



# Voluntary National Review

*Strengthening Resilience to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change  
and Other Global Issues*

JULY 2023

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



Republic of Fiji

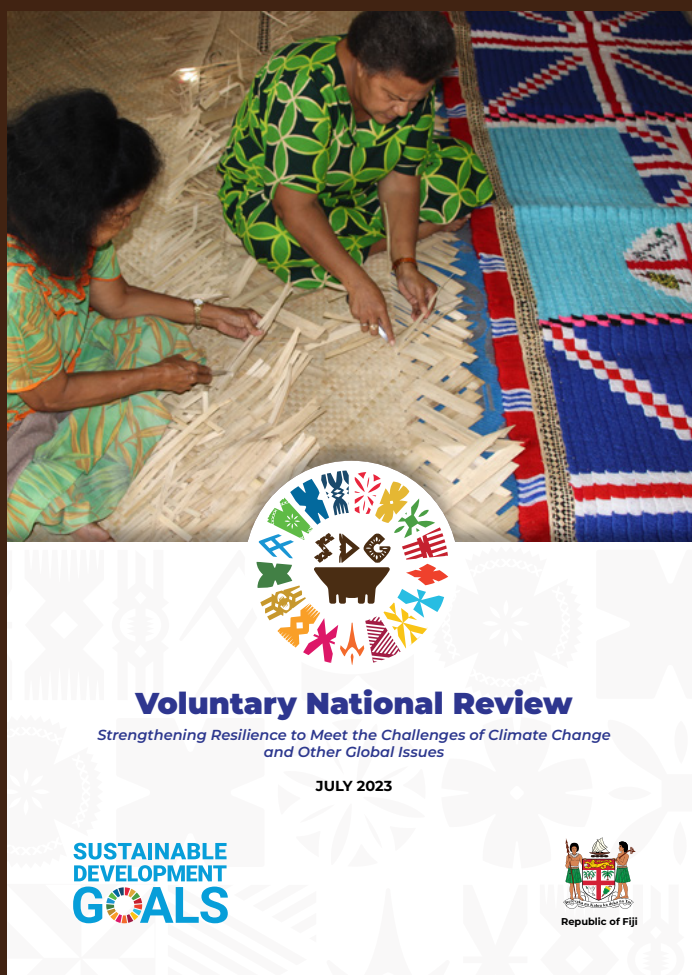
# Fiji Voluntary National Review Cover

Presenting the captivating cover for the Fiji Voluntary National Review Report on SDGs. This thoughtfully designed composition embodies the essence of Fiji while symbolizing the nation's commitment to sustainable development. At the heart of the cover, a Fijian woman expertly weaves a traditional mat, symbolizing the weaving and structuring of complex issues that interlinked the SDGs in order to transform Fiji into a sustainable way of life, as well as the interconnectedness of culture and progress.

Surrounded by a backdrop adorned with intricate traditional Fijian motifs, the design reflects the nation's rich heritage and deep-rooted connection to its natural surroundings. The vibrant colors and patterns evoke a sense of harmony, underscoring Fiji's dedication to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a holistic and inclusive approach.

This cover serves as a visual representation of the Fiji Voluntary National Review, providing readers with a glimpse into the report's comprehensive assessment of the country's progress in implementing the SDGs. It invites individuals to explore the achievements, challenges, and future aspirations of Fiji as it works towards sustainable development and a prosperous future for its people.

With its fusion of cultural symbolism and sustainable development ideals, the cover captures the essence of the Fiji Voluntary National Review Report of SDGs, encapsulating the nation's commitment to embracing its cultural heritage while actively contributing to the global sustainability agenda.



