

# Guam

## Results Summary 2020

Each year, as part of SPC's organisation-wide annual results reporting process, SPC collates the results achieved in each of its member countries and territories, and in the region. Access the full copy of the Pacific Community Results Report 2020 [here](#).

In 2020, 374 results were reported across SPC's development objectives. 6 of these results were reported for Guam.



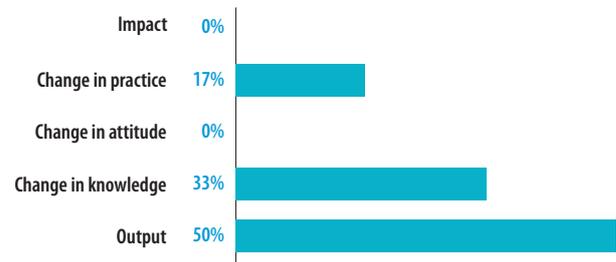
### SPC's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2020, SPC continued to play an essential role in bringing the SDGs to life in the Pacific region, working with our members to review and report on progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In Guam, reported results primarily contributed to 3 of the 17 SDGs. The most number of results supported:

- ☞ SDG 3: Good health and well-being
- ☞ SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals
- ☞ SDG 4: Quality education

Graph 1: Development objective results, by level of maturity (n=6)



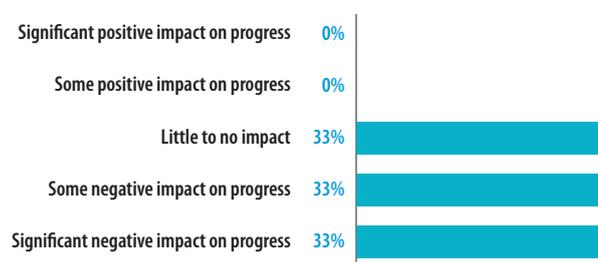
Graph 2: Development objective results, by primary SDG (n=6)



### Impact of COVID-19

COVID-19 had significant impacts on both the way we worked in 2020 and the nature of our work (Graph 3). While some planned activities either slowed or stopped, others progressed, and new activities and partnerships were developed in direct response to the pandemic and members' changing priorities.

Graph 3: Impact of COVID-19 on achieving results (n=6)



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# Performance Stories

Each year in the Pacific Community Results Report, SPC highlights results achieved with members and development partners in performance stories. Here is a performance story related to Guam from the full 2020 results report.



## COVID-19 response: How SPC and its partners provided testing capacity to all Pacific countries

### Context

PPHSN captured reports of clusters of atypical pneumonia in Wuhan, China, in early January 2020 and monitored the quick spread of disease to other Asian countries. With this knowledge, and aware of the lack of testing capability globally, the PHD laboratory team promptly asked the PPHSN laboratory network (LabNet) if coronavirus testing capabilities existed in the region.

The Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory in Melbourne, a Level 3 laboratory, confirmed it was able to test for coronavirus and was willing to assist PICTs. The arrangement was communicated to PICT laboratory managers by mid-January 2020, well before the reported transmission of the virus outside Asia.

Testing is one of the key components in the fight against COVID-19. It allows countries to identify people who have the disease and to scale-up their health-care services if needed. Testing suspected cases, and using procedures such as isolation, also prevents their contact with other

people and contributes to slowing transmission of the disease.

### Change process

Understanding the complications for PICTs of sending specimens across borders and delays in the turnaround time of results, the PHD laboratory team conducted a quick survey of all national laboratories to assess the availability of GeneXpert equipment that could be used for automated coronavirus polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. The survey found that all the laboratories, except those in Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna, had the equipment.

The team then asked Cepheid Australia and the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WRPO) if it was possible to produce a GeneXpert coronavirus testing cartridge since GeneXpert is the only PCR testing platform available in almost all PICTs. The cartridges were manufactured and were approved for use in April 2020. Testing using the cartridges began in the Pacific in May 2020.



Vanuatu health worker uses a GeneXpert machine

## Results and impact

The PHD laboratory team shared information from the survey of PICTs with JIMT Laboratory Cell partners (DFAT, MFAT, PIHOA, Pacific Pathology Training Centre, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO).

The JIMT Laboratory Cell then spearheaded compilation of the testing algorithm, protocols, and procedures, which were later shared with countries. Alongside Cepheid, the team continued to provide training, and monitor quality assurance, quality control and supply status.

To respond to the challenge of a global shortage of supplies of testing cartridges, the PHD laboratory team initiated discussions with the Pacific Island Society of Pathology on pooled specimen testing using GeneXpert. As such testing had not been validated, the Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne, collaborated to validate the process. The validation results were highly supportive and the report was published in the Journal of Diagnostic Microbiology and Infectious Disease.

