



Apia Office  
Cluster Office  
for the Pacific States



# UNESCO

## Country Programming Document

# KIRIBATI

### 2008 – 2013



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## ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIBD	Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development
AMAK	Kiribati National Council of Women
ANU-CPAS	Australian National University – Centre for the Public Awareness of Science
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CBA	Commonwealth Broadcasting Association
CPO	Country Programme Output
EFA	Education for All
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GNP	Gross National Product
HIV & AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ICADS	International Convention Against Doping in Sport
ICSPI	International Council for the Study of Pacific Islands
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
KBPA	Kiribati Broadcasting and Publication Authority
KIMA	Kiribati Islands Media Association
KNOC	Kiribati National Olympic Committee
KNSO	Kiribati National Statistics Office
KPA	Key Policy Area
MAB	Man And Biosphere
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MELAD	Ministry of Environment, Land & Agricultural Development
MISA	Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs
MoE	Ministry of Education
MMA	Micronesia Media Association
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NZAID	New Zealand Agency for International Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PINA	Pacific Islands News Association
PIPA	Phoenix Islands Protected Area
PPO	Pacific Program Objective
RADO	Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organization
RERF	Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund
SERREAD	Scientific Educational Resources and Experience Associated with the Deployment of Argo Drifting Floats in the South Pacific Ocean
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPBEA	South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESS	UNESCO National Education Support Strategy
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USP	University of the South Pacific
WHO	World Health Organization

## FOREWORD

The development of this document is part of a new era of cooperation for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its member states. It is the second in a series of national planning documents that UNESCO is preparing to outline UNESCO's support to Pacific Member States. The preparation of the UNESCO Country Programming Document for Kiribati also highlights not only the areas of UNESCO's support in the past but the areas where UNESCO will focus its support over its medium-term strategy 2008 – 2013.

The Kiribati UNESCO Country Programming Document has been developed with the aim to directly address the development needs of Kiribati. The program has been aligned with the Kiribati Development Plan 2008-11 and the planning work of relevant stakeholders, including other United Nations (UN) agencies. The upcoming cooperation between Kiribati and UNESCO, as outlined in the following report, should be viewed as flexible and adaptable to the needs of Kiribati. The KUCPD is therefore a rolling document that will be reviewed at the end of every biennium in an effort to make the document as well as UNESCO's support relevant and in line with the changing country context. The KUCPD also provides a strategic entry point for UNESCO into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Pacific Subregion process especially to the Kiribati UNDAF implementation plan for 2008 – 2012.

I am therefore happy to present this UNESCO Country Programming Document for Kiribati and look forward to working together with UN Agencies under the UNDAF, regional organisations under the Pacific Plan as well as the relevant government ministries and civil society organisations in the collective effort to support Kiribati in its effort to move the country forward.

Visesio Pongi  
UNESCO Director and Representative for the Pacific States



*Kiribati sunset at Tarawa Lagoon, © UNESCO Apia / S.Vize*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD) for Kiribati, highlights UNESCO's contribution to the country's development efforts in a comprehensive manner. It also captures UNESCO's proposed activities in the country over the current mid-term period in a single results-based document. The preparation of the UCPD has been conducted through literature review and consultations carried out by UNESCO staff with the various ministries and authorities in Kiribati as part of on-going cooperative activities. The document is structured in four sections namely, the situation analysis, past and present cooperation, proposed cooperation framework and key partnerships.

In the situation analysis, the current political, economic, environmental and social context is briefly reviewed. From this review the key challenges that fall within UNESCO's area of expertise and support the Kiribati Development Plan are identified as; access to quality education, urbanization, youth, gender equality and women's empowerment, climate change and environment, sustainable development and communication, as well as safeguarding cultural heritage.

UNESCO's past and present cooperation section reports on the results UNESCO has achieved over the last two biennia (2004 – 2007). Within the education sector, UNESCO has been involved in wide range of initiatives including teacher training and capacity development for effective policy analysis. Within cultural and natural heritage, the Kiribati Government is in the process of preparing a nomination for the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) as a World Heritage site. In the area of social and human sciences, UNESCO has worked with Kiribati to review the National Women's Policy including incorporating responses to gender-based violence and ensuring the participation of women in the social policy development process. Finally, UNESCO has worked to improve the flow of information within Kiribati, supported the adoption of a draft Media Code of Ethics and the establishment of the Kiribati Islands Media Association (KIMA) to improve media standards and services.

The proposed cooperation framework section explicitly outlines actions that will be taken by UNESCO Office for the Pacific States to support the Kiribati Development Plan (2008 – 2011). UNESCO will continue to support work done to improve educational quality through policy dialogue and statistics, and teacher and principal quality through joint training initiatives in partnership with South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA). Economic growth and poverty reduction in Kiribati will be supported through creative industries projects, engagement of women in policy processes, and development of regional social policy networks. UNESCO's expertise in Science will result in the development of a water status report with reference to traditional knowledge management and support, establishment of a Biosphere Reserve to protect biodiversity within Kiribati, and increased communication of science issues, especially those relevant to climate change responses and traditional knowledge. In close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO office for Pacific States will work towards the nomination of the Phoenix and Line Islands as a World Heritage site and the protection of intangible cultural heritage. Finally, capacity building training will be provided to Kiribati media and young I-Kiribati media producers to support dissemination of information.

The last section briefly reviews key partnerships that UNESCO will utilize to effectively plan, support and implement programmes to support Kiribati development. The Government of Kiribati and its various line ministries are UNESCO's primary partners, as well as other UN agencies, regional organisations, Non-government Organisations (NGO) and groups working in similar technical areas to those covered by UNESCO's mandate.

## PART I: SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Country overview

The Republic of Kiribati comprises 33 low-lying islands and is scattered over an area of about 4 million square kilometres of the Pacific Ocean. Kiribati is comprised of three major groups of islands as shown in Figure 1; the Gilbert, Phoenix and Line groups which have a total land area of only 811 square kilometres, of which ten percent is uninhabited (SPC, 2008a). The Gilbert group contains 16 populated atolls located in the west of Kiribati and contains the majority of the country's inhabitants (SPC, 2007). The Phoenix and Line groups in the central and east are more sparsely populated, with only Kiritimati, Teraina and Fanning (Line) having a permanent population, and Kanton and Orana (Phoenix) having a small transient population supported by the government. The isolated volcanic Banaba Island in the west of Kiribati has a small population and is usually considered part of the Gilbert group, despite its isolation. The capital, Tarawa, is more than 3000 kilometres from the northern Line Islands. The atolls are small and resource-poor, with the exception of Banaba and Kiritimati.

