

## **Executive Summary**

The people of Niue are most fortunate and privileged as they have been well cared for, a statement supported by already achieving Goals 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, 2: Achieve universal primary education, 3: Promote gender equality and empower women, 4: Reduce child mortality, 5: Improve maternal health, and Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, NCDs and other diseases except for the additional target on NCDs.

In regards to development, the obvious advantage Niue has compared to many other Pacific Island states is that Niue is a single atoll with a small population. This has made it easy for the government to care for and provide its residents access to essential services such as running water, power, roads, education, medical care, housing, telephone, television and of late internet services. Most of these are free of charge. As these services are easily accessible from every part of the island the result has been a more uniform development across Niue making it difficult to differentiate urban from rural areas. All Niue residents have equal access to these essential services and infrastructures.

Although Niue seems to be in a better position in regards to access to basic services and infrastructure, the small island nation does have its own unique share of problems such as the depleting population, a major impediment to development. In the 2006 census, the total population stood at a mere 1625, a decrease of 163 people from the last census in 2001. With such a small population there is a great deal of strain on human resources which in turn affects progress and expansion both at the grassroots and national level alike.

Niue has successfully achieved Goal 1: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger which is confirmed by the Poverty Analysis Report 2004, that there is no extreme poverty and hunger in Niue, however there is a hint of hardship experienced by a small number of the population. Niue's land tenure system allows almost everyone in Niue to enjoy free access to land for subsistence and commercial use as well as the sea (territorial waters) where people can fish for food.

Goal 2 has been accomplished for some time now as primary enrolment continues to be 100%. Education as well as transport to school is provided for Niue residents free of charge.

Commonalities of social stigma associated with women common in other Pacific societies is not prevalent in Niue, in the sense that women in Niue are free to live a life they desire, and are open to participate in all sectors of the economy without prejudice. They also have the same opportunity as men to participate in elections. There are also no disparity issues between males and females in primary, secondary and tertiary education in Niue.

Niue's health care is considered to be of high standards and is provided to all residents free of charge. This includes good maternal and child health care with good nutrition, child safety, and immunization coverage of 100% against vaccine preventable childhood diseases. Thus infant death is so rare and if there is a death it is usually associated with premature births rather than illness. It is also important to note here that Niue has decided to state the actual number of infant deaths because if it uses the international method of calculating the infant mortality rate, it will portray an incorrect representation of Niue's situation.

Again due to excellent health care, there has been no case of women dying in childbirth since 1990 and if complications were to be detected early; these cases will be referred to New Zealand for further care.

Niue is one of the few Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to be free from HIV/AIDS and malaria. The prevalence of these noted diseases (to date) are non-existent. With effective surveillance and early alert systems for communicable diseases of both national and international concern, Niue continues to enjoy an environment free from any infectious diseases. More concern however focuses on Non Communicable Diseases, as Niueans now tend to prefer a contemporary lifestyle including lack of exercise and poor diets consisting of fast and fatty food, imported and processed food, fizzy drinks, alcohol, tobacco and so forth. Data for indicators in Target 8 of Goal 6 is yet to be collated to enable proper measurement on Niue's situation in regards to NCDs.

Niue's commitment to sound environmental management of its natural resources is reflected in its National Plan. Niue's pledge to fulfilling this commitment has also seen a large number of Conventions ratified, nationally, regionally and internationally. Waste management in Niue is relatively new but a plan has been drawn up and is already in progress. The current method of clearing septic tanks is undergoing change, with new facilities the Health Department pumps septic tanks and with new facilities they are able to collect and refine human waste. They also collect vehicle batteries, which are shipped, back to their country of origin (NZ). Niue's land tenure system, which ensures land is customary owned and passed on through family bloodlines means that Niueans will always have their own land to farm and dwell on without fear of eviction. There are a high number of unoccupied homes in Niue that can be fixed and rented out for a minimal cost, and in addition to this there is free and unlimited access to clean fresh water and also electricity.

