywhere, and 8, Decent Work and Economic Growth). Development of the natural capital will include implementing measures to maximizing revenue from the fisheries and marine resources, improving contribution of the tourism sector to GDP, implementing strategies to support the development of inclusive trade and private sector, and to improve land use and planning to create additional land for commercial development.

The human capital component, directly related to SDG 4 'Quality Education to ensure inclusive and equitable Quality Education and Promote Life-long learning opportunities for all, seeks to create highly educated and skilled population, increase access to decent employment; develop a highly skilled, qualified and efficient work force and accessible and affordable quality healthcare system. Creating a globally competitive and healthy human resource base is critical towards achieving the overall goal of the vision given its linkages to employment opportunities. Develop cultural capital to safeguard and revive traditional skills and knowledge is recognized to support the tourism industry.

The importance of security and creating a more secure living and working environment, the Peace and Security Pillar aims at creating a secure, safer and peaceful Kiribati by strengthening the National Security governance policy frameworks, strengthen the relevant institutions and strategic partnerships. Similarly, this Pillar encompasses SDG 16 for 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institution'. The Infrastructure Pillar which is relevant to SDG 9 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, touching also on SDG 11 'Sustainable Cities and Communities', aims at improving connectivity and accessibility in relation to economic and social infrastructure. It seeks to improve the air, land and sea transport infrastructure, and ICT infrastructure. It also aims to improve access to utility and social infrastructure. The KV20 recognizes significant cross cutting role of infrastructure in providing basic services and creating an enabling environment for the development of the fisheries and tourism.

The Governance Pillar aims to create a corrupt-free society by: strengthening national and local traditional and governance policy and legislative framework; fostering and strengthening the integrity and independence of institutions mandated to promote good governance and eliminate corruption; strengthen strategic partnerships and institutionalize anti-corruption and good governance principles in the public service and education systems in Kiribati. SDG 16 is herein addressed by the Governance Pillar. Through these creations of the Governance Pillar, also serves as enabling strategy to implementation for successful SDGs in Kiribati.

The Vision is also puts emphasis on gender, youth, vulnerable groups, equity and partnership as cross cutting principles. The Vision will accentuate equity in all the sector program and projects to be implemented, to create equal opportunities for all clusters in society including women, youth, people

living with disability and other vulnerable groups. It further recognizes Kiribati's vulnerability to climate change, as a key constraint to achieving the desired outcomes. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into various programs will ensure responsiveness and sensitivity to the environment conservation, climate change and sustainable development. Reducing risks and ensuring that the development programs implemented creates sustainable development for all, leaving no one behind.

- **The Kiribati Development Plan 2016-2019**

The vision of the 2016-19 KDP is 'Towards a better educated, healthier, more prosperous nation with a higher quality of life'. This vision encompasses the major goals of providing for a higher education population to prepare students for future employment, as well as improving the health conditions of the nation and setting the strategies for a more prosperous community. These are direct goals of the SDGs. The mission of the 2016-19 KDP is "To promote better education, better health and inclusive sustainable economic growth and development through the implementation of higher education standards, the delivery of safe, quality health services and the application of sound economic policies.", is a further enhancement of SDG integration in the KDP.

The Kiribati Development Plan for 2016-19 is the guide for formulating policies and programs to advance inclusive economic development in Kiribati and has been facilitated by the production of Ministry Strategic Plans by each Ministry and agency of the Government. Approval of projects for funding etc., is dependent on close alignment of the proposals to the goals and objectives of the KDP. Similarly, KDP provides a framework for development so that donors and government agencies objectives are closely aligned to directly assist Kiribati where it needs support most. The Plan proves an invaluable reference for development partners in aligning their assistance objectives with the priorities of the Government of Kiribati. The UNPS is an example which focus areas and considered most relevant to the KDP 2016-2019.

- **Integration of SDGs in the KAPs**

The KPA 1 of the KDP (Human Resource Development) is a reflection of SDG4 *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*. The set targets/indicators to achieve 100% in primary school male and female enrolment, in net intake rates, survival rate for class 5, and transition rate from class 6 to form 1 are reflective of SDG 4 intentions. Similarly, student-teacher target is aimed to meet standards and reduce it to 20, and it sets targets of improving numeracy, English language, inclusive education for people living with disability, and enrolments in pre-primary schools. International quality standards are likewise addressed for higher education at the Kiribati Institute of Technology for students to achieve.

The KPA 2 (Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction) of the KDP is aligned to *SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth & SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities*. The set of targets/indicators of KPA 2 to achieve Real GDP growth of at least average 3% averaged annually, Private sector employment growth to at least 20% over the period of the Plan, reducing by at least half the proportion of people of all ages living below national poverty line in 2006, and bring to zero the number of people living in extreme poverty, currently estimated at less than \$1.25 a day. Improved revenue through fisheries, tourism, taxation revenue and better public financial management, effective debt management controls, improved commercial performance of State Owned Enterprises are listed targets for these Goals. Others listed under KPA 2 include, improved collection and availability of statistics through a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, Improvements in aid effectiveness, efficient utilization and management of the RERF (Revenue Equalization Reserve Fund). Implementation of an Investment Policy Framework, and development of a National Trade Policy Framework, a National Cooperative Policy and Development and Implementation of a Coconut



Sector Development Strategy are other components of KPA to effectively contribute to relative SDG Goals.

The KPA3 (Health) is aligned to SDG 3- *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all*. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services Strategic Plan's set of targets and indicators are geared to address critical health issues aiming to reduce numbers in diabetes, Maternal Mortality, Obesity rate for male and female, Maternal death, Hepatitis B infections per 100,000 population. Adolescent birth rate at the age of 15-19 per 1000 girls in that age group, Under-five mortality (per 1000 live births) 30, TB case notification rate (all forms, per 100,000 population) 315, Leprosy prevalence (per 10,000 population), Lymphatic Filariasis prevalence (total population) eliminated, Revised essential drugs list by March 2016 and annually, Updated treatment guidelines by June 2016 and annually and Participation in sport and physical activity

KPA 4 (Environment) is aligned to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water and SDG 15 Life on Land. Listed targets consistently aligned with the related SDGs including: Programs for the mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change increased, mangrove plantings increased, Crop production and diversity and livestock numbers increased, A new Food and Nutrition Security Policy finalised in 2016, a Biosecurity Act introduced, Strengthened survey and planning capacity, and improvements in GIS and Data management systems. Community involvement is part of this KPA where "a number of community agreements are developed and signed for the establishment of conservation areas..." and fishing license arrangements with fishing vessels are in place for strict fish stock maintenance and control. Targets for landfill sites and amount of bulky scrap metal are set.

KPA 5: (Governance) is aligned to SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDG 16 Peace Justice & Strong Institution. Similarly, the set of targets/indicators for KPA 5 seek to improve Kiribati's position to addressing the relative SDG Goals. Currently there are rigorous on-going campaigns for Human Right with specific attention to an inclusive approach to address the less advantage including, women, children and people living with disabilities. Strategies of the KDP require improving court services, buildings, and magistrate courts as well as building capacities of officers in local government (councils). Review and updating of policies for youth, access to finance through the village banks for outer islands providing micro finance support, disability policy, and other attempts including improving police service, customer service at public service, performance auditing of SOEs are on-going. Obligations for the Reporting and Implementation of International Conventions are receiving attention and a late Anti-corruption policy has been approved (2017).

KPA 6 (Infrastructure) is aligned to SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. The set of targets /indicators intend to improve communication, transport (air and land), coastal protection, development on islands in the LINNIX, ground water management and improved water systems and rainwater harvesting, increased sustainable energy technologies (solar), capacity building in the IT and application of ICT, electricity service, as well as road safety planning.

## **VI. INTEGRATION OF THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** **(Social inclusion, Economy efficiency & Environmental sustainability)**

The national frameworks for Kiribati are the KDP and the new KV20. KDP visions: "Towards a better educated, healthier, more prosperous nation with a higher quality of life", goals and strategies with key performance indicators for all Ministries encourage sustainable, inclusive development and efficiency in the use of resources. The MSPs and the MOPs are guided by the KDP vision and goals. The KDP encompasses the major goals of providing for a higher education population to prepare students for future employment, as well as improving the health conditions of the nation and setting the strategies for a more prosperous community. The KV20 puts similar emphasis: "... Kiribati to become a wealthy, healthy and peaceful nation with the people at the centre of it all. The missions of both the KDP: *"To promote better education, better health and inclusive sustainable economic growth and development through the implementation of higher education standards, the delivery of safe, quality health services and the application of sound economic policies."* The KV20 focuses on "fast-tracking and accelerating growth through maximisation of returns from natural, human and cultural capital".

The MSPs and MOPs are guided by the KDP.

The following are a few of the efforts that illustrate how the three dimensions are integrated in the development process in Kiribati:

- i) Education is key to achievement of MDGs. An inclusive approach in the education sector for all children has successfully been adopted in the Education Act 2013 and the Compulsory Education Policy 2015.
- ii) Gender equality policy is addressing women issues to ensure inclusive considerations and support with focus as well on the need to eliminate violence against women and girls. Gender inequality is strongly associated with the violence against women and girls in Kiribati. Economic and leadership empowerment are addressed.
- iii) The environment policies, climate change issues in the KJIP, development projects, etc., are encouraged to align with the KDP for sustainability and inclusive considerations.
- iv) The PIPA is a real story that is built on the three concepts of sustainable development, social inclusion and economy efficiency and environment sustainability.
- v) Health accessibility ensures reachability by the disadvantaged groups including women and children, as well as people living with disability.
- vi) Clean environment projects such as the use of sustainable energy from the solar are encouraged with outer island solar lighting; the PUB integrated power system; there are plans to use bio-fuel, wind power, and ocean gas, wave and the likes.
- vii) Anti-corruption policy of Kiribati is a new policy against corruption. For like purposes, the Procurement Act continues to play an important role in ensuring efficient resource use as well as working against possible corrupt actions.

viii) Streamlining approaches are adopted to ensure addressing of the SDG issues at all levels including importantly at early school curriculum, budget, policy and guidelines and practices.

ix) Development projects currently implemented are geared to addressing the issues and needs highlighted in the KDP and consistently with the SDGs. Projects in progress include...

INFORMAL DRAFT

## **VII. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM (COORDINATION – MONITORING & EVALUATION)**

A key strategy of the 2016-19 KDP is the development and implementation of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (KPA 2). This will include the development of a centralized national statistical website where all statistical information from all Ministries will be stored.

The National Economic Planning Office will compile an analytical Progress Report of the KDP national performance on a bi-annual basis, which serves the same purpose for the SDGs progress reporting. At the national level, the Development Coordinating Committee (DCC) will provide quality assurance of the KDP through oversight and approval of these bi-annual progress reports. The Country Results Framework in the KDP will provide the basis for monitoring the Plan. The performance information presented in the KDP Progress Report will be discussed and assessed by the DCC and decisions will be made in relation to management actions required. The six-monthly Progress Report will then be taken by the DCC to Cabinet. NEPO will also compile an annual summary report of the national performance of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This report will also be assessed by the DCC before being taken to Cabinet.

A Mid-term Review of the KDP will be carried out after two and a half years of the Plan's operation. The Mid-Term Review in 2018 will measure progress on the implementation of the KDP through consultation with stakeholders and suggest areas of ongoing strengthening to facilitate improved and more efficient implementation. The Mid-Term Review will report to the DCC and ultimately Cabinet. The Mid-Term Review will assist in shaping the framework for the next KDP 2020-2023.

A final evaluation of the KDP will be conducted after four and half years of the Plan's implementation. The evaluation will be led by NEPO with support from development partners. The underlying principle of the evaluation will be to ensure independence and objectivity. The evaluation will assess the overall effectiveness of the KDP against its objectives, targets, and where possible, it will look at impacts. The evaluation will be considered by the DCC and the Cabinet.

Development partners will assist with the process of monitoring the KDP through the provision of relevant reports such as Project Mid-Term Reviews, and Project Completion Reports.

A specific task force for the SDGs has been established for the purpose of monitoring or progress in implementing the goals of both the SDGs and that of the KDP. Membership will be drawn from key government sectors/ministries and the CSOs/NGOs to ensure greater involvement and continued support of the SDGs implementation at all levels.

## VIII. CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG's

A number of cyclical and structural difficulties were encountered while implementing these goals. These difficulties are summarized as follows:

- Lack of data and proper information management system in almost all sectors. Not all Ministries, and even at NGO/CSO levels have statistics and data officer and where there are, there are apparent insufficient skills and capacities to sustain data updating and analysis. Apart from the National Statistics Office, the Health and Education Ministries have statistics offices/units with staff to keep records and try to provide data however, all these offices do not possess sufficient skills and expertise to enable continued availability of data as well as to the standard and level required for quality reporting.
- Inadequate financial, technical, and human resources. The KV20 and KDP 2016-2019 are very ambitious plans with most relevant strategies to achieve targets and goals for a better Kiribati and for progressing the commitments made in accessioning to the international and regional treaties and conventions. The key challenge in these ambitions lie mainly in the financial capacity of the Government to successfully implement the plan. Continued support and partnership with more financially able development partners and the UN will assist the Government realize the intentions of the plans.
- Weak synergy of action by stakeholders. Whilst efforts are on-going to improve coordination and synergy in the development process and in the implementation of the SDGs, the VNR report identifies that there are gaps that still exist in this area. An example is in the area of data management. Whilst NSO is expected to have all data and information, it has not been the case. Ministries fail to provide timely data and updates to the NSO and reporting on the progress of the SDGs has taken about 40% of the time for completing the report in visiting ministries and organizations to gather data and information.
- Low capacity of national statistical institutions to address new challenges, leading to poor Monitoring/evaluation and inadequate setting of indicators. Whilst finding indicators of the SDGs difficult and sometimes inappropriate/irrelevant, there is additional need to building national capacities in the area to also ensure national plans (KDP, KV20 and Ministry Operation Plans) are effectively implemented and targeted goals are achieved.
- Persistence of social-cultural constraints, which promotes discrimination and stigmatization in dealing with gender issues. This is a weak area and often currently considered Kiribati to the scope of work being conducted by MWYSSA, gender based violence. Gender mainstreaming in policies, plans and budgets should be key for implementation to address all aspects of gender such as empowerment, participation, leadership etc.
- Poor communication on the need for the actors in general and the population at grassroots level in particular to the SDGs. Due to scatteredness of islands and the distance between islands, exacerbated with limited telecommunications, there has been constrained effort for effective dissemination and communication of the SDGs. There has also been insufficient awareness of SDGs at non-government stakeholder levels. There is need to ensure that reps on national committees and attending consultations take back messages to the organization and

- communities. Better reporting and feedback frameworks need to be agreed accompanied by monitoring systems.
- Isolation and scatteredness. Kiribati faces the greatest challenge of isolation and scatteredness making life, and development hard and costly. Kiribati, for most of its essential needs for infrastructure, building, food, health, etc., is highly import-dependent. Development of the Tourism sector faces the same challenge for which Government is committed to address the related key sectors to support its development. Investments to back up tourism development is not a small task for which Government will support. From both fisheries and tourism, issues of economic development, employment, cultural, agriculture, etc., will be assisted.
  - Climate Change challenges (sea level rise, inundation and coastal erosion) – Coordination is a challenge and need strengthening at the national and sub-national level and suggestion to engage in a bottom-up approach and finding a landing ground with the top-down decisions made.
  - Legislation (old and need review/updating). Whilst there are new laws and legislations developed, there remains more to be done to update colonial time laws and better contextualize them to Kiribati.
  - Inaccessibility of essential services in outer islands (bank/financial institutions). Outer islands continue to face challenges to development at island, community and family levels. There is limited accessibility to financing services to support elevation of wealth in outer islands. The Village Bank of 1990s continue in some islands with strong cultures and traditional control systems. Most of the village banks in other islands have stopped operating. Whilst the MCIC and KCCI are providing capacity building programs for businesses, the issue of finance remains a challenge. The Development Bank provides loans at appropriate levels however issues of collateral and guarantee deter effectiveness and accessibility. Cooperatives have declined with few remaining in outer islands. It is a good model and needs to be reviewed to address the issues that have caused the decline and ineffectiveness.
  - Regional Cooperation – good coordination is key to ensure maximization of use of resources, inclusiveness and sensitivity to the different levels of capacities between the members to contribute to reducing inequalities where most possible.
  - Urbanization. Kiribati is a highly urbanized country with more than 50% of the population living in Urban Tarawa. There is need to reverse the flow and Government is committed to pursue outer island development and improvement of living conditions in outer islands. A lot of investment is required and Kiribati will continue to seek support of development partners to complement Government's efforts. Addressing urbanization will also address other key SDG issues of health, youth, social welfare, and economic development.

## **IX. CONCLUSION & THE WAY FORWARD**

This review analyzed current efforts and planned activities for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Kiribati. In this regard, ongoing efforts target mainstreaming the Goals in sectoral policies and plans by creating awareness and analyzing data gaps were highlighted. Furthermore, identifying national priorities and developing a monitoring framework are key activities scheduled for 2017.

This report also identified challenges faced by Kiribati in implementing Agenda 2030 as a Small Island Developing State. Collection and effective management of data across all sectors is one of the major challenges in the development of this VNR. Whilst in general a lot has been going on addressing the KDP and SDGs, there is realization that evidence through data has proved a major challenge in most sectors. Education and Health have made progress however capacity building and financial support remain a need to ensure continued data management to serve for the many useful purposes, such as SDG and even KDP reporting. To supplement information, use of stories, case studies and videos have been made.