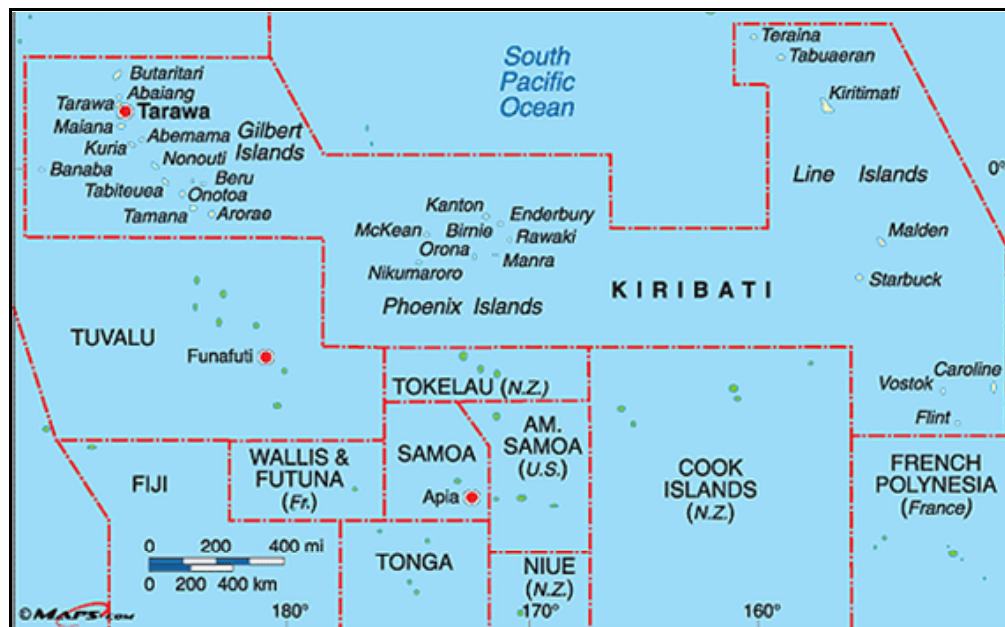


Figure 1: Map of Kiribati (© www.maps.com)

In the most recent census in 2005, the population of Kiribati was 92,533. The proportion of the population under the age of 15 was relatively high at 37% (SPC, 2007). The Secretariat for the Pacific Community's (SPC, 2008) most recent projections estimate the population to be 97,233 in 2008, with an annual growth rate of 1.8 percent. The Asian Development Bank's (ADB, 2006) most recent programme update suggests that the population of the country will double by 2025 and in Tarawa by 2015 at the current rates of growth. Population distribution varies dramatically throughout Kiribati. South Tarawa, within the Gilbert group, is the only part of Kiribati considered urban and contains almost 44 percent of the population. Over the last 15 years, the population has grown significantly in South Tarawa with the population density in parts of South Tarawa reaching 8,000 persons per square kilometre, one of the highest in the world and contrasting with other areas in Kiribati, such as the Line and Phoenix groups, where population density is of 20 persons per square kilometre in 2005 (SPC, 2007). The government's resettlement program, which commenced in 1995, has been unsuccessful in slowing urbanisation within the Gilbert group, with a net migration of over 10,000 residents to South Tarawa from 2000 to 2005 (SPC, 2007). The ADB (2006) notes worryingly the social and environmental consequences of migration and growth trends in

South Tarawa to include increasing population density, limited services (water, sanitation), overfishing, deforestation and limited cash employment opportunities.

The present inhabitants, I-Kiribati, are Micronesian and include descendents of Samoans and Chinese (UNESCO, 2008). Social structure remains diverse, with chiefs ruling the northern islands and councils of elders having authority in the south (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2007). The role and status of women varies between urban and rural areas. In the outer islands women are predominately involved in domestic duties, food gathering and land tending. There has been an increase in participation of women in parliament, though it remains low (UNDP, 2007) and more efforts could be taken to promote women Parliamentarians and women's participation in local government structures. Regarding education, gender parity has been achieved in access to primary education only. In 2004, Tuvalu ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and submitted its first periodic report in 2005 (OHCHR et al., 2007). Forster and Jivan, in their report for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), note that "Kiribati has achieved full compliance with 26 of 113 [CEDAW] indicators, partial compliance with 29 indicators and no compliance in relation to the remaining 58 indicators" (2007, p.359). Despite this UNDP comments that "Tuvalu continues to make progress towards more equal social, economic and political status between men and women" (2006, p.18).

The Gross National Product (GNP) of Kiribati is almost double the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), due to the dominance of the service industry, with fishing licences, remittances and interest from the Revenue Equalisation Reserve Fund (RERF) generating significant currency flows (ADB, 2006). The phosphate rich island of Banaba was heavily mined by the British, leaving the island almost uninhabitable, which resulted in compensation from the British government and the formation of the RERF (UNESCO, 2007). In 2008, the establishment of overseas labour schemes by the Australian and New Zealand Governments has included I-Kiribati for participation and was expected to generate short term employment opportunities for I-Kiribati. The majority of people in Kiribati, 62.2 percent, are involved in 'village work', which includes subsistence farming and fishing (SPC, 2007). The proportion of the population involved in 'cash work' is, not surprisingly, lower in rural areas and especially outer islands. The unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in 2005, with urban unemployment higher at 10.9 percent compared to 2.8 percent in rural areas.

Fisheries and subsistence agriculture account for a quarter of Kiribati's GDP and involve the majority of the population. Kiribati's significant marine resources are an important source of income, including fishing licences that were estimated to contribute to over 35 percent of Kiribati's GDP in 2003 (UNESCO, 2007). Each of the island groups has their own Exclusive Economic Zone, which combined cover 3.5 million square kilometers of ocean (MELAD, 2007). Tuna resources within Kiribati's zones are abundant, but changing migration patterns due to climate change could dramatically impact on stocks. Subsistence agriculture is dominated by indigenous crops; coconut, pandanus, bwabwai (giant swamp taro), breadfruit and banana, with the pandanus fruit the most drought resistant. The diet of the I-Kiribati is dominated by these crops and fish, all of which depend on a healthy environment. Increasingly the cash crops are preferred, which is leading, in part, to reduced biodiversity, limited variety of food and diminishing availability of the drought resistant pandanus. Due to traditional land tenure, poor soil, limited land resources and frequent droughts large-scale agriculture is very limited, with seaweed and copra the main agricultural export earners (UNESCO, 2007).

