

# THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU IOM COUNTRY STRATEGY 2017–2020



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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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Cover photo: Mesekiu Bai, a traditional Palauan meeting house at the Palau Community College.  
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**THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU  
IOM COUNTRY STRATEGY  
2017–2020**



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# FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION

Migration has long been a key feature of the Palauan identity, characterized by movements between the thousands of islands in the region. More recently, migration dynamics have been dominated by the increased migration of Palauans to developed economies, such as the United States, as well as increased immigration from neighbouring Asian countries. Additionally, dynamics of migration increasingly affect Palauans, as dramatic changes in climate raise the threat of internal displacement and forced migration.

In our modern era, communities in the Republic of Palau confront new challenges in the face of dramatic changes in climate. The relationship between climate change and migration is complex, tied up in a set of political, economic, and social dynamics that impact people's ability and willingness to move. Rapid changes in the frequency and severity of natural disasters in the Republic of Palau raise the risk of internal displacement and forced migration, as people seek both safety and basic security in their livelihoods. However, the deeply rooted relationship that communities have with the land means that planned relocation or long-term migration as a climate change adaptation strategy and durable solution for mass displacement is often not the first choice for communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards.

While recognizing that there are different migration dynamics, in general when people choose to migrate, it is in search of short- and long-term economic opportunities, usually with the aim of returning home in the future. At present, it is estimated that over 15 per cent of the total population of the Republic of Palau migrate to the United States, taking advantage of preferential entry arrangements facilitated under the Compact of Free Association. Along with increased migration, the growing prominence of sustainable tourism and the increase of immigration from surrounding Asian nations further highlight the importance of concurrently understanding dimensions of migration alongside the Republic of Palau's current and future economic, social, and political development.



**Mr Stuart Simpson**  
Chief of Mission, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Palau.

There is much scope for strengthening migration programming in the Republic of Palau, and the IOM Republic of Palau Strategy 2017–2020 lays out the key areas in which we will support the Government to achieve this. These areas fall within IOM's three global areas of intervention as defined in our Migration Governance Framework: (1) ensuring that migration harnesses socioeconomic benefits for migrants and societies; (2) responding to the mobility dimensions of humanitarian emergencies; and (3) ensuring that migration takes place in a safe, dignified and orderly manner.

These goals will be achieved in alignment with IOM's three global principles: (1) adhering to international standards and fulfilling migrants' rights; (2) encouraging the use of evidence and whole-of-government approaches; and (3) prioritizing working through strong partnerships.

I greatly look forward to working with our partners in the Government of the Republic of Palau, traditional leaders, civil society and academia, as well as international organizations, to achieve these goals and ensure that the rich relationship between migration and development in the Republic of Palau continues to grow. Rather than seeing migration as a problem to be solved, IOM regards migration as a human reality to be managed.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The objective of the IOM Republic of Palau Country Strategy 2017–2020 is to provide a programmatic framework for addressing emerging issues and identifying priorities for action that will guide IOM’s response to the needs of the Government of the Republic of Palau, migrants and other stakeholders. This country strategy aligns with the IOM Pacific Strategy, the IOM Regional Strategy for Asia and the Pacific, the IOM Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) and the United Nations Pacific Strategy. IOM’s strategic priorities identified in this strategy are:

- **Strategic Priority 1:** Migrants and communities throughout the Republic of Palau benefit from migration as a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy.
- **Strategic Priority 2:** Displaced persons and affected communities in the Republic of Palau are protected from and resilient to the impact of natural disasters and climate change.
- **Strategic Priority 3:** Migrants in the Republic of Palau enjoy protection from human rights abuses and are able to migrate in a safe, orderly, and dignified manner.



Students gathering outside George B. Harris Elementary School in Koror, Republic of Palau. © IOM 2016/Alyson GOMBAS



# PART I: BACKGROUND

## International Organization for Migration

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being of migrants. In September 2016, the IOM Director General and the UN Secretary-General signed an agreement recognizing IOM as a Related Organization within the United Nations system. The historic decision was made in view of the significant increase in the importance of migration issues and to ensure IOM's participation in the UN system, which will be enriched by the Organization's expertise and experience. IOM continues to grow, currently counting 172 Member States, with a further 8 States holding Observer Status. The Republic of Palau was one of the most recent additions, becoming a Member State in 2018.

The Republic of Palau officially became a Member State in 2018, bringing IOM's total to 172 Member States and 8 States holding observer status.

IOM works to help ensure orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration

issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people. The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as the right to freedom of movement.

