

# Workshop on the ECCE Teacher Competency Framework for the Pacific

20-22 November 2018, Nadi, Fiji



## Working together for Teacher Professionalism in ECCE

### Concept Note

#### Background

Despite the effort to fulfill SDG Target 4.2 “By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education,” significant challenges remain for young children and their families in the Pacific region to access a quality early childhood care and education (ECCE). Across the region, 70 per cent of 3–5 year-olds still do not have access to preprimary or preschool education, with low attendance likely influenced by poor-quality provision and a lack of awareness and investment in ECCE.<sup>1</sup> Recognizing the importance of the ECCE teachers in enhancing quality of ECCE, the Putrajaya Declaration<sup>2</sup>, the Pasifika Call to Action for Early Childhood Development<sup>3</sup> and the Kathmandu Statement of Action<sup>4</sup> reiterated countries’ commitment to enhance policies, strategies, national standards, action plans and monitoring systems for the professionalization of ECCE personnel.

In order to support countries in the Pacific SIDS to strive for a qualitative leap through professionalization and capacity development of ECCE teachers, UNESCO Bangkok and Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (PRC4ECCE) developed the ECCE teacher competency frameworks under the project *ECCE Teacher Development in Southeast Asia (SEA) and the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*. The Pacific framework is in line with the ‘Pacific Guidelines’<sup>5</sup> and also supports the new Pacific Regional Education framework, which identified continuous development to support the teaching profession as one of priority policy areas.

The framework provides comprehensive descriptions of knowledge, skills, and dispositions that ECCE teachers in the Pacific SIDS need to support holistic development of a child and provides systematic and consistent structure and content to support the professional development of the Pacific SIDS’s early childhood workforce. The framework does not intend to replace existing teacher competency frameworks in the Pacific SIDS, nor in individual countries that have developed their own teacher standards. Rather, it is an attempt to bridge the various efforts on early childhood education to improve and enhance this particular sector’s overall quality in the region. This workshop addresses calls to contextualize the Pacific framework to be more responsive to the country contexts and needs.

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, (2017). 2017 Status Report on Early Childhood Care and Education in Pacific Island Countries.

<sup>2</sup> UNESCO 2016.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF 2017.

<sup>4</sup> UNESCO 2018.

<sup>5</sup> PRC4ECCE, (2014). Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National Quality Frameworks for ECCE Programming or Ages Three to Five

## Workshop Objectives

The workshop aims to:

1. Present the final ECCE Teacher Competency Framework for the Pacific SIDS.
2. Review and reflect on the ECCE Teacher Competency Framework, identifying and discussing noteworthy practices, lessons learnt and remaining challenges among the Pacific SIDS.
3. Draft country roadmaps with advocacy plans for the adoption and implementation of the framework in strengthening pre-primary teacher training, including through strengthened teacher training curricula and teacher management policies.

## Expected Outputs

1. Draft country roadmaps with advocacy plans for the adoption and implementation of the framework, including through strengthened teacher training curricula and teacher management policies.

## Participants

Representatives of Teacher Training Institutes and Ministry of Education from the 14 Pacific SIDS (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). It is expected that each delegation will include one person from Ministry of Education responsible for ECCE teacher training and management and one person from teacher training institutes (if there is a TTI in the country).

## Working Language

English will be the working language of the workshop.

## Dates and Venue

Dates: 20-22 November 2018 (2.5 days)

Venue: Nadi, Fiji

## Contacts

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