

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

MEMBER/OFFICER POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from a private source for travel taken in connection with a Member or officer's official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Member or officer's annual *Financial Disclosure Statement*. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Amerish Bera
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: Janine Bera **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: April 20, 2024 Return: April 27, 2024
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: April 25, 2024 - April 27, 2024 **OR** None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. & Sacramento Destination: Suva, Fiji Return City: Washington, D.C. & Sacramento
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: United Nations Foundation
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended (attach additional pages if necessary): Rep. Bera was invited on this trip to learn more about foreign policy in the Pacific Islands, pertinent to his role as the Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific.

7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the Member or officer; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have determined that all of the expenses on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with my duties as a Member or officer of the U.S. House of Representatives and would not create the appearance that I am using public office for private gain.

Member / Officer Signature: 

Date: 05-13-2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation

2. Travel Destination(s): Nadi and Suva, Fiji; Funafuti, Tuvalu; Nuku'alofa, Tonga

3. Date of Departure: April 20, 2024 Date of Return: April 26, 2024

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Rep. Ami Bera, Dr. Janine Bera

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if *all* information is *identical* for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$15,846.03	\$876	\$416.55	\$29.50 (bula shirt)
Accompanying Family Member	\$16,078.69	\$0	\$416.55	\$29.50 (bula shirt)

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: May 6, 2024

Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President

Organization: United Nations Foundation

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: 202-887-9040 Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Amerish Bera

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: 172 Cannon HOB

Telephone Number: 202-225-5716

Email Address of Contact Person: aishamae.mughal@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Amerish Bera
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: United Nations Foundation
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga
4. a. Date of Departure: April 20, 2024 Date of Return: April 27, 2024
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: April 25, 2024 - April 27, 2024
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: Janine Bera
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
Rep. Bera was invited on this trip to learn more about foreign policy in the Pacific Islands, pertinent to his role as the Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific.

9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member:  Date: 3-20-2024

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

United Nations Foundation

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: Eleanor Crook Foundation

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____

Please see attached.

5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: April 20, 2024 Date of Return: April 26, 2024

7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC or Member's district

b. Destination(s): Nadi and Suva, Fiji; Funafuti, Tuvalu; Nuku'alofa, Tonga

c. City of return: Washington, DC or Member's district

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
Please see attached.
-

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
Please see attached.
-

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$110
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Please see attached.
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: Grand Pacific Hotel City: Suva, Fiji Cost Per Night: \$219
Reason(s) for Selecting: Favorable rate and location.

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$14,870	\$876	\$440
For each Accompanying Family Member	\$14,870	\$0	\$440


	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: March 11, 2024
 Name: Peter Yeo Title: Senior Vice President
 Organization: United Nations Foundation
 Address: 1750 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006
 Email: pyeo@unfoundation.org Telephone: 202-887-9040

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: United Nations Foundation
2. Name of your organization: Eleanor Crook Foundation
3. Yes No Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes No Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
Destination: _____ on Date: _____
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
 - c. Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
 - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
 - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
 - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
 - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Kimberly Cernak Date: 2/23/24
Name: Kimberly Cernak Title: Managing Director

Organization: Eleanor Crook Foundation
Address: 1049 30th St NW Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-834-0207 Email: kim@eleanorcrookfoundation.org

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Susan Wild, Pennsylvania
Ranking Member

David P. Joyce, Ohio
John H. Rutherford, Florida
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Michelle Fischbach, Minnesota

Veronica Escobar, Texas
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland



ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Keelie Broom
Counsel to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Ami Bera
U.S. House of Representatives
172 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your and your spouse's proposed trip to Fiji,¹ scheduled for April 20 to 27, 2024, sponsored by United Nations Foundation and Eleanor Crook Foundation. We note that this trip includes two days at your personal expense.

You must complete a Member/Officer Post-Travel Disclosure Form and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House Members may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Guest". The first letter "M" is large and loops around the rest of the name.

Michael Guest
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Susan Wild
Ranking Member

MG/SW:mc

UN Foundation Congressional Learning Trip to Fiji, Tuvalu, and Tonga Answers to Primary Trip Sponsor Form Questions 4, 12, 13c, and 15b2

4. Names and titles of all House invitees and explanation of why the individual was invited:

The following individuals have been invited to participate in this learning trip to Fiji, Tuvalu, and Tonga because they work on issues related to U.S.-Pacific relations, U.S.-UN relations, Small Island Developing States, climate change, nutrition, global health, U.S. foreign policy, international organizations, and/or associated subjects.