### IOM's Definition of "Migrant"

IOM defines a migrant as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of: (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.

IOM works in the four broad areas of migration management:

- Migration and development
- Facilitating migration
- Regulating migration
- Forced migration

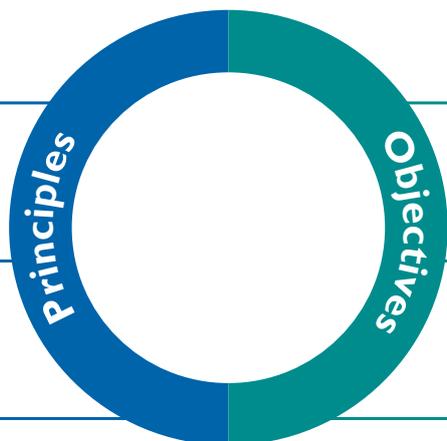
IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

To better address migration issues, IOM has established the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). The MiGOF seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, a set of three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane and orderly and benefits migrants and society. Migration governance is a process in which a large number of stakeholders, public

and private, need to be engaged. At the State level, it refers to the institutions through which authority on migration, mobility and nationality in a country is exercised, including the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies in these areas. The MiGOF presents a “high road” or an ideal version of migration governance to which States can aspire and for which IOM can provide support and assistance.

## MiGOF Principles and Objectives

1. **Adherence** to international standards and fulfillment of migrants' rights.
2. **Formulates** policy using evidence and “whole-of-government” approach.
3. **Engages** with partners to address migration and related issues.



1. **Advance** the socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society.
2. **Effectively** address the mobility dimensions of crises.
3. **Ensure** that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

## The Republic of Palau

### Introduction

The Republic of Palau is a culturally and linguistically diverse nation composed of over 200 islands and coral atolls in the western Pacific Ocean. The islands are grouped into 16 distinct but unified states, and each state has its own constitution and elected government that falls under the purview of the Office of the President. After the Second World War, the Republic of Palau became part of a UN Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) under the United States administration and became independent in 1994 under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the United States. The Republic of Palau entered into a 50-year COFA with the United States, similar to those of its neighbours, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The three countries are often referred to as the Pacific Freely Associated States (FAS).



Source: [http://topography.wikia.com/wiki/Palau,\\_Republic\\_of?file=Palau\\_map\\_001.jpg](http://topography.wikia.com/wiki/Palau,_Republic_of?file=Palau_map_001.jpg)

### The Compact of Free Association

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) is an agreement between the Republic of Palau and the United States, through which the United States provides economic and financial assistance to the Republic of Palau, defends the Republic of Palau's territorial integrity, and allows uninhibited access by Palau citizens to the United States in return for exclusive and unlimited access to the Republic of Palau's land and waterways for strategic purposes.

Source: [USCompact.org](http://USCompact.org)

With the high rate of urbanization in the Republic of Palau, it is estimated that over 80 per cent of its total population lives in the urban centre of Koror.<sup>1</sup> The national economy is dominated by tourism, fishing and subsistence agriculture. Considered a relatively above-average small island developing State within the Pacific, the Republic of Palau places 60 out of 185 ranked countries in the 2016 Human Development Index (HDI).<sup>2</sup> Island countries close to the Republic of Palau with a relatively similar population size, such as Samoa and Tonga, have HDIs ranked 104 and 101, respectively.

Despite the Republic of Palau's above-average development, inequality varies greatly between the States where outer-island and atoll communities have the lowest access to quality education, health care, energy and telecommunications. Limited data has also restricted opportunities to conduct a gender

development index as well as an inequality-adjusted index. Increasing cases of migration from the Republic of Palau for economic, social or environmental reasons, as well as continuous internal migration from outer-island communities, strongly suggest that the measure of human development should additionally be understood alongside the increased mobility of persons in the Republic of Palau.

### Demographics and Socioeconomic Dynamics

According to the World Bank, the population of the Republic of Palau in 2016 was approximately 21,503. Owing to the tradition of welcoming migrants from various countries, the Republic of Palau has formed a rich and multicultural society, hosting a number of immigrants from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, China, the Philippines, Japan and the United States.

