KEY FINDINGS
CLIMATE IMPACTS

People in Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu are already experiencing climate change impacts: incremental sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and drought. For example, most households in all three countries have been impacted by climate change over the past 10 years (94% in Kiribati, 97% in Tuvalu and 74% in Nauru). This motivates some people to search for new homes – either to ensure a source of income or to find land on which to live.

Climate change is already impacting migration patterns in Kiribati and Tuvalu. Today, 23% of migrants in Kiribati and 8% in Tuvalu named climate change as a reason for migration decisions.

International and internal migration history

The potential for Pacific households to use international migration to manage the risks of climate stressors is limited by lack of access to international migration opportunities. The international migration opportunities for Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu are primarily limited to seasonal worker schemes in Australia and New Zealand; a new semi-skilled visa in Australia; skilled or educational migration to Australia, Fiji, and New Zealand; and Kiribati and Tuvalu have long-term migration access to New Zealand for 75 people per annum. Compared to Nauru, Tuvalu and other Pacific island states, the rates of international migration for Kiribati are low: only 1.3% of the population moved in the period 2005-2015, as opposed to 10% in Nauru and 15% in Tuvalu.

Internal migration is not a durable solution for climate change. The number of people who migrated internally in Kiribati was more than five times the number who migrated internationally. On the other hand, Tuvalu had slightly higher international migration than internal migration. In both Kiribati and Tuvalu, internal migration is not a solution as most internal migration is to the already overpopulated capital cities (Funafuti, Tuvalu and South Tarawa, Kiribati). These cities have high unemployment, limited availability of water, and are highly vulnerable to climate change. While there is some step-wise migration from Funafuti, Tuvalu to overseas destinations; South Tarawa, Kiribati does not act as a stepping stone for international migration.

Current international migration is partially fostering adaptation in Tuvalu, but not in Nauru or Kiribati. Tuvalu has relatively high remittances and a stable population size due to international migration. The net out-migration in Nauru and Tuvalu has been able to keep population growth at 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively. However, Nauru lacks a culture of sending remittances. In comparison, only 1.3% of people in Kiribati experienced an internal migration trip in the last 10 years and the net out-migration is only around 100 people per year. The population growth rate in Kiribati is 1.8% per year. International migration in Kiribati is not enough to help stabilize the population size or to result in a sizeable volume of remittances to support households that remain and must adapt to climate change impacts.

Men and women experience migration differently. Women are slightly more likely to migrate for education and men are more likely to migrate for work.

Migration demand is greater than the access to migration opportunities. Approximately 10,000 people across Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu attempted to migrate between 2005 and 2015 but were unable to do so, primarily due to financial constraints.

Future impacts of climate change on migration

Climate change will drastically impact pressures to migrate, particularly in Kiribati and Tuvalu. More than 70% of households in Kiribati and Tuvalu, and 35% in Nauru felt that migration would be a likely response if droughts, sea level rise or floods worsened. **Many potential migrants will not have the means to migrate**. Only a quarter of households across Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu believe that their households will have the financial means to migrate. Based on modelling and assuming a medium climate change scenario (RCP 6), by 2055 international migration trips for Kiribati and Tuvalu will increase by 35% and 100%, respectively.

Most migration due to climate change will be internal. Based on modelling and assuming a medium climate change scenario (RCP 6), by 2055 internal migration for Kiribati and Tuvalu will increase by 100% and 70%, respectively. Under this scenario by 2055 the population of Kiribati will be 175,560 representing a 70% increase, while for Tuvalu it will be 13,246 representing an increase of 22%. This migration scenario will result in a population increase in the capital cities of South Tarawa, Kiribati of 72% (from 50,182 to 86,510) and 25% in Funafuti, Tuvalu (from 6,194 to 7,736) in the same period.

Policy outlook

Without improved access to a comprehensive climate risk management strategy that includes options for mobility, a significant proportion of people from Nauru, Kiribati, and Tuvalu could be "trapped" by worsening environmental conditions, declining local well-being and few opportunities to either migrate or generate income necessary for adapting.

Well-managed migration can increase the adaptive capacity to cope with climate change. Migration can increase 1) resilience to crises; 2) capacity to cope with future impacts of climate change and 3) diversification opportunities for an economy based on multiple sources of revenue. However, for migration to be adaptive careful policy planning and well placed policy interventions are required.

