1. Simona Marinescu (PhD.)
United Nations Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative

Ms. Marinescu assumed responsibilities in April 2018 as the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau in March 2018. She leads a team of approximately 40 staff (11 internationals, 29 nationals) whose work focuses on strengthening efforts and partnerships to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022, and the SAMOA Pathway amongst others, including through two joint programmes, challenged by an environment susceptible to the increasing impacts of frequent natural disasters, shrinking resources, and growing competition and expectations. Ms. Marinescu is responsible for maintaining a healthy dynamic with the four Governments, including relations with partners across the Pacific, as well as within the UNCT in Samoa, and in close collaboration with the UNCT in Fiji. Ms. Marinescu also works closely with the Samoa Government and UNCT Samoa to ensure the timely completion of renovations work for the ONE UN House before the end of 2018. A national of Romania, Ms. Marinescu has held various positions with UNDP including as the Director of the Development Impact Group at UNDP Headquarters in New York (2014-March 2018) and as the first Director of the UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development in Turkey (2012-2014). From 2008 – 2012, Ms. Marinescu served as the UNDP Programme Director for Private Sector in Development as well as Senior Economist in Baghdad, Iraq and was the Head of Humanitarian, Reconstruction and Development under UNAMI between 2008 to 2010.

2. Eriko Hibi
FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Pacific

Ms. Hibi leads the work of the FAO Sub-regional Office across 14 Pacific Island countries and is responsible for fostering strong relations between the FAO and its 14 Pacific Island member governments. She leads a multi-disciplinary team of approximately 34 technical experts and policy officers (17 internationals, 17 nationals) that drive FAO’s work by providing technical support to improve food security, income earning opportunities in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and increasing resilience of small farmers and producers in the Pacific. A Japanese national, Ms. Hibi joined the FAO in 2011 and was appointed as its Representative in Damascus, Syria in 2013. Ms. Hibi has also served more than 15 years with the UNFPA at various duty stations, including as Deputy Representative for Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan; as Regional Programme Coordinator in the Bangkok Regional Office; and as Programme Specialist for humanitarian response and Programme Officer in Geographic Divisions at UNFPA’s Headquarters in New York. Ms. Hibi assumed responsibilities as the FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator role in September 2016.
3. **Nisha**  
*UNESCO Director & Representative, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Pacific States*

Ms. Nisha assumed responsibilities as the Director of Office and UNESCO Representative to the Pacific States in December 2016. She heads the UNESCO Cluster Office in Apia with a staff of 17 personnel (8 internationals, 9 nationals) that serves 16 independent countries and one territory (Tokelau) in the Pacific. The Office acts as a clearing house for the dissemination and sharing of information in the Pacific region including supporting its members to build their human and institutional capacities in the fields of Education, Natural and Human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information, as well as promote gender equality and youth empowerment as cross-cutting issues. A national of India, Ms. Nisha brings over 28 years of experience in multi-sector development and humanitarian action amongst others. She has served with ILO in Bangladesh; UN Women in the East and Horn of Africa Regional Office; UNDP in Afghanistan; and with the UN Country Team for Somalia. Ms. Nisha leads UNESCO participation in the UN (Multi-) Country Teams based in Samoa and Fiji, and with the UNCT in Papua New Guinea.

4. **Dr. Rasul Baghirov**  
*WHO Representative for American Samoa, Cook Islands, Tokelau, Niue & Samoa*

Dr. Baghirov has 20+ years of experience with the World Health Organization and the World Bank Group and commenced his assignment in Samoa in February 2017. His areas of expertise include strengthening of health systems, integrated service delivery, health politics and program management. He leads a team of approximately nine (9) staff (1 international, 8 nationals) focused on supporting continued efforts to modernise the health sectors in the five countries, including adhering to internationally proven and evidence-based norms and standards aimed at health promotion, disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. Dr. Baghirov also leads WHO support in ongoing efforts to address the NCD crisis in Samoa and to improve treatment protocols. WHO coordinates UN agencies with a health mandate (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP/Global Fund and more recently FAO) and partners with FAO to raise awareness and understating of nutrition profiles in the Cook Islands and Samoa. Since joining the WHO program in Barbados, Country Office in Cambodia, and recently as the Coordinator at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in the Philippines. Prior to his service with UN, he worked as a cardiac surgeon and a lecturer in his home country, Azerbaijan.
5. **Henry Taiki**  
*WMO Representative for the South-West Pacific*

Mr. Taiki is the sole representative of the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific based in Apia, that was established in 1999. The Office oversees and coordinates works with 17 Pacific countries and territories and it is housed at the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). At the Pacific sub-regional level, Mr. Taiki works very closely with SPREP for the development of weather, climate and water to support and contribute to sustainable development in line with the overall strategic direction of the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy 2017-2023. A national of Vanuatu, Mr. Taiki also works closely with countries to build capacities of their National Meteorological Services, National Hydro-meteorological Services, and National Hydrological Services towards fulfilling their essential roles of observing and understanding weather and climate, and in providing meteorological, hydrological and related services in support of relevant national needs.