Though the Republic of Palau has a relatively low unemployment rate – at 4.1 per cent as of 2015 – an increasing number of young people are migrating, primarily to Guam or the US mainland, for better employment opportunities, as they are allowed to work and travel freely under the provisions of COFA. Many Palauan citizens also serve in the branches of the US Armed Forces, and subsequently choose to pursue educational opportunities in the United States. As education is compulsory until the age of 16 in the Republic of Palau, all children have access to primary education, but secondary schools are concentrated in more highly populated areas, which creates a barrier for many outer-island adolescents.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone* (New York, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summative measure that assesses progress in three basic dimensions of human development – a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and a decent standard of living. To ensure as much cross-country comparability as possible, the HDI is based primarily on international data from the United Nations Population Division (data on the life expectancy at birth), the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (data on the mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling) and the World Bank (data on the gross national income per capita).



IOM staff, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, help facilitate a tsunami drill at an elementary school in Koror, Republic of Palau. © IOM 2016/Alyson GOMBAS

## Peace and Security

There has been no conflict in recent decades in the Republic of Palau and its citizens enjoy a democratically elected government. The most common crimes in the Republic of Palau include petty theft, burglary and personal assault. As noted in the “Gender” subsection, family violence and intimate partner violence remain problems in the Republic of Palau, though in recent years both the Government and community organizations have made efforts to raise awareness and develop prevention initiatives. Natural hazards – such as tropical storms, typhoons, drought, island inundation, landslides, earthquakes and potentially tsunamis – also impact the peace and security in the Republic of Palau. In recent

years, typhoons Haiyan and Bopha devastated areas of the Republic of Palau, destroying public infrastructure, homes and roads.

## Gender

The Republic of Palau is a matrilineal society, passing land and clan membership down maternal familial lines. There are distinct gender roles for men and women in the Republic of Palau, which have changed over the years but continue to see more men holding predominant decision-making positions in the public sphere while women remain underrepresented in political systems. Over the years there has been a shift from large traditional family structures, which include safety nets for women, to more nuclear family structures. Intimate partner

violence and gender-based violence (GBV) remains a problem across the Republic of Palau, with one quarter of women (25.2%) having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime.<sup>3</sup> There are limited resources available to support survivors of intimate partner violence and GBV, which highlights the need to strengthen the entire GBV prevention and response system.

## Health

The Republic of Palau has a high prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Overreliance on imported processed food, low levels of physical activity and high consumption of alcohol are contributing to a growing epidemic of chronic diseases, which the fragile health system cannot support. Leprosy and tuberculosis are common and sexually transmitted infections are hyperendemic. While access to health is quite high, especially in urban centres, type 2 diabetes, teen pregnancy and mosquito-borne illnesses, such as Zika and dengue, continue to affect the population at high rates.

## Human Rights

The Republic of Palau formed its own constitutional government in 1994 and joined the United Nations as an active member within the same year. The Constitution of the Republic of Palau was drafted to reflect the ethos of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which provides for the recognition and protection of human rights. An important provision of the UDHR is Article 4, which states that no one shall be held in slavery or servitude and that slavery and the slave trade are prohibited. Similarly, Article 5 of the UDHR provides that: “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Presently, the Republic of Palau law makes provision for the respect and protection of customary and statutory laws and rights. Articles IV and V of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau

establish fundamental rights and traditional rights provisions. However, only the statutory rights are codified.

Nevertheless, where areas of human rights are not explicitly catered for in national law, the Republic of Palau has acceded to other regional and international legal treaties that support the universal commitment to protecting human rights. As a member of the Pacific Plan, which was endorsed by country leaders through the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Republic of Palau is committed to supporting the development of strategies and activities that encourage the protection of the Pacific cultural, economic, legal, political and spiritual rights. The vision of the Plan states: “We seek a Pacific region that is respected for the quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the observation of democratic values and for its defence and promotion of human rights.” Additional international treaties accepted by the Republic of Palau include the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Palau do not provide for the granting of asylum or refugee status, though the Government is making strides in providing protection to victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants and asylum seekers. Over recent years, requests for asylum or refugee status, as well as identified cases of human trafficking, have been recorded in the Republic of Palau. The importance of understanding the need to balance national interest, deterrence of irregular migration and continued protection of basic human rights presents a particular area for development in the Republic of Palau’s law and policy.

<sup>3</sup> Government of Palau, Ministry of Health, *Palau Family Health and Safety Study: National Research Project on Violence against Women in Palau, October 2014* (Koror, 2014).



Staff members from aIii CADRE discuss disaster preparedness with students in the Republic of Palau. © IOM 2016/Alyson GOMBAS

## Migration in the Republic of Palau

### Recent Trends in Regular Migration

While internal migration and immigration to the Republic of Palau is minimal, migration out of the Republic of Palau is not. The vast majority of migration continues to be to the United States and its insular areas of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, as Palauan citizens can freely enter through the COFA. Migration and low fertility rates have

resulted in a decreasing population growth rate, estimated at 0.39 per cent in 2017.<sup>4</sup> A significant factor driving migration is limited stable employment opportunity outside of civil servant positions with the government, as well as the pursuit of higher education.