The collective effort of the PHD laboratory team and the Pacific Island Society of Pathology resulted in the formulation of guidance and a protocol and procedure for pooled specimen testing. The procedure is now used by

laboratories in the region to test multiple samples using a single cartridge, economising on the use of supplies while maintaining the quality of testing. The protocol has also been adopted by other countries beyond the Pacific Island region.

*"We are deeply grateful and truly appreciate all the support and training provided." – Shanyko Benjamin, Laboratory Manager, Nauru*

*"Even though Tokelau has not recorded a positive case, the online training provided by SPC's Lab Team has helped me learn a lot about the COVID-19 virus." – Orisi Matatolu, Laboratory Manager, Tokelau*

## Lessons learned

PPHSN is a well-established system supporting timely reporting of epidemic and emerging diseases and enabling prompt research, preparedness and response. From the outset of the emergence of COVID-19, SPC was able to be proactive and to provide tailored assistance to member countries.

Early preparation and collaborative work with partners and donors strengthened national and regional COVID-19 readiness and response planning.

*Division: PHD*

*Donor: European Union and Government of Australia*

# Guam Results Summary 2020

SPC objective	SPC division	Result achieved	SPC's contribution to the result	Result type	PICT
 <b>SDG 3 Good health and well-being</b>					
DO7: Non-Communicable Diseases and food security	PHD	8 PICTs are implementing or strengthening implementation of their NCD plans in collaboration with stakeholders (French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna).	PHD developed a national multi-sectoral NCD plan and NCD Alliance plan for Solomon Islands and provided ongoing support for implementation; supported development and implementation of a national multi-sectoral diabetes strategy for Tonga; and supported strengthening of multi-sectoral NCD plans and implementation for French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.	Change in practice	French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna
DO7: Non-Communicable Diseases and food security	PHD	5 PICTs strengthened their multisectoral NCD plans (Guam, Solomon Islands and Tonga) and NCD committees (Nauru, Tuvalu).	PHD supported strengthening of a national multisectoral NCD plan for Guam and Solomon Islands, and an NCD Alliance plan for Solomon Islands; strengthening of a national multi-sectoral diabetes strategy for Tonga; and strengthening of NCD committees in Nauru and Tuvalu.	Output	Guam, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu
DO8: Public health surveillance and response	PHD	A total of 96 health officers from 8 PICTs enrolled in the Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology. All were able to demonstrate competency in analysing data, identifying areas for improvement in local systems and writing situation reports. There were 19 participants (9 women, 10 men) from the regional cohort (1 from Tokelau, 2 from Fiji, 5 from Tonga and 11 from Solomon Islands). National cohorts in 7 PICTs included 12 in Kiribati (10 women, 2 men), 14 in Fiji (10 women, 4 men), 12 in Cook Islands (10 women, 2 men), 9 in Tuvalu (9 women), 16 in Vanuatu (6 women, 10 men), 16 in Solomon Islands (10 women, 6 men), 21 in Palau (19 women, 2 men) and 15 in Guam (11 women, 4 men).	SPC is the lead convener of the course, with the Surveillance Preparedness and Response Programme team members conducting/ facilitating the sessions, together with other adjunct faculty members funded by SPC.	Change in knowledge	Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

SPC objective	SPC division	Result achieved	SPC's contribution to the result	Result type	PICT
 <b>SDG 4 Quality education</b>					
DO9: Education quality	EQAP	11 participants from 4 PICTs received training in statistics and education management systems at a northern Pacific subregional workshop on analysis and reporting of data for SDG 4 indicators. They included 4 women (from Federated States of Micronesia, Palau) and 7 men (from Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau).	Facilitation of training on statistics and an Education Management Information System (EMIS) workshop.	Output	Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau
 <b>SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals</b>					
DO4: Development statistics	SDD	Population projections and demographic analysis were completed for all PICTs and projections were uploaded to the Pacific Data Hub/dotStat. This includes the 2020 Pacific Population Poster and high-resolution population grids generated for 17 PICTs (American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna). Population grids for American Samoa and Cook Islands were completed and uploaded to PDH, and population grids and urban-rural classification were completed for Guam, Marshall Islands and Niue (pending uploading to PDH).	SDD supervised and quality tested consultants.	Change in knowledge	REGIONAL (all PICTs), American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna
DO4: Development statistics	SDD	International Merchandise Trade Statistics completed for 4 countries (Kiribati, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and Vanuatu). Support included in-country capacity substitution mission for compilation, analysis and performance trade paper for Palau and Vanuatu; remote capacity substitution for Northern Mariana Islands; and remote technical assistance for Kiribati. Other technical support included compiling Guam imports dating back to 2007, and releasing Guam export statistical report for 2019 and Q2 2020.	Trade: In-country capacity substitution mission for compilation, analysis and production of a paper on performance of trade for Palau and Vanuatu. Remote capacity substitution to finalise provisional 'SPC' estimates for Northern Mariana Islands. Remote technical assistance provided to Kiribati.	Output	Kiribati, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Vanuatu