Rep. Ed Case
Rep. Ami Bera
Rep. Ted Lieu
Rep. Maxwell Frost
Rep. Jonathan Jackson
Rep. Gabe Amo
Rep. Susan Wild
Rep. Susie Lee
Rep. Madeline Dean
Rep. Neal Dunn
Rep. Ann Kuster
Rep. Nikema Williams
Rep. Dina Titus
Rep. Lois Frankel
Rep. Sara Jacobs
Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Rep. Brittany Pettersen
Rep. Delia Ramirez
Rep. Valerie Foushee
Rep. Nikki Budzinski
Rep. Jasmine Crockett
Rep. Yadira Caraveo
Rep. Summer Lee
Rep. Val Hoyle
Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez
Rep. Andrea Salinas
Rep. Ed Norcross
Rep. Jill Tokuda
Rep. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart
Rep. Don Bacon
Rep. Maria Salazar
Rep. French Hill
Rep. Guy Reschenthaler
Rep. Ann Wagner
Rep. Jake LaTurner

Rep. Jerry Carl
Rep. Young Kim
Rep. John James
Rep. Blake Moore
Rep. Celeste Maloy
Rep. Michael Lawler
Rep. Thomas Kean
Rep. Buddy Carter
Rep. Jen Kiggans
Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Rep. Michelle Steel
Rep. Nathaniel Moran
Rep. Darin LaHood
Rep. Ken Buck
Rep. Warren Davidson
Rep. Michael Waltz
Rep. Laurel Lee
Rep. Monica De La Cruz
Rep. Nicole Malliotakis
Emma Bruce, Minority Staff Director, House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific
Zachary Ibarra, Executive Assistant, Rep. Sara Jacobs

12. Description of the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The UN Foundation (UNF) works to educate all Americans, including the U.S. Congress, on the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship, with a focus on interconnected issues such as climate change, nutrition, and sustainable development. This learning trip provides an opportunity for policymakers to better understand bilateral and multilateral efforts strengthen health systems in the Pacific, respond to climate change-influenced food insecurity and nutrition challenges, and help vulnerable communities adapt to rising sea levels and increases in extreme weather patterns.

The Eleanor Crook Foundation (ECF) was founded in 1997 with a single goal: to eradicate global malnutrition. ECF invests in research that proves what methods work, policy analysis to drive systems reform, and advocacy that makes the case for urgent action to address this global crisis. In 2017, the Foundation pledged \$100 million towards the elimination of global malnutrition.

UNF is organizing all aspects of the program/logistics. UNF handles all outreach to congressional offices and is the contact for planning purposes. UNF received a grant from ECF to partially support this trip. ECF has not played any role in organizing this trip and has not been involved in the selection or invitation of the trip participants.

13c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

The delegation will be traveling roundtrip from Suva, Fiji to Funafuti, Tuvalu and from Suva, Fiji to Nuku'alofa, Tonga via chartered flights. The highly limited supply of regional flights in the Pacific makes single day trips from Fiji to Tuvalu and Tonga not possible via commercial means, leaving chartered aircraft as the only option to reach the destinations within the scheduling parameters of the visit. The charter flights were arranged via Air Charter Service (ACS), a brokerage service based in New York and Australia. The charter aircraft only offers coach travel classes.

15b2. Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

As the U.S. expands its diplomatic and development footprint in the Pacific, this trip will examine how the U.S. and the UN are working together to help Small Island Developing States navigate a number of emerging challenges, with an emphasis on climate change's deepening impact on health and nutrition outcomes in the Pacific.

Taken together, Fiji, Tuvalu, and Tonga provide a comprehensive cross-section of some of the most pressing issues facing Pacific Countries and Territories.

In 2021, Fiji—colloquially referred to as the “capital” of the Pacific Island Countries—was ranked the world's 14th most vulnerable country to disasters. Natural disasters and the drought-like conditions that occurred in 2016 and 2017 collapsed Fiji's agriculture system and production protocols, causing serious food insecurity throughout the island nation. In addition, Tropical Cyclone Winston, which struck Fiji on Feb. 20, 2016, was the most intense tropical cyclone on record in the Southern Hemisphere and the strongest worldwide to make landfall that year. Administrator Power opened the USAID/Pacific Islands Mission in Fiji in August 2023, from which USAID manages programs in nine Pacific Island countries.

Tuvalu is considered by many to be the most climate change vulnerable country on the planet. In 2023, NASA reported that sea level in Tuvalu is nearly 6 inches higher than it was 30 years ago. Sea level in coastal areas is projected to rise 8 inches or more by 2050, meaning much of Tuvalu's low-lying islands will be below the average high tide in just 25 years. These trends are projected to heavily impact agricultural and fishery sectors, threatening food chains and the ability of Tuvaluans—26% of which live below the national poverty line—to produce and access nutritious food that meets their dietary needs.

Lastly, Tonga is currently ranked as the third most at-risk nation to climate change, with 87% of its population living next to the coastline. In 2022 (before the January 2022 Hunga Ha'apai undersea volcano eruption), food security was already at risk, with 23% of Tongans facing moderate or severe food insecurity. The U.S. opened its first embassy in Tonga in May 2023, citing the new embassy as evidence of a renewed commitment to U.S.-Tonga relations and partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region.