<sup>4</sup> Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), "Palau", *The World Factbook* (last updated 9 June 2018). Available from [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ps.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ps.html)

## The Climate Change and Labour Migration Nexus

An IOM study titled “The Effects of Climate Change on Human Mobility in the Pacific”, which was conducted in 2016, found that labour migration (especially unskilled and semi-skilled) will be a critical migration pathway in the context of climate change in the Pacific. As climate change impacts increasingly lead to livelihood stress, affected communities are more likely to seek out labour migration opportunities abroad as well as in urban areas in their home countries.

Investment in skills development programmes is needed to leverage the impact of labour mobility schemes as a long-term climate change adaptation response. This includes investment in skills development in countries of origin to meet skills shortages in countries of destination and recognition/harmonization of qualifications throughout the region.

### Recent Natural Disasters and Extreme Climate Change Increasing Vulnerability

#### *Response to El Niño-induced Drought*

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a recurring climate pattern involving changes in the temperature of waters in central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and the patterns of sea-level pressure, winds and tropical rainfall. El Niño events can greatly vary, with modified rainfall patterns posing significant threats of drought to the Republic of Palau. In March 2016, a state of emergency was declared in the Republic of Palau as a result of the drought. IOM provided immediate support to the Government, made possible through an IOM Cooperation Agreement. IOM consulted key officials, including those from the Ministry of State and the Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC), to discuss the immediate needs of the population. At the time, water sources in Koror and Airai were severely depleted and, as a result, access to safe drinking water was extremely limited. With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), IOM engaged experts from the Hawaiian Rural Water Association (HRWA) to assist with assessments and provide recommendations going forward. The HRWA team helped to set up and deploy leak detection equipment and train a local crew to detect leaks and drill for life-saving bore water. The team also assisted and trained local crew to install and operate pumps for the underground wells, and installed chlorine injection systems. These wells provided much-needed water supplies for Koror and Airai.



Ibobang Water Reservoir donated equipment. © IOM 2016/ Camila RIVERO-MALDONADO



# PART II: IOM'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN THE PACIFIC

## Strategic Priorities

**Strategic Priority 1:** Migrants and communities throughout the Republic of Palau benefit from migration as a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy.

**Outcome 1.1:** *The Government of the Republic of Palau is maximizing migration as a climate change adaptation and human development strategy.*

**Outcome 1.2:** *Migrants, their families and the communities affected by migration in the Republic of Palau enjoy the socioeconomic and cultural benefits of migration.*

**Outcome 1.3:** *Migrants, their families and the communities affected by migration enjoy the benefits of good physical health and well-being.*

**Outcome 1.4:** *Vulnerable communities are resilient to climate change, land degradation and resource constraints exacerbated by urbanization.*

IOM will continue to promote the positive linkages between migration and development for the Republic of Palau in pursuit of the four specific outcomes. Migration is increasingly recognized as a significant factor for the achievement of all three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. As the UN Migration Agency, IOM helps governments and the international community to harness the development potential of migration for both migrants and societies. **Outcome 1.1** will build the capacity of government, civil society and diaspora groups to implement migration-related policies and programmes. Through increased dialogue and evidence, migrants and governments will be well placed to pursue sustainable and equitable development and adapt to climate change.

**Outcome 1.2** will focus on migrants, their families and communities to ensure that socioeconomic and cultural benefits of migration are well understood. Through campaigns such as IOM's "I Am a Migrant",

the Organization will continue to promote the positive stories of migrants across the Republic of Palau. IOM will also support improved provision of information on labour migration schemes and educational opportunities, including skills development and orientation programmes, to ensure that migrants are well equipped.

**Outcome 1.3** highlights the benefits of good physical health and well-being for migrants, their families and communities affected by migrants. IOM will strive to work with governments and civil society groups to increase access to quality migrant health services. The Organization will support communities and governments as they respond to health crises, including zika, dengue and tuberculosis.

For **Outcome 1.4**, IOM will work to improve human development pathways for communities affected by climate change, land degradation and resource constraints due to urbanization. Through innovative

programming as demonstrated through IOM's alii Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (alii CADRE) Program, the Organization will contribute significantly to this outcome in the Republic of Palau. IOM will work with the Government and civil society groups to improve and sustain land and sea life, including support for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Planning at the national, state and community levels.