## List of Acronyms

<b>ABS</b>	Access and Benefit-Sharing	<b>FICAC</b>	Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption
<b>BAF</b>	Biosecurity Authority of Fiji	<b>FIES</b>	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
<b>BAGS</b>	Blue Accelerator Grant Scheme	<b>FLMMA</b>	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network
<b>BDM</b>	Births, Deaths and Marriages	<b>FNU</b>	Fiji National University
<b>BPO</b>	Business Process Outsourcing	<b>FREF</b>	Fiji Rural Electrification Fund
<b>CC</b>	Climate Change	<b>FSA</b>	World Trade Organisation Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>FTPF</b>	Fijian Trade Policy Framework 2015-2025
<b>CFAN</b>	Climate Finance Access Network	<b>FY</b>	Financial Year of the Fiji Government (starts from 1st August and ends on 31st July)
<b>CI</b>	Conservation International	<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>CPI</b>	Corruption Perceptions Index	<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>CRAM</b>	Corruption Risk Assessment and Management	<b>GII</b>	Giant Invasive Iguana
<b>CITES</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna	<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease of 2019	<b>HIES</b>	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
<b>CROP</b>	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific	<b>IAS</b>	Invasive Alien Species
<b>CWMH</b>	Colonial War Memorial Hospital	<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation
<b>DFAT</b>	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<b>IHRDP</b>	Integrated Human Resource Development Programme
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction	<b>IMA</b>	Inflation Mitigation Assistance
<b>DXP</b>	Data Exchange Platform	<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organisation
<b>EACO</b>	Ethics and Anti-Corruption in Oceania	<b>INBAR</b>	International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone	<b>INFJ</b>	International Needs Fiji
<b>EFL</b>	Energy Fiji Limited	<b>IRENA</b>	International Renewable Energy Agency
<b>ESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>EV</b>	Electric vehicle	<b>JICA</b>	Japan International Cooperation Agency
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization	<b>JPRISM</b>	Japanese Technical Cooperation Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries
<b>FBA</b>	Fiji Bamboo Association	<b>LF</b>	Lymphatic Filariasis
<b>FBoS</b>	Fiji Bureau of Statistics	<b>MDA</b>	Mass Drug Administration
<b>FCCC</b>	Fiji Competition and Consumer Commission	<b>MFAT</b>	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
<b>FCOSS</b>	Fiji Council of Social Services		
<b>FEA</b>	Fiji Electricity Authority		

<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics	<b>ROC</b>	Registrar of Companies
<b>MFSPNDS</b>	Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics	<b>RPF</b>	Rainbow Pride Foundation
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	<b>RSE</b>	Recognized Seasonal Employer (Scheme)
<b>MOFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<b>SCC</b>	Suva City Council
<b>MoWCPA</b>	Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation	<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament	<b>SEZ</b>	Special Economic Zone
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Area	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing State
<b>MSME</b>	Micro, small, and medium enterprise	<b>SPC</b>	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
<b>MTFS</b>	Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy	<b>SPP</b>	Social Protection Programmes
<b>NACC</b>	National Anti-Corruption Curriculum	<b>SPREP</b>	Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
<b>NBSAP</b>	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>NCD</b>	Non-Communicable Disease	<b>TC</b>	Tropical Cyclone
<b>NCP</b>	National Culture Policy	<b>TFEC</b>	Total Final Energy Consumption
<b>NDMO</b>	National Disaster Management Office	<b>TI</b>	Transparency International
<b>NDP</b>	National Development Plan	<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>NES</b>	National Economic Summit	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>NFMV</b>	Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti	<b>UNCAC</b>	UN Convention Against Corruption
<b>NISSAP</b>	National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan	<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>NOP</b>	National Ocean Policy	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance	<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>OHS</b>	Occupational Health and Safety	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>PIABC</b>	Public Integrity Anti-Bribery Campaign	<b>UN-PRAC</b>	United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption
<b>PICAP</b>	Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Fund	<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>PIFS</b>	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>RDF</b>	Reforestation on Degraded Forest Project	<b>WMRRAF</b>	Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Fiji
<b>RE</b>	Renewable Energy	<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (+Enhancing and Increasing Carbon Stocks)	<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund



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## Acknowledgements

This National Voluntary Review has been initiated by the Government of Fiji and supported by the UNDP and ESCAP. Its successful completion would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and support of the numerous staff members from various ministries and government departments in Fiji.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the representatives of civil society organizations, private sectors, and development partners who generously shared their expertise and committed their valuable time to this endeavour. Their remarkable drive and unwavering dedication form the foundation of this comprehensive review.

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all individuals who have contributed to the production of this report, including those from different government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector. Your insights and contributions have played a vital role in shaping the outcomes of this review.

To all those who have selflessly dedicated their time and shared their knowledge, the VNR core team would like to convey our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation. Your active participation and expertise have been instrumental in making this National Voluntary Review a success.

