

GOAL 9. Promote Sustainable Population Developments

National-level monitoring

Target/ Indicator	1991	1997	2001	2006	Where would Niue like to be in 2015	Will the indicators be met by 2015	Source
Target 19: Increase and maintain Niue's population to at least 1800 by the year 2015							
Indicator 49 Residential population (De-jure population)	na	2230	1814	1538	1800	Potentially	Census
Indicator 50 Number of people immigrating to live permanently	na	na	na	111	200	Potentially	NSO
Indicator 51 Birth rate	na	18.3	18.5	15.4	20%	Potentially	Census
Target 20: At least 80% of senior secondary students to receive Vocational and Guidance Counseling by 2010							
Indicator 52 Proportion of Year 11 – Year 13 students seeking Careers and Guidance Counseling	na	na	na	22*	100%	Potentially	NHS
Target 21: At least 30% of secondary and tertiary school leavers to be employed by the year 2010							
Indicator 53 Number of students leaving secondary school	na	na	na	38 (2005 – 2006)			NSO
Males				18			
Females				19			
Indicator 54 Percentage of secondary school leavers employed	na	na		55%	60%	Potentially	ADMIN
Males				72%			
Females				42%			
Indicator 55 Percentage of secondary school leavers studying at tertiary level	na	na	na	32%	40%	Potentially	USP / NTDC
Males				22%			
Females				42%			
Indicator 56 Annual number of study awards available	5	11	6	16	20		NTDC
Indicator 57 Number of tertiary level students	25	43	29	51			USP/ NTDC
Males	14	18	10				
Females	11	25	19				
Indicator 58 Number of tertiary students who have completed their programs successfully	na	11	13	8	100%		NTDC/ NSO
Males		5	5	3			
Females		6	8	5			

Indicator 59 Percentage of tertiary students, who have completed their programs successfully, that are employed locally	na	81%	69%		100%	Potentially	ADMIN/ NTDC
Males	na	80%	60%				
Females	na	83%	75%				
Target 22: Development of alternative energy and water-resource management to a capacity that allow 10% of the population to rely on alternate sources							
Indicator 60 Proportion of Government assistance and ODA to aid development of alternative energy and water resources						< ? >	
Indicator 61 Annual Household Consumption of electricity	na	na	na	1,293,545 kw (2004)	129,354kw (2005)		NSO
Target 23: At least 10% of the unoccupied houses to be renovated and occupied by the year 2010							
Indicator 62 Number of unoccupied houses	382 (1993)	429 (2000)	464 (2002)	465	300	Potentially	NSO
Indicator 63 Percentage of unoccupied houses renovated						< ? >	

<?> no data available

Status and Trends

Niue's continual loss of its people due to out migration dates back to the early 1950s. The migration trend was relatively slow at the beginning but began to pick up with the improvement in international transportation and family members settled into New Zealand sending for their families. The population peaked at 5,194 in 1966, and began to decline thereafter (Niue Statistics 2006). It is presumed that this



decline is due mainly to the opening of the Hanan International Airport, which enabled Niueans to travel more easily compared to the 1950s when people had to travel by ship to catch a connecting flight from American Samoa or Fiji.

In the earlier days, Niueans had left the island in search of opportunities to enrich their lives; opportunities such as employment, better education and/or lifestyle. Today, the lack of opportunity on Niue continues to be a major deciding factor for Niuean people leaving the island on a permanent basis.

In addition the Government redundancies that occurred in 1992 had a further marked effect on the decline of Niue's population. In hindsight and with inadequate policies in place at the time, the Government did not

contemplate that many would depart our shores, instead it was hoped that a lot of the redundant population would make the move to private sector. Unfortunately this was not to be and more opted to leave.

Given the continual population decline, Government has acknowledged that there is an urgent need to address the issues and concerns regarding this situation. A number of committees have been established over the years as well as studies in the last fifteen years. However, no major progress had been achieved. Lack of funding to implement some of the initiatives or recommendations have been one of the contributing factors for the lack of progress. It is also presumed that the majority of the issues highlighted were simply too difficult to address and hence no progress was made.

Over the years, a number of economic development initiatives have been implemented with the primary objective of creating opportunities for the people of Niue and to subsequently reduce the rate of out migration. However, despite this, there appears to be a lack in implementation, as the expected outcomes were not met by the end of the project periods.

Effectively, there are two major constraints/obstacles to a feasible level for retention of Niue's population: firstly, the lack of opportunities to enjoy a comparable standard of living to the Niueans abroad and secondly, the open access to the New Zealand (and Australia) labor market which offer relatively higher remuneration packages.

Lack of opportunities in terms of employment and good remuneration packages, access to preferred education/schools, medical facilities and better lifestyle in terms of modern facilities, pushes people to migrate overseas in search of a better lifestyle and at the same discourage those residing overseas to return. Those who have returned over the years chose to leave once again as opportunities were lacking which consequently made it difficult to settle permanently on the island. With respect to elderly people interested in returning, the issue of pension non-portability has forced them to remain in New Zealand.

Open access to the Australian and New Zealand labor markets will continue to challenge the efforts of Niue to retain or attract its people back to the island. Despite these challenges, the Government of Niue continues to actively pursue its efforts to increase and sustain the local population.

Key Challenges

- Limited funding available
- Limited Technical Expertise
- Inherited tendency to migrate to New Zealand in search of better opportunities (very strong pull factors to New Zealand)
- Open access to the Australian and New Zealand labour market

Proposed Activities

Action	Implementing Local Agency	Implementing International Agency	Resource / Source	Timeframe
Develop appropriate Policies and Legislation regarding Housing, Immigration, Education and Populations	Crown Law Office Niue Government	OCHA / OHCHR	RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Maintain reliable and affordable international transportation	AIR NZ liaison Officer Planning & Development Niue Government	NZAID	RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Increase Public and Private Sectors	EPDSU COC External Affairs		RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Increase Revenue Stream for further development	Treasury External Affairs		RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Undertake Regular National Training and Needs Analysis	NTDC Education	UNESCO	RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Employ Careers and Guidance Counselor to conduct general Student Counseling and Careers and Guidance Counseling for Senior Students	NTDC Education	UNESCO	RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Create Public Awareness Programs based on National initiatives and Environmental, Business, Education and Population issues	MDG Committee BCN		RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Support alternative energy and water resource initiatives	Niue Power Corp Water Works/ PWD Niue Government	EU / UNESCO/ UNDP	RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going
Identify appropriate vacant homes for renovation and occupation	Village Development Project Coordinator NZAID Liaison Officers Niue Government	NZAID	RECURRENT/ EXTERNAL	On going