Goal 8 has proved difficult to collate information for as most of the targets and indicators are not applicable to Niue and if they are applicable to Niue's situation the data is not available. Of the information that is available, unemployment is not an issue, as school leavers tend to find employment, migrate or continue with further education. The 2006 census found that there were only 3 people unemployed, these are people who did not work at all (for pay / own consumption) and were not involved in any unpaid work (such as housework, child care, community work, etc) and were not in school or disabled or retired pensioners. These were the only 3 persons that were actively looking for employment and were willing and able to start work immediately if they were offered employment. Internet by WIFI or dial up is available to most of the villages with a minimal once-off installation fee and free once installed. Telephone facilities are available in all villages as well as television services.

Essential drugs are free of charge and readily available at the hospital for all residents of Niue.

# Niue's MDGs ...at a glance

Goals	Will the goals be reached by			National Support		
	Already achieved	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Good	Weak
1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	☺			☺		
2: Achieve universal primary education	☺			☺		
3: Promote gender equality and empower women	☺			☺		
4: Reduce child mortality	☺			☺		
5: Improve maternal health	☺			☺		
6: Combat HIV/AIDS, NCDs and other diseases		☺		☺		
7: Ensure environmental sustainability		☺		☺		
8: Develop a global partnership for development						
9: Promote Sustainable Population Developments		☺		☺		

Targets	Will the goals be reached by 2015?			National Support					
	Already achieved	Potentially	Unlikely	Strong	Good	Weak			
1	Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is < than 1USD a day	☺			☺		Develop an open rule based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system		
	Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	☺			☺			Address special needs of LCDs: include tariff and quota free access for at least developed countries exports; enhanced program of debt relief and cancellation of bilateral debt, more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty	
2	Ensure by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls, will be able to complete primary schooling	☺			☺		Address the special needs of landlocked countries, SIDs		
3	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and to all levels of education by 2015	☺			☺		8 Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term In co-operation with developed countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth		
4	Reduce by 2/3rd between 1990 and 2015 the under 5 mortality rate	☺			☺				
5	Reduce by 3/4, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	☺			☺		☺	☺	
6	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	☺			☺		In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries		
	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of NCDs and other major diseases		☺		☺			☺	
7	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources		☺		☺		In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication		
	Halve by 2015 proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation	☺			☺			☺	☺
9	By 2015 Paper, Plastic (All Forms), Aluminum, Copper, Tin, Glass and Rubber shall be recycled/ reuse.		☺		☺		9 Increase and maintain Niue's population to at least 1800 by the year 2015 At least 80% of senior secondary students to receive Vocational and Guidance Counseling by 2010 At least 30% of secondary and tertiary school leavers to be employed by the year 2010 Development of alternative energy and water-resource management to a capacity that allow 10% of the population to rely on alternate sources At least 10% of the unoccupied houses to be renovated and occupied by the year 2010		
	By 2015, Domestic Waste will be collected as Organic and Inorganic Waste Materials		☺		☺			☺	☺
	By 2015, Domestic Waste will be collected as Organic and Inorganic Waste Materials		☺		☺			☺	☺
	By 2015 Commercial and Industrial Waste is reduced.		☺		☺			☺	☺
	By 2015, all houses shall have flush toilets and a fully enclosed (proper) septic tank with all sides' concrete.				☺			☺	☺
	By 2020, to have achieved significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers	☺					☺	☺	

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Millennium Declaration was adopted in September 2000 by all 189 member states of the UN General Assembly, including 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs). The Declaration sets out, in a single framework; the key global challenges, outlines a response to these challenges and establishes measures for judging performance through a set of goals and targets on development, governance, peace, security, reproductive health and human rights.

The Declaration put forward 8 goals which are supported by 18 targets and 48 indicators. All goals and their targets are equally important. It is important to recognise that national ownership and participation will be pivotal to the achievement of the MDGs including partnership with Government civil society and the private sector.