The Kiribati environment is vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards due to its very low elevation (MELAD, 2007). Consequently, Kiribati's water security is at continued risk to droughts, inundation from storm surges, salt water intrusion and flooding (rainfall runoff). The main water sources within Kiribati are ground water, rain water and limited



desalination (Koshy et al., 2008). Larger atolls contain a ground water lens that floats on top of the seawater and is only replenished by precipitation (MELAD, 2007). Access to quality drinking water and sanitation is variable with a significant gap between urban and rural areas, and within island groups (WHO, 2008). The poor access to quality water and sanitation, is of particular concern given that diarrhea is the second highest cause of death among children under 5 years.



*House in South Tarawa, © UNESCO Apia / S.Vize*

The ADB suggests that “basic development indicators for health, education, and life expectancy are among the poorest in the Pacific region” (2006, p.10). Infant mortality and child morbidity rates are particularly high, and access to water and sanitation facilities are a persistent problem. Life expectancy at birth is slowly improving and similarly, infant mortality is reducing slowly (see Table 1 on Key social and economic indicators), but immunization programs lack consistency (WHO, 2008). The Ministry of Environment, Land & Agricultural Development (MELAD) notes that “diarrhea and fish poisoning are quite prevalent throughout Kiribati” (2007, p.18) and during times of drought, there is usually an increase in the incidence of fatal diseases, and decline in the general health and well being of the population. Within the Pacific, Kiribati has the fourth lowest human development index at 0.515 (ADB, 2006) and is currently rated as a UN Least Developed Country, with the fourth lowest human development index at 0.515 in the Pacific (UNDP, 2007). There are currently limited statistics available on the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV & AIDS) infection rates or mortality, which is of particular concern given the growing number of I-Kiribati involved in overseas paid work (ADB, 2006).

Universal access to primary education has been achieved, with a Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in 2005 of 112 (UNESCO, 2007). Unfortunately, drop-out rates are particularly high in the first year of schooling, 12 percent. The survival rate to grade five of 82 percent is high by regional standards and the average pupil/teacher ratio has fallen in primary education to 25. Gender parity for primary school access has been achieved; however, disparities exist in higher levels of schooling, with UNESCO suggesting in the Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report Kiribati was considered at risk of not achieving gender parity in education by 2015 or 2025.

Throughout Kiribati there is a lack of infrastructure, and few transport links, both between the islands and externally. Tarawa is normally serviced twice a week from Nadi, Fiji. There are some domestic flight services within the Gilberts group, but the major forms of inter-island transport are by ferry or private boat. Increasingly, access to cell phones and

internet is becoming more common, but the main forms of communication for the majority of households remain radio and landline phone (SPC, 2007).

The key development indicators, discussed in detail in this section, are summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Key Social and Economic Indicators – Kiribati**

Indicator	Male	Female	Total
Population by gender (SPC, 2008b)	48,040	49,190	97,231
Percentage of the population below 15 years of age	38%	36%	37%
Percentage of the youth (15-29) population (SPC, 2007)	21%	20%	21%
Urban population as percentage of total population (SPC, 2008a)	-	-	44%
Life expectancy (in years) at birth in 2006 (SPC, 2007)	58.9	63.1	61.0
Total Fertility Rate in 2006 (WHO, 2008)	n/a	4.2%	4.2%
Infant mortality rate per 1000 births in 2006	51	44	47
Incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000	-	-	372
Maternal mortality (per 100, 000 births) in 2000 (KNSO, 2008)	-	-	56
Human Immuno-deficiency Virus & Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV & AIDS) cases reported in 2003 (ADB, 2006)	-	-	42 (cumulative rate of 47.7 per 100,000)
Percentage of total population (rural/urban) with access to improved drinking water sources in 2006 (WHO, 2008)	-	-	65% (53/ 77)
Percentage of total population (rural/urban) with access to improved sanitation in 2006	-	-	33% (20/ 46)
Disabilities	-	-	No data
GER in 2005 (UNESCO, 2007) & Gender Parity Index (GPI)			
Pre-primary in 2004			75
Primary (7 - 12 yrs)	111	113	112 (GPI - 1.02)
Lower secondary (13 - 15 yrs)	106	114	110 (GPI - 1.07)
Upper secondary (16 - 18 yrs)	53	73	65 (GPI - 1.26)
Total secondary	82	93	87 (GPI - 1.13)
Tertiary			No data
Adult literacy rate in 1995 (ADB, 2006)	94	91	92
Labour Force Participation Rate in 2000 (SPC, 2008c)	86.1%	76.1%	80.9%
Population percentage living on below US\$1in 1996 (KNSO, 2008)	-	-	38%
Extinction, endangered species (IUCN, 2008)	-	-	5 endangered animals 8 vulnerable animals
Short-term sea level trends mm per year (Hall, 2006)	-	-	+6.00
Percentage of households (rural/urban) (SPC, 2007)			
With access to a telephone	-	-	57% (52/67)
Who own a radio	-	-	63%

## **Pertinent Development Challenges**

In spite of the challenges Kiribati faces, there has been progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015. Progress has been made in the areas of access to primary education and improvements in some health related goals, although disparities exist in some areas and a few vaccination programmes have waning support. Unfortunately, extreme poverty is growing in urban areas due in part to urbanization, lack of opportunity and services. Some progress has been made to ensure environmental sustainability and develop global partnerships for development. A summary of Kiribati's progress towards meeting the MDG is shown in Table 2.

It is worth noting that the progress of Kiribati towards achieving the MDG is difficult to judge accurately due to a shortage of current reliable indicators in some areas. The Kiribati National Statistics Office's (KNSO, 2008) MDG Logistics' Matrix notes that it is not possible to accurately judge if the MDG indicators will be achieved by 2015 for 18 out of the 45 relevant indicators. For many of these indicators there is insufficient or no data available from the relevant Ministry. There is a particular shortage of reliable data for assessing the following goals; eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, combat HIV & AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop a global partnership for development. The following section will discuss those indicators that can be accurately measured in greater detail, with a focus on UNESCO's areas of expertise.