Building upon the progress made for the Millennium Development Goals, Kiribati is encouraged to take the necessary steps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. With more and closer involvement of Government stakeholders (ministries, technical training institutions, schools), NGO stakeholders, leaders (MPs), established movements (Gender advocates, EVAW advocate etc.), outer islands through the Councils, established and recognized organizations of Women, Youth, Elders, and Villages, Kiribati holds potential ability to achieve the SDGs for 2030.

Importantly, Kiribati has from the date of VNR process officially established the SDG taskforce. The NEPO naturally takes the lead in the monitoring and evaluation of the KDP which also extends to SDGs. There is realization that the task of M&E requires more and the task force established will be responsible to support the M&E of both the KDP and SDGs, including the KV20 that aspires to accelerate implementation and achievements of goals.

Review of sector polices currently on-going will be encouraged to undertake the review with an SDG lens to ensure sufficient addressing of the goals in the updated policies. Alongside these reviews and during the consultations with stakeholders, the opportunity should be taken to create the required awareness and promotion about the SDGs.



**IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**KPA 1: Human Resource Development and SDG Goal 4:  
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education  
and promote lifelong learning**

The basic education system of Kiribati consists of the first twelve years of schooling. It is made up of pre-school (3 to 5 years old) primary school (grades 1 to 6) and Junior Secondary School (Forms 1 to 3). The Primary and JSS are supplemented by 4 years of Senior Secondary Schooling which starts from Forms 4 to 7. The primary and junior secondary components of schooling are compulsory and free. Government also approved subsidization of student transportation and stationery for primary and JSS students in 2015.

**Student Enrolment**

The total school enrolment has increased from 27,140 in 2013 to 28,565 in 2016. The trend in enrolment for junior secondary, however, has decreased from 7,038 to 6,423 during the same period (Table #).

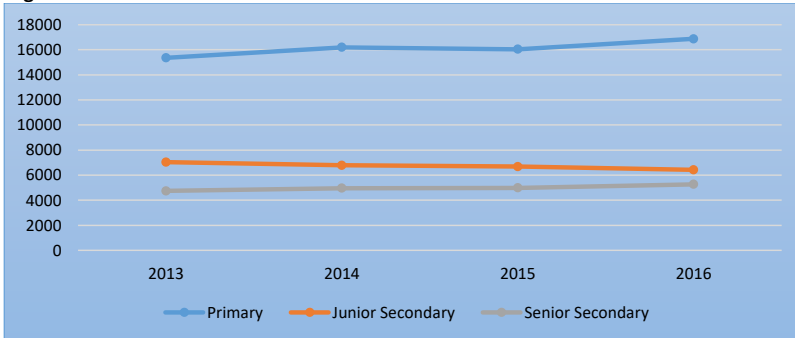
**Table #: School Enrolment 2013-2016**

Education level	Year			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
	15357	16201	16043	16880
	7038	6788	6683	6423
	4745	4960	4980	5262
	27140	27949	27706	28565





**Figure#: Trends in School Enrolment 2013-2016**

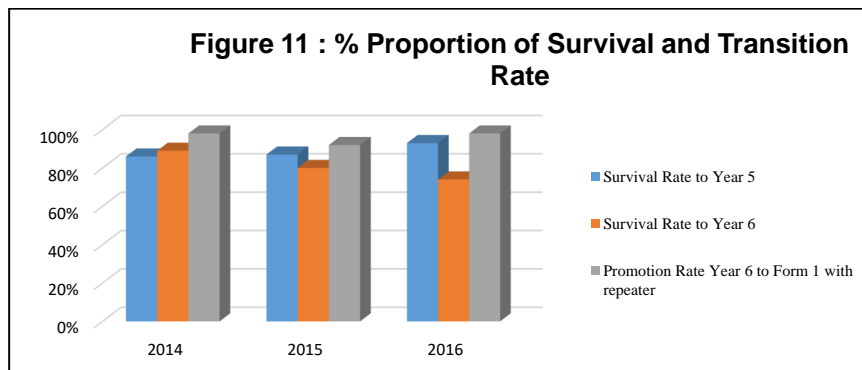


Source: KEMIS 2017

**Survival and Transition**

In terms of specific level analysis, the school enrolment for JSS and SSS School, is lower than the primary school enrolment. The survival rate at the primary level decreased from 89% in 2014 to 74% 2016 (Figure #) indicating that majority of the young population still do not receive basic education, thus reducing the employability of the I-Kiribati. On the other hand, the transition rate from primary to secondary level has been over 90% (Figure 10).

**Figure #: Proportion of Survival and Transition Rate**



**Gender Parity Index**

The Gender Parity Index (GPI) which measures the ratio of females to males was 1.08 in 2011 and 1.04 in 2014. The trend in GPI implies that the number of enrolled girls have been greater than the boys across the four-year period. Progress is positive in GPI.

Table #: Gender Parity Index

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Gender Parity Index</b>	1.08	1.06	1.07	1.04



## Literacy

The literacy level has improved from 29% in 2012 to 73% in 2015 for Year 4, while numeracy has also improved from 66% in 2012 to 93% in 2015 for the same level. For Year 6, literacy and numeracy levels have also improved from 40% in 2012 to 56% in 2015 and from 43% in 2012 to 72% in 2015, respectively (Table 3).

Table #: Literacy and Numeracy Proficiency Level (%)

	Year 4		Year 6	
	2012	2015	2012	2015
Numeracy	66	93	43	72
Literacy	29	73	40	56

## Education Quality

There are two types of teachers recognized to having required academic qualifications to teach at different levels of the Kiribati Education System. The first type of qualified teachers is known as Qualified Teachers; those teaching at each level of education having attained at least the minimum academic qualifications required by the national authorities for giving classes at schools. The second type of teachers is known as Certified Teachers or those teachers who are certified to have completed at least the minimum required teacher training. In Kiribati this is a two-year teaching certificate.

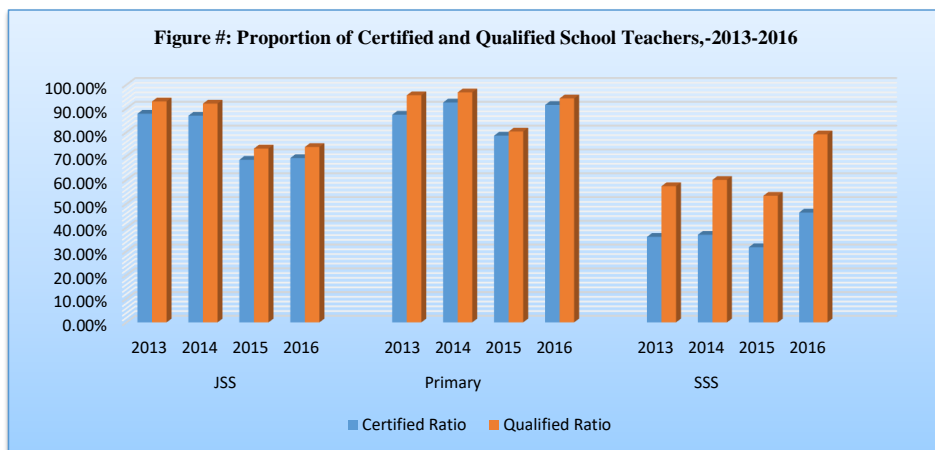
The minimum academic qualifications required by national authorities for teachers at schools has changed from Form 5 to Form 6 for Primary Teachers and Form 7 for JSS and SSS. Certification requires a two-year teaching certificate. The trend appears to be showing overall better qualifications for teachers in Kiribati Schools (Figure 13) however, the number of certified teachers in SSS are lower than that of the JSS and Primary level.

The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) is high (1:40-50) in the Primary schools and JSS on South Tarawa and lower on the outer islands (1:20). The government goal to have qualified teachers through the Kiribati Teachers College (KTC) over the years is expected to reduce the PTR to a desired level. The Primary curriculum has undergone major reforms and the reform for JSS curriculum is expected to be finalised in 2019. The Kiribati Teachers College (KTC) aims at training qualified diploma teachers for both Primary and JSS, while teachers for the SSS are serviced by graduate teachers from USP and other tertiary institutions in the region. The scholarship awards are given to students who meet the minimum entry requirements for tertiary institution like USP.

In order to ensure quality outputs, the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) will be reduced from the average ratio of 1:40 to 1:30 by the year 2023 to address the shortage of qualified teachers. However, this will require additional investment towards training of more qualified teachers.

The survival/retention rate in primary level education will also be improved from 75% to 80% in 2019 and 100% by year 2036. On the other hand, the number of truancy across all levels of education will be reduced from 40% to 30% in 2019 and 3% by the year 2036. For an increased proportion of employable population, Government has plans to increase the number of vocational training centres

in the outer islands from 1 to 4 by 2019 and 23 by 2036 to ensure that the number of trained outputs from the outer islands are increased from 0 to 160 by 2019 and 8800 by 2036.



Source: MOE

#### Learning and Life Skills for Young People and Adults – Tertiary Education and Training

Kiribati has four (4) tertiary institutions. These include the Kiribati Institute of Technology (KIT), Marine Training Centre (MTC), KTC and University of South Pacific (USP). Tertiary institutions have an intake of approximately 25% of school leavers per year, which is comparatively lower in relation to the number of school leavers per year and Government’s aim to promote inclusive formal education. In this context, there is need to implement measures to improve access to vocational training in tourism and fisheries related skills and other cross-cutting technical courses that would support the development of fisheries and tourism sectors.

For young people and adults there are a set of TVET institutions (table 11.a) and programs of study and skill development available that are overseen by a number of Ministries including the MoE (Kiribati Teachers College) and Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development (MEHR). The MEHR reports that it is attempting to refine and better target course offerings at KIT by consulting with business and industry about their skill needs in an attempt to match its offerings to the employment needs of the country. This is especially needed in the Kiribati Institute of Technology specialty areas of carpentry, automotive skills, electrical technology, accounting and business. In addition, the MEHR works consistently with industry to better match course offerings to labour skill demand and searches for employment opportunities for graduates. Furthermore, a range of non-formal education programs are supervised by the MEHR. Experience suggests that graduates from these institutions tend to gain immediate employment.

A range of technical courses are also available at KIT and intake as in the Table # immediately below provides details of the programs and intake. Interestingly, intake records show female numbers in all years (2015-2018) exceed that of male.

Intake 2015 - 2018													
Course	2015		2015 Total	2016		2016 Total	2017		2017 Total	2018		2018 Total	Grand Total
	Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		Female	Male		
CERT III in Information, Digital Media & Technology - Hardware Technician Skills set	6	6	12	3	18	21	4	15	19	10	20	30	82
Certificate I in Business	27	6	33										33
Certificate II in Automotive Servicing Technology	2	26	28	5	13	18	2	17	19	2	28	30	95
Certificate II in Business	50	7	57	22	4	26	29	1	30	28	3	31	144
Certificate II in Community Services	16	7	23	26	3	29	28	3	31	29	3	32	115
Certificate II in Construction Pathways	5	32	37	3	18	21	4	28	32	3	13	16	106
Certificate II in Drainage	5	29	34	6	12	18	3	16	19	3	13	16	87
Certificate II in Electro Technology (career start)	14	24	38	8	12	20	4	13	17	7	10	17	92
Certificate II in Metal Roofing and Cladding	2	4	6	2	10	12	2	9	11				29
Certificate III in Accounts Administration	19	12	31	22	9	31	24	7	31	26	4	30	123
Certificate III in Electro technology Electrician (Skill Set)	10	14	24										24
Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology	4	8	12										12
Certificate III in Plumbing-Plumber Skill Set				1	8	9	1	9	10	2	7	9	28
Certificate IV in Accounting	41	16	57	12	7	19	20	9	29	18	7	25	130
Diploma of Nursing	33	6	39	29	7	36	25	6	31	13	2	15	121
Grand Total	228	191	419	139	121	260	146	133	279	141	110	251	1209

The table # below presents the number and enrolment of TVET offerings provided by the Sector. It was hypothesised that the very high GPI in JSS and senior secondary schools might be due to other educational opportunities for boys. However, while there is an imbalance internally in many of the TVET offerings there is an overall gender balance across the sector.

The KIT has invested heavily in developing a strong and positive brand within the Kiribati community. This has resulted in KIT being recognized as a high quality TVET institution, allowing KIT graduates to receive preferred employment opportunities from local and international companies operating in Kiribati. A key strength of KIT is its ability to offer international standard TVET courses through partnership with TAFE South Australia, TAFE Queensland East Coast and Fiji National University. However, poor access, performance reliability and the high cost of internet connectivity impacts negatively on KIT teaching and administration. Although KIT has achieved significant reforms in workplace behavior and productivity, the performance of some staff needs to be raised to maintain KIT's strong brand attributes and provide the necessary mentoring and role models for KIT students and graduates.

**Table #: Number of Young People and Adults Enrolled in TVET Programmes, by Gender**

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>KSON - Kiribati School of Nursing</b>	10	22	15	59								
<b>FTC - Fisheries Training Centre</b>	85	0	64	0								
<b>MTC - Marine Training Centre</b>	100	0	50	0								
<b>KIT- Kiribati Institute of Technology</b>	171	106	122	147								
<b>KPS(PTC) - Police Training Centre</b>												
<b>KTC - Kiribati Teachers College</b>	65	183	23	75								
<b>Total</b>	431	311	274	281								

<b>% Females</b>	42%	51%
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(Source: MLHRD Project Report)

Government will continue to implement measures aimed at having highly educated and skilled population. In this context, the number of school aged children receiving formal education that includes primary and secondary level will be increased from 80% to 85% by 2019 and 100% by 2036. The percentage number of school drop outs will be reduced from 15% to 10% by 2019 and 3% by 2036 at all education levels. Government will also work towards improving English language literacy across all levels from 30% to 50% by 2019 and 100% by the year 2036. The competency of teachers in the teaching and learning from will be improved from 70% to 80% by 2019 and 100% by the year 2036 in order to promote quality education.

The Public Service Office has the overall mandate for national strategic human resource planning providing direction on priority areas of training for pre-service scholarships and numbers required, and for government employees' further education and training to address key gaps and national manpower shortage areas for development priorities. Through the National Human Resources Planning Committee with reps from Government and NGO stakeholders, a list of priority areas for pre-service and for in-service training and further education is approved by Cabinet for pursuance determining allocation of scholarships and training awards. The Scholarship Board of the MOE, guided by the list of priority areas, allocates scholarship awards for the Open and Pre-Service category, based on merit

For the plan period 2016-2019, the priority needs are selected based on manpower and skill gaps to address key priority areas of the KDP. Accordingly, 6 key broad areas of priority are Tourism and related disciplines (shipping, airline, cultural, IT & ICT); Fisheries/Applied Science; Anti-corruption/Good Governance and related fields including finance, taxation, auditing, law and commerce; Engineering; Education/HR/Admin/International Relations, Community Services/Gender/Investigation; Environment; journalism; Economics and Accounting; Business Admin, Law/Political Science. Bachelor's Degree/Diploma are for pre-service continuing students whilst Masters and higher qualifications are for mature and in-service training and for pursuance both through the USP extension services and overseas in Fiji, Australia or New Zealand. Scholarship awards with other bilateral donors are pursued in the countries offering the awards.

For the Outcome 4 of the KV20 addressing also the KDP, a highly skilled and qualified workforce, PSO is pursuing targets with indicators to: reduce complaints by 35% in 2019 to gradually reach 90% by 2036; reduce skills and qualification gap by 20% in 2019 and to reach 0% by 2036; increasing training budget by 1% in 2019 and up to 5% by 2036; and to complete a National Public Servants Competency Framework completed 100% by 2019.

### **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)**

Preschools are provided by churches, private and community organizations and there appears to be no coherent structures synthesizing either the definition of appropriate infrastructure standards, curriculum or teacher development. While currently the ministry was not actively involved, new administration and extended priorities for education, greater care and support is given; current Education Sector Strategic Plan is committed to identify resources needed for pre-schools, provide training and professional development. A new development in this area is an ECCE legislation which

was passed by House of Parliament in 2017 and regulation is in progress to address standards and structure, curriculum etc.

### School Accessibility and Student Participation

For equitable distribution, accessibility and availability, Government ensures that all islands have at least both Primary schools and JSS. All 23 island constituencies have Primary and JS schools and depending on the children's population, the Education Quota system is applied to determine how many Primary and JS Schools will be for each individual island. And for each district, at least a Senior Secondary School is available for continued secondary education for the district children population. Table # informs of numbers and types of schools for each District serving the Islands. To ensure children overcome issue of transportation to and from schools, Government provides school buses for each island along with sufficient operation cost/support to cover for fuel and servicing of the buses. Management of the vehicles is entrusted with Island Councils.