UNF Congressional Learning Trip to Fiji, Tuvalu, and Tonga

April 20-26, 2024

***All Times Local**
+16 hours from Washington, DC*

Saturday, April 20 --- Travel

Attire: Casual.

- 4:35pm Rep. Norcross departs Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) on American 990 to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
Flight time 5h 43m
- 5:50pm Rep. Case, Emma Bruce, and Zachary Ibarra depart Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) on United 1231 to LAX
Flight time 5h 36m
- 6:05pm Rep. Bera and Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick depart IAD on United 2344 to San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
Flight time 5h 53m
- 7:18pm Rep. Norcross arrives LAX for connection
- 8:26pm Rep. Case, Emma Bruce, and Zachary Ibarra arrive LAX for connection
- 8:47pm Rep. Jacobs departs San Diego International Airport (SAN) on United 5636 to LAX
Flight time 1h 03m
- 8:58pm Rep. Bera and Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick arrive SFO for connection
- 9:50pm Rep. Jacobs arrives LAX for connection
- 11:35pm Rep. Bera and Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick depart SFO on Fiji Airways 871 to Nadi International Airport (NAN)
Flight time 10h 35m
- 11:55pm Rep. Case, Rep. Jacobs, Rep. Lieu, Rep. Norcross, Emma Bruce, and Zachary Ibarra depart LAX on Fiji Airways 811 to NAN
Flight time 10h 50m

Sunday, April 21 --- Travel

–In transit: cross international date line–

Monday, April 22 --- Arrival/Suva

Attire: Casual/Island Business Casual.

5:10am Rep. Bera and Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick arrive NAN for connection
Layover 3h 20m

5:45am Rep. Case, Rep. Jacobs, Rep. Lieu, and Rep. Norcross, Emma
Bruce, and Zachary Ibarra arrive NAN for connection
Layover 2h 45m

8:30am Full delegation departs NAN on Fiji Airways 7 to Suva-Nausori
International Airport (SUV)
Flight time 30m

9:00am Full delegation arrives SUV

9:00am – 9:45am Transfer via hired car to Grand Pacific Hotel

9:45am – 10:55am Executive Time

Location: Grand Pacific Hotel

10:55am – 11:00am Transfer via foot to UN House

11:00am – 12:00pm **Meeting with UN Fiji Multi-Country Team, led by Resident
Coordinator Dirk Wagener**

The delegation will meet with the UN Country Team, led by Resident Coordinator Dirk Wagener, to contextualize the climate, nutrition, health, and development challenges in Fiji and provide a general overview of how the 20 UN resident agencies in the Pacific work together (overall 32 resident and non-resident), and actively partner with the Government of Fiji and the U.S., to advance the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2021, Fiji was ranked the world's 14th most vulnerable country to disasters. Natural disasters and the drought-like conditions that occurred in 2016 and 2017 collapsed Fiji's agriculture system and production protocols, causing serious food insecurity throughout the island nation. In addition, Tropical Cyclone Winston, which struck Fiji on Feb. 20, 2016, was the most intense tropical cyclone on record in the Southern Hemisphere and the strongest worldwide to make landfall that year.

Location: Port Vila Room, Pacific Hall, UN House

12:00pm – 12:30pm Transit via hired car to U.S. Embassy Suva

- 12:30pm – 2:00pm **Working Lunch with U.S. Country Team**
- The delegation will have a working lunch with the U.S. Country Team to discuss U.S.-Fiji relations and provide an overview of bilateral and multilateral support for climate, nutrition, health, and development efforts across Fiji.
- Location: Multi-Purpose Room, U.S. Embassy Suva*
- 2:00pm – 2:15pm Transit via hired car to the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji
- 2:15pm – 3:30pm **Meeting with Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji**
- The delegation will meet with a group of Fijian MPs, representing all four political parties elected to the 56-member body, including the People’s Alliance, National Federation Party, Social Democratic Liberal Party, and Fiji First. The meeting will be an opportunity to exchange views on a number of issues, including topics related to good governance, democratic norms, economic development, and domestic and international policy challenges.
- Location: Parliament of the Republic of Fiji*
- 3:30pm – 3:45pm Transit via hired car to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) Emergency Operations Center
- 3:45pm – 4:45pm **Visit the Main Warehouse of Fiji’s National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Briefing from Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management**
- The delegation will tour NDMO’s largest humanitarian and disaster preparedness warehouse, where lifesaving emergency supplies are stored along with critical tools and logistics equipment.
- The NDMO was established to facilitate, coordinate and manage national disaster risk reduction and disaster management activities to enhance the provisions of a safer and more secure Fiji. The managed activities involve the establishment of development programs aimed at building capacities at the National, Divisional, District and the local and community levels to ensure the safety and security of the Fiji population and its infrastructures. The delegation will additionally meet with preparedness NGOs and CSOs, as well as high-level officials from the Ministry Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management.
- Location: NDMO Warehouse*

4:45pm – 5:00pm Transit via hired car to Grand Pacific Hotel

5:00pm – 6:00pm Executive Time

Location: Grand Pacific Hotel

6:00pm – 7:30pm **Working Dinner with UN Resident Coordinator and UN in Pacific Colleagues**

The delegation will attend a working dinner hosted by Resident Coordinator Dirk Wagener. The working dinner will allow the delegation an opportunity to engage with additional UN staff to learn how the UN, in collaboration with Pacific Island Governments, regional organizations, civil society, and development partners, is advancing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific region.