## Foreword



It is my utmost pleasure to present Fiji's second Voluntary National Review on the progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Against a backdrop of past turmoil and political uncertainties, Fiji's new coalition Government is steadfast in its commitment to building and strengthening partnerships in order to create a sustainable future for the Fijian people. Our aim in producing this successful VNR is to showcase Fiji's accomplishments, shed light on the challenges we face, and outline our vision to accelerate our efforts in implementing the Global Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We firmly believe that as a nation, we must stand united in our conviction that the participation and cooperation of all stakeholders are fundamental to achieving the global agenda. Only through collective efforts can we build a safer and more liveable future for everyone.

The People's Coalition Government is fully committed to ensuring that this second VNR accurately reflects the status of the SDGs in Fiji. We have no intention of glossing over areas where our performance has been lacking. We acknowledge the existence of problems and recognize that addressing them effectively requires a thorough understanding of their extent. Fijians have entrusted their faith in their leaders to accomplish this, and we must not let them down.

Fiji has been a strong advocate for the adoption of the SDGs from the very beginning, and we have ensured a high level of ownership of the SDGs within our country. The SDGs are not merely global commitments for Fiji; they have become our own development goals. They have served as a guiding framework for our national development planning, with efforts made to align our current National Development Plan (NDP) with the SDGs. This alignment will be even more comprehensive in the next iteration of our coalition government's NDP.

Undoubtedly, this endeavour comes with its challenges. When Agenda 2030 was adopted and the targets were agreed upon, few of us fully comprehended the extent of resources required to achieve these goals. Even with the most disciplined and ambitious fiscal policies, it would be challenging for a developing country to meet all the SDG targets.

This is not a criticism of the SDGs themselves; they provided us with a vision and a level of ambition necessary for the betterment of our planet. We are sincerely grateful for the support provided by Fiji's development partners, as well as multilateral and regional agencies, in our development efforts. The progress we have made would not have been possible without their invaluable assistance. We also extend our gratitude for their contributions to this VNR report.

However, as a nation, we must take ownership of our own development efforts. We must strive to grow our economy, exercise fiscal discipline, and prioritize the creation of an economic environment that offers our people decent employment opportunities, enabling them to lead successful and fulfilling lives. Furthermore, we must ensure that they enjoy the freedoms and liberties necessary to thrive, as these are vital components of sustainable development.

The recurring natural disasters, increasingly severe impacts of climate change, and additional crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which have affected commodity prices, have undoubtedly posed challenges to our development efforts. However, despite these setbacks, our commitment to the SDGs remains unwavering. If anything, we are now more convinced that successfully implementing the SDGs will make us stronger as a nation, enhancing our resilience to confront future crises.

We are delighted to note that we have successfully applied the lessons learned from our previous VNR, ensuring that this time around, the VNR aligns with the core principles of the Global 2030 Agenda. It has been developed through genuine consultations with all sectoral line ministries, civil society, and the private sector. Moreover, we have significantly enhanced the quality of our data, thanks to the efforts of our national statistical office in establishing a comprehensive national SDG database. The VNR process has played a crucial role in driving these initiatives forward.

Our aspiration is for this VNR report to ignite greater enthusiasm for the SDGs and inspire action towards their effective implementation. Advancing Fiji's progress on the SDGs necessitates a united and concerted national effort. We wholeheartedly welcome and encourage the contributions of every individual and stakeholder.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all the stakeholders involved in the development of Fiji's VNR 2023, recognizing their invaluable contributions. Furthermore, we commend all Fijians for their dedication and commitment to Fiji's progress on the SDGs.

**Professor Biman Chand Prasad**  
Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Finance



## Executive Summary

Fiji, with a population of just under 1 million and a GDP of USD 4.3 billion (2021), has remained steadfast in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), even in the face of economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

Fiji has shown great receptiveness to the SDGs and has aligned a significant portion of its development planning with these goals. While decision-makers were aware of the goals, they may not have been fully acquainted with the specific targets and indicators. The VNR exercise has played a vital role in shedding light on the SDGs within the country, fostering collaboration among government sectoral ministries, civil society, and the private sector.

It is now widely acknowledged that civil society has played a crucial role in advancing the SDGs related to the well-being of people (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and the preservation of the planet (SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, and 15), while the private sector has been instrumental in driving progress in the prosperity cluster (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11). Significant progress has been made in data collection for SDG indicators, enabling more accurate measurement of progress.