### ***National MDG's Framework***

Since the initiation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from the Millennium Declaration and the International Development Goals (IDGs) in September 2000. Niue's commitment to implement the MDGs became more apparent in August 2005. Due to the extensive damage caused by Cyclone Heta early 2004 the introduction and launch of the MDGs was delayed until early 2006 as all of Niue's resources and commitments were focused at recovery from the tragedy. Before August 2005 some MDG work was carried out by Statistics Niue which was to provide data to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for compiling a regional report for the Pacific countries. A Task Force was formed in October 2004; with the aim to implement the MDG project as required by the Government of Niue (GON) and the United Nations (UN). Cabinet approved a clear and logical term of reference, which identifies the group's functions and duties. The minister responsible for Economic Planning Development Statistics Unit (EPDSU) office was nominated the chairman of the Taskforce and the EPDSU office as the focal point where activities are coordinated.

This report is led by the GON and unfortunately due to time constraints and other commitments the civil society were not included in the process. However, they will be consulted to view and discuss the results of the report and also to assist with implementing the proposed activities.

## ***Tailoring of the MDGs***

Niue has made considerable progress in achieving most of the original MDGs (goals & targets) however, it is important to maintain the level of progress or even improve on this situation. Additional targets and another goal has been adopted to assist improve or develop issues existing within Niue. These are emphasized below:

### **Additional Goal**

#### **Goal 9: Promote Sustainable Population Development**

Niue has a unique population situation where Niueans are free to move in and out of Niue and New Zealand at any time due to their New Zealand citizenship therefore causing high emigration. The negative effects have influenced the outcome of Niue's economy and it is vital that this issue is addressed immediately.

### **Additional Targets**

#### **Goal 6 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

The non-existence of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in Niue has directed the Task Force to include Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs - Target 8a) as a new target, as their prevalence in Niue is widespread. These include diabetes, high blood pressure, gout, asthma, obesity and cancer. This target is selected to assist with the reduction of key NCDs.

#### **Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability**

The Task Force has also opted to add an additional target, target 11a - Waste Management to Goal 7, which is intended to assist with the way Niue manages and controls its waste. This additional target is essential as disposing of waste in Niue should be maintained as it may affect the water system.

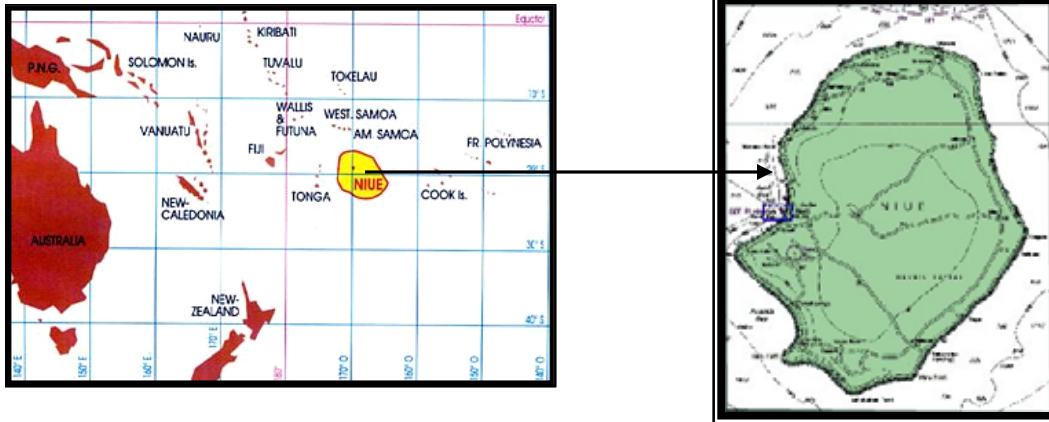
### ***Integration of MDGs to Niue's Integrated Strategic Plan 2003 - 2008***

The MDGs has also been integrated into Niue's Integrated Strategic Plan 2003-2008 with the expectation of increasing efforts in translating and converting these into practical policy related activities at all levels. The GON will continue to support funding programs that enhance the prosperity of its people and at the same time assist in achieving the MDGs. Niue's valuable development partners will also play a paramount role in providing technical and financial assistance where and when required.