Location: Grand Pacific Hotel

7:30pm – 7:45pm Transit via hired car to Grand Pacific Hotel

Tuesday, April 23 --- Travel/Funafuti, Tuvalu/Travel

Attire: Island Business Casual.

7:30am – 8:30am Breakfast at your leisure

8:30am – 9:30am Transit via hired car to Suva-Nausori International Airport (SUV)

9:30am – 10:00am Check in for flight and prepare for departure

10:00am – 12:45pm Depart SUV on Air Chathams Charter flight to FUN
Flight time 2h 45m

12:45pm Arrive Funafuti, Tuvalu International Airport (FUN)

12:45pm – 1:00pm Arrival protocol and escorted via foot to Convention Center

1:00pm – 1:15pm **Traditional Welcome**

The delegation will be received in a short traditional welcoming ceremony. This traditional welcome ceremony will include cultural dancing and singing from one of the island communities.

Location: Rt. Hon. Dr. Sir Tomasi Puapua Convention Center

1:15pm – 1:40pm **Courtesy Meeting with the Prime Minister of Tuvalu**

The delegation will have a courtesy visit with the Prime Minister of Tuvalu to discuss the purpose of the visit and detail the complex climate, health, nutrition, and economic challenges facing the people of Tuvalu.

Tuvalu’s remoteness and geographical profile have created a unique set of conditions in the country. Located approximately 700 miles north of Fiji, Tuvalu consists of nine inhabited low-lying island atolls and scattered 300,000 square miles of the western Pacific. The total land area is around 15 square miles, and all of the islands are less than 13 feet above sea level. The islands are made up of young, poorly developed, infertile sandy or gravel coralline soil—soil that is of poor quality supporting limited variety floral—limited agricultural development on the atoll country. The island is in most places less than 245 feet wide, which provides limited space for any development.

Fongafale, the main island within Funafuti atoll, is the capital and where over 50% of the country’s population of 11,000 live. The runway of Funafuti International Airport, is located at the widest part of Fongafale (about 2,100 feet), covers around one third of the whole island and plays a key role in connecting Tuvalu to the region.

Tuvalu is, according to the UN World Tourism Organization, the least-visited nation in the world, with less 4,000 visitors per year. Despite this, tourism accounts for roughly half of all arrivals. However, given the shortage of work opportunities in Tuvalu there is significant migrant work culture reliant on air-services to reach work destinations.

Location: Office of the Government of Tuvalu F5GV+7RV, Vaiaku, Tuvalu

1:40pm – 1:45pm Transit via foot to Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP) Site

1:45pm – 2:05pm **Visit UNDP Coastal Protection and Land Reclamation Project**

With only around 15 square miles of land in total across its nine atoll islands, much of Tuvalu is less than three feet above high spring tide levels. Due to sea-level rise, it’s been estimated that over half of Tuvalu’s capital would be flooded by tidal waters by 2050, putting the population and capital at risk. But the people of Tuvalu and the Government, together with support from the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Green Climate Fund, and the Government of Australia, came together to combat the rising sea via the Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP)—the country’s response to stay ahead of the curve on climate adaptation. Under TCAP, the Government of Tuvalu is implementing measures to reduce the impacts of climate-induced sea level rise and intensifying storm events on key infrastructure.

The delegation will visit a 780-metre long, 100-metre-wide TCAP land reclamation site that's currently under construction along the Tuvalu's Vaiaku waterfront—the first large-scale coastal adaptation project of its kind in a Pacific Ocean atoll country. The project was designed using the best available science, projections, and modeling—and, using around 250,000 cubic meters of sand dredged from Fogafale Lagoon, was also the biggest and most complex of TCAP's coastal protection works. Upon its completion in 2024, the bund will be the highest land on the island—around 7.5 feet above the Highest Astronomical Tide—and should remain flood-free and safe for at least the next 80 years.

Location: Vaiaku Waterfront

2:05pm – 2:15pm

Transit via hired car to Funafuti Solid Waste Dumpsite

2:15pm – 2:30pm

Visit Funafuti Solid Waste Dumpsite and Briefing on Tuvalu Integrated Waste Policy and Action Plan

The delegation will visit Tuvalu's lone solid waste dumpsite, to better understand the extreme environmental fragility across the islands and learn how the government is working to minimize landfill waste and improve the management of hazardous waste.