There has been an increase in the representation of women in parliament; however this remains low with only three female parliamentarians out of 44 in the current parliament (Parliament of Kiribati, 2008). There is limited involvement of women in Island Councils, the local government structure in Kiribati. In the workforce there has been increased participation of women with an increasing number of women in professional and senior professional roles within Government, though for the most part women's employment remains in non-cash employment. However, gender equality has not been achieved either in terms of access or opportunity in most of I-Kiribati society.

There has been progress in terms of increased access to improved drinking water and sanitation for most I-Kiribati. However, the rapid growth of South Tarawa has resulted in extreme pressure on essential services and adverse environmental effects, including damage to the lagoon (ADB, 2006). The geography and location of Kiribati, makes it very susceptible to climate change, natural disasters and it is especially vulnerable to storm surges, coastal floods, and drought (Koshy et al., 2008). Therefore the positive trend in water and sanitation could easily be reversed, especially given the slow recharge rate of ground water lenses (MELAD, 2007). The UNDP (2006, p.196) notes encouragingly that "the Government has worked with donor [agencies] to integrate climate change risk assessments into national planning". The importance of ensuring environmental sustainability cannot be overstated with "one estimate of the combined annual damage bill from climate change and sea-level rises in the absence of adaptation ... at a level equivalent to 17–34 percent of GDP." (UNDP, 2007, p. 2). Kiribati has begun the process of trying to ensure its biodiversity, with the proclamation and expansion of the PIPA. It currently conserves one of the Earth's last intact oceanic coral archipelago ecosystems, consisting of eight coral atolls and two submerged reef systems in a nearly uninhabited region of abundant marine and bird life. However, given the size and vulnerability of Kiribati, there is a need to broaden protection efforts if Kiribati's fragile biodiversity is to be maintained.

**Table 2: Progress in achieving the MDGs**

Goal	Current Status in Kiribati
<b>Goal 1:</b> Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	The percentage of the population undernourished has decreased steadily from 9% in 1991 to 7% in 1996 and most recently to 6% in 2002 (UNESCO, 2008). The proportion of the population living on US\$1 or less per day was 38% and the share of poorest quintile in national consumption was 6% in 1996 (KNSO, 2008).
<b>Goal 2:</b> Achieve universal education	GER for primary was 104 in 1999 it has risen to 112 in 2005. The regional average for the Pacific was 98 in 2005 (UNESCO, 2007). The most recent Net Enrolment Rate (NER) data is from 1999, when the NER was 97, with GPI of 1.01. The most recent EFA Global Monitoring Report has accessed the goal of Universal Primary Education achieved (2007).
<b>Goal 3:</b> Promote gender equality & empower women	In 2005, the GER for girls (113) was slightly higher than for boys (111), with a GPI of 1.02 in 2005 and 1.01 in 1999 (UNESCO, 2007). The GPI at secondary level was 1.13 in 2005, which improved from 1.18 in 1999. However gender parity is closer to being achieved in lower secondary where the GPI was 1.07 in 2005, compared with 1.26 at upper secondary. The proportion of women holding seats in parliament improved from 0 % in 1990 to 7.1% in 2007. (UNDP, 2007). The labour force participation of women has increased from 68.2% in 1990 to 76.1% in 2000 (SPC, 2008c), however, the proportion of women involved in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector has decreased from 22.2% in 1990 to 17% in 2000 (SPC, 2008c).
<b>Goal 4:</b> Reduce child mortality	The infant mortality rate was 47 deaths per 1000 live births in 2006, which is higher than the 2000 rate of 44. The rate, however, has decreased from 51 deaths per 1000 births in 1990 (WHO, 2008). The under 5 mortality rate has steadily decreased from 88 deaths per 1000 live births to 70 in 2000 and then 64 in 2006. The proportional causes of death among children under 5 years in 2000 were as follows; neonatal 22.1%, diarrhea 21.9%, measles 2.6%, malaria 0.7%, pneumonia 11.5%, injuries 1.3% and other 39.9%.
<b>Goal 5:</b> Improve maternal health	The maternal mortality ratio decreased from 225 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1995 to 56 in 2000 (KNSO, 2008). The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 70.9% in 1990 to 88.3% in 2004.
<b>Goal 6:</b> Combat HIV & AIDS, malaria and other diseases	The tuberculosis incidence is still high but the rate has been steadily declining over the last fifteen years, both in terms of prevalence and mortality. In 1990 there were 513 cases per 100,000 with a death rate of 115 per 100,000. In 2000 there was an incidence rate of 420 and mortality rate of 62, compared with 372 and 45 in 2006. (WHO, 2008). It is possible that immunization programmes rates of coverage are not yet consistent. The immunization rate for children against measles fluctuated from 75% in 1990, 80% in 2000 to 61% in 2006 and for polio the rate was 97%, 90% and 86% respectively. There are currently no Kiribati government trend statistics available on the rates of infection or mortality due to HIV & AIDS (see table 1 for ADB statistics). Malaria is not endemic in Kiribati.
<b>Goal 7:</b> Ensure environmental sustainability	There has been steady improvement in access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation from 1990 to 2006. The proportion of the population with access to improved water rose from 48% in 1990 to 65% in 2006, due mostly in improvements in rural access from 33% to 53% (KNSO, 2008). Access to improved sanitation increased from 22% in 1990 to 33% in 2006, due to improvements in access for urban areas from 26% to 46% whilst rural access remained unchanged. Approximately 200km <sup>2</sup> on Kiritimati is protected to maintain biological diversity, including PIPA the worlds largest protected marine area. The land protected has increased from 581 km <sup>2</sup> in 1990 (0.8%) to 1125 km <sup>2</sup> in 2005 (1.5%) (UNESCO, 2008). The Kiribati Government's MDG report notes it is unlikely the integration of principles of sustainable development into policies and programmes will occur by 2015 and that despite widespread awareness of sustainability issues government support remains weak or unknown (KNSO, 2008).
<b>Goal 8:</b> Develop a Global Partnership for Development	Of the six relevant targets within goal 8, only pharmaceutical access is likely to be achieved by 2015 (KNSO, 2008). The majority of young people (15-24) are not able to be engaged in paid work, with 56.6% engaged in unpaid village activities, 32.8% students and only 8.8% in paid employment. The proportion of the with access to technology has increased from 1999 to 2002 for landline phone (3.94 – 5.68%), cellular phone (0.24 - 0.57%), personal computers (0.84 – 1.14%) and internet (1.20 – 2.28%) (UNESCO, 2008). The progress made in the areas of trade, debt financing and donor assistance are variable and the related targeted are not likely to be fully achieved (KNSO, 2008).