Table #: No. of Schools by Type, 2011 – 2014 in 4 Districts

District	Islands	2011				2012				2013				2014			
		PRI	JSS	CS	SS	PRI	JSS	CS	SS	PRI	JSS	CS	SS	PRI	JSS	CS	SS
North District	<b>TOTAL</b>	44	8	6	4	44	8	6	4	44	8	6	4	44	8	6	4
	Makin		1				1				1				1		
	Butaritari		1				1				1				1		
	Marakei		1				1				1				1		
	Abaiang		1				1				1				1		
	Tarawa		4				4				4				4		
Central District	<b>TOTAL</b>	19	6	1	2	19	6	1	2	19	6	1	2	19	6	2	1
	Maiana																
	Kuria																
	Aranuka																
	Abemama																
	Nonouti Banaba																
South District	<b>TOTAL</b>	23	7	1	1	23	7	1	1	23	7	1	1	23	7	1	1
	TabNorth																
	TabSouth																
	Onotoa																
	Beru																
	Nikunau																
	Tamana Arorae																
Linnix District	<b>TOTAL</b>	8	3	1	2	8	3	1	2	8	3	1	2	8	3	1	2
	Xmas																
	Tabuaeran																
	Teraina																
<b>Total</b>		94	24	9	9	94	24	9	9	94	24	10	8	94	24	10	8

Source: KEMIS Statistics Digest 2005 -2013

Further and more recent to address affordability issues by parents for their children's education, Government has extended its support to make education free up to JSS level, providing also free basic school materials such as exercise books, pencils, pens, as well as free transport to Primary School and JSS students that often face transportation issues, for travelling to and from schools; the no-fee policy has recently, commencing 2016, been extended, to all students who have passed to go into higher forms of the Senior Secondary. Previously only those that passed the screening criteria received fee support from Government.

### Scholarship Awards

Scholarship selection is entirely based on merit and data informs of higher female participation and successful rate. School graduates seeking a higher education need to qualify for entry into the University of the South Pacific or the Australia Pacific Technical College. Pathways to technical and further education and higher education are only possible in Kiribati for grade 12 and grade 13 school graduates. This results in a large pool of 15-24-year-olds seeking formal or informal sector employment when school access proves to be problematic.

Scholarship awards are based on performance assessment and the table below shows that more females than males have received scholarship awards in the past five years.

**Table #: Scholarship Awards for 2013 -2018**

Year	Females	Males	Total
2018 (In-service)	13	7	20
2017 (In-service)	27	13	40
2016 (In-service)	10	8	18
2015	69	46	115
2014	77	50	127
2013	67	46	113

### **School Curriculum**

The National Curriculum and Assessment Framework (NCAF) reflects principles of child centred active learning and contains the policies and guidelines for the content, structure and delivery of the national curriculum for primary and secondary schools in Kiribati. It is very different from the past education curriculum that focused on academic learning, preparing professional students for tertiary and higher educational opportunities and non-manual work in the government sector but neglected the majority of students seeking livelihood skills. The new developed curriculum has shifted from the past focus and is based on a system flexible to accommodate a disparate geographic profile of Outer Islands so all Kiribati students have access to full and meaningful educational opportunities nationally and throughout the Pacific Region.

The document takes a useful view of curriculum shifting the focus from merely a list of content to be covered to a wide-ranging view of all experiences and underlying pedagogical philosophy that is expected contribute to the learning experience and processes. Hence there is an integrated approach that merges various aspects of teaching and learning such as lesson activity and assessment.

The Kiribati Curriculum applies to all schools in the Kiribati, both government and private schools; all students regardless of gender, ethnic group, religion, location, background, ability or disability; all years of formal schooling, from early primary to the completion of secondary school.

Subjects such as Health and family Planning are taught in the Junior Secondary schools and more specifically at the Senior Secondary levels. For those students mainstreamed to the Arts subject and not covering this topic, can learn through the radio media where the Ministry of Health has a program promoting awareness on family planning and other health related matters.

In terms of major sports facilities and gymnastic halls, Primary and JSS schools do not have access to these infrastructures. Some Church SSS have basketball and volleyball courts. PE curriculum is taught in Year 10 and 11 only and focuses only on field athletics such as long distances. Sprint, discus, shot

put, high jumps and long jumps as these field events often form the basis of annual school sport competitions. The capital island has only three public fields and three public basketball and tennis courts. Through collaboration with church schools increased play grounds for public use of the soccer fields, basketball and volleyball grounds after school hours has made a difference.





**KPA 2: Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction for SDGs Goal 1, 2, 8 & 10**

**SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all forms everywhere**



**Poverty line 2006:**

No Household Income and Expenditure Survey has been done since 2006 and without more recent survey other than that conducted in 2006, it is not possible to specifically report on progress on poverty. Information of 2006 are useful as baseline current position of Kiribati against which new initiatives to improve poverty will be measured. The 2006 survey has noted the following: The weighted average household Food Poverty Line 2006 was estimated at A\$63.54 (A\$9.07 p.c.a.e per week). For South Tarawa, which had the highest food costs, per weekly household food line was estimated to be A\$104.42 (A\$10.97 p.c.a.e per week).

The Basic Needs Poverty Line was estimated to be A\$112.80 per household (A\$16.09 p.c.a.e) per week with South Tarawa at A\$230.57 for an average-sized family in the lowest three expenditure deciles followed by the Line Islands at \$156.53 per household per week. For the rural Gilberts, it was considerably lower at A\$83.1 for an average low-income household. The lower rural BNPL derived from the lower food costs much of rural food is home grown and the lower demand for non-food expenditure in remote communities where opportunities for such expenditure are limited.

The incidence of basic need poverty in Kiribati was estimated at around 21.8 per cent of the population in 2006 and food poverty was estimated to be around 5 per cent of the population.

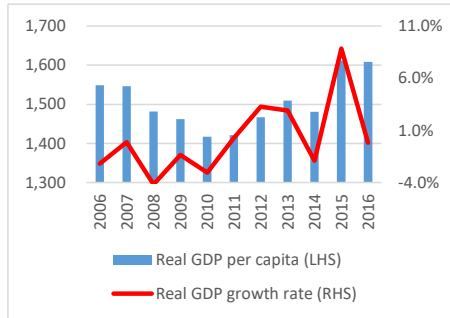
**Kiribati Economic Performance and Progress**

Kiribati development initiatives and objectives in the national planning frameworks all point to elevating country economic, social and environment position to benefit the people. To create an environment where all will live in peace, in abundance with no hunger/poverty, and in good health. Progress to achieving objectives is a great challenge for Kiribati as a small country with limited land, resources, and technological advances, and facing other factors of isolation, high population growth, scattered islands, climate change etc.

### Macroeconomic Stability for Long Term Development

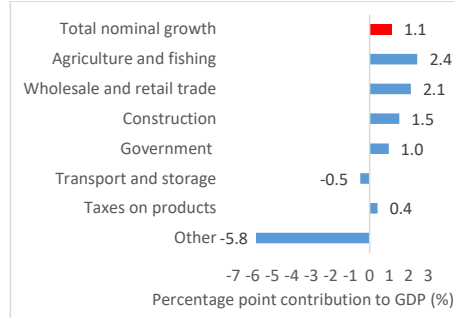
Kiribati acknowledges the pivotal role of macroeconomic stability towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. While economic growth has fluctuated widely in the previous years, with a decrease from 10+% to 1.1%, the real GDP growth rates was stably increasing starting 2012 to 7.5% in 2015 (Figure #). The GDP growth rate in 2015 was attributed to increase in construction, wholesale & retail trade industries, transport and storage and financial intermediation activities. The Real GDP per capita has also improved since 2012 due to higher economic growth rates, despite the population growth rate.

Figure #: Kiribati Real Growth Rate and GDP Per Capita 2005-2015



Source: Kiribati National Statistics Office

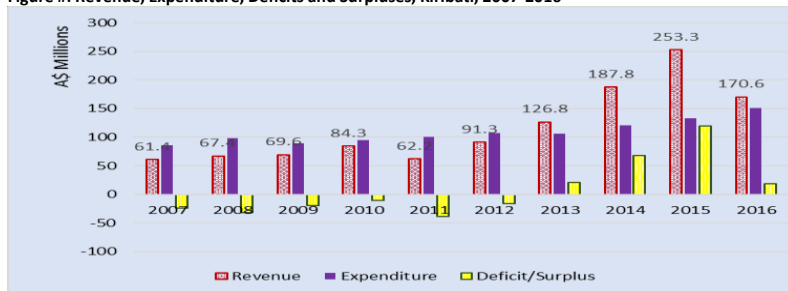
Figure #: Contributions to real GDP growth, 2016



Source: Kiribati National Statistics Office; NEPO

The role of fiscal dispensation in sustaining macroeconomic stability is critical towards strengthening the overall growth and development of the private sector. Generally, Kiribati has experienced a relative fiscal stability over the years due to strong public expenditure, infrastructure development and the growth in revenue from the fishing license and expansion of revenue base through tax reforms through the implementation of the VAT. Kiribati has maintained tremendous improvement in revenue generation since 2010. A total revenue in 2016 was \$176.9 million while Expenditure was \$175.4 million in 2016, resulting into a surplus of \$1.5 million. This is higher than the total revenue of 84.3 million generated and total expenditure of 95.1 million incurred in 2010 (Figure #).

Figure #: Revenue, Expenditure, Deficits and Surpluses, Kiribati, 2007-2016



Source: MFED

The Revenue Equalization Revenue Fund (RERF) also provides a financing function for recurrent deficits. While the value of the RERF is at \$897 million, Government will work towards improving the

value of the RERF to 1 billion by 2020. Improving the value of the RERF will however require strengthening the management of RERF to ensure long term macroeconomic sustainability.

The KV20 places a high premium on a stable macroeconomic environment. A stable macro-economic environment is the only way in which the confidence among the investors and I-Kiribati can be maintained. A stable macro-economic environment also works in favor of the poor who tend to lose the most during periods of inflation. In this context, the Vision will implement measures to manage expenditure prudently and provide the necessary resources to achieve sustainable economic growth. The Government will work towards improving the GDP growth rate by 5% in 2019 and 10% by 2036.

Achieving macroeconomic stability will, however, require the implementation of the fiscal measures to accelerate macro-economic stability for long term sustainable development. In this context, the projects to be implemented under the Vision will be subjected to the parameters within the macro-economic stability framework. The Vision strategies will ensure that the development expenditure will continue to benefit the priority sectors, such as fisheries, tourism and tourism related sectors, infrastructure and social sectors (health and education) and trade and private sector development, in order to realise the overall vision of KV20. Government will scale-up resources towards these sectors, while ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in their use and management.

#### **Promoting Inclusive Trade and Private Sector for Sustainable Development**

Private sector can be engine of economic growth and development. While the private sector is small in relation to the public sector, its contribution to GDP has increased from 47.3% in 2005 to 54.5% in 2015. The private sector formal employment has increased at the rate of over 12% per year since 2010. As a result, the number of private sector contributors has increased from 2,130 in June 2010 to 3,982 in June 2016, which depicts a rise of 87% (fig #...) The number of contributors from the public sector however rose from 6,789 in 2010 to 6,917 in 2016 (Figure #).

Dominant industries continue to be in the Agriculture/Fisheries, Retail/Sales and Manufacturing sectors. While there has been a significant increase in observable construction activity in Kiribati over the past 5 years, the construction industry comprises just 3% of jobs in 2015 (see [Figure #](#))<sup>1</sup>. Sixty (60) per cent of all registered businesses with documented employees are in the retail/sales sector (KPF data).

At the occupation level the largest number of employed people in 2010 was in Services Work, Retail and Market Sales (3,780 or 19.3% of total employed) followed by Skilled Agriculture/Fisheries (3,260 or 16.6% of total employed). Craft/related workers were 2,942 or 15% of total employed, Professionals (2,867 or 14.6% of total employed) then Laborers (construction laborers, street vendors, transport and freight handlers, housekeepers) 1,970 or 10.1% of total employed.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that these industry categories combine formal and informal labour which makes the data of limited value for identifying growth industries for employment. What the data does do is provide an indication of the labour market structure of the Kiribati economy, with the majority of workers in the largest three industry categories being 'informal workers' (e.g. local cigarette making constitutes close to half of the workers under the Manufacturing category; and copra and fish-for-sale constitute the majority of Agriculture sector workers).

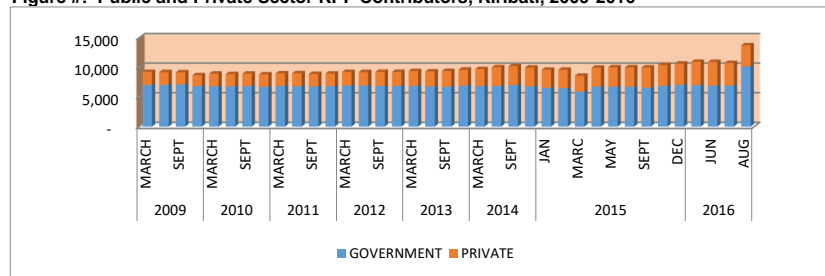
**Figure #: Working age population by industry**

Industry (formal and informal)	2010	2015 (draft)
Accommodation and Food Services	196 (0.7%)	638 (2%)
Utilities Repair & Equipment installation	271 (1%)	181 (0.6%)
Manufacturing (mostly informal sector)	3563 (13%)	3985 (14%)
Construction and Related Activities	535 (2%)	846 (3%)
Wholesale, Retail and Motor vehicle repair	4784 (18%)	3424 (12%)
ICT	586 (2%)	234 (0.8%)
Agriculture and Fisheries	5983 (22%)	6811 (24%)
Public administration	2021 (7.5%)	3502 (12%)
Education services	514 (2%)	1940 (7%)
Health services	784 (3%)	977 (3.5%)

Source: Kiribati 2010 and 2015 census in 'Labor Market Study 2016 by Scope Global'

While the private sector has experienced growth over the years, majority of the businesses are mainly based in Tarawa and Kiritimati. The total number of registered businesses in South Tarawa and Kiritimati are 1892 and 232 respectively, contrasted by the Other Outer Islands which has recorded less than 100 registered businesses per island.

**Figure #: Public and Private Sector KPF Contributors, Kiribati, 2009-2016**



Developing an inclusive private sector will also require investment to support the development of private sector on the outer Islands, which have dismally performed in terms of business development. Although foreign investment can be a good ingredient to private sector development to the economy, only 18 foreign investors have established their enterprises in Kiribati.

**Prices and Inflation**

The latest KNSO figures for the December quarter 2017 show an annual rate of inflation of 0.4%. Since 2010, inflationary pressure has been low, with inflation between -3.0% and +2.1%. Compared to the December quarter 2016, general prices grew by 1.4%. The major increases were a 19.9% increase in the prices of Non-Alcoholic Drinks (contributing 2.2 percentage points to inflation) and a 5.2% increase in Alcohol and Tobacco (contributing 1.0 percentage points). These increases were partially offset by a 24.3% fall in Utility prices (decreasing inflation by 1.2 percentage points) and a 2.1% fall in Food prices (decreasing inflation by 0.9 percentage points).

	Mar Qtr 2017	Jun Qtr 2017	Sept Qtr 2017	Dec Qtr 2017
Retail Price Index (100 = Q4, 2006)	124.3	127.6	128.1	128.5
% change (year average inflation)	1.4%	0.9%	0.4%	0.4%
% change (compared to same quarter one year ago)	-1.0%	0.6%	0.4%	1.4%
% change (from previous quarter)	-1.9%	2.6%	0.4%	0.3%

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Retail Price Index (100 = 2006)	120.8	123.5	124.2	126.5	127.0
% change	-1.5%	2.2%	0.6%	1.9%	0.4%

## Other Economic Achievements

### Trade and income transfers

Exports have traditionally been mainly coconut products and fish. Kiribati is highly reliant on imports of foodstuffs. Exports in 2016 rose by 6.2% to \$6.8m and imports fell by 1.6% to \$14.1m, and imports grew 7.2% to by \$147.4m. This resulted in a balance of goods trade of -\$133.3m.

The growth in exports was driven by unrefined copra export (up \$1.4m), crude coconut oil (up \$1.1m) among other smaller increases, which collectively outweighed a \$2.5m decline in fish exports. For imports, the main increases were in Food (up \$10.3m), Beverages and Tobacco (up \$7.8m), and Crude Materials (up \$3.5m), with a decline in Machinery and Transport (down \$8.7m) and Manufactured Goods (down \$4.4m).

Figure #: Exports and Imports, Kiribati, 2006-16 ('000)



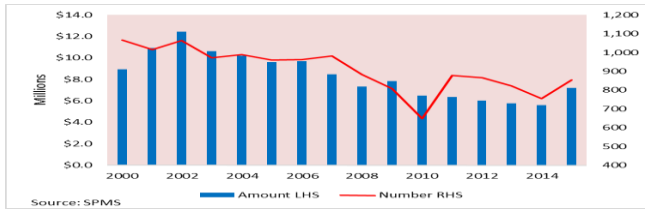
Source: KNSO

### Remittances

Remittances from seamen in the past have been a large source of income from abroad. However, since the Global Financial Crisis, the number of seamen employed overseas has steadily declined to 855 at the end of 2015. Economic conditions, changes in vessel technology (where ships have become larger), and increased competition from Asian nations' have contributed to this decline. Seamen's remittances were \$7.6 million at the end of 2016, an increase from the \$5.3 million in 2014, but below the peak of

\$12.5 million in 2002. Despite the recent growth, there are ongoing concerns surrounding international shipping volumes and the demand for seafarers.

**Figure #: Seamen’s Remittances, 2000 to 2015**



**Seasonal Workers Program**

Further opportunities for overseas employment such as seasonal workers’ schemes in New Zealand and Australia have opened. The White Paper on Northern Australian development opens further potential for low skilled I-Kiribati for future work in Australia. The Pacific Labor Scheme is opening in 2018. Seasonal workers programs have promising potential to uplift youth unemployment problem. 2017 recruits have doubled that of 2016 and recent update has informed of 314 recruits for the months of March and April in 2018.