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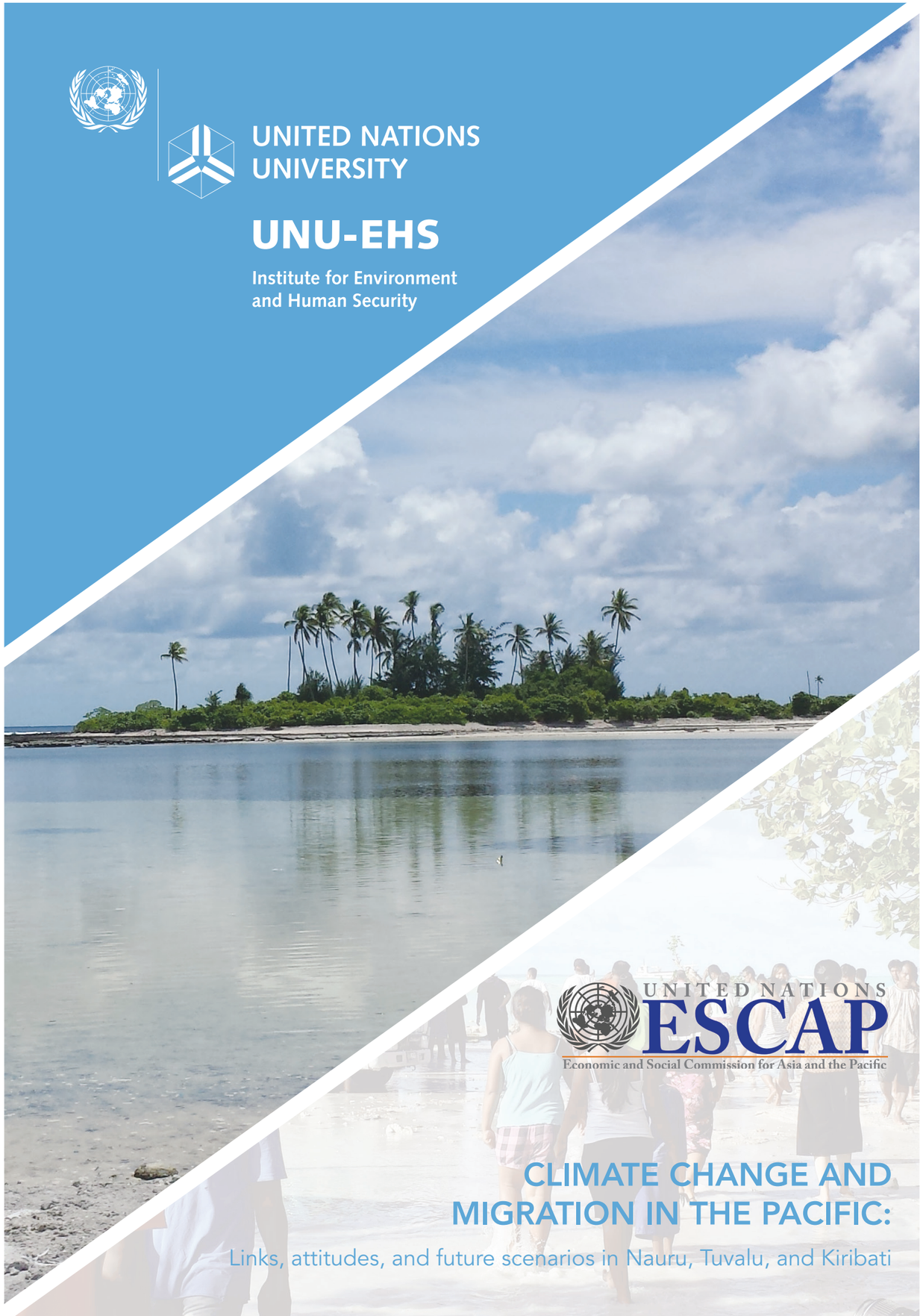