Universal access to primary education has been achieved. However, with significant internal migration, urbanization and population growth, limited access at secondary and tertiary levels access will remain a challenge. Gender parity for primary education has been achieved, but disparities exist in terms of both access and participation of young girls and women in higher levels of schooling. Analysis of the available data highlights an education system that is struggling to provide access to quality education at all levels. However, the Kiribati government continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to education with the level of total public expenditure on education at 7.7 percent of GNP, which is high by regional standards. This is further reinforced, by the high prioritisation of Kiribati's human resource development in the national development strategy to be discussed in the next section. Unfortunately, there is lack of available data of many critical education indicators including teacher qualifications and tertiary GER, such that the majority of the indicators included in the EFA global report are either extrapolated or noted as information not available (UNESCO, 2007). Kiribati's basic or proxy indicators to measure EFA goals are summarized in table 3.

**Table 3: Basic or proxy indicators to measure EFA goals**

Goal	Indicator	Kiribati	Pacific	Global
Goal 1	GER in Pre-primary (UNESCO, 2007)	75	72	40
Goal 2	GER Primary (7 - 12 yrs)	112	98	107
	Lower secondary (13 - 15 yrs)	110	89	79
	Upper secondary (16 - 18 yrs)	65	132	53
	Total secondary	87	105	60
Goal 3	Youth literacy rate (15-24)	-	92	83
Goal 4	Adult literacy rate (15 & over) (ADB, 2006 & UNESCO, 2007)	94	94	76
Goal 5	GPI (UNESCO, 2007) Primary (7 - 12 yrs)	1.02	0.96	0.95
	Secondary (13 – 18 years)	1.13	0.98	0.94
Goal 6	Survival rate to grade 5	82	-	-
	Pupil / teacher ratio in primary education	25	19	25
	Trained primary school teachers (as % of total)	-	-	-
	Public current expenditure on primary education as % of GNP	-	-	1.5

I-Kiribati culture remains strong and is a key influence in the social and political spheres. However, significant challenges exist especially in relation to the impacts of climate change should there be any resettlement of I-Kiribati required. In order to ensure a sustainable development, there is a need to ensure cultural safeguarding, in particular through detailed cultural mapping. In 2000, the Kiribati Government ratified the *1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* and has developed a tentative list in 2007 and is progressing the nomination document for the Phoenix Islands World Heritage Area.

The proportion of the population with access to communication technology is increasing, which is of particular importance due to the isolation of many areas both in terms of communication and transport. The delivery of quality information through Kiribati media remains critical for communication to isolated atolls. There has been an increase in access to the personal computer, cellular phone and internet, but the radio and landline phone remain the most commonly available forms of communication for households (SPC, 2007). The access to technology is higher in South Tarawa, but reliability remains an issue.

The isolation of many areas in Kiribati has a significant impact on the delivery of basic social services. With the introduction of relocation programmes and the current internal migration trends to the Line and Phoenix groups, it is necessary to ensure education, health, communications and transport services adequately provide for the changing population dynamics in Kiribati. The isolation of some areas causes problems in implementing policies, conducting training and providing services.

The population growth, median age and internal migration to South Tarawa means the country is facing huge youth challenges especially with the high potential for the population to grow further. This puts pressure on the country to invest a large proportion of its resources in social services such as health and education as well as employment creation. The lack of formal employment opportunities underlines the challenges of creating economic opportunities for the increasing numbers coming into the labour market and for those already out of work (SPC, 2007).

The majority of I-Kiribati, especially those in rural areas, are involved in village-based employment. The limited paid work that is available is typically in urban areas and dominated by the government sector (ADB, 2006). The increasing South Tarawa population combined with scarce paid jobs is resulting in "increased economic frustration" (ADB, 2006, p. 1) and unemployment in urban areas.

The key challenges that have been identified in areas relevant to UNESCO's mandate are summarized as; access to quality education and gender disparities in secondary education, urbanization, youth, gender equality & women's empowerment, climate change & environment, sustainable development, safeguarding cultural heritage and communication (especially with outer islands). The support of UNESCO and other development partners is critical. MELAD notes that "Kiribati will continue to depend on assistance from abroad for socio economic development ... (and this) is likely to increase into the foreseeable future because of the additional need of protection from climate variability and climate change and the adverse affects on key infrastructure and environmental resources" (2007, p.7).

## **PART 2: PAST AND PRESENT COOPERATION**

The cooperation between Kiribati and UNESCO over recent times has been in a wide range of areas within UNESCO's areas of expertise. The following section outlines the recent and continuing involvement in and with Kiribati in the Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, and the Communication and Information sectors.

There has been significant cooperation between Kiribati and UNESCO in the area of education. In 2008, the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) 2008-2013 for Kiribati was completed after extensive consultation. The UNESS provides the strategic framework for future cooperation in the education sector and a review of past and present cooperation. Consequently the following summary of the key past and present cooperation with Kiribati should be viewed in conjunction with the UNESS for a complete overview of activities. UNESCO has been actively involved in improving teacher quality in Kiribati through competency training to teachers, teacher training institutions (including distance education) and Ministry of Education (MoE) staff. Education stakeholders have also been involved in regional workshops on non-formal education, literacy, numeracy and life-skills benchmarks, information and communication technologies in education, early childhood care and education, and monitoring and evaluation. Finally UNESCO has provided support for EFA, including technical support for the Mid-Decade Assessment and production and dissemination of Pacific EFA Discussion Paper series.

There has been ongoing cooperation between UNESCO and Kiribati in the areas of ecology and hydrological sciences. Within the field of ecology, UNESCO has provided technical support for conservation and natural resource management to promote the development of Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites within Kiribati. The National Kiribati Man And Biosphere (MAB) Focal Point was established, along with membership of Kiribati in PacMAB (the Pacific Biosphere Reserve network) with the support of UNESCO. There has also been ongoing strategic planning, including the identification and nomination of two future Biosphere Reserves, with reinforced national government commitment to protection of natural heritage.

Within the field of hydrology, UNESCO has contributed to capacity building and networking for water sector policy planners, hydrologists and hydrological technicians. This has included the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) / UNESCO / World Meteorological Organization (WMO) three-year training course for hydrological technicians. Kiribati's hydrology networks have also been developed through the UNESCO - International Hydrological Programme (IHP) network.

