

Federated States of Micronesia



Location: North Pacific Ocean between 1 degree South and 14 degrees North and between 135 and 166 degrees East.

Geography: 607 small islands with a total land area of 702 km², total sea area approximately 1.6 million km².

Population: 2000 107,008, 77.6% rural. Annual rate of population growth 0.26% (1994-2000), a significant decrease on the previous 5 years. Male life expectancy 66.6; female 67.5. Median age: 18.9. Chuuk is the most populated state (2000 53,595) followed by Pohnpei (34,486) and then the smaller states of Yap (11,241) and Kosrae (7,686).

Government: The FSM became an independent nation in November of 1986 and entered into a long-term treaty called the Compact of Free Association with the United States. Constitutional government with unicameral Congress (14 seats), one from each state elected for a four-year term, and ten who serve two-year terms whose seats are apportioned by population. The President and Vice President are elected by the Congress. The administrative divisions are the four states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap.

Culture and Social Structure: Traditional extended family and matrilineal clan systems. Although a common country, the people from the 4 main islands make a culturally diverse population. The cultural diversity is typified by the existence of eight major indigenous languages

Economy: currency is US dollar. The young population places extreme pressures on national and state budgets. Economic activity consists primarily of subsistence farming and fishing. The medium-term economic outlook appears fragile due not only to the reduction in US assistance but also to the slow growth of the private sector. Geographical isolation and a poorly developed infrastructure remain major impediments to long-term growth. GDP per capita US\$2,058. GDP US\$221.84 million. Balance of trade in 2000 US\$-127,000 ('000). Annual rate of inflation 1%. Unemployment: 22% in 2000.

Introduction

In-country MDG activities in the FSM will begin with the formation of the MDG Task Force in late 2004, for which the Department of Economic Affairs will be the focal point.

National context

Economic strategy: focus on activities recognized as providing the long-run growth potential and comparative advantage of the FSM (commercial agriculture, marine and fisheries, and tourism).

Special focus on strengthening public sector reform efforts, speed up private sector development, improve efficiency of land use and human resources.

Sustainable development: strengthen environmental planning, accounting for non-renewable resources depletion, participatory community planning, preservation and revitalization of the unique and diverse cultures of the FSM.

Education: The FSM educational system recognizes its shared participation with parents, extended family, and broader social structures in the intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of children. It will deliver a quality, sustainable basic education system which provides all students with basic skills, thinking skills, and personal qualities; provides for the manpower needs of the Nation; develops a literate population based on the revitalization of local languages and cultures while ensuring high competence in English and other international languages; and collaborates with all sectors of the government and community to fully utilize available human and financial resources in developing the educational foundation required for sustainable economic growth and social development. "Its basic strategy is to develop the basic skills, thinking skills and personal qualities needed for individual and group economic and social development and to promote the languages, values, attitudes and beliefs which make Micronesians unique as a people."

National youth policy 2004-2010:

Encourage ongoing learning through non-formal and informal education

Strengthen and foster the physical, mental, and emotional well being of young people

Encourage active participation of young people in Economic Development

Promote FSM tradition and culture

Promote awareness programs on the conservation and protection of the environment

Environment:

Recognizing the critical importance of the FSM's natural environment to the health and prosperity of this and future generations of Micronesians, the Environment Sector shall support the protection of the Nation's environment and achieve sustainable development of its natural resources. These efforts include the development, adoption and enforcement of policies, laws, and regulations in pursuit of the above-stated goals; the reduction and prevention of environmental degradation and all forms of pollution; adaptation to climate change; the protection of biological diversity, including assurance of adequate legal and international treaty safeguards relating to the protection of botanical and other agro-ecological property (including traditional knowledge and practices) belonging to the Federated States of Micronesia; the establishment and management of conservation areas; environmental infrastructure planning, design construction, and operation; interaction and cooperation with private sectors; and promotion of increased involvement of citizens and traditional leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia in the process of conserving their country's natural resources.

Gender:

Strategic Goal 1 Enhance and Promote the Cultural, Economic, Legal, Political and Social Status of Women

Strategic Goal 2 Enhance the Leadership Capacity and Roles for Women.

Strategic Goal 3 Mainstream Gender Issues into Decision-Making, Policies and Strategic Development Plans.

Strategic Goal 4 Maximize Women's Contribution to and Participation in Democratic and Development Processes by Creating Opportunities for Women's Active Involvement.

Strategic Goal 5 Strengthen the Institutional Capacity of Women's Programs in FSM.

Health:

The mission of the health sector of FSM is to promote and maintain a holistic system of health care that will provide an optimum quality of life for its citizenry.

Strategic Goal 1 Improve primary health care services

Strategic Goal 2 Improve secondary health care services

Strategic Goal 3 Prioritize health promotion and services for major health problems

Strategic Goal 4 Have a sustainable health care financing mechanism

Strategic Goal 5 Improve resource allocation and accountability systems

3rd FSM Economic Summit: strategic development plans March April 2004

Progress

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) shows little progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Poverty incidence is estimated to be high with approximately 40% of the population falling below the national poverty line in 1998 and there are signs of increasing inequalities. One of the key issues is delivery of basic social services, which often fail to reach the poorer strata of society, the outer islands and rural areas. There are significant differences in the poverty situation between the various states but little disaggregated data is available.