# Country Profile

## Location

Niue a single coral outcrop standing on its own situated 169° west (longitude) and 19° south (latitude). Located between Tonga 480 km west and the Cook Islands 980km east, it marks the boundary of the path taken by large tropical cyclones, which are known to be born above warm tropical weather. As witnessed in 2004 when Cyclone Heta a category 5 cyclone hit and devastated Niue.



## Land Area

Niue has a total land area at high tide of 259 square kilometres and 261 square kilometres at low tide. Niue's reef is attached to the main land therefore the satellite imagery sensors include this as part of the land area.

## Sea Area (EEZ)

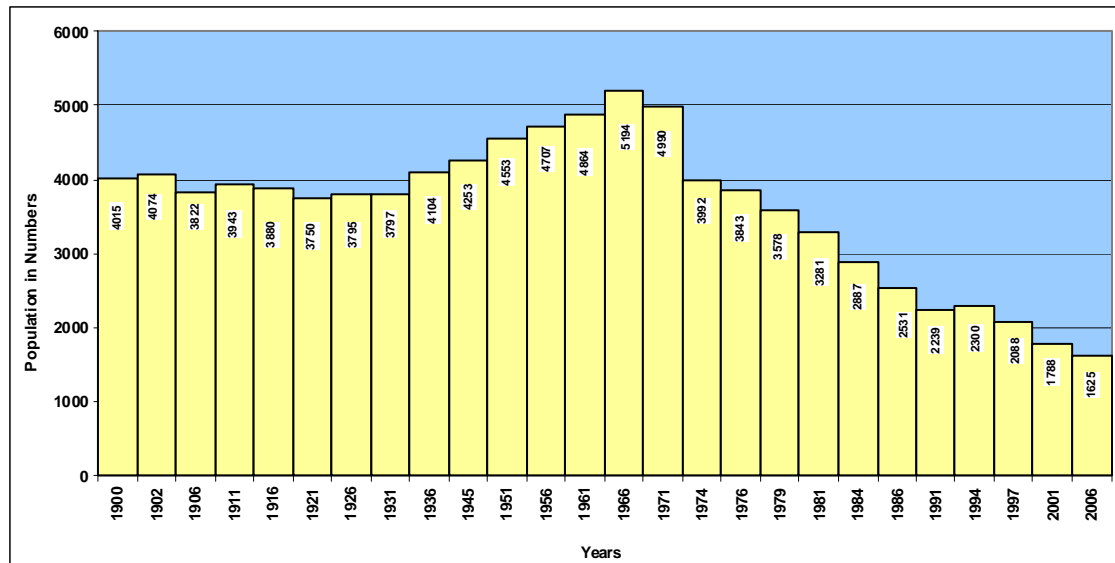
Niue's EEZ extends over an area of 390,000 sq. km and included in this zone about 125 nautical miles southeast of Niue is the semi-exposed Beveridge Reef. (FAO FID / CP / NIU, Rev 1, April 2002)



## Population

Niue's total population, as of September 2006, was 1,625, down from 1,788 in the 2001 census (*Statistics Niue*). The 1966 census recorded Niue's population at 5,194 and has since continued to decrease each census year. The New Zealand 2001 census recorded 20,100 (*Statistics New Zealand*) Niueans residing in New Zealand.

Figure 1: Niue Population from 1900—2006



Source: Stats Niue, 2006 Census

## Economy

Niue's economy is fragile therefore suffers from the usual Pacific Island problems such as geographical isolation, very limited resources, shortage of skilled and entrepreneurial expertise, limited land for development, poor soil quality and a small population. The Niue government has a 50% joint venture with Reef Group, which is now on its fourth year. The venture involves fish processing and noni juice production, which should assist both employment and export earnings. The agricultural sector consists mainly of subsistent activities and crops such as taro, drinking coconuts, vanilla and honey are Niue's most important export commodities. Niue has no manufacturing activities on Niue as the tertiary sector contains several retail outlets, vehicle hire firms and accommodation facilities.