The Ministry of Education has adopted IOM's alii CADRE materials into its national science curriculum.  
© IOM 2017/Muse MOHAMMED



### Climate Adaptation and Disaster Preparedness in the Education Sector

IOM aims to create holistic solutions to disaster preparedness by strengthening linkages from the grassroots, community level through to state and national governments. IOM has long-term projects working at each of these respective levels, including the alii Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (alii CADRE) Program, working in close partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Department of Public Safety, the National Weather Service, the National Emergency Management Office and Red Cross in order to reinforce effective disaster risk reduction and management between multiple disaster response agencies in the Republic of Palau. As a programme aligned with education and capacity-building, alii CADRE has successfully supported the development and testing of the School Emergency Management Planning (SEMP) as well as evacuation shelter management through the assisted supply of emergency medical training.



Twenty of the Republic of Palau's top high school students participated in a two-week workshop focused on disaster risk management and preparedness, which culminated in a day-long simulation of the World Humanitarian Summit.  
© IOM 2016/Alyson GOMBAS



Emergency evacuation shelter management training with school principals in the Republic of Palau. © IOM 2018/Dale JENKINS

**Strategic Priority 2:** Displaced persons and affected communities in the Republic of Palau are protected from and resilient to the impact of natural disasters and climate change.

**Outcome 2.1:** National and local authorities effectively prevent, respond to and manage displaced situations.

**Outcome 2.2:** At-risk communities are resilient to the impact of natural disasters and climate change.

**Outcome 2.3:** Affected populations receive comprehensive, targeted and needed humanitarian assistance in times of disaster.

### Contextual Analysis and Migration Dimensions of Crisis Situations

The Government of the Republic of Palau and the individual state governments assume lead roles in humanitarian assistance in case of sudden-onset and slower-onset emergencies or disasters.

Following responsibilities set out in the IOM Cooperative Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Palau, IOM currently maintains a limited presence in the Republic of Palau. IOM's ongoing programming under alii CADRE prioritizes disaster risk reduction and resilience-building among communities. With an established operational and logistics

presence in the North Pacific region, IOM currently has the opportunity and capacity to provide assistance in safe and orderly migration management as well as disaster management response efforts between national and state governments, particularly the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), international authorities, civil society, Red Cross and other international partners. **Outcome 2.1** focuses on capacity-building initiatives in disaster management functions and disaster risk reduction activities.

### **Pre-crisis Context (Before)**

As mentioned, the Republic of Palau is prone to various natural hazards such as drought, inundation and typhoons. Owing to extreme El Niño and La Niña weather patterns, the frequency and severity of potential inundations and drought conditions have risen. The Republic of Palau most recently faced extreme drought conditions across the capital Koror, with the least recorded rainfall ever experienced in 65 years. Restricted fresh water supply affected the subsequent health and sanitation needs of affected communities in Koror and Airai. While climate change increasingly continues to affect migration trends among island populations, IOM will look to support the continuous development of local infrastructure and capacity-building initiatives in disaster management functions and disaster risk reduction activities as mentioned in **Outcome 2.2** to enhance the resilience of communities. Early warning systems and preparedness activities can have significant impacts on the resiliency of communities. As disasters often contribute to increased vulnerability and irregular migration, IOM will also look to support service providers and the development of legal frameworks as a means to provide protection mechanisms for potential vulnerable communities that may be displaced following a disaster.

### **Expected Challenges during a Crisis (During)**

It is expected that potential populations affected by disasters across the islands will continue to require effective and efficient information-sharing, especially in the case of ongoing response activities at the local, state and community levels. In line with **Outcome 2.3**, IOM will support disaster response efforts through stockpiled non-food items (NFIs) and items related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) that are prepositioned within the region; technical capacity in evacuation centre management; and existing service agreements with logistics partners. IOM will also support the comprehensive health and psychosocial needs of disaster-affected individuals in close cooperation with the health referral systems led by government and non-governmental organizations. Further priority will be given to close monitoring of affected individuals who face particular vulnerabilities that may lead to risky irregular migration coping mechanisms.

### **Post-crisis Context (After)**

While IOM's current operational presence in the Republic of Palau is limited, experience shows that continued monitoring of vulnerable communities should be prioritized in order to identify critical information relating to gaps in assistance and capacities among government and local stakeholders to respond to crises. Dedicated monitoring of affected communities that face continued vulnerabilities has the potential to prevent human trafficking and smuggling activities which are often escalated following disasters. Furthermore, and building on lessons learned from previous response efforts, IOM will continue to develop its role in supporting the Government of the Republic of Palau through programming that looks to enhance disaster risk reduction and resilience-building relevant to local and traditional response structures.