**Table #: Number of Workers and Employers**

Year	Total Recruits
2016	230
2017	460
2018 (Mar & Apr)	314

Source: Ministry of Employment and Human Resources, 2018



## **SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

Outright hunger is not prevalent in Kiribati, and Kiribati's biggest challenge is poor nutrition as a major issue. Health's records show increases in incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and lifestyle diseases, nutritionally-related diseases as in vitamin A deficiency and anemia among children, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and certain cancers among adults. Along with overweight, under nutrition in children remains a significant public health issue with almost one quarter of young children five years of age or less recorded severely/underweight. Kiribati has developed a national food and nutrition security policy to respond to the resulting health issues and aiming to empower individuals and communities to build and sustain food and nutrition security throughout our nation. The policy encourages a multi-sector partnership approach with key relevant ministries and organizations.

Food and nutrition security underpins all development. With limited land, poor soils and harsh climate conditions, Government efforts are directed at improving traditional crops such as coconut, bwabwai (swamp taro), breadfruit and pandanus which withstand the Kiribati climate conditions. Working with NGOs and donor partners, there are efforts for other fruit trees, vegetables, and root crops promoting home gardening for domestic consumption as well as for local markets in the Tarawa.

The Agriculture Division of MELAD undertook a survey on accessibility to food crop diversity and livestock per household and provided in Table # households positions. Accessibility of household to food crops and livestock resource is a vulnerability indicator for each island in view of locally available food to support people's livelihood as regard food security issues. The survey showed a decline in food availability and variety as reflected in the census 2010 and 2015 indicating higher consumption of imported food. The island in the south of Kiribati face harsher conditions and thus have less varieties of crops at worst accessibility level. Livestock accessibility for most households/ islands fare better than food crops. Livestock is mainly pig and chicken with pig proving to be highly valuable for family special occasion and community, church and island functions. They are also a source of income that bring in gains of \$300-\$500 and help families with payments of school fees and other urgent needs and wants.

Table #: Average accessibility to food crop diversity per household

Islands	2010			2015			Differences in accessibility to food crop	Ranking
	No. of HH	Total no. of HH that have different types of food crops	Average accessibility to food crops diversity per HH	No. of HH	Total no. of HH that have different types of food crops	Average accessibility to food crops diversity per HH		
Nikunau	365	2276	6.24	357	1028	2.89	-3.4	3
STabiteuea	249	3347	4.91	253	628	2.48	-2.4	3
Makin	347	2237	6.45	351	1335	3.8	-2.7	3
Abemama	583	3717	6.38	602	2247	3.73	-2.7	3
NTabiteuea	682	3347	4.91	706	1784	2.53	-2.4	3
NTarawa	1002	6050	6.04	1128	4155	3.68	-2.4	3
Onotoa	332	1869	5.63	323	1113	3.45	-2.2	3
Butaritari	630	4195	6.66	624	2824	4.53	-2.1	3
STarawa	4728	21349	4.52	5584	14007	2.51	-2.0	2
Tamana	202	1161	5.75	187	700	3.74	-2.0	2
Nonauti	508	2837	5.58	532	1933	3.63	-2.0	2
Marakei	492	2940	5.98	499	2118	4.24	-1.7	2
Abaiang	926	5537	5.98	996	4392	4.41	-1.6	2
Arorae	238	1205	5.06	217	790	3.64	-1.4	2
Beru	449	2104	4.69	458	1537	3.36	-1.3	2
Kuria	190	1011	5.32	217	897	4.13	-1.2	2
Aranuka	214	1087	5.08	237	950	4.01	-1.1	1
Maiana	383	1901	4.96	399	1640	4.11	-0.9	1
Betio	1977	4667	2.36	2293	3692	1.61	-0.8	1
Tabuaeran	348	1694	4.87	418	1820	4.35	-0.5	1
Teeraina	278	1290	4.64	292	1275	4.37	-0.3	1
Kiritimati	857	2225	2.59	1017	2543	2.5	-0.1	1
Kanton	6	1	0.17	6	9	1.5	1.3	1
Banaba	57	107	1.88	77	270	3.51	1.6	1

Table #: Average accessibility to livestock (pigs and chicken) per household

Islands	2010			2015			Differences in accessibility to food crop diversity	Ranking
	No. of HH	Total no. of HH that have different types of food crops	Average accessibility to food crops diversity per HH	No. of HH	Total no. of HH that have different types of food crops	Average accessibility to food crops diversity per HH		
Kuria	190	1442	7.59	217	1063	4.9	-2.7	3
Nikunau	365	2250	6.16	356	1449	4.07	-2.1	3
Makin	347	2465	7.1	351	1770	5.04	-2.1	3
Aranuka	214	1311	6.13	237	1016	4.29	-1.8	2
Teeraina	278	2067	7.44	292	1682	5.76	-1.7	2
Marakei	492	3172	6.45	499	2507	5.02	-1.4	2
Tabuaeran	348	2469	7.09	418	2435	5.83	-1.3	2
Nonauti	508	3917	7.71	532	3692	6.94	-0.8	1
Beru	449	3089	6.88	458	2851	6.22	-0.7	1
Abemama	583	3200	5.49	602	2932	4.87	-0.6	1
Butaritari	630	5005	7.94	624	4609	7.39	-0.6	1
Tamana	202	1713	8.48	187	1494	7.99	-0.5	1
Abaiang	926	4625	4.99	996	4671	4.69	-0.3	1
Kiritimati	857	3686	4.3	1017	4145	4.08	-0.2	1
Betio	1977	4234	2.14	2293	4886	2.13	0.0	1
NTarawa	1002	3843	3.84	1128	4321	3.83	0.0	1
Maiana	383	1693	4.42	399	1862	4.67	0.3	1
STarawa	4728	11878	2.51	5584	15776	2.83	0.3	1
STabiteuea	249	1641	6.59	253	1755	6.94	0.4	1
Arorae	238	2129	8.95	217	2039	9.4	0.5	1
NTabiteuea	682	3425	5.02	706	3644	5.59	0.6	1
Onotoa	332	1823	5.49	323	2461	7.62	2.1	1
Banaba	57	126	2.21	77	552	7.17	5.0	1
Kanton	6	9	1.5	6	54	9	7.5	1

Source: Agriculture Division, MELAD



Food security is a Climate Change issue. The KJIP identifies as strategy four the need for ‘increasing water and food security with integrated and sector-specific approaches and promoting healthy and resilient ecosystems’. The sensitivity impacts analysis of climate change on fisheries and food security notes observed impacts to affect ‘productivity for coral reef fish and invertebrates to decline by 20% by 2050 due to both the direct effects (sea surface temperature) and indirect effects (changes to fish habitats).’ Observed and potential impacts on agriculture and food security notes ‘increasing risks that the sea will overtop parts of even whole islands, causing salination of some fresh groundwater, destruction of infrastructure and the death of crops and livestock’.

Projects are geared to addressing food security issues as an impact of climate change.

i) The LDCF Project “Enhancing national food security in the context of global climate change” is on-going based in the Environment Division of MELAD. The project will address both agriculture and fisheries food security issues with an overall objective of “building the adaptive capacity of vulnerable Kiribati Communities to ensure food security under conditions of climate change”. All project activities will target the reduction of food security issues by setting in place capacities required for local communities to maintain and enhance ecosystem integrity established National Guidelines for Ecosystem-based Adaptation Management.

ii) The Agriculture and Livestock Division of MELAD strategic plan for KDP 2016 – 2019 emphasizes the development goal of achieving a food and nutrition secured nation through the key outputs of ‘improving production systems, boarder control services, community mobilization and partnership with relevant stakeholders in agricultural value chain to promote synergy and collaboration. Most of the agricultural development effort are funded under recurrent budget. External funding supports and partnerships with Government assist capacity to achieve development goals. These include GEF-LDCF Project for food security in the face of climate change. The Taiwan through its country-based technical mission is supporting home gardening and animal (pig) farming through training and provision of ... IFAD project that aims to promote the Kiribati local and nutritious food through home gardening initiatives, Japanese Government and others.

Agriculture Division’s work plan list activities for mass producing and distribution of high yields varieties of coconut, root and tuber crops, establish island, schools, and community nurseries and gene-banks. Agriculture activities in Abaiang is a good case to illustrates increasing interest by locals to grow more variety of root crops, vegetables and improve cultivation methods for local food crops, addressing at the same time food security and nutrition. Abaiang has the most variety of food crops and livestock compared to the rest of other outer islands. From an Abaiang-Nonouti Trips Report (2014) the report recorded:

*Summary of Interviewees’ Perceptions on Agriculture - Climate Change Related Issues In Abaiang*

1. Islanders would need more assistance on agriculture in terms of agricultural tools, seeds, improved pig breeds and chickens
2. Three villages namely Tuarabu, Takarano and Tabontebike were selected as pilot sites for the climate change-agriculture project. Each village has completed work on construction of a pig pen and chicken shed. There is also a land plot selected by villagers that serves as a gene bank for growing local tree crops for food security purpose. Pigs and chickens of improved breeds were also provided to project villages
3. People are growing a lot of kumara on the whole island. Some villages like Ewena are practicing agro-forestry system where they grow many different types of tree crops like coconut, breadfruits, fig tree (te bero), banana, etc., on one piece of land. The villagers compete among themselves for the prizes and the result is announced during the village ‘maneaba’ anniversary at the beginning of every year
4. Most of the produces like pumpkin and some vegetables such as cabbage, tomato, capsicum, etc., are sent to the capital, Tarawa for marketing purpose. On some occasions, a small quantity of these are also sold locally on the island
5. On-going agriculture related projects are the USAID-GIZ-SPC climate change, Soil Health (ACIAR funded) and organic certification of coconuts
6. The major need for cash is to meet the payment of children’s school fees on a term basis (a 3-months period)

TTM agriculture support programs assist communities to plant vegetables and raise pigs providing training and material support (seeds, seedlings, piglets,). It also provides training on making good balance cooking recipes using the products of home gardening. A good number of people have benefited from the technical support of TTM. Other NGO Live and Learn programs also exist to support communities and home gardening. There are observable results of the programs of TTM and NGOs in the increase in South Tarawa households involved in home gardening and in marketing of home grown vegetables and local fruits (cabbage, pawpaw, pumpkin, cucumber, tomatoes and more). Although these are still too small to make an impact yet on health etc., there is evident of small changes in attitudes towards gardening and the positive impacts on the diets and eating habits that benefits people's health, and food security needs.

MFMRD's strategic plan 2016-2019 envisions working towards the maximization of economic growth and economic opportunities, enhancement of food security and sustainable livelihood through sustainable fisheries. Within six principles, the Kiribati fisheries and marine resources strategic plan upholds effective, resilience and adaptation for national interest working collaboratively and in a coordinated manner with all partners and stakeholders promoting gender equality and equitable benefits for all I-Kiribati and commitment to implement regional and international conservation and management measures for sustainable fisheries and marine resource development in Kiribati and the region. Community empowerment and effective participation of the private sector is emphasized as essential for informed decision making.

Key activities of the Fisheries Division in 2016 are evident of Government commitment to ensure safety of fish for human consumption, monitoring activities to manage fish and shellfish resources, new fish culture trials in outer island waters (Abaiang, North Tarawa), establishment of marine protected areas in South Tarawa (Nanikai-Teaoraereke) using local approaches (maebono) as a trial, for sustainability, conservation and food security purposes. Seaweed and milkfish integrated farming was reported as under trial. that include water and shellfish monitoring, creel survey for fishermen and fish seller (reef fish), ciguatera monitoring on South Tarawa, establishment of marine protected area (Nanikai-Teaoraereke), translocation of 'te bun', fisher center solar installation in outer islands, Sandfish Pen culture trial in outer islands, monitoring of Sandfish in North Tarawa, seaweed/milkfish integrated farming Technical Assistant, Seaweed assessment report. The on-going Observer Program on overseas fishing vessels helps sustainability and conservation efforts by ensuring their abiding to Fisheries Act requirement as well as providing employment to the people of Kiribati.



**SDG Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth  
employment and decent work for all**

The mission of the KDP is to promote better education, better health and inclusive sustainable economic growth and development through the implementation of higher education standards, the delivery of safe, quality health services and the application of sound economic policies. Similarly, Government's KV20 for fisheries and tourism is expected to directly contribute towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for I- Kiribati by 2036.

Government has made policy and legal commitments to achieve KDP and SD Goals:

- i) A commitment by the Government to inclusive education; support to early childhood education has evolved recently with a new Early Education and Child Care (EECC) Act that passed recently in 2017. This is a new shift of support expanded to pre-school education by Government to ensure wide education support and inclusiveness. Government continues with implementation of education policies (Education Policy 2015) of previous periods to improve delivery by teachers, school enrolments, address drop outs and accessibility to counter cultural barriers and parents' incapacities to support continued child education. Recently Government extended support to provide free basic school materials and continued support for transport to and from schools for Primary and Junior Secondary School
- ii) In compliance with international commitment of Government to CRPD, a new policy in progress for persons living with disability aiming to protect and safeguard interests and inclusivity.
- iii) A new (draft) National Youth Policy 2017 of Government aims to ensure all youth inclusively are developed to contribute effectively to nation development through sports, culture-based arts (local dancing etc.), emerging (entertainment) talents, volunteer youth work, employment etc.
- iv) A draft Gender Equality and Women Development Policy is in final stages of development and approval, addressing women and children needs for safe environments, women economic empowerment, increased participation in leadership and decision making.
- v) A TVET Strategy aims to improve national economic growth and increasing employment opportunities for I-Kiribati at home and abroad, especially young women and men through appropriate tailor-made training courses and demand-driven programs offered at an internationally compatible standard.
- vi) Addressing justice to ensure equity for all through new laws and regulations is progressing. The Juvenile Justice Act 2016, the Family Peace Act 2014, EECC Act 2017, Education Act 2013. Labor

- laws and policies are designed to comply with international conventions that Kiribati is a party to.
- vii) Available education and employment data illustrate positive developments for gender quality. Gender parity in education depicts a better record for girls. Employment in government (2018) reveals that more than 50% of Secretary positions are filled by women including the most senior Secretary (to Cabinet) position in the Office of the Beretitenti. Employment in seasonal workers program under MEHR is increasingly showing equal participation between women and men.
  - viii) Increased employment opportunity continues to be a target of government that MEHR is tasked under its mandatory role to pursue. 2017 recruits have doubled that of 2016 and recent update has informed of 314 recruits for the months of March and April in 2018. Recently, there is also upcoming opportunities to work in other Pacific Countries, and the Pacific Labor Scheme opening in 2018. There is growth in the number of employers for seasonal workers in both Australia and New Zealand plus others recording 29 employers in 2018 with 6 additional employers being pursued as potential; 12 of 35 employers are new ones (2017 & 2018).
  - ix) Employment conditions and recruitment policies are not a major issue for women in Kiribati. There is an improved recruitment policy and practice applied adopting good governance and transparency in the recruitment process and women are competing in almost all the jobs that they are qualified for. The National Condition of Service recognizes women address gender sustaining maternity leave entitlements and breastfeeding.
  - x) The Employment and Industrial Relations Code makes provision for the regulation of employment contract, industrial relations and the settlement of employment dispute and for matters concerning to improve work conditions for employee, wages, and decent work for inclusiveness in work opportunities and to work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity, and in the interest of employers to safeguard against penalties etc.
  - xi) The Disability School was established and exists to provide opportunity for the disabled to be educated. Government recently (2018) established Teacher Assistant training programs at the Kiribati Teachers College, to train new teacher recruits in teaching disability to help with disabled students in Primary Schools.
  - xii) Government, with assistance of donor partner, Taiwan, continues to provide small grants to communities to start up small businesses helping mostly women to be economically empowered for increased contribution to family well-being and the economy. The grant is also accessible to people and communities in urban and rural areas affected by severe storms and sea surges, to help them recover and to build sea-walls. A budget of \$1m is available annually for this support.
  - xiii) Political participation by women remains a challenge with only 4% holding seats in Parliament.



## **SDG Goal 10: Reduce in-equality within and among countries**

### **Inequalities in Kiribati**

In Kiribati all people have lands that they inherit and have free access to the sea for food and for economic needs. Inequality within for Kiribati is about differences in access to basic services and to opportunities, between people in the centre and those in outer islands.

Kiribati faces challenges of physical geography, with 33 islands scattered over a span of sea in the vast ocean of the biggest EEZ in the world. Islands are separated by the sea with long distances in between. Central Government is based in South Tarawa and administers the outer islands from the centre.

Available services admittedly are different with detected in-qualities existing between the centre and outer islands. The further the islands are from the centre, the more disadvantaged the people are, living in outer islands. Health, education and social services are better off in the centre. Economic and business opportunities, accessibility to government donor support benefit the population in the centre than those in outer islands. There are also cultural factors that bear on other forms of inequality - gender, decision-making, land ownership and is a key factor to violence against women and girls and which also deters effective participation of women in leadership and decision-making

Strategies by Government to address inequalities within:

- Policies of the Education sector, for Small Grants, ESGBV, Anti-corruption, project employment, overseas seasonal work, rights of people with disability, health, climate change and others discussed in the different sections of the report are developed and implemented to address the inequality issues.
- Overseas seasonal work for instance encourages fair share of all islands providing a fair quota for selection from individual outer island and urban councils whose constituents meet the criteria. Selection tests for MTC trainees to work on international ships are inclusively conducted in all islands. Government has also expanded funding support to all students that pass to go into higher forms in secondary schools, without limits. For dropouts from junior secondary school, both the USP and the KIT have developed vocational programs to provide further opportunities for training and employment.