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics has taken ownership of this task, and line ministries will continue to provide SDG-related statistics to the bureau following the VNR exercise. These statistics have been made accessible to the public online. However, there are still some indicators that pose measurement challenges, and ongoing efforts are required to address these gaps.

Progress on the SDGs in Fiji has been a mixed bag. While the country has made commendable strides in the implementation of certain SDGs, progress has been less satisfactory in others. Furthermore, within each SDG, progress towards specific targets has varied.

Out of the 169 SDG targets, Fiji has made good progress in achieving 24 (14%) of them. Another 45 (27%) targets could be achieved, but this would necessitate accelerated action. Regrettably, negative progress has been observed in 28 (17%) of the targets, while 72 (43%) targets could not be measured.

Fiji recognizes that progress in the SDGs is pivotal in building resilience, considering the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, climate change, and recent global challenges such as the pandemic and geopolitical tensions. The country is committed to supporting progress in the SDGs, recognizing that advancements in these goals are instrumental in enabling both the nation and its people to effectively confront global challenges.

The country views progress in the SDGs as a means to empower itself and its people to effectively address these global challenges. To enhance current progress, Fiji intends to undertake various measures, including better coordination of efforts, fostering economic growth, increased and targeted financing, building government expertise, harnessing the power of citizens, localized improvements, and the continuous updating of the SDG database to ensure accurate and timely measurement of progress.

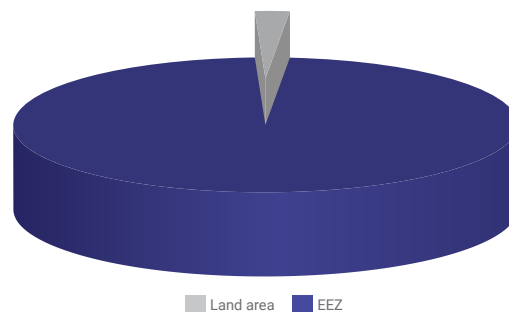


# Introduction

Fiji, classified as a small island developing state, is home to an estimated population of 884,887 individuals as of the 2017 Fiji Population and Housing Census. Census activities are carried out every ten years, indicating that the next one is anticipated in 2027.

With a total of 332 islands, Fiji boasts a vast land area of approximately 18,300 km<sup>2</sup> and an Exclusive Economic Zone that extends across 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup>. The nation is blessed with abundant natural resources and is recognized as one of the most developed countries within the Pacific region.

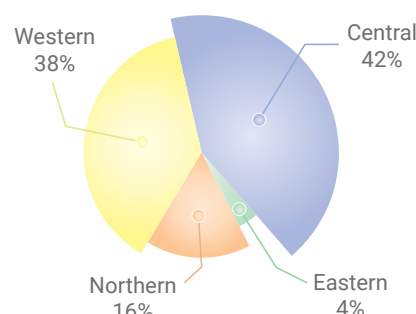
Fiji - Proportion of Land area to EEZ



Main Indicators	Value
Population	884,887 (2017) <sup>1</sup> / 891,445 (2020)
GDP	FJD 9.4 billion / USD 4.3 billion (2021) <sup>2</sup>
GDP per capita	FJD 10,139 / USD 4,646.6 <sup>3</sup>
Exports (2021)	FJD 2.51 billion / USD 1.15 billion <sup>4</sup>
Exports - 10yr average (2012-2021)	FJD 4.82 billion / USD 2.21 billion <sup>4</sup>
Imports (2021)	FJD 5 billion / USD 2.29 billion <sup>5</sup>
Imports - 10yr average (2012-2021)	FJD 5.78 billion / USD 2.65 billion <sup>5</sup>
Poverty rate	24.1 % of population (rural: 36.5%; urban: 14%) <sup>2</sup>
HDI ranking	94 <sup>th</sup> /191 <sup>6</sup>



Population Distribution by Geographical Divisions (HIES)