The pertinent development challenges section, previously identified a broad range of environmental issues that lie within the mandate of UNESCO. However, through a process of harmonization in the Pacific many science related issues, such as fisheries and oceanography, are led by the Marine Resources Division at Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Forum Fisheries Agency at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). In the spirit of cooperation, many previous science related activities (including Intersectoral) endeavored and will continue to draw on the broad range of expertise within the Pacific and UN system.

Within the Social and Human Sciences sector there has been cooperation with UNESCO in the field of management of social transformations. UNESCO has worked with Ministry of Internal and Social Affairs (MISA) and UNIFEM to develop an effective response to increasing women's participation in social policy development. UNESCO, with support from MISA and UNIFEM undertook a scoping mission on gender-based violence and women's development needs in Kiribati and existing programs to address this issue; violence remains prevalent and widely accepted by the broader I-Kiribati community, however, government

and women's groups are increasing their efforts to raise awareness and provide effective responses.

In the field of culture, there has been a focus on the development of cultural and natural spaces, including possibilities for trans-boundary sites shared between Kiribati and a number of its neighbouring countries. This included a workshop in Honolulu in 2003 with the United States of America, France and the Cook Islands. UNESCO has also worked with the Kiribati Government to develop the nomination of PIPA as a World Natural Heritage site. It is hoped that this nomination will be added to the World Heritage List in 2009.

Kiribati has been involved in a range of sub-regional cultural activities to safeguard and protect their cultural heritage and strengthen their cultural policies and planning. This has involved I-Kiribati participating in the 'Artists in Development workshop for Young Artists' and the 'Arts Education workshop' held in Vanuatu 2001. Representatives from various Government Ministries have also been involved in 'Heads of Cultural Agencies Meetings', World Heritage workshops and meetings, Sub-regional Meeting on the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 'Symposium on Traditional Knowledge'.

The Communication and Information funded workshop focused on improving sharing of public information in May 2007. The week long workshop involved government representatives, parliamentarians, members of the civil service and media, and resulted in improved relations, cooperation and improved flow of information. With assistance from UNESCO, the media in Kiribati has also adopted a draft Code of Ethics and the KIMA has been established to improve media standards and services.<sup>1</sup>



*Handcrafts training with church women's groups in 2007, © UNESCO / S.Vize*

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<sup>1</sup> For further information refer to [http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=24731&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=24731&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)



### PART 3: PROPOSED COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

UNESCO's mandate covers a wide range of issues that are relevant to Kiribati, however, it is important that assistance is focused on the needs of Kiribati and in cooperation with other development partners. The major challenge for development partners is therefore, to focus assistance to ensure it is timely, targeted and meets the development needs of Kiribati.

The Kiribati Development Plan 2008-11 clearly outlines the development priorities for the Kiribati Government for the next three years. The plan builds upon the National Development Strategy for 2004-07, with many of the Key Policy Areas (KPA) continuing through to the next phase. In addition, the Pacific multi-country UNDAF 2008-12 is based on the principles of 'Delivering as One' to ensure that different UN agencies and programmes work cooperatively to meet the development needs of Kiribati, and work is led by the UN agency or donor partner who has the mandate for it. For example the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is leading the work on youth related issues in Kiribati. The framework for cooperation is hence based on the priority areas identified by the Government of Kiribati, UNDAF and UNESCO and is summarised in Table 4.

**Table 4: Summary of Kiribati, UNESCO and UNDAF priorities**

Kiribati KPA	UNESCO's field of competence (Pacific Program Objectives – PPO)	UNDAF Priority Area for Action
KPA 1 – Human Resource Development	PPO 4 – Strengthen Pacific achievement of EFA. PPO 5 – Foster quality EFA: equitable access & success.	UNDAF 3 - Equitable social & protection services
KPA 2 – Economic Growth & Poverty Reduction	PPO 5 – Foster quality EFA: equitable access & success. PPO 10 – Enhance research-policy linkages for the effective management of social transformations for small island countries. PPO 12 – Safeguarding living heritage.	UNDAF 1 - Equitable economic growth and poverty reduction UNDAF 2 – Good governance & human rights UNDAF 3
KPA 3 – Health	Outside field of competence	UNDAF 3
KPA 4 - Environment	PPO 6 – Leverage scientific knowledge for sustainable management of natural resources. PPO 8 – Foster effective and appropriate science communication, education and policy.	UNDAF 4 – Sustainable environmental management
KPA 5 – Governance	PPO 10 – Enhance research-policy linkages for the effective management of social transformations for small island countries. PPO 11 - Enhance capabilities in developing national cultural policies and strategies, in particular, resource management for cultural heritage and cultural industries. PPO 14 – Fostering pluralistic, free and independent media and infrastructures.	UNDAF 2 & 3
No direct alignment	PPO 13 – Enhance universal access to information and knowledge.	UNDAF 2

The UNESCO Office for the Pacific States, based in Apia, will take the lead on the implementation of the UNESCO Pacific Program Objectives (PPO) that support Kiribati's KPAs. The assistance provided by UNESCO may also involve support from regional and global headquarters and the Kiribati National Commission for UNESCO. The KPAs and their aligned assistance outputs, results, indicators and resources for the UNESCO PPO are expanded in Table 5. The table explicitly outlines the planned support to be provided by UNESCO and the Kiribati development issues and strategies that are within UNESCO areas expertise, being targeted from 2008 – 2013.