- Government is committed, under international and regional conventions that it is a party to, to reduce inequalities. For the CEDAW, CRPD, CRC, ILO conventions, Government has developed appropriate laws and policies to implement the conventions. Although a number of these are yet to be reported and with unavailable data, anecdotal evidence through experience, observation and government papers show that Kiribati has and is making progress.
- Development Budget support by Government and Donor partners: Whilst recurrent budget focuses on continuing government business and administration in the centre, development budgets and support of donors assist Kiribati to support its efforts to develop outer islands lessening the development gap between urban and the rural areas.
- Establishment of services in outer islands through government-funded positions, project etc: Government funds a number of positions to assist outer island councils for most of the sectors to work in government-based services such as in education, health, police, agriculture, fisheries, social welfare, project staff.
- Decentralization/Outer Island development
- The copra price increase to a level way above international market price is helping outer island population to earn better at a compatible level to employees addressing equitable distribution of wealth and better living standards in outer islands.
- The strong partnership between Government and members of society/communities through NGOs/CSOs ensures shared decision-making and good governance practices of transparency where decisions by both are made in the best interest of Kiribati.
- Parliamentary Select Committees
- Whole of Country Approach (vulnerability assessments on impacts of climate change, food security)
- Other supports are provided through Parliamentary Select Committees, Whole of Country Approach (vulnerability assessments on impacts of climate change, food security), improving telecommunication and travel services between the centre and outer islands and wide introduction of internet, and mobile services are pursued with private companies operating the service. The national radio service is improved to reach the far islands in the Line Phoenix Group. Travel to and from is by sea provided largely by private shipping services and the Kiribati Shipping Services Limited (SOE) and has recently strengthen the Marine Services to implement marine laws to ensure safety of the people using the services. Air services is operated by the Air Kiribati Limited (SOE) and Government has supported the purchase of a bigger with higher capacity domestic airplane (a Dash 8 aircraft) to service travel to and from outer islands more efficiently and to also improve international services to neighbouring small islands.

### **In-equality Amongst Countries**

Whilst most Pacific Island Countries may share similar issues, the level of and depth of the issues are different. The level and depth of differences is one source of in-equality amongst countries. Climate change for instance is a cross cutting issue to all nations however there are countries more prone and susceptible to the impacts that climate change has than others. Kiribati, with the Givens of nature, its physical geography, economic resources, limited land with poor soils, isolation and distance, scattered islands, low lying atoll with limited fresh water and its susceptibility to sea level rise and other climate

change issues, limited technological advances and expertise, is at a much disadvantage position compared to other countries. There are inherent and apparent inequalities.

Donors countries have a role to play. Whilst much acknowledgement is owed to donor countries that support the less advantaged countries like Kiribati, it is also a reality that different donors will have their own priorities and focus areas of support. Political and foreign politics play a big role in level and type of support offered to countries and could add to the disadvantage and inequalities amongst countries. Countries supported the same donor do not receive the same level of support. Differences in support received by less advantaged countries create inequalities in addressing/ pursuing development and achievement of SDGs. Donor countries are encouraged to delegate support to donor recipient countries

Membership in Regional, and International organizations and being party to international and regional conventions assist to alleviate the wide gaps between countries. Trade agreements (international and regional), International laws, Human Rights Conventions and others are examples. Kiribati is a member of PACER, a trade agreement that supports trade in services and trade in goods through which economic performance and employment may be raised. PACER Plus is an important development tool especially for Kiribati. Government through its 20-year plan seeks to develop new industries, improve the performance of domestic trade and increase economic activities in the outer Islands. The Pacific Forum is an avenue that brings all leaders of the Pacific Countries to jointly work towards achieving SDGs and to address common issues ensuring that member countries' interests are inclusively considered.

There are Regional programs of assistance by donors which attempts to equitably address Pacific islands issues helping to minimize inequalities within countries and between countries. Kiribati's position on gender and violence against women proved Kiribati bad scenario and for this area, various supports from donors are made available. Other regional donor-funded programs exist for other sectors including fisheries, agriculture, elimination of violence against women and girls, environment and climate change etc.



**KPA 3: Health**

**SDG Goal 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All**



**SDG Goal 3: Ensure health lives and promote well-being for all**

Health Status of Kiribati is portrayed in the Statistics Table #...below showing rates for the given years as available:

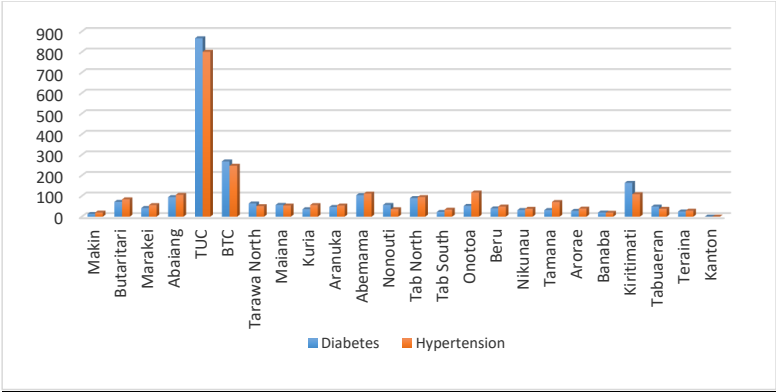
**Fig #: Summary of Health Statistics 2000-2017**

Health Statistics	Source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fertility rate	Kiribati MHMS											3.8	4.1	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.7	3.3	3.5
Fertility rate	World Bank			3.631	3.516	3.413	3.324	3.249	3.186	3.133	3.087	3.048	3.014						
Infant mortality rate	Kiribati MHMS											34	37	34	41			34.2	32.6
Infant mortality rate	World Bank			51.8	51.2	50.7	50.4	50.1	49.9	49.6	49	48.2	47.3	46.3					
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	Kiribati MHMS										75.1	59	46	70.6			59.1	52.4	
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	World Bank			68.4	67.4	66.6	66.1	65.7	65.4	64.9	63.9	62.8	61.4	59.9					
Maternal mortality rate	Kiribati MHMS											125	220					193.6	179.3
Neonatal mortality (per 1,000 live births)																		10.2	14
Immunization, DPT (% of children ages 12-23 months)	World Bank			77	70	62	79	86	94	82	86	91	99	94					
Immunization, measles (% of children ages 12-23 months)	World Bank			88	72	56	85	61	93	72	82	89	90	91					
Tuberculosis treatment success rate (% of registered cases)	World Health Organization, Global Tuberculosis Control Report	91	86	94	88	94	93	90	93	96	97	93	94						
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)	World Bank	372	332	342	393	448	488	514	447	442	361	366	432	429					
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	World Bank			30.09	28.51	26.93	25.34	23.76	22.18	21.06	19.95	18.83	17.72						
Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	World Bank			7.2	7.1	6.7	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.5	7	7.5	8.2			5.7	6.2		
Improved sanitation facilities (% of population with access)	World Bank			35.2	35.7	36.1	36.5	37	37.4	37.9	38.3	38.8	39.2						



A healthy population is a productive population. Good health is therefore a pre-requisite to economic growth, poverty reduction and the realization of the KV20, KDP and SD Goals. Prevalent challenges are faced in both Communicable (CDs) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) which remain significant threats to the lives, wellbeing and productivity of I-Kiribati. The prevalent rate of diabetes is 15.7%. TUC and BTC have registered the highest cases of diabetes and hypertension (Figure #). The cases with more than the 3 risk factors in developing NCDs has also increased from 79% in 2006 to 83.6% in 2015.

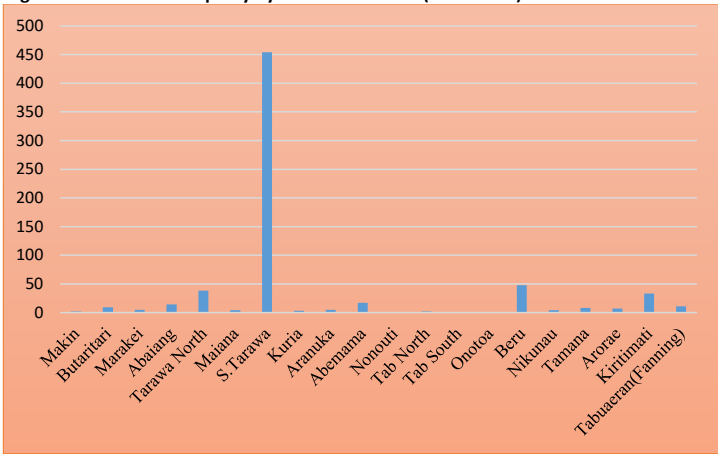
Figure #: Number of Registered Cases of Diabetes and Hypertension per Island (2016)



Source: MHMS

Cases of Communicable diseases (CDs) mostly associated with overcrowding and poor hygiene also remains to be a great challenge to the health and wellbeing of I-Kiribati. Tuberculosis (TB) and Leprosy are the most common cases of CDs. Leprosy is highest at 17 cases per 10,000 population in South Tarawa compared to the outer islands (Figure 22).

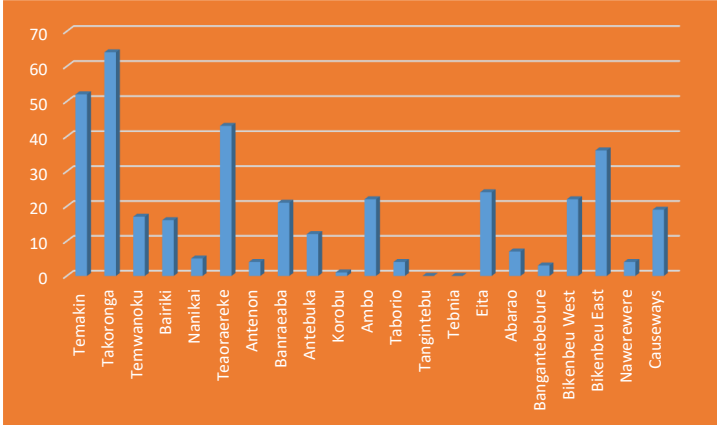
Figure #: Incidence of Leprosy by Island in Kiribati (2010-2015)



Source: MHMS

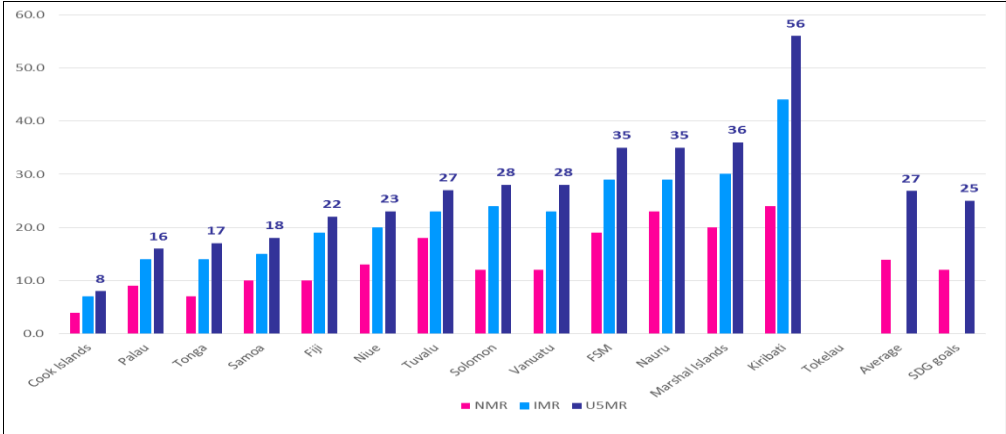
The prevalence rate of TB is estimated at 749 cases per 100,000 population. Significant number of TB cases are found in Betio in South Tarawa. Temakin and Takoronga recorded the highest cases of TB with 52 and 64 cases, respectively, while no cases were recorded in Tangintebu and Tebunia (Figure 23). Other cases of CDs include outbreaks of diarrhoea which affects under 5 years.

Figure #: Incidence of TB Cases on South Tarawa (2015)



While policy measures are being implemented through Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescence Health (RMNCA) program, high population growth remains to be a significant development concern. The total fertility rate has increased from 2.7 in 2011 to 3.7 in 2016. Despite the overall high total fertility rate, a comparative analysis of the mortality rate across the Pacific Island Countries at different age groups of under 5 year old shows Kiribati with the highest child mortality rate in the Pacific (Figure 24).

Figure #: Under 5 Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rate in Pacific

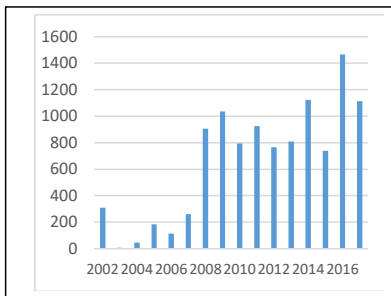




Fertility rate is consistently high and ranges from 35 (2014) and 37 (2017). Infant mortality rate has ranged between 34 and 41 during 2010 to 2013 dropping to 32.6 in 2016. Maternal mortality rate rose from 125 in 2010 to 151 in 2014 and rose again to 179.3 in 2016. The under 5 mortality rates dropped from 50.1 in 2010 to 47.3 in 2011, rose again to just over 52 in 2012 and 2013. The under 5 and infant mortality rates dropped significantly over 1990-2010, completing 68 percent and 60 percent of the respective 2015 targets. Infant mortality rate in 2016 recorded 32.6 in 2016 while under 5 mortality rates was 52.4. The main causes of death were pneumonia, prematurity and birth asphyxia. Neonatal Mortality Rate, was 10.2 in 2015 and 14 in 2016. (Annual Health Bulletin 2015 & 16 respectively).

There is a high prevalence of STIs, with a study in 2004 showing around 15 percent of pregnant women were infected. At the end of 2010, Kiribati had a cumulative total of 54 HIV/AIDS cases, of which 24 were known to have died. (MHMS SP 2016-19). And tuberculosis cases, in a year per 100,000 population, ranged between 366 and 429 in 2010 -2013 with latest data in 2016 showing an increase to 470.

Figure #: Incidence of Diabetes 2002-2017



Diabetes and NCD - The number of communicable diseases are not under control in Kiribati so it is facing an increasing burden from NCDs. The recent increase in rates of reported NCDs and nutrition and related diseases are taken as the leading causes of morbidity. The number of new cases of diabetes was also up, from 248 in 2005 to 842 in 2010, while the 2004–2006 STEPs survey showed around 28 percent of the adult population had diabetes. It is worth noting that a rise in NCDs is likely to impact on life expectancy; either slowing or halting the rate of increase, or perhaps even reversing the trend of increasing life expectancy. (MHMS SP 2016-19). Data shows Diabetes incidence dropped from 1450 2016 to 1100 in 2017. Adult mortality rate in 2015 was 45.9 and dropped to 43.4 in 2016. Death rate from road accidents was 1.8 in 2016, showing an increase from 0.2 in 2015.

Health manpower for medical doctor availability ratio was 4.1 per 10 thousand in 2015 and improved to 4.7 per 10 thousand in 2016. Total number of available health personnel per 10 thousand is 44.8, comprising of 4.7 medical doctor, 0.5 dental health personnel, 3.2 medical assistant, 31.8 nurses, and 7 for midwife,

Malnutrition is a persistent health concern affecting children. Nutrition is a significant risk factor, with 38 percent of males and 54 percent of females aged 20 years or over being classified as obese in 2008. Under-nutrition is a significant problem in children; the 2009 DHS found that close to one quarter of children are underweight or severely underweight, while in 2010 the percentage of newborn infants weighing less than 2500 grams at birth was 22 percent. The 2015 Health Bulletin recorded malnutrition rate at 5.7 percentage and 6.2 in 2016 against records in 2010 at 7.5 against a recorded rate of 8.2 in 2011. Whist Improvements are seen in the two latter years, on-going eating habits, and an increased consumption of imported, cheap and low-quality food products high in salt, sugar and fat pose a challenge to MHMS to be able to sustain improvement.

Immunization services of health for children include that against measles 89.2 percentage was achieved in 2015 and 82.8 in 2016.

The above current health situations confirm the health position of Kiribati in relation to the rest of the world and compared to Pacific neighbouring countries. Despite, some positive progress showing improvements, Kiribati in most health areas is placed as one of lowest performing country in the key health indicators. These are acknowledged in both the KDP that has set targets and indicators to address the issues, and in the MHMS’s Strategic Plan 2016-2019, that had concurrently identified six strategic objectives:

Strengthen initiatives to reduce the prevalence of risk factors for NCDs, and to reduce morbidity, disability and mortality from NCDs.
Increase access to and use of high quality, comprehensive family planning services, particularly for vulnerable populations including women whose health and wellbeing will be at risk if they become pregnant.
Improve maternal, newborn and child health.
Prevent the introduction and spread of communicable diseases, strengthen existing control programs and ensure Kiribati is prepared for any future outbreaks.
Address gaps in health service delivery and strengthen the pillars of the health system.
Improve access to high quality and appropriate health care services for victims of gender based violence, and services that specifically address the needs of youth.