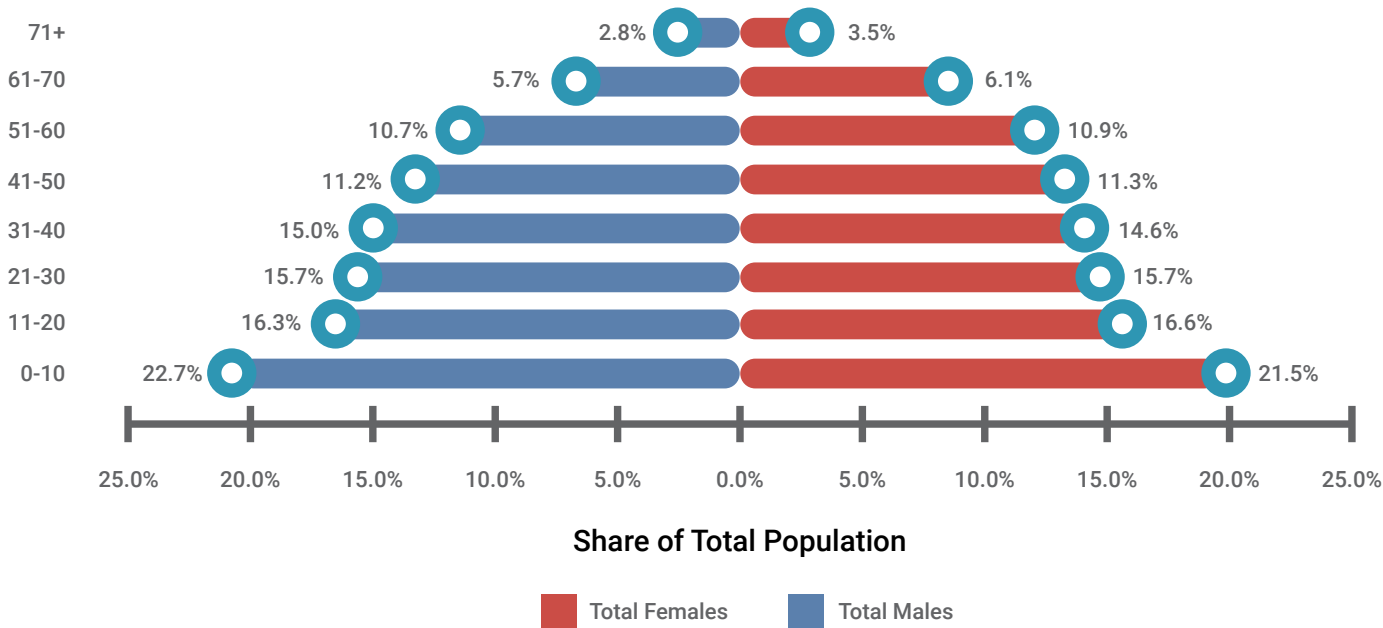


1 Fiji 2017 Population and Housing Census  
 2 World Bank database (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?locations=FJ>)  
 3 World Bank database (<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?end=2021&locations=FJ&start=1960&view=chart>)  
 4 World Bank database (<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/FJ/fiji/exports>)  
 5 World Bank database (<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/FJ/fiji/imports>)  
 6 2021 – 2022 Human Development Report



A significant majority, approximately 80% of Fiji’s population, resides on the main island of Viti Levu, which spans a surface area of 10,429 km<sup>2</sup>. Taking into account the population data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), this indicates that Viti Levu has a population density of around 66/km<sup>2</sup>.

Fiji’s population pyramid visually depicts the age distribution, revealing that the country has a predominantly youthful population. More than 50% of Fiji’s population is under the age of 30, with a balanced distribution between males and females. This demographic composition holds important implications for planning, particularly in areas such as maternal and child services, education, and the creation of employment opportunities, which are of significant importance for the country.