**Table 5: UNESCO's proposed Cooperation Framework for Kiribati 2008-2013**

	UNESCO PPO, activities	Expected result of UNESCO activity	Performance indicators and benchmarks	RESOURCE (USD)	
				Available	Target
KPA 1 - HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT <sup>2</sup>	<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 1.1.1 - Improving the quality of curriculum and assessment, raising educational standards and providing quality curriculum resources for schools. (also supports KPA 2 – Economic Growth &amp; Poverty Reduction, Strategy 2.2.3).</b> UNDAF Country Programme Output (CPO) 3.1.e - Increased availability of quality education services at all levels especially for vulnerable groups.				
	<b>PPO 4 - Strengthen Pacific achievement of EFA</b>				
	<u>Strengthen Pacific achievement of EFA</u> - Provide capacity development and technical support to assist national efforts in achieving the Dakar Goals Partners: MoE <sup>3</sup> , UNESCO Bangkok, UIS & SPBEA.	High level policy dialogue promoted on issues related to educational quality and equity with particular focus on inclusion, gender and youth, based on research and data evidence.	Participation in annual Ministerial Ministers meetings fully informed about the status and outlook of national education systems using evidence, and quality issues and solutions, and engaged in policy dialogue.	\$350,000 (regional)	\$350,000 (regional)
		Policy decision making processes well informed and practices improved with increased capacities and available and use of evidence.	Improved policy decision making practices evident in policy documents.		
		National capacities of educational statisticians and policy planners improved in data collection, analysis and interpretation for policy and planning, and monitoring and evaluation.	Use of Pacific EFA information for monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring system of progress in education put in place. Quality improvement monitored using Pacific Education Ministers approved regionally developed benchmarks for literacy, numeracy and life-skills, with intervention strategies implemented.		
	<b>PPO 5 - Foster quality EFA; from access to success and promotion of Education for Sustainable Development</b>				
	<u>Improve teacher quality</u> - Strengthen the capacities of teachers, head teachers and principals in delivery of quality education services. Partners: MoE & SPBEA.	Effectiveness of teachers improved, and planning, management, evaluation and leadership skills of school principals / head teachers upgraded. Capacity of teacher trainers strengthened in delivery of in-service training.	National training workshops conducted for teachers and teacher trainers.	\$140,000 (regional)	\$740,000 (regional)
	<u>Improve education quality</u> - Enhance the quality of teaching and learning content through relevant curriculum, and innovative practices and materials. Partners: MoE, UNESCO Bangkok & UNICEF.	Curriculum relevance increased, including fully integrated national approaches to Education for Sustainable Development (including climate change issues).	Review of Early Childhood Care and Education, primary and secondary curriculum conducted. Locally developed curriculum materials developed, disseminated and used.	\$80,000 (regional)	\$580,000 (regional)

<sup>2</sup> See Kiribati UNESS (UNESCO, 2008) for more information

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the acronym list for expanded form of partner name

	UNESCO PPO, activities	Expected result of UNESCO activity	Performance indicators and benchmarks	RESOURCE (USD)	
				Available	Target
KPA 2 – ECONOMIC GROWTH & PVERTY REDUCTION	<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 2.1.13 - Improve and update statistics and relevant information for planning and policy formulation</b> CPO 3.1.a - Increased institutional capacity to deliver high quality social and protection services for vulnerable groups aligned to a human-rights based approach & CPO 2.3.f - Improved capacity of States to ratify and implement core international human rights treaties, and to develop, establish and implement national and regional human rights mechanisms e.g. women and violence, child rights, HIV/aids, workers rights; improved capacity of individuals and communities to know about and claim their rights.				
	<b>PPO 10 - Enhance research-policy linkages within the Pacific and between the Pacific and other regions for the effective management of social transformations for small islands countries (also supports KPA 5 - Governance, Issues 5.3, 5.11 &amp; 5.14)</b>				
	<u>Gender Equality</u> : Increased involvement of women in social policy development, especially in the areas of participatory processes and violence against women and girls. <u>Partners</u> : MISA, UNIFEM, UNICEF & AMAK.	One project piloted to raise awareness and responsiveness of Government Officers to violence against women	Pilot project completed	\$15,000	Approx \$25,000 - \$100,000
		Increased commitment and capacity of Government to community participation as part of process to develop Kiribati National Women's Policy	Kiribati National Women's Policy completed		
	<u>Anti-doping</u> - Promoting International Convention Against Doping in Sport (ICADS) and providing support to access the Fund for Elimination of Drugs in Sport. <u>Partners</u> : Ministry of Sport, RADO & KNOC.	Kiribati submits instrument of ratification for ICADS	Instrument for ratification of ICADS submitted	\$2,600 (regional)	\$5,000 (regional)
		Plan of action for implementing actions under ICADS developed	Action plan for implementation of ICADS in place	nil	Nil
		Successful funding proposal to support ICADS implementation submitted	Funding secured for implementation of ICADS	nil	Nil
	<u>Social Policy Networks</u> - Strengthening social policy networks accessibility, affordability and the well-managed delivery of equitable, gender-sensitive quality social and protection services. <u>Partners</u> : USP, ICSPI & OHCHR.	Kiribati social scientists actively participate in Pacific social policy networks	Kiribati members in Pacific Network	\$2,000 (regional)	\$4,000 (regional)
	<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 2.2.5 - Strengthen and encourage small informal businesses and self employment.</b> CPO1.3.b - Improved mechanisms to facilitate trade and development.				
	<b>PPO 11 - Strengthen the contribution of culture to sustainable development, such as through cultural industries &amp; PPO 12 - Promote and safeguard tangible and intangible heritage (also supports KPA 5 – Governance, Issue 5.10)</b>				
<u>Protecting and promoting cultural diversity</u> - Undertake promotional, educational and awareness-raising activities on themes of arts education. <u>Partners</u> : MISA, ILO, UNCTAD, PIFS & SPC.	Technical assistance in the promotion of creative industries for economic and social development.	Pilot two income generating creative industries projects focusing on young men and women, successfully implemented in marginalized areas in Kiribati.	\$15,000	\$135,000	