**Note: The order of the objectives does not reflect their priority.**

The first five objectives are strategically identified to address core issues and strategies for health in the KDP 2016–2019. Maternal and child health are combined into a single objective to improve coordination between maternal and child health and reflects a key result area in the Kiribati Child Survival Strategy 2008–2012 to integrate the maternal and child health programs. The sixth objective was identified as a priority issue for the next four years. Strategies relating to gender equality are included in the KDP under KPA 5 on governance, and gender based violence is considered in the results matrix for this KPA. The needs and health issues of youth are considered in various places in the KDP including in relation to health (STIs and HIV) and governance (empowerment, involvement and participation).

**Health Institutions - Service Availability and Accessibility**

A total number of 110 Health Institutions in Kiribati are available (2017 Health Bulletin) and comprise of three types including Hospitals (4), Island Health Centers (21) and Village Clinics/ Dispensaries (106). Visits to households for certain individual health cases are undertaken by health staff. Medical service and medicines are free in Kiribati.

**Partnerships**

The MHMS Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 emphasizes the importance of relationships, partnerships and inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration to the effective delivery of the plan. The Ministry has relationships with domestic partners, including other Kiribati government departments and agencies, and NGOs and community-based groups. It also has relationships with numerous bi-lateral and international development partners and the plan notes specific initiatives on which the Ministry needs to work with domestic partners and development partners. It also promotes the use of the Health Sector Coordinating Committee as a specific mechanism for supporting the implementation of this Strategic Plan.

The Ministry partners with NGOs to execute a number of activities to contribute to achieving goals and targets. KFHA is an active partner of the Ministry and is mandated under its constitution to focus on Family Health and from the core function of women health check services (for cancer), the Ministry and the women are better reached. KFHA operates a mobile check and lab service and does community and outer island outreach programs in this area. Furthermore, In partnership with the Youth Division of MWYSSA, the RMNCAH program is engaging the Division to mobilize registered youths with the Ministry to undertake required basic health surveys, community outreach programs and more.

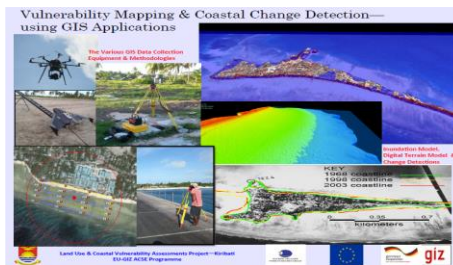
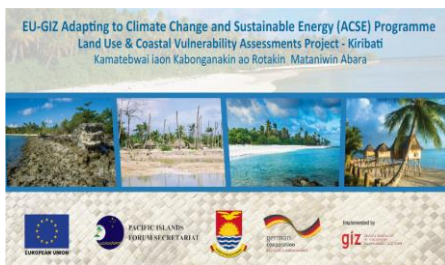
MHMS is working closely with its donor partners. For the child health and care services, UNICEF has been a consistent partner and supporter for Kiribati Immunization programs for children, supporting also the Pharmacy, capacity building for nurses, amongst more. With UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, and Health's traditional partner WHO, MHMS is benefiting from joint programs such as the RMNCAH and close support by national staffs of the UN Agencies at the UN Joint Presence have assisted with projects acquittals and reporting and to a good extent, capacity building of project staff in the Ministry. Kiribati traditional bilateral donors are DFAT and NZFAT, both of which are actively supporting the MHMS.

For strengthened coordination of these support, the MHMS brings together donor and ministry/NGO partners to an annual National Health Forum, and through the Health Steering Committee, there is better and closer work relationships that enable monitoring and evaluation of the programs supported by the donor partners, and implemented in partnership and collaboration with NGOs and Ministry partners.



**KPA 4: Environment (Goal 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15)**

**SDG Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilience and sustainable**



A National Urban Policy 2017 consists of seven policy areas: Economy, Governance, Land, Housing, Environment, Social, and Urban Infrastructure, including, Water and Sanitation, Transport and Communication, Electricity and Energy. Urbanization in Kiribati is an urgent challenge, impacting on government service delivery, access to services and infrastructure, environmental resources, economic opportunities and ultimately people’s standard of living.

Kiribati faces land space limitation for development with competing priorities. With land created as a result from building causeways in South Tarawa, Government passed a law in (year) for public spaces and parks for use by the public in two causeway areas in Betio and Bairki. Maintenance budget is provided to sustain the parks and the user-pay policy assists to provide additional funds for critical maintenance and upgrading for users’ comfort.

New Government housing project supported by New Zealand aid support to Kiribati, has contributed to making urban areas safe and clean. The Kiribati Housing Corporation has approved a house-loan scheme to assist people build new and better homes.

Due to very high rate urbanization of urbanization, Betio and Teinano are very densely populated with very depriving conditions of living and overcrowding etc. Government is pursuing available options including land fill sites for rubbish, new settlement space in Temaiku to ease overcrowding issues in Urban Tarawa, leasing Government owned lands in Kiritimati, Tabuaeran and Teraina. De-urbanization considerations are also pursued with plans to develop the outer islands and improving living conditions: improvements of roads, internet and mobile services, improved cash earning in copra cutting (an outer island main economic activity), water, education and health services.



**SDG Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**

**Waste Management**

Kiribati, like other small Pacific island countries, has a significant waste problem with end-of-life vehicles, white goods (refrigerators, freezers, and washing machines), and electronic equipment. Dead vehicles and similar debris are of significant concern without proper disposal mechanisms for such waste. South Tarawa, the capital, is part of the Gilbert Islands. It is home to roughly half of Kiribati’s population of about 107,600. South Tarawa has two municipal (Island) councils— Betio Town Council (BTC) and Teinainano Urban Council (TUC). TUC operates the landfills at Nanikai and Bikenibeu, while BTC operates the Betio landfill. All wastes are collected by the councils and private operators and directly disposed at landfill sites. The Betio landfill is reported to have a remaining capacity of 8,500 cubic meters, while at Bikenibeu and Nanikai, remaining capacity is 32,500 cubic meters and 17,800 cubic meters respectively. Other smaller dumpsites also exist, but these are illegal under the Environment Act.

Kiribati’s most successful recycling initiative has been the Kaoki Maange (Keep Kiribati Beautiful) Program. The recycling system based on the Kaoki Mange Container Deposit Legislation, operated under contract by a private business, functions as a recycling system for aluminum cans, PET bottles, and lead-acid batteries. The Special Fund (Waste Materials Recovery) Act 2004 allows for a deposit of A\$0.05 to be levied on each beverage container at the point of import, with consumers being able to redeem A\$0.04 when returning containers for recycling. The remaining A\$0.01 covers handling fees to support recycling operations. The ministry had also formulated the National Solid Waste Management Strategy in 2007, with the assistance of SPREP and prepared the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy in 2012.

A pilot project on collecting non-organic waste in green bags is managed by the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Kiribati (FSPK), a nongovernment organization that oversees truck scheduling, public engagement work, and bag distribution.

ECD plays a key role in public awareness related activities, and some donor-funded programs support awareness campaigns. Local initiatives have provided incentives for cleaner villagers, such as through annual “tidy village” competitions. Overall legal, policy, and planning for solid waste management is a national government responsibility. The Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD), and its Environment and Conservation Division (ECD), is responsible for enforcing Environment Act 1999 (amended in 2007). The ministry had also formulated the National Solid Waste



Management Strategy in 2007, with the assistance of SPREP and prepared the Kiribati Integrated Environment Policy in 2012.



### **SDG Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact**

As a result of its inherent characteristics as an atoll nation, a least developed country with a fragile economy and environment, Kiribati is extremely vulnerable to climate change and has little capacity to cope with natural and man-made disasters. As most vulnerable, Kiribati's ability to respond to climate change risks is hampered by its highly vulnerable socio-economic and geographical situation. Climate change is no longer a future threat and mere projection but a reality that has already exacerbated disaster impacts and negatively impacting our people on a daily basis. The key observed impacts of climate change in Kiribati includes but not limited to:

- Severe coastal erosion as a result of sea level rise
- Frequent inundation of coastal areas and entire communities as a result of extreme weather events, storm surges and sea level rise.
- Changing weather and climatic patterns resulting in extremely long dry periods and droughts.
- Contamination and salination of water resources from inundation during frequent spring tides
- Increasing incidence of water-borne and vector-borne diseases undermining water and food security and the livelihoods and basic needs of the population

As a result of the challenges facing our country and our people as a result of climate change, the government of Kiribati is already taking bold steps to address this calamity, key undertakings that underpin our response includes:

#### ***Climate Change policy***

A national climate change policy is being developed and currently undergoing final refinements as instructed by Cabinet. The policy aims to safeguard the future existence of Kiribati as a sovereign nation, her people, culture, environment, its development progress and aspirations in light of the impacts of CC and related disasters risks.

The key objectives of the policy intend to address issues relating to i) Coastal protection and climate proofing infrastructure, ii) Food Security, iii) Water Security, iv) Energy Security, v) Environment, vi) Sustainability, vii) Health Security, viii) Disaster Risk Management, ix) Unavoidable Climate Change Impacts/ loss and damage, x) Capacity Building and Education, xi) Climate Change financing



For Kiribati, climate change is no longer just an environmental issue, but one that transcends all fabric of government and our society. With this realization, the government of Kiribati has entrusted the portfolio on climate change to the Office of Te Beretienti (OB) with the aim of ensuring a well-coordinated, whole of government and country approach and response to this issue.

**Programs on Climate Change implemented by the OB:**

a. *Whole of Island Approach (adaption of reef to ridge approach)*

Instead of focusing on only selected villages or single sectors, the Whole of Island Approach targets the whole island ecosystem, communities and governance structures whilst also considering its relationships with the national government and partners. Climate change and disaster risks must be dealt with in the context of local development. Actions towards increasing resilience should become integral part of local development plans that multiple partners support in its implementation and monitoring. The ownership of this plan is with the respective Island Councils. The government of Kiribati has so far carried out integrated vulnerability assessment (IVA) on 6 outer islands and this effort will be intensified once assistance is secured from the LCDF. UNDP is currently assisting Kiribati in preparing project documents for approximately AUS \$9m to be submitted to GEF in support of this activity.

b. *Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for CC and Disaster Risk Management.*

Review of the Kiribati Implementation Plan (KJIP) for CC and DRM (National Action Plan) The KJIP was initially published in 2014 and will undergo review in 2018. Upon completion the KJIP will be submitted as Kiribati NAP under the UNFCCC.

c. *Kiribati Adaptation Project Phase 3 (KAPIII)*

The Kiribati Adaptation Program has entered its third phase and will end by December 2018. The objective of KAPIII is to improve the resilience of Kiribati to the impacts of climate change on freshwater supply and coastal infrastructure. KAPIII will achieve this objective by strengthening government capacity to appropriately address these issues and improving the management and governance of water resources and infrastructure.

The program is a complex undertaking (total cost of US\$10.8m), involving a number of related activities by several ministries and agencies that also have many other responsibilities. Some of those activities will require usual initiative, effort and follow-through. A number of national and external consultants will be required to supplement the staff resources of line ministries. Four components are proposed, namely to improve water resource use and management, increase coastal resilience, strengthen the capacity to manage the effects of climate change and natural hazards, and project management, monitoring and evaluation.

***Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (MITIGATION)***

Kiribati is not obligated under the UNFCCC to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases. Nonetheless, there have been significant efforts to date to reduce fossil fuel imports and increase domestic renewable energy use. The setting up of the Kiribati Solar Company which provides solar lighting on rural islands and markets solar appliances, trailing of coconut oil based bio-fuel and on-grid solar PV on urban Tarawa illustrates the efforts. For mitigation, Kiribati has made a commitment “to reduce emissions by: 13.7% by 2025 and 12.8% by 2030 compared to a BaU (Business as Usual) projection...”;

and can enhance its commitment by an additional 48.8% by 2025 and 49% by 2030 condition on support and assistance provided. Kiribati further committed to “proactively protect and sustainably manage its mangrove resources, as well as protect and enhance coastal vegetation and sea grass beds”.



### **SDG Goal 14: Conserve and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources**

The sea is an important source of protein food and income for the people of Kiribati and a source of income for Government through fishing licenses and fish industries. Government has taken necessary steps to conserve and ensure sustainable use her oceans, seas and marine resources. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development has the mandate of fish and marine resources. The following are some of the efforts made:

- i) Fisheries Policy 2013 – 2025. For the Policy, the Government of Kiribati will work on the five strategic objectives: to support economic growth and employment opportunities, through sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and marine resources development, protect and secure food security and sustainable livelihoods for I-Kiribati, ensure long-term conservation of fisheries and marine ecosystems, strengthen good governance with a particular focus on building the capacity of MFMRD to implement and support fisheries management, development, and monitoring, control and surveillance, and to build climate change resilience for fisheries and marine resources in Kiribati
- ii) Fisheries Act 2010. Under the Fisheries Act 2010, MFMRD is tasked to promote sustainable management of fisheries and the development and use of fisheries resources for the benefit of Kiribati including the recovery of fees that reflect the value of resource and, to protect the fish stocks and marine environment of Kiribati. Based on this Act, the Kiribati National Fisheries Policy 2013-2025 has been developed with aims that portray short to medium and long-term strategic objectives that will enhance responsible fisheries with emphasis on the need to support, improve and sustain the peoples' livelihood, food security and sustainable economic growth.
- iii) Community Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) is a Regional Project 2013 – 2017 that Kiribati is benefiting from. Total funds provided at \$3,791,426 shared between 3 countries and Kiribati holding \$1,263,808.67 share. The objective of the project is to develop and nurture the structures, processes and the capacity to implement and sustain national programs of CBFM.
- iv) Observer Program on foreign fishing vessels allows close monitoring and control of fishing in the Kiribati waters through Kiribati workers placed on each fishing vessel and maintains a log of catches providing required details in the log template that MFMRD prepares.

There are also fishery programs of support to safeguard resources and food security rendered to outer islands. Te Waa – n – O (local design fishing canoes) given to those that apply for the resource. The canoe empowers families in outer island and communities to make earnings or to fish for food in the more distant and deeper waters. The Ice Plants is a support of the Government with funding assistance of the Japan through the OFCF to all outer islands to help with storage and keeping fish fresh for marketing. Fishery cooperatives in a number of outer islands facilitates community groups to share fishing equipment and storage for the community.

Kiribati is a party to international and regional conventions including bio-diversity convention for conservation and management, energy, climate change to name a few. Government is committed to implementing the conventions and working closely with communities, island councils, and other partners, has made the both policy and relevant laws as attempts to implement and achieve the objectives. Island council by-laws exist to ensure proper control of their marine/sea resources requiring foreign fishing vessels to apply for the Council approval. The Fisheries Act outlines proper control and measures for foreign fishing companies. Alongside laws, are policies on conservation of marine resources. PIPA (Phoenix Island Protected Area) is a standard model of marine life protection which Kiribati declared as a closed area for any fishing activity and has been internationally recognized and registered as a world heritage. The model is under trial for replication by the PIPA Secretariat to encourage local protection of marine resources and bio-diversity. This is recognized as the 'Bringing PIPA Home' and is currently on trial with the Betio Town Council. The concept is extended to cleaning campaign to make the town healthy and pleasant for members of society and visitors.

Joint venture undertaking between Kiribati and Foreign Companies serves as an important control measure to the use of fish resources. The Kiribati Fish Limited established in 2015(?) is a joint venture business by two foreign companies with government share of some percentage (?). The joint venture fish company assists to provide employment and other benefits to the people (affordable fish prices, varied fish products) and with government's share, there is good potential for close monitoring and control of the company's catches, employment conditions for the local workers etc.



### **SDG Goal 15: Sustainably manage forest, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss**

Kiribati ratified the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) in 1994 and the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in 2005 and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2004. It has National Biodiversity Planning Committee (NPBC) which is made up of multi-disciplinary team comprising of stakeholders from a variety of Government Ministries as well as Civil Society partners.

Kiribati has a large ocean territory with rich marine biodiversity and the Phoenix Group hosts the largest marine park in the world. The PIPA is a showcase of Kiribati's commitment to its biodiversity declared a closed marine protected area. It is home to a number of predatory fish, sea turtles, sea birds, corals, giant clams and coconut crabs, most of which have been depleted elsewhere in the region. The relatively rich variety of marine fauna (300 to 400 species) continues to provide the people with their main source of protein – fish.

In contrast, the indigenous land-based flora and fauna of Kiribati are among the poorest on earth and there are few, if any, endemic species. The people have developed sophisticated agriculture systems based mainly on coconut, breadfruit, pandanus and swamp taro.

Kiritimati in the Line Group is the largest atoll in the world and holds a diversity of avifauna that is of both regional and international significance. The atoll provides nesting, roosting, feeding and migration sites for over 40 bird species. Both the Ministry of Line and Phoenix Strategic Plan recently launched in 2016 is a big step forward and milestone to the management of development in Kiritimati and other Line and Phoenix Islands.

The Ministry of the Line and Phoenix, the Island Council and community stakeholders highlighted as Goal 3 of the Line and Phoenix Islands Development Strategy 2016 “to effectively manage the biodiversity and urban settlements...”. Kiritimati is the growth centre faced with population issues and ‘deteriorating living conditions’ and ‘serious decline in the wider island biosphere of the Line and Phoenix Islands.