### Migration Crisis Operational Framework

The Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF) is a practical, operational and institutionwide tool to improve and systematize the way in which the Organization supports its Member States and partners to better prepare for and respond to migration crises. Key features of the MCOF are as follows (see Annex 3 for more details):

- Combines IOM humanitarian activities and migration management services in 15 sectors of assistance;
- Covers pre-crisis preparedness, emergency response and post-crisis recovery;
- Is based on international humanitarian and human rights law, and humanitarian principles;
- Complements existing international systems (e.g. cluster approach) and builds on IOM's partnerships;
- Helps crisis-affected populations, including displaced persons and international migrants stranded in crisis situations in their destination/transit countries, to better access their fundamental rights to protection and assistance.

**Strategic Priority 3:** Migrants in the Republic of Palau enjoy protection from human rights abuses and are able to migrate in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.

**Outcome 3.1:** *Vulnerable migrants in the Republic of Palau receive appropriate and timely protection and assistance services.*

**Outcome 3.2:** *Migrants enjoy equitable access to social services in the Republic of Palau.*

**Outcome 3.3:** *Migrants travelling across land and sea borders are able to do so in a safe, orderly and dignified manner.*

Through the three key outcomes outlined previously, IOM will strive to support the Government of the Republic of Palau to protect vulnerable migrants regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender and citizenship. **Outcome 3.1** will support the Government and the communities to increase their capacity in detecting and protecting vulnerable migrants, especially victims of trafficking and stranded migrants. This can be done through legislative review, development of policies and the inclusion of standard operating procedures, taking into account psychosocial support and mental health. In addition, this outcome will support the enhancement, and where necessary, the development of support services

and assistance to vulnerable migrants that are gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate for both Palauans and other nationalities.

**Outcome 3.2** focuses on equitable access to social services for all migrants, without discrimination. This will include support to the Government of the Republic of Palau and the Department of Health and Social Affairs, to better understand the barriers to those seeking basic services and increasing the capacity of service providers to assist clients. This can be achieved by strengthening the referral mechanisms, providing training to front-line professionals and ensuring a thorough understanding of the assistance that is to be

provided to migrants for all involved in the service provision network, including migrants lacking access to information.

**Outcome 3.3** aims to support the Republic of Palau to ensure safe, orderly and dignified migration across borders. This includes working closely with the Government and the Division of Immigration on the improvement of the border management system and ongoing training and support to legislative and policy review. In addition, IOM remains ready to support the Government of the Republic of Palau with assisted voluntary return and reintegration of those third-party nationals stranded in the Republic of Palau, or Palauan citizens abroad, if other recourses are unavailable. Lastly, IOM seeks to strengthen its relationship with the private sector to support the enhancement of ethical recruitment and labour practices for migrants – both third-party nationals entering the Republic of Palau and Palauans departing.

## IOM's Programming Principles

### **Principle 1: Good migration governance requires adherence to international standards and fulfilment of migrants' rights.**

Humane and orderly migration requires compliance with international law. The obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of individuals is paramount and should apply to all individuals within the Republic of Palau territory, regardless of nationality or migration status and without discrimination, in order to preserve their safety, physical integrity, well-being and dignity. To ensure protection of the rights of individuals, as well as adherence to the principles of equality and non-discrimination and access to protection, IOM will strive to work with the Government of the Republic of Palau to expand the fundamental rights and protection under the law beyond sex, race, ancestry, national origin, language and social status.

IOM will further provide support to the national and state governments with regard to key migration issues, in particular human trafficking, migrant smuggling and illegal

fishing, and include any relevant legislative actions, amendment, approach, strategy and services. In addition, IOM will facilitate national responses and establish predictable state responses both through police standard operating procedures and government-level responses.

### **Principle 2: Migration and related policies are best formulated using evidence and whole-of-government approach.**

Migration policy is often the subject of intense political debate and can be based on populist sentiments. Policy must be based on facts and a well-founded analysis of the benefits and risks related to the movement of people. IOM is seeking to support enhanced capacity of the Pacific island nations to collect, analyse, and utilize credible data in decision-making processes for migration and other development initiatives. Furthermore, using an evidence-based approach makes it easier to facilitate the conversations among various government counterparts, resulting in whole-of-government solutions, which can increase the effectiveness and durability of policies and programmes.