	UNESCO PPO, activities	Expected result of UNESCO activity	Performance indicators and benchmarks	RESOURCE (USD)	
				Available	Target
KPA 4 – ENVIRONMENT	<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 4.4.1 - Consolidation and coordination of national water quality guidelines &amp; KIRIBATI STRATEGY 4.4.2 - Enhance and maintain the water quality monitoring system.</b>				
	CPO 4.2.c - Strengthened local institutional, legal and governance systems to improve marine and terrestrial environmental management, including invasive species.				
	<b>PPO 6 - Leverage scientific knowledge for sustainable management of natural resources appropriate solutions for small island countries and communities</b>				
	<u>Hydrology for sustainable management of freshwater resources.</u> <u>Partners:</u> SOPAC.	Generation of new knowledge and establishment of new management practice on ground/freshwater resources. Capacity building in MELAD. Community-driven planning for climate change impacts strengthened and documented.	Completion and publication of groundwater status and management report with reference to traditional practices. New approaches to groundwater resources monitoring and management adopted by national government. Development of related public policy responses and educational resources.	\$15,000	\$80,000
	<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 4.2.1 - Ensure and maintain protection and conservation of threatened island bio-diversity.</b>				
	CPO 4.2.c – as above.				
	<b>PPO 6 - Leverage scientific knowledge for sustainable management of natural resources appropriate solutions for small island countries and communities</b>				
	<u>Biosphere reserves as learning laboratories.</u> <u>Partners (financial):</u> MELAD, UNDP, Korea, Japan & AusAID.	Strengthened capacity (MELAD) to successfully design and implement local conservation and development initiatives for sustainable land management and information generation.	Establishment of Biosphere Reserve in North Tarawa or Kiritimati, with development of subsequent management plan. Training for communities and conservation projects to complement sustainable management, providing social and/or economic benefits.	\$5,000	\$100,000 (regional)
<u>World Heritage Listing</u> - Increase the number of ratification and inscriptions on the list from Pacific countries. <u>Partners:</u> MELAD	Technical assistance with the preparation of World Heritage site proposal, including establishment of a World Heritage advisor position with the Government of Kiribati to support ongoing site nomination, identification and expansion process.	Successful nomination of Phoenix Islands World Heritage Area & development of plans for extension to include Line Islands in 2009-11. Strengthened overall management of natural resources & local development, with decision on boundaries, management, institutional arrangement and planning for climate change.	\$25,000	\$140,000	
<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 4.7.2 - Increase awareness on environmental issues.</b>					
CPO 4.2.c – as above & CPO 4.2.d - Improved national and local supported adaptive capacities to address the adverse impacts of climate change.					
<b>PPO 8 – Foster effective and appropriate science communication, education and policy development</b>					
<u>Develop science related capacities and knowledge, including communication and education.</u> <u>Partners:</u> SEREAD, ANU-CPAS & SPC.	Effective dissemination and exchange of science-related information, education materials and research, including youth and young female scientists. Increased capacities for locally appropriate and interactive basic science education.	Participation in regional training initiatives and knowledge sharing systems.  Youth experiences of climate change captured, published and shared.  Capacity building training for meida on Climate Change and Education for Sustainable Development.	\$20,000 (regional)	\$50,000 (regional)	
<u>Mauritius Declaration on sustainable development.</u> <u>Partners:</u> MELAD	Follow-up on the Mauritius Declaration, including support to policy makers on actions to implement the declaration.	Participation in regional initiatives, including interregional exchange on sustainable development.	\$51,300 (regional)	\$651,300 (regional)	

	UNESCO PPO, activities	Expected result of UNESCO activity	Performance indicators and benchmarks	RESOURCE (USD)	
				Available	Target
KPA 5 – GOVERNANCE	<b>KIRIBATI STRATEGY 5.13.1 - Strengthen institutional capacity of the civil service and public enterprises.</b> CPO 2.2.e - Increased capacity of government ministries, island councils, village councils, churches, NGOs and other stakeholders to understand human rights obligations and to better plan, manage, implement and monitor local area development, including in relation to advancing the realization of human rights.				
	<b>PPO 14 - Foster pluralistic free and independent media and infostructures</b>				
	<u>Training of Media Producers</u> Partners: KIMA, KBPA & PINA.	Enhancement of freedom of expression - independent media fostered, particularly by increasing local content development via training of media professionals and community leaders	Capacity building training provided to five women reporters at Radio Kiribati FM Newsroom in Kiritimati and two outer islands' news stringers on how to identify news; conduct interviews, compile and write balance and accurate news for the radio and newspaper.	\$60,000	\$145,00
	<b>PPO 13 – Enhance universal access to information and knowledge (not directly aligned with KPA)</b> CPO 2.2.e – As above.				
	<u>World Press Freedom Day</u> Partners: PINA, MMA, CBA & AIBD.	Awareness of freedom of expression as a basic human right increased.	World Press Freedom Day celebrations held in Kiribati.	\$20,000 (regional)	\$20,000 (regional)

## **PART 4: PARTNERSHIPS**

Throughout the planning phase and the future implementation UNESCO Office for the Pacific States strives to work cooperatively with the Government of Kiribati, other development partners and local NGOs. The important role these partnerships play in successful sustainable implementation can not be overstated. In the proposed cooperation framework, Table 4, the relevant partners for each UNESCO programme were noted. The role of different partners varies greatly in terms of involvement in planning, implementation and financing. The role of other UN Agencies is outlined in more detail in the UNDAF and education sector partners in the UNESS. The following section expands on the extent of cooperation for some important partnerships.

Within the UN reform and the 'delivering as one', UNESCO Apia has been in close dialogue with other UN Agencies at the sub-regional level on possible linkages under the UN reform framework. Synergies have been established either as part of joint programming under the Pacific UNDAF such as Youth and HIV & AIDS, which UNESCO is a member of or through arrangements with individual UN Agencies especially on areas where there are complementary mandates.

UNESCO is a member of the Kiribati UNDAF Implementation Team, lead by UNICEF, which will deliver the joint country programme on education. The delivery of support will occur as part of a "one fund" system to be managed by UNICEF and guided by a joint team (UN and government). The team will also co-ordinate with other development partners, namely the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), World Bank and Government of Japan through the Development Partners Coordination Group to harmonise support.

UNESCO is a founding member of the informal Pacific Education Partnership Group that has consolidated resources to respond more effectively and efficiency to national and regional education needs where Kiribati can benefit the most. The partnership group includes UNESCO, UNICEF, SPBEA, the University of the South Pacific (USP), PIFS and Council of Pacific Educators. These organizations work co-operatively to co-ordinate consultations with Education Ministers, Heads of Education Systems and regional policy development. The partners have also delivered targeted training in Kiribati on teacher competency to teachers and teacher educators. In addition to Pacific networks, targeted technical assistance will be sought on statistical capacity development and literacy from Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (Bangkok), and from other Institutes and Centres, including the International Institute for Educational Planning.

The UNESCO activities aligned to support economic growth and poverty reduction will involve the active engagement of Government and civil society to promote sustainable development. This will involve consultation during planning and joint implementation with MoE, MELAD and MISA. The National Commission for UNESCO as well as non-Government entities including the National Council of Women (AMAK) and KIMA will also be important partners.

UNESCO is a member of the Pacific UN Working Group on Youth led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The group meets quarterly and is chaired by UNICEF, includes, UNDP, UNAIDS and UNESCO. UNICEF is the lead agency for Kiribati and is responsible to the implementation of most programmes and projects youth. UNESCO is, however, involved directly with UN Youth Advisory Panel, which contains an I-Kiribati youth to advise the working group.

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