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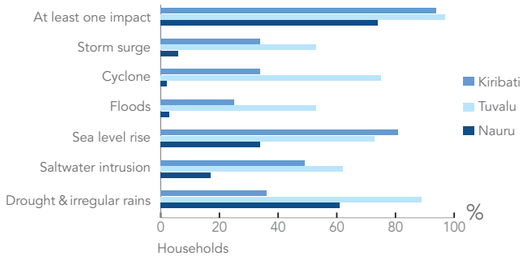
CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION IN THE PACIFIC:

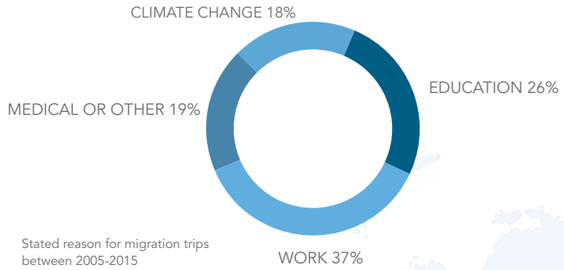
Links, attitudes, and future scenarios in Nauru, Tuvalu, and Kiribati

Households are already experiencing the impacts of climate change.



Most households feel that migration will be a necessary strategy, if climate impacts worsen living conditions.

Climate change is a reason for migration but economic and cultural motivations remain as drivers of migration.



Stated reason for migration trips between 2005-2015

USD$ Most potential Pacific migrants will not have the financial means to migrate.