As in most Pacific Island countries, the nature of waste and consumption patterns of Tuvalu has significantly changed over the past 10 years. This resulted in substantial solid and liquid waste management issues which need to be addressed in the immediate to short-term period, which was exacerbated by constraints such as limited land space, resources and institutional and human capacity, vulnerability to climate change, among others. Waste management has become a priority environmental issue in Tuvalu, leading to the creation of the Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu (SWAT) which is mandated to oversee the management of waste both in the main island of Funafuti and the outer islands.

Household and commercial waste is collected by the Funafuti Kaupule and SWAT and, with the exception of green waste, is transported to Funafuti's one official dumpsite for disposal. The main dump is a borrow pit, located on a strip of land 20 meters wide next to the main road, at the northern end of the island. SWAT is responsible for managing the island's dumpsite.

SWAT previously had not been compacting or covering waste at the dumpsite for some time. As the pit has become full, rubbish is instead piled along a 1-kilometer stretch of the adjacent road. With assistance provided by the EU, the dumpsite was rehabilitated; and improved management practices were introduced to extend the life of the disposal

facility beyond 2025. A fence has been constructed to contain wastes at the dump; and equipment, including an excavator and loader, was procured in 2013. As part of the rehabilitation plans, wastes along the roadside were cleared and partially compacted, by shifting into the borrow pit.

Location: Funafuti Solid Waste Dumpsite

2:30pm – 2:40pm Transit via hired car to Maternal and Child Health Clinic

2:40pm – 3:00pm **Observe Nutrition Services and Typhoid Vaccination Campaign Activities**

The delegation will visit a maternal and child health clinic to observe typhoid vaccination campaign activities, as well as learn about routine health and nutrition services (including maternal, infant, and young child nutrition counseling, and breastfeeding promotion) that are offered at the clinic.

The Tuvalu Department of Health launched its typhoid vaccination campaign in February 2024, which is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and UNICEF. As part of the support, DFAT and UNICEF delivered 10,000 doses of typhoid vaccines as part of the government's proactive measures to prevent a typhoid outbreak in the country. The campaign leverages existing efforts by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to invest in and strengthen routine immunization system, including expanded cold chain storage, increased capacity of health care workers in injection and vaccine administration safety, and community engagement. The Tuvalu Department of Health began the vaccine rollout in schools and communities in Funafuti before venturing to the outer islands. The vaccines will be administered to people between the ages of 9 months to 65 years.

Location: Maternal and Child Health Clinic

3:00pm – 3:15pm Transit via hired car to Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH)

3:15pm – 3:45pm **Visit Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH)**

Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) is the only hospital in Tuvalu, and the primary provider of medical services for all the islands of the country. PMH has 50 beds with separate wards for men, women and infants and offers basic routine medical, surgical, obstetric and gynecologic services. There is also an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), a surgery room, and nurses' station. The delegation will meet with hospital staff and learn how

UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA are helping PMH address a number of health and nutrition issues.

In 2022, Tuvalu’s progress towards universal health coverage received a big boost when the World Bank approved a \$15 million grant to increase the capacity of health service across the country. In line with Tuvalu’s National Health Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the Tuvalu Health System Strengthening Project has helped strengthen health services at 11 health clinics and delivered a new wing and an increase the capacity of staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital. This means patients can receive more and better access to services such as emergency care, basic surgical operations, rehabilitation, mental health care, and counselling. The additional services and facilities will allow for an increase of the hospital laboratory’s testing capacity and an expansion of the central medical store which houses vital pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

Location: Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH)

3:45pm – 4:00pm Transit via hired car to Tuvalu Lands and Survey Department

4:00pm – 4:20pm **Meeting with Tuvalu Lands and Survey Department and Briefing on Weather Forecasting Tools**

The delegation will visit the Tuvalu Lands and Survey Department to learn about recently installed Automatic Weather Stations and a new state-of-the-art online platform which allows the atoll nation to identify, plan for, and reduce risks associated with sea level rise and more frequent intense storms driven by climate change.

The Automatic Weather Stations complement capacities to monitor weather conditions and provide real-time data, including wind speed and direction measurements, air temperature, humidity, solar radiation, rainfall intensity, and more. The data will support local weather forecasting services, which is a key element of Tuvalu’s resilience to natural disasters.

The Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP) handed the online platform over to the Government of Tuvalu in July 2023. Comprising several tools in one dashboard, the platform covers all nine of Tuvalu’s atolls and islands and includes inundation modelling due to sea level rise and storm waves, shoreline change detection and monitoring, damage and loss, and tools to identify marine hazards exposure. The shoreline monitoring tool shows change over time and reveals that while Tuvalu’s islands are dynamic – continuously shifting according to weather and climate conditions, storms, and human activities – the great concern is that the combination of sea level rise, changes to storm frequency and intensity, and degradation of living fringing reefs (bleaching and

acidification) may lead to many shores becoming more vulnerable to erosion. The only way to detect such negative trends over time is to monitor—the newly launched platform provides that capacity, nationwide.