### **Principle 3: Good migration governance relies on strong partnerships.**

IOM aims to build new partnerships and deepen existing partnerships in order to better address migration issues in the Republic of Palau. Along with reinforcing existing relationships with the national and state governments, IOM will also work closely with traditional leaders and community members to ensure needs are identified and targeted at the grassroots level. In the next three to five years, IOM aims to work more closely with civil society, especially local non-governmental organizations and women's groups. IOM also hopes to deepen partnerships with colleges and universities in the region, as well as develop relationships with academia in countries where Palauan citizens migrate to. Lastly, IOM will work closely with UN partners to generate solutions to regional challenges to migration.

# ANNEX 1: MIGRATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## HOW MIGRATION IS REFLECTED IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Migration in the declaration

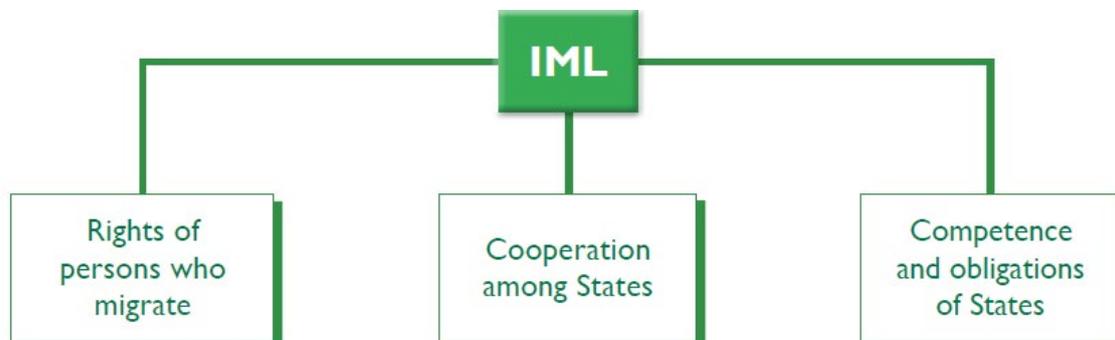
- Highlights impact of humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people on development progress.
- Calls for the empowerment of vulnerable groups, including refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.
- Calls for access by all – including migrants – to life-long learning opportunities.
- Commits to eradicating forced labour and human trafficking and to end child labour.
- Recognises the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

### Migration in the goal and target framework

	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Specific references	4.b SCHOLARSHIPS (STUDENT MOBILITY)	5.2 TRAFFICKING (FOCUS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS)	8.7 TRAFFICKING 8.8 MIGRANT WORKER RIGHTS (ESP. WOMEN MIGRANTS)	10.7 WELL-MANAGED MIGRATION POLICIES 10.c REMITTANCES	16.2 TRAFFICKING	17.16 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP 17.17 PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND CS PARTNERSHIPS 17.18 DATA DISAGGREGATION (INCLUDING BY MIGRATORY STATUS)
Other entry points		3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	1 NO POVERTY	13 CLIMATE ACTION		
		3.8 ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE	1.5 RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE EVENTS AND SOCIO ECONOMIC SHOCKS	13.1-3 RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE HAZARDS AND NATURAL DISASTERS	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	11.B CITIES IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED POLICIES

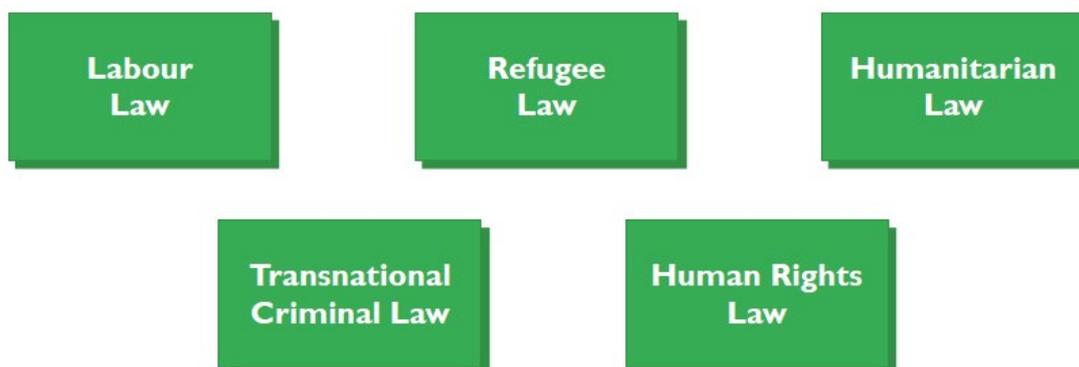


## ANNEX 2: MIGRATION IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS



Rather than a branch consisting of a set of migration-specific legal instruments, the International Migration Law (IML) is an umbrella term used to describe the body of laws, principles and norms that together regulate the international rights and obligations of States related to migrants. Depending on the context, IML borrows principles from several branches of international public law.