**KPA 5: Governance**

**Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls**

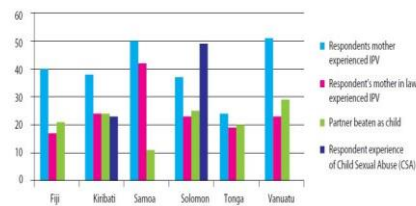
**Goal 16: Promote Just, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies**

**1. Achieve Gender Equality and Women and Girls Empowerment**



**3.2. Cycle of violence: intergenerational transmission of violence**

**Figure 3.2.1. Exposure of respondents and partners to violence during childhood, by respondents experiences of intimate partner violence (Percentage of women aged 15-49 or 18-49)**



**EVAWG and GENDER EQUALITY**

The current position of Kiribati for the SDG Target “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life” is depicted in the table provided (below) derived from the 2015 Census, showing participation rates by men and women.

There’s a clear message and lesson informed for the need to direct efforts to areas of weaknesses in terms of gender equality in the share of employment for women. The overall total population shows more women than men; girl/women participation and performance in schools are consistently better than that of boy/men, yet women’s participation in employment and leadership roles is lower than the men.

The SDG Targets to “End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere” and to “Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres...” are key relative issues and deterrence to women’s active participation in the economic development of Kiribati. Gender inequality as the underlying cause of the noted results (weak women participation and contribution).

**Table #: Men and Women Share of Employment**

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>MEN</b>	<b>WOMEN</b>
1	Labour force participation rate, aged 15 years and over	173%	60%
2	Unemployment rate, aged 15 years and over <sup>2</sup>	36%	47%
3	Labour force participation rate aged 15–24 years	67%	73%
4	Unemployment rate aged 15–24 years	62%	73%
5	Proportion of employed who are own-account workers aged 15yrs+	33%	42%
6	Proportion of employed who are employers, aged 15yrs &+	0.5%	0.7%
7	Percentage distribution of employed population working in agriculture aged 15yrs &+	32%	13%
8	Percentage distribution of employed population working in industry, aged 15 years &+	12%	27%
9	Percentage distribution of employed population working in services, aged 15 years and over	56%	60%
10	Percentage distribution of employed population working in cultural occupations <sup>3</sup> , aged 15 years and over	3%	16%
11	Percentage distribution of employed population working in cultural industries aged 15 years and over	7%	20%
12	Proportion of individuals using the Internet, aged 15–64 years	20%	22%
13	Proportion of households with access to mass media (radio and/or Internet), by sex of household head	47%	48%
14	Length of maternity leave		Up to 12 weeks
15	Percentage of wages paid during maternity		0

*Notes: The Employment Relations and Industrial Relations Code 2015 makes 12 weeks maternity leave possible, depending on individual employment contracts. There are 12 weeks of maternity leave in the public sector, fully paid for the first two births only. Maternity leave can only be taken six weeks prior to delivery and six weeks after delivery.*

*Source: Kiribati Statistics Office, Census of Population and Housing 2015*

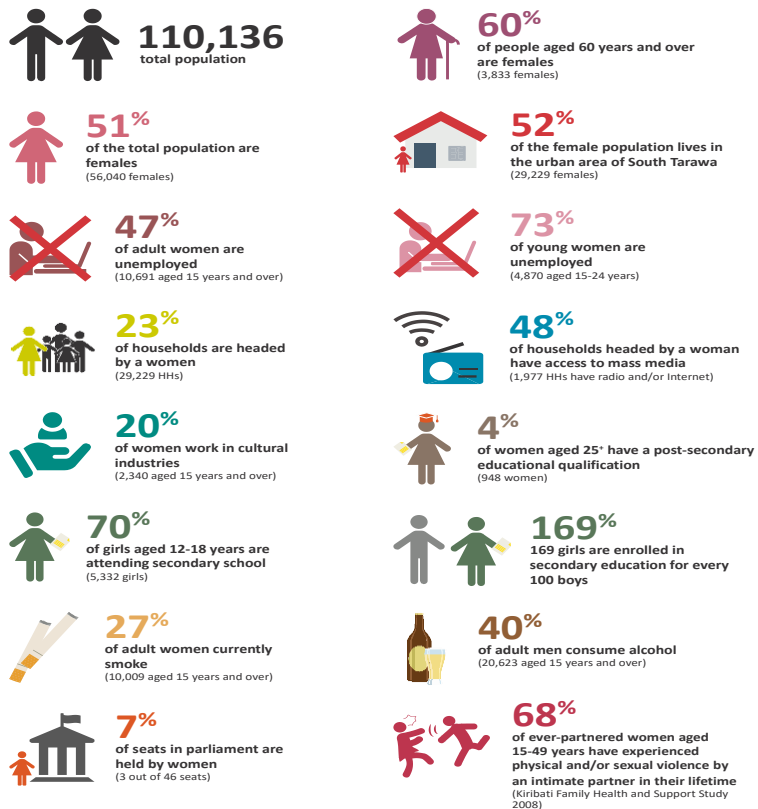
Kiribati signed and adopted the CEDAW in 2010. Whilst reporting is yet to be done, numerous work to address the obligations to end discrimination and address gender equality for the elimination of violence against women and girls are noted. There is limited capacity in data and reporting to show the impact but experience and observation show a generally higher awareness and elevated public appreciation of what the government and partners are doing to address discrimination and gender equality and human rights. As a result of awareness raising, there is an increase of reporting to the police on domestic violence showing that more women or the population are more aware of their rights and protection under the law.

Cultural barrier is a persisting issue that decision makers and the advocates identify as a priority in this area, for which, with support of donor partners, program projects are introduced. Men's

Police Crime Statistics for Domestic Violence Cases					
2014	2015	2016	2017		
598	549	595	307 July		
The effect of DV cases to Victims					
Victim condition	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Died	5	2		1	8
Serious injured	9	5	15	3	32
Minor injuries	16	9	17	5	47

Behavioural Change program 2014/2015 supported by the World Bank support to SAFENET, mainstreaming of gender in the KJIP and ministry plans and policies, and curriculum changes to address gender equality, ending violence against women and girls through respectful relationships programs are a few of the attempts that Government has already implemented. Along with these are on-going annual campaigns such as the white ribbon day and 16 days of activism, orange day,

Fig #: GENDER INDICATOR SUMMARY





black Thursday, International Women's Day in which communities are regular partners.

The establishment of the MWYSSA in 2013 was a priority by the government in recognition of the women issues. Focussed attention had been adoption of human rights principles in national legislation including the Children, Young Persons and Family Welfare Act 2013, Education Act 2013, Juvenile Justice Act 2013, and Te Rau n te Mweenga Act 2014. There is need however to fund and address areas identified in the TRNTM Act National Implementation Plan launched i10 Dec 2017

The Education Act was enacted in 2013 aims to provide for an education system in Kiribati that makes available to every student a high-quality education that will i) help maximize the student's educational potential; ii) enable the student to become an effective and informed member of the community and iii) promote compulsory education. The principles of Inclusive Education are also provisioned for in the Act. In the application guidelines, the Act prohibits disciplining a student because she is pregnant or is a parent (section 41:2). Education curriculum is mainstreamed for gender equality and gender based violence responsiveness to primary prevention of gender based violence and gender equality. The purpose of teaching young children is for them to learn non-discriminatory behaviours, loving and caring attitudes, building respectful relationship in school.

Noted is the progress Government has made to support inclusive education through the no-fee and compulsory education policy, Junior Secondary School accessibility in all islands, provision of free basic school materials and transport service for primary and JSS, the revised Primary and JSS curriculum for GBV and GE. TVET at KIT has also demonstrated a lot of improvements supporting women taking courses in conventionally men programs of building, carpentry, mechanical, electrical etc.

The Education sector is showing progress in achieving greater girl/women participation in the different levels of education. Education analysis of the 2015 Population Census with lens on girl participation records depicts a reasonable position. Female numbers are consistently higher at the different levels of education (primary, secondary, tertiary except in higher education for 25 years and above. Despite this positive scenario, majority of women's share of government ministerial positions are a long way still to achieving equality. The above extract gives the actual position reflected in the 2015 Census.

There are other efforts pursued by Government. At the policy level, the Elimination of Sexual and Gender Based Violence policy, the draft Gender Equality and Women Development policy are two key Government policies for EVAW and ESGBV. Awareness support programs through Human Rights trainings for the public conducted in outer islands and in Tarawa alongside consultations for the new TNTMA (FPA), and training of SAFENET members in outer islands comprise key work. In partnerships with communities and island councils, Government and donor partners support annual campaigns against violence against women and girls and Gender Equality. Support to improved essential services through the UN Women's Essential Services Program (ESP 2017-2018) funds is to assist survivors to get immediate service/response at international quality level. Police, Judiciary, Health, Social Welfare services are key stakeholders being supported.

There is increased appreciation of prioritizing the gender based violence (GBV) by key service providers. MHMS has instituted a specialized service counter for counselling and urgent treatment of survivors through the RMNCAH program with support of UN Women. The court is recognizing the need to expedite hearing of Domestic Violence cases and informs of the priority it is given by the court. Currently the judiciary is supported to improve its Bench Book and have it translated for better service

by all courts especially in the outer islands. It is also supported to improve on the witness/survivor court hearing system to enable a distant hearing facility to ensure security/safety as well as avoid straight encounter of the survivor/witness with perpetrators. The MWYSSA's SAFENET (under initial World Bank and UN Women late support) committees and activities in Tarawa and outer islands are revived under the ESP to continue its important role in monitoring and case management, to ensure Domestic Violence and VAWG cases receive due and appropriate support.

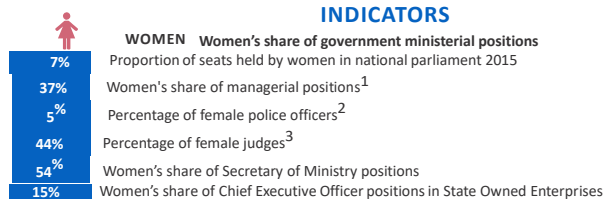
Extended focus from campaigns for elimination to primary prevention of VAWG has received support by DFAT and UN Women with a four-year program on Strengthening Peaceful Villages approved and implemented in late 2017. Additionally, a new MHMS family health clinic serving survivors of GBV providing counselling services and referral support to appropriate authorities such as police, health, crisis centre successfully built and operational in 2016.

**Table #: Male/Female between ages 6-11, 12-18 and 25 and plus attending in primary, secondary school level & higher education Census 2015**

Age Range	School level	Total Male	Total Female	Total Male & Female	Total Population recorded in the age-range		
					M	F	Total
6-11	Classes 1 - 6	6515	6563	13078	7599	7391	14900
12-18	Forms 1 - 7	4315	5322	9647	7729	7660	15389
19-24	Certificate	24	40	64	6331	6248	12579
	Diploma	31	65	96			
	Degree	23	52	75			
	Masters	1	1	2			
25 & above	Higher Education	999	948	1947	23288	26414	49702

Government continuously supports and works together with NGOs who are partners in the combat to end violence including KFHA, OLSH Crisis Centre, AAFR, AMAK and KWCSC. Partnerships with communities and island councils continues in annual campaigns against violence against women and girls and Gender Equality, with support of donor partners (DFAT, UNW). MWYSSA works with NGOs closely sitting on a number of its National Committees for ESGBV, SAFENET, and National Women's special events Committees such as the annual IWD, WRD and 16 days of activism.

### INDICATORS



<sup>1</sup> Managerial positions are those occupations that have been coded by the national statistics office as falling under the International Standard Classification for Occupations (ISCO) Major Group 1 (referred to as "Legislators, senior officials and managers" under ISCO-88).

<sup>2</sup> From Census occupation information. <sup>3</sup> Census occupations of Magistrate class I and Magistrate class II.

Source: Kiribati Statistics Office, Census of Population and Housing 2015, composition of parliament from Inter-Parliamentary Union PARLINE database (<http://archive.ipu.org/parline/reports/2169.htm>)

The 2015 Census records for occupations in the two tables above further implies participation gap between men and women, men taking more than 50% (484) of the total recorded occupation of 771

(Table # below). The same pattern is observed in the police and magistrate judges. Of the 572 police positions, only 32 are held by women and of the 50 judges, 22 are women. Gender in government ministries, SOEs and Statutory bodies show a better representation. Table # below.

**Table #: Gender of the head of government ministries, SOEs and statutory bodies 2018**

Government body	Sex of Secretary/CEO		
	Men	Women	Women's
Ministries	6	7	54%
SOEs	11	2	15%
Statutory Bodies	1	1	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Table #: Reported occupations in the legislators, senior officials and managers group, from main economic activity\*, by sex for population aged 15 years and over, Census 2015**

Main Occupation	Male	Female	Total
Legislator	3	0	3
Cabinet members	4	2	6
Members of Parliament	31	2	33
Island Councilors	135	7	142
Chief government officials	1	2	3
Senior government officials	14	14	28
Deputy	6	1	7
Government assistant	22	43	65
Island council clerks	8	24	32
Chief Executive Officer	19	8	27
Officer in Charge	10	5	15
Managing Directors	6	9	15
Business Manager	49	31	80
General Managers	67	50	117
Commercial Managers	10	6	16
NGO Managers	19	14	33
Human Resource Manager	1	5	6
Project Coordinator	10	14	24
Other Managers	69	50	119
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>771</b>

### Key Issues and Challenges

Gender Equality culturally remains unacceptable. Gender Equality issue in Kiribati presents a major challenge that will take some good number of years before noticeable change can occur.

Whilst a new law to deal with violence against women cases, recent experiences and occurrences imply that more is needed. Clearly illustrated during IWD 2018 by a 'plea' that women made for Government to consider more and other ways to eliminate the continued violence against women by men

counterparts. Proposed was a disciplinary action for working men who are reported to be violent to their wives. Additionally, the Kiribati National Constitution is limited ...

Gender Inequality as a result of cultural and traditional practices is a contributing factor to limited women participation in decision making levels. Only 7% in Kiribati are women MPs. Coupling factor is limited encouragement and support to increase women participate rate. Experience in other countries provide options for considerations. The reason why Samoa has the most women in Parliament is the supportive legal environment that ensures a share of some percentage of women seats in Parliament to be contested for by Women.

There is more work around legal support required to enable gender equality: The Constitution of Kiribati has loop holes for women's right. The Native Land's Ordinance does not recognize equality between men and women in terms of land ownership and rights. The Immigration Act is not in favour of women marrying foreigners posing citizenship issue for husband. Restriction on the number of maternity leaves in the National Conditions of Service to only two occasions is a drawback to women. Further work to the new TRNTM Act is needed and the implementation plan needs funding.



### **Goal 16: Promote Just, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies**

The Government is committed to SDG targets to “substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms and to development effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels”. To safeguard the public interest against corruption and bribery etc., there are legal, policy, and procedural mechanisms in place for use and against which government and SOEs are monitored and checked for compliance and adherence. These include government financial regulations, taxation act, auditing of public funds, SOE Act and Companies Ordinance, Procurement Act, National Conditions of Service, and others.

Government ministries are subjected to annual auditing by the KNAO and similarly the SOEs are also subjected to the same. At every Parliament Session, audit reports are tabled and debated and the Speaker will announce outstanding audits. Through this process, the public are informed of performances of Ministries and Government companies and SOEs are reminded about timely auditing.

The Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament is tasked to monitor Ministries and SOEs audit reports and at every session will do the presentation of the reports. The PAC members are Members of Parliament and it sits regularly to undertake a consultative scrutiny with organizations to seek clarifications and explanations on issues and matters that the auditors found ‘abnormal before tabling and debating in the House of Parliament.

Other recent development in promoting equality and inclusiveness are seen the new, updated as well as draft policies. The first National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2017-2019 was launched in Sept 2017. the Kiribati National Youth Policy 2017-2021, the Kiribati National Disability Policy 2017-2021, the Gender Equality and Women Development Policy 2017-2019. The Public Service Office is undergoing reform and restructuring for uplifting of its customer service operations for the public, and to also improve its inspectorate responsibilities for better monitoring and evaluation processes of civil service employees’ performance. A new Centre (name?) was recently established for this specific purpose.

The new government long term vision of the KV20 provides specific and clear guideline as to how governance is to be addressed. The Governance Pillar aims specifically to create a corrupt-free society by: strengthening national and local traditional and governance policy and legislative framework; fostering and strengthening the integrity and independence of institutions mandated to promote good governance and eliminate corruption; strengthen strategic partnerships and institutionalize anti-

corruption and good governance principles in the public service and education systems in Kiribati. In addition to the core Pillars, it is also anchored on gender, youth, vulnerable groups, equity and partnership as cross cutting principles and will underscore equity in all the sector programs and projects to be implemented. The aim is to implement measures across all sectors to create equal opportunities for all clusters in society including women, youth, people living with disability and other vulnerable groups.

The Vision further recognizes Kiribati's vulnerability to climate change as a key constraint to achieving the desired outcomes and encourages further mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation into various programs to ensure that the working environment is sensitive to environment conservation, climate change and sustainable development. The environment conservation adaptation and mitigation measures will reduce risks and ensure that the development programs implemented creates sustainable development for all.

Challenges are faced that include:

- More work is required to lift capacity in the management and delivery of public service programs.
- The quality of the work of the Kiribati National Audit Office (KNAO) requires lifting to be able to perform performance audits of Ministries and SOEs.
- Training needs to raise public financial management standards of staff.
- Improvements in service delivery are required for the public sector to be managed more efficiently and capable of responding to community needs.
- The KDP identifies the need to upgrade the court buildings.
- The Island Councils need improve administrative and management support to support the Mayors and Councilors in the day to day operation as well as in the development of the island.
- There are limited finance sources in the outer islands with the Village Banks currently not operating which Government is noting for improving accessibility to finance service to support the people and development in the islands.
- Other important governance services need improvement for the outer islands including the police and investigation services for crimes affecting women and children and community policing, roads, water and sanitation for better health and environment.
- Roads, communication (internet and mobile) remain to be challenges for efficient information dissemination and reporting to attract timely responses to issues and needs.