Location: Tuvalu Lands and Survey Department

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 4:20pm – 4:30pm | Transit via hired car to FUN |
| 4:30pm – 5:00pm | Prepare for departure |
| 5:00pm – 7:45pm | Depart FUN on Air Chathams charter flight to SUV
<i>Flight time 2h 45m</i> |
| 7:45pm – 8:15pm | Transit via hired car to Grand Pacific Hotel |
| 8:15pm – 9:30pm | Working Dinner with Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF Representative for Pacific Island Countries; Alpha Bah, World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director for the Pacific Multi-Country Office; and Xiangjun Yao, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Representative and Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands |

The delegation will have a working dinner with UN colleagues from UNICEF, WFP and FAO to learn how the UN is supporting the Government of Fiji, Tuvalu, and Tonga in addressing malnutrition, food security, sustainable agriculture, and fisheries while enabling the governments to strengthen its own response and intervention mechanisms.

Location: Grand Pacific Hotel

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| Overnight | Grand Pacific Hotel |
|-----------|---------------------|

Wednesday, April 24 --- Travel/Tonga/Travel

Attire: Business.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 5:45am – 6:30am | Transit via hired car to Nausori International Airport (SUV) |
| 6:30am – 7:00am | Check in for flight |
| 7:00am | Depart SUV on Air Chathams charter flight to TBU
<i>Flight time 1h 30m (+1h time zone change)</i> |
| 9:30am | Arrive Fua‘amotu International Airport (TBU) |
| 9:30am – 10:15am | Transit via hired car to U.S. Embassy Nuku'alofa |
| 10:15am – 11:15am | Meeting with Brad Coley, Chargé d’affaires a.i., U.S. Embassy |

Nuku‘alofa and Thomas Daley

The delegation will meet with Brad Coley, Chargé d’affaires a.i., to discuss U.S.-Tonga relations and provide an overview of the embassy’s work since it opened in May 2023. The U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom of Tonga is the newest U.S. Embassy in the world and was opened less than one year after Vice President Harris announced at a meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum that we would begin discussions with Tonga regarding establishing an embassy. The embassy’s opening symbolized the renewal of the U.S.’s relationship with Tonga and underlines the strength of the U.S.’s commitment to bilateral relations, to the people of Tonga, and to our partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region.

Location: U.S. Embassy Nuku‘alofa

11:15am – 11:30am Transit via hired car to the Office of Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga

11:30am – 12:30pm **Meeting with Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga**

The delegation will meet with Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga to discuss U.S.-Tonga relations, as well as the interconnectivity of economic, health, development, nutrition, and climate challenges in Tonga.

Tonga faces a number of interconnected challenges due to its small size and geographic remoteness. It is, in addition, classified as the second most at-risk country in the world in terms of its exposure and susceptibility to natural hazards and the unfolding effects of climate change. In 2022 (before the January 2022 disastrous Hunga Ha’apai undersea volcano eruption), food security was already at risk, with 23% of Tongans facing moderate or severe food insecurity. About 85% of the country’s population resides in rural areas—communities that depend on agriculture and fisheries as their main livelihood activities, even as climate change and poor nutrition continue to threaten their well-being.

Location: Office of the Prime Minister of Tonga

12:30pm – 12:35pm Transit via hired car to Waterfront Cafe

12:35pm – 1:30pm **Working Lunch with UN Joint Presence Office in Tonga**

The delegation will have a working lunch with colleagues from the UN Joint Presence Office in Tonga, which represents UNDP, UN Women,

UNFPA, and UNICEF on the island, and be briefed on their respective portfolios.

Location: Waterfront Cafe

1:30pm – 2:00pm Transit via hired car to Displaced Community of Átata

2:00pm – 2:45pm **Meeting with Displaced Community of Átata**

The delegation will meet with members of the Átata community who were displaced as a result of the 2022 Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai eruption and tsunami. The eruption was the largest recorded in thirty years and resulted in a 12-mile-high mushroom cloud of smoke and ash, followed by a tsunami with waves as high as 4 feet. The island was completely evacuated after the eruption and subsequent tsunami. Before the eruption, the island's population was 106.

The immediate emergency relief effort was coordinated by the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), which brings together UN agencies, the Red Cross and international NGOs, to organize on the ground and provide support to the Tongan Government. Now, communities still impacted by the eruption are being assisted by a number of UN agencies, including IOM, which is using cash-based interventions and displacement tracking matrix to monitor the community’s condition.

UNDP, alongside IOM, UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA, will showcase how the UN in Tonga helped the government and the affected people of Átata rebuild and restart their lives. The delegation will be briefed on the impact of the volcanic eruption and meet with residents.

Location: Displaced Community of Átata

2:45pm – 3:00pm Transit via hired car to Tonga Side School

3:00pm – 3:45pm **Meet with Students and Teachers at Tonga Side School (Health Promoting School)**

Launched in late 2019, Health Promoting Schools are a partnership between the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Education and Training (MET), under WHO technical assistance to instill health habits in the Kingdom’s youth. Health promoting schools focus on three things, in addition to traditional academics: diet and physical activities, water-sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and wellbeing. HPSs also emphasize the importance of diet and healthy eating, using education to combat childhood obesity in Tonga.