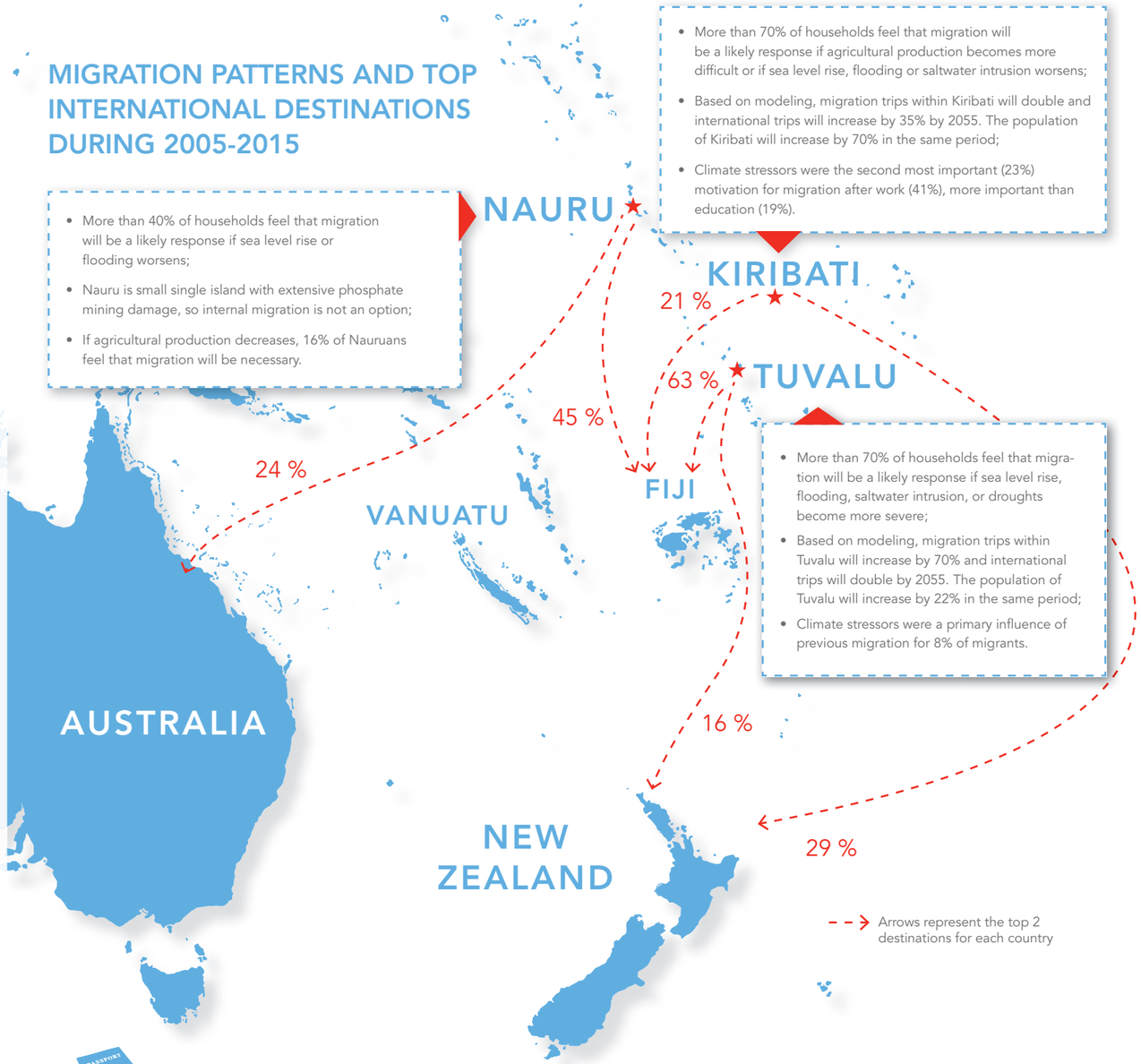
26%

Only 26% of people across Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu believe they have the financial means to migrate.

$12

Represents the median per capita monthly income in Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu.

MIGRATION PATTERNS AND TOP INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS DURING 2005-2015

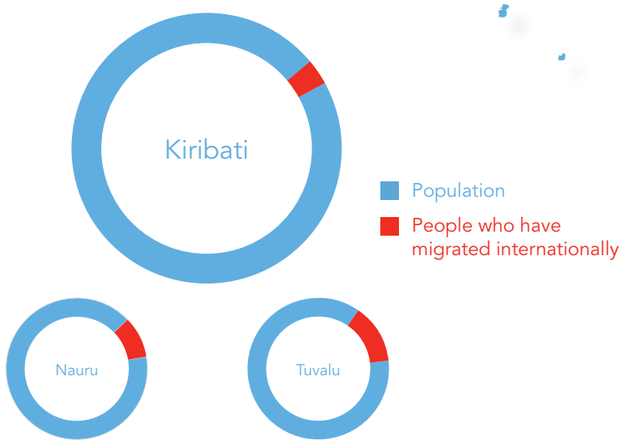


- More than 40% of households feel that migration will be a likely response if sea level rise or flooding worsens;
- Nauru is small single island with extensive phosphate mining damage, so internal migration is not an option;
- If agricultural production decreases, 16% of Nauruans feel that migration will be necessary.

- More than 70% of households feel that migration will be a likely response if agricultural production becomes more difficult or if sea level rise, flooding or saltwater intrusion worsens;
- Based on modeling, migration trips within Kiribati will double and international trips will increase by 35% by 2055. The population of Kiribati will increase by 70% in the same period;
- Climate stressors were the second most important (23%) motivation for migration after work (41%), more important than education (19%).

- More than 70% of households feel that migration will be a likely response if sea level rise, flooding, saltwater intrusion, or droughts become more severe;
- Based on modeling, migration trips within Tuvalu will increase by 70% and international trips will double by 2055. The population of Tuvalu will increase by 22% in the same period;
- Climate stressors were a primary influence of previous migration for 8% of migrants.

Enclaves of less mobility? Kiribati has less access to international migration than Tuvalu or Nauru



KIRIBATI

1. 103,058 = population in the last census;
2. 1.3% of people moved internationally;
3. 7.7% moved internally;
4. 9% wanted to migrate but could not.

NAURU

1. 10,084 = population in the last census;
2. 10% of people moved internationally;
3. Nauru has no internal migration;
4. 7% of the population wanted to migrate but could not.

TUVALU

1. 10,857 = population in the last census;
2. 15% of people moved internationally;
3. 12% moved internally;
4. 8% wanted to migrate but could not.

All findings presented in this document are based on data collected under the Pacific Climate Change and Migration (PCCM) project, which is funded by the European Union and jointly implemented by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), UNESCAP, and the University of the South Pacific (USP) partnered in designing the research methods, conducting fieldwork, and performing the data analysis. The people-centered, participatory research in Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu featured the first nationally representative household survey on the topic in the Pacific.

Kiribati survey coverage:

5 islands
377 households / **2,799** individuals

Nauru survey coverage:

1 island, all **14** districts
155 households / **1,246** individuals

Tuvalu survey coverage:

3 islands
320 households / **2,807** individuals

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