6. **Sefanaia Nawadra**  
*Head, UN Environment Pacific Office*

Mr. Nawadra joined the UN Environment in June 2015 after working in various capacities in the environment sector in the Pacific Islands for more than 29 years. He heads a small team of two international personnel in the UN Environment Pacific Office, an extension of the UN Environment Asia Pacific Office in Bangkok. Mr. Nawadra leads work that covers 14 Pacific Island countries under five strategic priorities: addressing climate change and enhancing resilience; decoupling economic growth from resource use and pollution; maintaining biodiversity and sustainable provision of ecosystem services; managing chemicals and waste, and developing integrated approaches to environment and health; and strengthening governance for delivery of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway including promoting science-policy linkages. A national of Fiji, Mr. Nawadra previously worked at SPREP for 10 years as the Director for the Environment Monitoring and Governance Division, and prior to that, with the Conservation International’s Fiji Country Programme; Sinclair Knight Merz Engineering Consultants; Shell Pacific Islands Limited; and several senior technical positions within the Fiji Government’s Environment and Agriculture Departments.
7. Charles Chauvel  
Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Samoa Multi-Country Office

Mr. Charles Chauvel is the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative for Samoa, covering the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. He commenced his tenure on 14 October 2018. Prior to Samoa, Mr. Chauvel led the UNDP’s Inclusive Political Processes headquarters team in New York, which (in partnership with colleagues in regional hubs) supports UNDP programming in 144 countries on civic engagement, constitution-making, elections, parliaments, and women’s political participation. Before UNDP, Charles sat for 7 years as a member of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of New Zealand. He chaired the finance, privileges, and regulations review committees of the parliament, was parliamentary secretary to the Attorney-General, and was the first person of Pacific ancestry to sit on the front bench of a New Zealand political party (as shadow minister for the environment and climate change, an subsequently as shadow attorney-general and shadow minister for the justice sector. Prior to parliament, Mr. Chauvel was a partner in a law firm in Wellington, New Zealand and later in Sydney, Australia. He has been a New Zealand Public Health Commissioner; chair of the NZ AIDS Foundation; deputy presiding member of the NZ Lotteries Commission; deputy chair of the board of Meridian Energy Ltd; a board member of the Pacific Friends of the Global Fund Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and a UN Global Commissioner on HIV and the Law.

8. Papalii Mele Maualaivao  
UN Women Country Programme Coordinator, UN Women

Ms. Maualaivao is the Country Programme Coordinator for UN Women based in Apia covering Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. She has been in this role since 2014 and whose work focuses on four key UN Women outputs: women’s economic empowerment, ending violence against women, increasing political participation of women and gender and humanitarian action. Ms. Maualaivao and UN Women partnered with the Samoa Judiciary through the Family Law and Family Violence Courts to facilitate forums on “Family Law and Restorative Justice” and “Lawyer for the Child and Youth Advocacy” as well as provide technical support through an M&E advisor. Also through the UN Women’s Pacific Fund to EVAW Grant, the Samoa Victim Support Group was able to establish the first 24-hour national help line for victims of violence in the country. Ms. Maualaivao also supports 16 Days of Activism to promote Gender Quality and Ending Violence Against Women in Samoa and continues to lead national efforts to promote “Orange Day” on the 25th of every month to raise awareness about gender-based violence.
9. Tomasi Peni  
ILO National Coordinator (Samoa)

Mr. Peni is the International Labour Organization’s National Coordinator in Samoa. He was appointed to this role in June 2014 when the ILO opened its Office in Samoa. In his line of work, Mr. Peni works directly with Samoa’s tripartite partners – the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, the Samoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Samoa Workers Congress on all projects that ILO provides technical assistance to under the Samoa Decent Work Country Programme. Mr. Peni also led ILO responses to lessen economic and labour market impacts in Samoa following the closure in September 2017 of the largest private employer, Yazaki EDS Samoa Ltd. The ILO responded with a series of national partner organisation-led programmes to ensure that redundant workers were provided with employment and social protection services leading to securing waged and self-employment. Mr. Peni held various senior positions at the Ministry of Revenue in Samoa, the Samoa National Provident Fund, and the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour before joining the ILO.

10. Latoya Lee  
UNFPA Programme Analyst, Samoa and Tokelau

Ms. Lee was appointed in December 2015 as the UNFPA’s Programme Analyst for Samoa and Tokelau based in Samoa, whose work programme in Samoa is implemented by several line ministries under the coordination and management of the Ministry of Finance. Ms. Lee liaises and works closely with the Ministry of Health, the National Health Service, Samoa Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development, Samoa National Youth Council and IPPF affiliate Samoa Family Health Association in line with three output areas to which UNFPA provides support to: strengthening capacity in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Family Planning with particular focus on Youth SRH; supporting interventions that are catalytic in upscaling the coverage of youth SRH services; and strengthening national capacity to improve data availability, analysis and utilization to inform decision making and policy formulation on population dynamics, youth, gender equality and SRH. Prior to joining the UNFPA, Ms. Lee worked for the High Commission of New Zealand in Samoa, the Samoa Cancer Society, and the Ministry of Health of Samoa.
11. **Tupepepa Esera-Aumua**  
**UNICEF Child Protection Officer**

Appointed as UNICEF’s Child Protection Officer in Samoa in November 2014, Ms. Esera-Aumua works closely with UNICEF’s implementing partners in Samoa in the implementation of its work programme through the provision of technical and/or financial assistance. These include support provided to the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development for the establishment of the Child Protection Baseline Survey 2014; the development of a Child Care and Protection Bill 2016; and the completion and submission of Samoa’s combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th State Party Reports to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration, UNICEF supported work in the Amendment to the Young Offenders Act in 2016; and convened the Family Violence Court Conference in November 2017. UNICEF also supports the Health Sector through its Vaccine Independent Initiative, including work on Early Childhood Development and education. Prior to joining UNICEF, Ms. Esera-Aumua worked as the Gender-Based Violence Officer for UNFPA & Child Protection Officer for UNICEF (2012), and as the UN Coordination Specialist for RCO Samoa (2010-2012) and with the Samoa Water Authority in 2009.