Location: Tonga Side School

3:45pm – 4:00pm Transit via hired car to Viola Hospital

4:00pm – 4:45pm **Visit Viola Hospital, Observe Nutrition and Immunization Services**

The delegation will visit Viola Hospital, the largest hospital in Tonga. The delegation will meet senior Ministry of Health staff, including the CEO of the Ministry of Health, Director of Public Health, Immunization Manager, Senior Nutritionist, Health Promotion Officer, and/or Hospital Director and receive an overview of the support UNICEF, WHO, and other UN partners have provided for integrated immunization and nutrition programmes being implemented across antenatal, postnatal, obstetric, and pediatric wards, as well as pandemic preparedness measures underway in the hospital's new molecular lab.

The delegation will also visit a vaccine cold storage room and its postnatal ward, where efforts are underway to institutionalize breastfeeding support as the primary first key preventive intervention for nutrition within hospitals in Tonga.

Location: Viola Hospital and Tonga Ministry of Health

4:45pm – 5:00pm Transit via car to Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI) in Tonga

5:00pm – 5:30pm **Meeting with MORDI Leadership and Greenhouse Visit**

Despite being classified as a lower middle-income country with reasonable health and education status, rates of poverty and inequality are rising amongst the most vulnerable groups in Tonga. The country's economy, additionally, is very fragile, with limited employment opportunities and a constant flow of migration, especially to New Zealand and Australia.

Agriculture is the main economic activity in Tonga after services. About 88% of Tonga's population lives in rural areas, dependent mainly on agriculture and fisheries—most of these are smallholder farmers practicing a mix of subsistence and cash crop production. They typically grow root crops, which provide food security, employment and income. Despite this underlying resilience, the Tongan people are very vulnerable to climate change and to obesity related to poor diets. In addition, the rural population is declining slowly, due to out-migration and a lack of incentives for young Tongans to remain in rural areas. The farmer population is therefore aging, leading to labor shortages, creating serious implications for food self-sufficiency in the long term.

Established in 2007, the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust (MORDI) was created to address these issues, empowering isolated rural communities, creating livelihood opportunities, and educating vulnerable populations on proper nutrition and healthy diets via skill trainings and the implementation of community development projects.

MORDI's been largely funded by the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), with additional support from the New Zealand Aid Programme. Some of its largest programs include helping male at-risk youths explore livelihoods in agriculture and rural development; farmer-to-farmer exchanges; establishment of homestead gardens for women groups; and reviving traditional fishing methods.

Location: MORDI Office

5:30pm – 5:55pm Transit via hired car to Mapu'a 'a Vaea Blowholes

5:55pm – 6:10pm **Visit Mapu'a 'a Vaea Blowholes**

The Mapu a Vaea or “Whistle of the Noble” are natural blowholes on the island of Tongatapu in the village of Houma in Tonga. When waves crash into the reef, natural channels in the volcanic rock allow water to forcefully blow through and create a plume-like effect. It is one of the highlights of the island of Tongatapu.

Location: Mapu'a 'a Vaea Blowholes

6:10pm – 6:30pm Transit via hired car to Katea Retreat

6:30pm – 8:15pm **Working Dinner Debrief with U.S. Embassy and UN Joint Presence Office in Tonga**

The delegation will have a working dinner with U.S. Embassy and UN Joint Presence Office in Tonga to discuss lessons learned during the visit and explore opportunities for continued engagement.

Location: Katea Retreat

8:15pm – 8:30pm Transit via hired car to TBU

8:30pm – 9:00pm Prepare for Departure

9:00pm Depart TBU on Air Chathams charter flight to SUV
Flight time: 1h 30min (-1hr time zone change)

9:30pm	Arrive SUV
9:30pm – 10:15pm	Transit via hired car to hotel
Overnight	Grand Pacific Hotel

Thursday, April 25 --- Suva/Travel/Nadi

Attire: Island Business Casual/Casual.

6:45am – 7:15am Breakfast at your leisure

7:15am – 8:00am Transit via hired car to Nasinu Gospel Primary School

8:00am – 8:45am **Visit Nasinu Gospel Primary School and Early Childhood Education Space**

The delegation will visit Nasinu Gospel Primary School where UNICEF is funding initiatives together with Fiji Ministry of Education. The delegation will meet with officials from the MoE and UNICEF staff to learn how UNICEF has been using the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funding to support education system strengthening, as well as enhanced water and sanitation (WASH) infrastructure for students.

Location: Nasinu Gospel Primary School

8:45am – 9:00am Transit via hired car to Makoi Hospital

9:00am – 9:45am **Visit Makoi Hospital’s Midwifery-led Birthing Unit**

The delegation will visit Makoi Hospital and meet with UN and hospital staff to learn how UNFPA is supporting Fiji’s first and only Midwifery-led Birthing Unit (MLU)—and the only one of its kind in the Pacific (excluding Australia and New Zealand). The Unit has 26 midwives to provide these critical services across the full continuum of pregnancy, birth, and postnatal care, and on average attends to 100 deliveries per month.