FSM not only faces the challenge of increasing enrolment rates at all levels but also of improving the quality of education, retention rates and access in the outer islands.

FSM has poor health indicators. Although maternal mortality rates have fallen significantly, FSM still has a relatively high maternal mortality rate and a rapidly increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases. Child mortality rates have decreased slightly. Available data suggest that only 41% of the population has access to an improved water source and about 45% to improved sanitation.

ADB Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific 2003

Progress

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger			
<p>An estimated 40% of the population fall below the minimum standard of living established in 1999 (based on a daily consumption of 2,223 calories and essential non-food expenditure). There are significant inter-island disparities. In Chuuk 50%, in Yap 13%, in Pohnpei 35% and in Kosrae 29% were below the poverty line. The poverty gap ratio is high with 0.51 in 1999. The Gini coefficient in 1998 was 0.408, but there are significant inter-island variations. The share of the poorest quintile in national consumption was about 9% in 1998 with regional variations: in Pohnpei the share was 11% and in Yap 7%. <i>ADB MDGs in the Pacific 2003</i></p>			
<p>Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day</p>	1. Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day		
	2. Poverty gap ratio (PGR) [incidence x depth of poverty]		
	3. Share of poorest quintile (20%) in national consumption		5.2 (1998)
<p>Target 2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</p>	4. Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age		15 (1997)
	5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption		
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education			
<p>There are high drop-out rates in secondary school. There are also significant problems relating to the quality of education services, particularly in the outer islands</p>			
<p>Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</p>	6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education	93.7 (1994)	92.3
	7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5		66.9
	8. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds	71 (1994)	
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women			
<p>Gender equality has been achieved in primary education; efforts are still needed at secondary school level. The adult literacy rate of women is significantly lower than that for men and the gap may have even increased. The gender gap in literacy rate has increased between 1994 and 1998. The participation of women in decision-making or higher level positions remains very limited</p>			
<p>Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015</p>	9. Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education		
	Ratio of girls to boys in primary school	0.921 (1994)	0.935
	Ratio of girls to boys in secondary	0.976 (1994)	1.04
	Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education	0.788 (1994)	1.07
	10. Ratio of literate females to males of 15-24 year-olds	0.964 (1994)	0.974
	11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	33.6 (1994)	33.6
	12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament		7.1 (1998)
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality			

<p>High level of infant mortality is a major concern Need for complete vital registration system to have accurate mortality rates Under-five mortality and infant mortality have decreased by more than 20% between 1990 and 2000. Many children remain vulnerable to preventable diseases. Immunization rates vary between states</p>			
Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13. Under-five mortality rate (CMR)	16 (1994)	12
	14. Infant mortality rate (IMR)	46 (1994)	40
	15. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles, %		84 (2001)
Goal 5: Improve maternal health			
<p>Although the maternal mortality rate has been reduced by more than half between 1997/98 and 1999, it is still extremely high compared to other PICs. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased</p>			
Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16. Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births	83 (1992)	
	17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel		87.7 (2001)
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases			
<p>No data available on HIV/AIDS prevalence rates. Death rates associated with tuberculosis are high compared to other PICs. Non-communicable diseases are rapidly increasing: the rise of deaths associated with hypertension/heart disease cancer and obesity is a major concern. The transition to life-style diseases places new strains on existing health services. Need for preventive health care services</p>			
Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women		
	19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate (contraceptive prevalence rate among women aged 15-49)		
Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS		
	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria		
	22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures		
	23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis TB <u>incidence</u> rate per 100,000 population	71.6 (1989)	79
	TB death rate per 100,000 population	4 (1994)	12.7 (2002)
	24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) Tuberculosis, DOTS detection rate, per cent total population		31
	Tuberculosis, DOTS treatment success, per cent total population	95 (1999)	92.9
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability			
<p>The major challenges are access to an improved water source and waste management services. Less than half of the population has access to an improved source of sanitation with pit latrines being the most common sanitation in the outer islands</p>			
Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest		50

programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area 27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)		7.33
	28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) CO2 emissions		
	29. Proportion of households using solid fuels	47 (1994)	53.5
Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	30. Proportion of <u>households</u> with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural	79.1 (1994)	87
	Proportion of households with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban	93.5 (1994)	94.4
	Proportion of households with sustainable access to an improved water source, rural	87.9 (1994)	92.1
	31. Proportion of urban <u>households</u> with access to improved sanitation	34.3 (1994) urban & rural	44 urban and rural
Target 11 By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	32. Proportion of <u>households</u> with access to secure tenure (owned or rented)		
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development			
Target 12 Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	37. ODA received in small island developing States as proportion of their GNIs	0.25 (1991)	41.48
Target 13 Address the special needs of the least developed countries			
Target 14 Address the special needs of small island developing States			
Target 15 Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries	44. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	43 (1995)	49
Target 16 In co-operation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	45. Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, each sex and total		
	Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, female	44.32 (1994)	35.48
	Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, male	24.67 (1994)	34.94
	Unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds, total	32.66 (1994)	35.17
Target 17: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries	46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis		95-100
Target 18: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population		
	Telephone lines per 100 population		
	Cellular telephone subscribers per 100 population		
	48. Personal computers in use per 100 population and Internet users per 100 population		
	Personal computers in use per 100 population		
Internet users per 100 population			