**KPA 6: Infrastructure (Goal 6, 7 & 9)**  
**SDG 6: Ensure Water Access and Sanitation for All**



Government, under KPA 6 Infrastructure, highlights key areas for addressing that include SDGs 6, 7 and 9. Faced with increasing pressure of the changing environment experienced under climate change conditions, the KDP 2016-2019 stipulates a climate change based approach under KPA 6, for high resilience and sustainability infrastructure in urban and rural areas for the constructions of causeways, roads, airfields, sea ports, seawall designs for coastal protection, building designs and building codes, for maintenance plans, safe water and sanitation, renewable energy, inter-island transport systems, telecommunications for outer islands.

The National Water Policy 2008 and its three key objectives remain relevant to Kiribati vulnerability in the face of climate change, population growth, scarce availability, safety concerns, and the health issues of water borne diseases. Water is a scarce resource in Kiribati and is sourced from underground freshwater lens and from rain. It is very critical for Kiribati to ensure continued availability and maintain its quality for human consumption. The Engineering department of the MISE has a special Water Unit that manages ground water availability and issues regular updates to the Public Utilities Board, the main supplier of drinking water for Urban Kiribati. The outer islands face more acute water problem as ground water is almost the only one source of fresh water with limited rain water catchment in most islands. A vulnerability assessment assists government water programs for outer islands. Government makes it an important commitment to provide water programs of support for better conditions and availability in the outer islands. The Table #: is a vulnerability assessment of ground water for all islands in Kiribati.

Table #: Vulnerability Assessment of Groundwater resource in All Islands of Kiribati

Islands	2015 Population	Annual Rainfall (mm)	Probable Lens Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Average Sustainable Yield (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Sustainable Yield per Capita (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Sustainable Yield per Capita (L/day)	%	Vulnerability
Makin	1990	2821	1.74	2790	1.40	1402	52	Medium
Butaritari	3224	3106	3.89	8751	2.71	2714	100	Low
Marakei	2799	2050	5.34	2761	0.99	986	36	Medium
Abaiang	5568	2158	6.22	3852	0.69	692	25	High
North Tarawa	6619	1943	7.37	4620	0.70	698	26	High
Maiana	1981	1543	6.76	1315	0.66	664	24	High
Kuria	1043	1518	10.22	1867	1.79	1790	66	Medium
Aranuka	1124	1518	6.85	1263	1.12	1124	41	Medium
Abemama	3299	1518	17.11	3156	0.96	957	35	Medium
Nonouti	2744	1507	9.56	1722	0.63	628	23	High
Tabiteuea North	3956	1418	13.65	2025	0.51	512	19	High
Tabiteuea South	1304	1418	3.62	537	0.41	412	15	High
Onotoa	1394	1230	8.95	404	0.29	290	11	High
Beru	2051	1355	4.14	1155	0.56	563	21	High
Nikunau	1791	1242	9.74	977	0.55	546	20	High
Tamana	1106	1425	3.18	480	0.43	434	16	High
Arorae	1011	1826	4.01	1381	1.37	1366	50	Medium
Teraina	1718	3017	4	7268	4.23	4231	100	Low
Tabuaeran	2317	2107	7.7	6546	2.83	2825	67	Medium
Kiritimati	6447	974	14.5	2000	0.31	310	7	High
Kanton	20	952	2.25	480	24.00	24000	100	Medium
Banaba	280	1860	0	0	-			High

Source: Office of Te Beretitenti 2018

Progress is noted in addressing outer island water shortage problems. Increased number of households' access to portable water is an indicator of KPA 6 for SDG 9 KAP funded and MISE has shown progress in addressing portable water in outer islands. 70% completion of installing a water gallery in North Tarawa and 2 rain water harvesting and reticulation system in Buota to complete in April 2018.

Improving the water system in Kiritimati island (of high vulnerability according to the vulnerability assessment in Table #: above) is seeing construction of the Decca-London water supply nearing completion with the new water supply system operational in Feb 2018 for commissioning in March 2018. It is noted that government is undertaking similar upgrade to the 4 wells for Tabwakea water supply system to include metering of all houses and fixing leakages of the distribution network.

The IFAD project with MELAD has provided 279 rain water harvesting systems on 4 outer islands, and the KIRIWATSAN project provided 144 rain water harvesting systems on 8 outer islands, all of which are under 'high vulnerability' status.

The medium-term reform plan of the Public Utilities Board Reform started and on-going and have already implemented a revised electricity tariff rates, upgrading of electricity network equipment and connections at 50% completion status. A village water supply has been initiated in South Tarawa piloting 25-hr water supply to households for 3 communities. Faced with many constraints, progressively, Kiribati is taking the necessary steps to ensure the set targets are pursued:



The South Tarawa Sanitation Improvement Sector Project started in 2011 aims to improve health of the people in communities of South Tarawa through the rehabilitation of sewerage and salt water system. The outfalls of the sewerage are under renovation; the onsite sanitation project for construction of 34 toilet blocks on 28 different sites in non-sewer areas in South Tarawa with septic tanks leading to the drain field. Part of the STSISP is community engagement to help with sustainability of the project.

Other community sanitation programs are attempted by Civil Societies including the Kiribati Red Cross. Supported by the Government of Australia. Under the KRC Community Based Health Program, have assisted a church-based community groups with 14 toilet blocks providing 104 toilets. Each block is equipped with water tank and groundwater well. On successful completion and positive impacts of this initial project, the intervention is replicated in another sub-urban/village to benefit community members. A total of 6 blocks will provide 35 toilets.



### **Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

Kiribati Integrated Energy Roadmap 2017-2025 is directly responsive to SDGs and Kiribati's need for sustainability.

There is an increasing number of solar energy connections in outer islands. The distribution of 1,230 solar lighting kits in 2014-2015 and the installation of 30 solar lighting systems for community halls, 18 systems for all island councils' workshops, and 140 for outer islands teachers' residents. Further, there is a 100% solar system coverage for all boarding secondary schools in the outer islands. All outer islands council offices and quarters and fish centres will be provided with solar PV or hybrid systems and in 2018. To complete the distribution to all households, another 5,352 sets of solar light kits will be provided to the remaining households on South Tarawa by April 2018.

Three solar photovoltaic systems connected to the PUB Grid on South Tarawa have all been completed and commissioned in 2017 providing an additional peak capacity of 1.4 MW, or 30 per cent of peak demand. These include the Japan-funded 400 kw system, and the UAE-funded 500 kw system. A World Bank funded 516 kw system. The World Bank's New Release "Kiribati's Over-reliance on Fuel to End with World Bank Project" is presents an informative brief on Solar Energy at the Public Utilities Board and the benefits it will bring to address vulnerability of Kiribati from over-reliance on fuel, the population to benefit from the project, greenhouse gas emission reduction and the dollar savings that government will make. Follow through in [www.worldbank.org/energy](http://www.worldbank.org/energy) Solar PV systems have also been installed and implemented on Kiritimati Island including a mini-grid system at Poland village.

Another initiative has been solar lighting system for roads and causeways in the urban South Tarawa which has benefited motorists and road users at night and reducing potential accidents and offer better security for women and children.



The road lighting system in South Tarawa and BTC and along the causeways is using the solar lighting system.

For energy efficient system and standards, a draft regulation on electrical/electronic appliances labelling will be finalized during first quarter 2018 for approval by cabinet and implementation under the Consumer Protection Act. Data of 2015 of the MISE shows solar installation progress in all Islands is portrayed in Table # below:

Table #: Details of Solar in All Islands

2015	J2/EDF 8		Taiwan Solar Lighting Kit System (35W) 0.12m2				EDF 10 Project										Total installed (W)
	SMS (100W SHS (100W)		Additional Proposed distributor				Solar Kit System (35W) 0.3m2		Small Business System (200W) 1m2		Maneaba System (200W) 1m2		Teachers' System (200W) 1m2		Mini-grids (240W) 1.6m2		
	1m2	1m2	Approved	Delivered	required	for the remaining kits	Share	Installed	Share	Installed	Share	Installed	Share	Installed			
Makin	17	61	499	499			82	82	5	5	2	2					29535
Butaritari	6	57	630	977			197	30	8	8	2	2					43545
Marakei	6	37	499	578			126	13	6	1	2						25185
Abaiang	36	83	932	942	812	166	250	211	12	11	2	2	40	40	2x69		95975
North Tarawa	50	110	1029	539	447	91	145	144	7	7	2	2	20	20	1x105		70905
Maiana	14	54	428	594			92	104	5	7	2	2					33030
Kuria	0	57	583	556	185	38	44	30	3	2	1	1					26810
Aranuka	9	68	260	260	11	2	49	49	4	4	1	1					19515
Abemame	3	59	240	240	88	18	146	104	8	10	2	2	20	20	1x180		67840
Ninouti	0	29	599	699			122	37	7	7	2	2	20	20	1x69		51020
TabNorth	0	0	682	904			167	102	9	7	2	4	20	20	1x123		70330
TabSouth	0	24	249	249	56	11	59	50	3		1						12865
Beru	0	15	549	549	85	17	95	26	6	6	2	2	20	19	1x105		52225
Nikunau	9	22	375	375			87	90	5	4	1	1					20375
Onotoa	0	20	332	332			69	40	4	3	2	2					16020
Tamana	12	22	202	234			43	9	3	1	1						12105
Arorae	0	14	238	238	14	3	58	21	3	2	1	1					11065
Banaba	6	0	94	138			13	4	2		2	2					5970
Teeraina			298	270													9450
Tabuaeran			445	60 (still awaiting shipment - reported at 11/15/15)			89	40									1400
Kiritimati			50	271			77	61							1x69		28180
Kanton			6														0
Total no. of panels	168	732	9219	9444	1698	346	2010	1247	100	85	30	28	140	139	789		703945

Source: Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy 2015

Kiribati solar energy programme is supported by development partners including Australia, NZ, Japan, the EU, the UAE and Taiwan. Table # below shows the contributions some of these partnerships had offered to Kiribati.

Table #: 2016 Outer Islands Project with power and energy ratings

Project	Type of system	Wp per system	Number of system (exist on OI)		Total Wp Contribution
			Number of Solar Module per system		
JICA	Maneaba	100	1	55	5500
	Home system	600	6	1	600
EDF8	Maneaba	300	3	52	15600
	Home system	100	1	732	73200
EDF10	Solar kit	35	1	2010	70350
	Small business	200	2	100	20000
	Maneaba	200	2	30	6000

	Teachers System	200	2	140	28000
	School mini grid	16000	69	3	48000
	School mini grid	25000	105	2	50000
	School mini grid	29000	123	1	29000
	school mini grid	42000	180	1	42000
	Workshop system	200	2	18	3600
Taiwan	Solar lighting kit	35	1	9197	321895
Fisheries	Mini grid	3640	14	10	36400
	Mini grid	3780	18	6	22680
			<b>530</b>		<b>772825</b>



**Goal 9: Build resilience infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

Challenges from more frequent king tides and storms due to changing climate patterns have increasingly impacted the coastlines causing physical damage to assets and economic and social losses to Government and communities. A priority goal of government is for more strategic coastal protection initiatives including identification of vulnerable areas and introducing robust seawall designs to withstand the impacts of rising seas. One of the visible efforts in this direction is the total replacement of the “sandbag” seawall design with a new “mass-concrete” seawall design. Development of and adopting climate change proofing policies and codes for government, public and private buildings are also part of this plan.

The climate change and impact vulnerability assessments of islands were undertaken in an effort to address coastline degradation and other climate change induced issues. Through the vulnerability assessment reports, government is able to determine and deliver timely supports to critical cases of coastal erosions and inundation.

Government in partnership with the phased World Bank supported Kiribati Adaptation Project (KAP) and other development partners through the disaster prevention measures, is undertaking coastal protection applying more robust seawall designs. This is necessary to protect crucial public infrastructures particularly roads, hospital, community buildings and assets from exceptionally high waves and storms.

The rehabilitation of the urban South Tarawa roads to international standard was completed with road signs, solar street lights and improved junctions for safety of drivers and road users. The Road Safety Act (MICCTD?) will ensure proper management and maintenance of this new road for long term usage. Regular maintenance of the roads is carried out through private contracts supervised by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy to ensure standards are upheld.

The reconstruction of the causeway between Betio and Bairiki targeted to complete in April 2019, will facilitate improved transportation and utility delivery of clean water, power and telecommunication services to the populous urban S. Tarawa. To facilitate better access to essential services and transportation, rehabilitation of roads and airfields on all outer islands using more weather resilient design has commenced and will continue over the next 3-4 years. This will

promote opportunities for commerce and trade by the rural communities and raise their living standard.

The Building Act 2006 seeks to implement measures to significantly improve the safety and standard of construction work in Kiribati. A Building Code 2012 ensures that acceptable standards of structural sufficiency, fire safety, health and amenity, are maintained for the benefit of the Kiribati community. The code allows, where appropriate, for variations in climate and geological.

Since February 2017, the National Building Code of Kiribati (NBCK), has been applied to public buildings only. The Code requires that all public building constructions must have rainwater catchments and safe toilet systems. This is a direct and immediate push by the Government to fulfil SDG 6.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that by end of 2018, the Code will include all classes of buildings including residential. This implies that all constructions that will commence in 2019 will only receive approval if they include indication that they will have rainwater tanks and safe toilet facilities.

A comprehensive maintenance plan for major public infrastructures and buildings is being developed for mainstreaming into the government's annual recurrent and development budgets.

With the support of external expertise and donor partners mainly the World Bank and the ADB under the Kiribati Aviation Investment Project, the runway has been upgraded to receive bigger and increasing number of international and domestic flights in Kiribati. Safety fences and night landing facilities for the international airport are part of this initiative. Renovation of the international airport terminal buildings to provide better airport services to incoming and outgoing passengers is on-going. This is in line with the KV20 to put emphasis on tourism development.

The upgrading of outer islands air fields is on-going on selected islands of the Gilbert to receive bigger and higher capacity domestic air plane serviced by the local airline, Air Kiribati Limited. Eight outer islands are targeted for this development.

Through partnership with the Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA) and other external inputs, government expects to improve and develop infrastructure on Kanton Island in particular the airport and seaport to facilitate the development of tourism. This is consistent with the pillar in the government's KV20 for tourism development.

Infrastructure support for mobile phones and internet are provided for outer islands to improve the service and government is working closely with foreign telephone companies providing appropriate support. Along with this is the intention to improve telecommunication connectivity to the outer islands.



### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION (Goal 17)

#### Goal 17: Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



The SDGs in Kiribati can be achieved through continued political support and commitment and strong coordination among all stakeholders. This requires effort and commitment by the government and state agencies, private sector, development partners, local governments, non-governmental organizations as well as the civil society working in harmony to achieve this immense task.

Partnership with the Public Service, knowledge transfer with the NGOs and civil society are some of the ongoing activities geared towards enhancing the partnerships for the goals. Additionally, information sharing and awareness sessions needs to be conducted for stakeholders in the SOEs and with the wider public through NGOs/CSOs and formalized community groups, to encourage their participation and ownership in implementing the SDGs.

Given the connectivity challenge of the geographical position presents, the use of internet and mobile cellular subscriptions provide an important entry point to reach communities. Sales of mobile in Tarawa and to the outer islands through ATHKL's promotional sales of mobiles have

tremendously increased, despite the limited connectivity in outer islands. With the recent presence of the Ocean Link telephone company, improvements should be seen. People are buying for other purposes but this should pave way for effective communication, once connectivity issues in outer islands are sorted out. The government should be able to capitalize this accessibility rate to improve information dissemination, sharing and awareness for the critical areas of health, education and others to support KDP and SDG absorption and appreciation by the population living in outer islands, essentially to 'leave no one behind' in the processes of development, planning and implementation.

Government does not disagree with private service providing education, health, and other services that are currently privatized; privatization of other services presents possibilities for improved service including electricity, water and sanitation, technological services, in infrastructure development are other areas that provide opportunity to improve service provision and to avoid overloading of government. Strengthening the laws and regulations to facilitate and widen the private sector investment in such areas need be heightened.

Being a small island developing State, the country is vulnerable to environmental shocks. The main challenge is getting funds required for the implementation of the SDGs and capacity building to achieve the Goals throughout the implementation process. Implementation and funding of the KJIP provide benefits to climate change initiatives in disaster preparedness and adaptation programs needed by the country and the people of Kiribati. Additionally, owing to the population and island dispersion, additional efforts have to be made to, reach everyone leaving no one behind.

To enable Kiribati achieve more in the implementation of the SDGs, it is important to mobilize additional financial resources through, ODA, concessional loans and through South-South cooperation initiatives and support of donor partners. Related to this, capacity building will feature as a key determinant in the success of implementing the SDGs in Kiribati, along with strengthening need for staff and institutions for a better data management capacity to meet international reporting standards, and importantly to facilitate informed decision making and mid-term and end-term evaluations.

The KV20 plays an important role in the implementation of SDGs. It is designed to accelerate progress and make concrete achievements in the selected sectors of fisheries and tourism with a view to benefit from the anticipated multiplying impacts to benefit the people and Kiribati.