Opened in 2018, the MLU offers childbirth care to low risk women, including allowing partner support through labor and birth; something that is not always possible in the main hospital; as well as a home-visiting programme to support women and their families in the early postpartum period. UNFPA has provided support with training of the midwives; provision of supplies and equipment and ongoing review of the midwifery curriculum to ensure provision of services to international standards.

Improving maternal and newborn health is a critical part of Fiji's development goals, including the SDGs. According to UNFPA's State of the World Midwifery Report 2021, midwifery care could avert over 40% of maternal mortality by 2035. Studies show that midwife-led teams have comparable advantages in using less medically intensive care in saving maternal and newborn lives, compared with physician-led teams.

Location: Makoi Hospital

9:45am – 10:00am Transit via hired car to Nausori Hospital

10:00am – 11:00am **Visit Nausori Hospital and Meet with Senior Hospital Staff Trained on SAM Management by UNICEF**

The delegation will visit Nausori Hospital, a national hospital located approximately 11 miles from Suva where UNICEF provides a broad range of technical health and nutrition support to health professionals. The hospital's nurses have trained by UNICEF on Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) management and received nutrition therapeutic supplies, including Ready-to-use-foods (RUTF), and vaccine and cold chain management support.

The delegation will meet with the senior medical staff (director of the hospital, chief dietician, chief nursing officer, etc.), as well as frontline service providers and clinical officers to learn about the integrated package of technical support supplied from UNICEF, on both capacity development for nutrition and child health, as well as backstopping role of provision of essential medical supplies. The senior MoH staff will also elaborate on the gaps; the need for strengthening preventive services in particular community-based nutrition services, like community-based promotion of optimal infant feeding including breastfeeding, diets of young children—which is an area which requires to be scaled up and resources are more needed.

Location: Nausori Hospital

11:00am – 11:05am Transit to Nausori Municipal Market

11:05am – 11:50am **Visit Nausori Municipal Market and UN Women's Markets for Change Project**

The delegation will visit the Nausori Municipal Market, where rural women vendors and farmers now have a safe place to sleep thanks to the construction of the Nausori Market Women's Accommodation Centre. The accommodation centre, which was officially opened on April 22, 2022, provides a space for women who travel from the provinces of Rewa,

Naitasiri, Tailevu and from as far as Rakiraki and Ba to stay overnight when selling their produce at Nausori Market. The centre was identified as a key need by rural women vendors—who also provided input to the project’s design—and was made possible through the support of UN Women and the Government of Australia, with additional funding for mattresses, pillows and other accommodation furnishing provided by the Australian National Committee for UN Women.

The delegation will meet with women vendors and female entrepreneurs, as well as UN Women’s work on the Markets for Change (M4C) project and learn how M4C promotes gender equality through the economic empowerment of women market vendors and brings together governments, market vendors and market vendor associations (MVAs), civil society organizations, and other UN agencies.

Location: Nausori Municipal Market

11:50am – 12:00pm Transit via hired car to Grand Pacific Hotel

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Working Lunch Debrief with UN Resident Coordinator, Amb. Damour, UN Multi-Country Office Team, and U.S. Country Team**

The delegation will have a working lunch with U.S. and UN colleagues to discuss lessons learned, post-learning trip follow-up, and potential opportunities for continued engagement and coordination with the U.S. Congress and the UN in the Pacific.

Location: Grand Pacific Hotel

1:00pm – 2:00pm Executive Time/Check out of hotel

2:00pm – 6:00pm Transit via hired car to Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa

6:00pm Arrive Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa

6:00pm – 7:45pm **Working Dinner Debrief with UN Foundation**

The delegation will have a working dinner debrief to share reflections and discuss opportunities for continued engagement.

Location: Sofitel Fiji Resort and Spa

– Official program/travel ends for Rep. Case, Rep. Lieu, Rep. Bera, Emma Bruce, and Zach Iberra –

7:45pm – 8:15pm Transit via hired car to NAN

8:15pm Check in for flight

10:15pm Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Rep. Jacobs, and Rep. Norcross depart NAN on Fiji Airways 870 to SFO
Flight time 10h 10m – cross international date line –

1:25pm Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Rep. Jacobs, and Rep. Norcross arrive SFO for connection
Layover 3h 23m for Cherfilus-McCormick and Norcross
Layover 3h 12m for Jacobs

4:37pm Rep. Jacobs departs LAX on United 1057 to SAN

4:48pm Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Rep. Norcross depart SFO on United 372 to IAD
Flight time 5h 17m

6:22pm Rep. Jacobs arrives SAN

Friday, April 26 --- Washington

1:05am Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick and Rep. Norcross arrive IAD