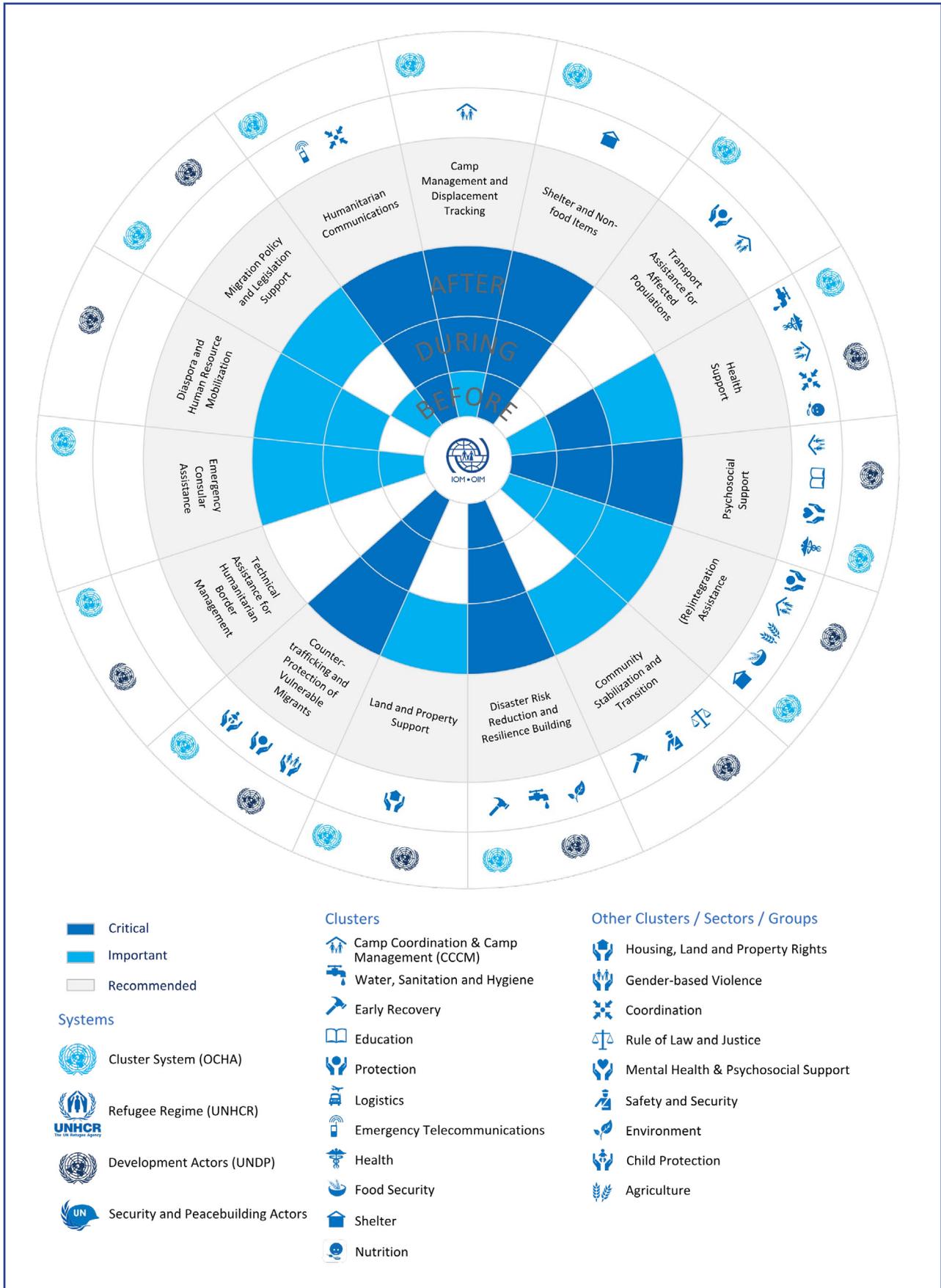
The most important aspects of international public law relevant to a rights-based approach (RBA) to migration are:



Some key conventions under these areas include:

- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951;
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967;
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT), 1984;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989;
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), 1990;
- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 2008.

# ANNEX 3: MIGRATION CRISIS OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK



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