### The Report

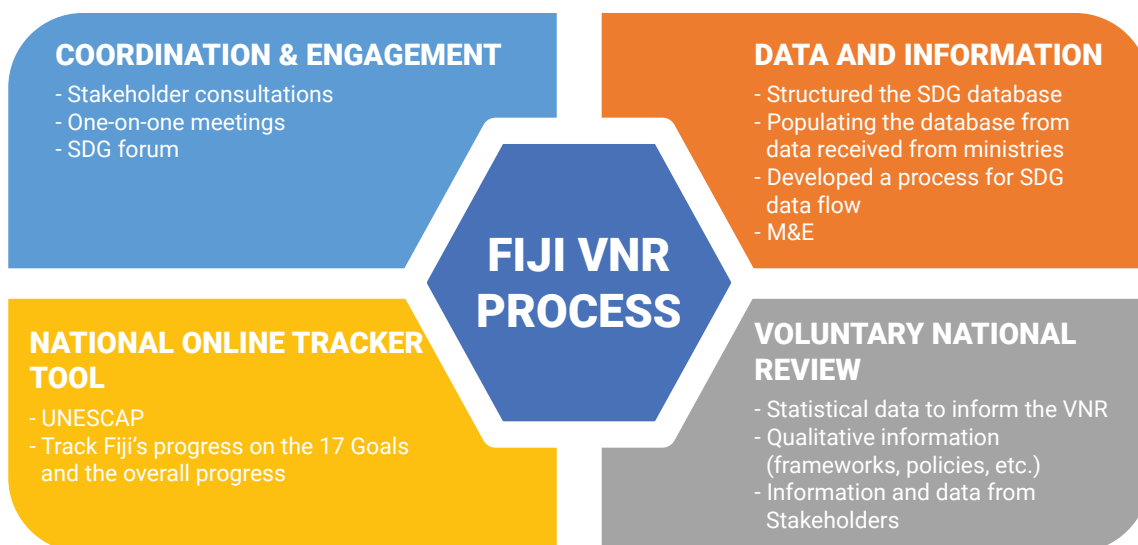
The preparation of this report coincided with a period of elections and a subsequent change in government. The newly formed government, which consists of a coalition comprising three parties, is resolute in its commitment to making every possible effort to achieve as many SDG targets as feasible by 2030. They are fully aware of the numerous challenges and limitations that need to be overcome in pursuit of the SDGs.

## Methodology and Process for Preparation of the Review

The VNR report reflects the contributions made by all stakeholders towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the past four years (2019-2022), including CSOs, the Government of Fiji, development partners, and donor agencies. The private sector has also made significant contributions to the report. The VNR was developed in accordance with five overarching principles, as depicted in the figure below.



The graphical representation provides an overview of Fiji's SDG VNR process.



## Coordination and Engagement

The Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development, and Statistics (formerly Ministry of Economy) serves as Fiji's focal point for the Agenda 2030 and the VNR. Each SDG was assigned to the most relevant Line Ministry, which took the lead in sharing knowledge and statistics related to specific SDGs. For the preparation of Fiji's 2023 VNR, a core team was established consisting of representatives from the Sustainable Development Goal Unit within the MoF, the Methodology Unit of the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS), and consultants provided by UNDP and ESCAP. The core team provided technical support and overall coordination with all relevant stakeholders to gather up-to-date and high-quality data and information for the VNR.



## The VNR Technical Working Group

A VNR technical working group (TWG) was established to oversee the preparation of Fiji's VNR 2023 report. Initially, the TWG consisted mainly of senior government officials. However, recognizing the complex nature of SDG-related data and the call for inclusivity and strengthened participation in the VNR process outlined in the Global 2030 Agenda, the TWG membership was expanded. Representatives from NGOs/CSOs, the private sector, and other development partners were included in the TWG.

To facilitate coordination and collaboration, the ministries assigned to the SDGs were grouped into three clusters: People and Partnerships, Planet, and Peace and Prosperity. Based on these SDG clusters, three TWGs were established.

### Working Group 1: People and Partnership



- SDG 1 Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- SDG 2 Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways
- SDG 3 Ministry of Health and Medical Services
- SDG 4 Ministry of Education
- SDG 5 Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- SDG 17 Office of the Prime Minister- Dept. of Foreign Affairs

### Working Group 2: Planet



- SDG 6 Ministry of Public Works, Communications, Transport and Meteorological Services
- SDG 12 Ministry of External Trade, Cooperatives and SMEs
- SDG 13 Office of the Prime Minister- Dept. of Climate Change
- SDG 14 Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry - Dept. of Fisheries
- SDG 15 Office of the Prime Minister- Dept. of Environment

### Working Group 3: Prosperity and Peace



- SDG 7 Ministry of Public Works, Communications, Transport and Meteorological Services
- SDG 8 Ministry of Finance - Budget & Plans
- SDG 9 Ministry of External Trade, Cooperatives and SMEs
- SDG 10 Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
- SDG 11 Ministry of Housing and Local Government
- SDG 16 Ministry of Justice and Office of Attorney General



The SDG Technical Working Group (TWG), comprising all three Working Groups (WGs), convened for a three-day Fiji SDG forum from 16th to 18th November 2022. The forum, held under the theme “Tracking Fiji’s Progress on the SDGs,” aimed to inform the participants about the VNR process and foster discussions on the work program for VNR preparation. The forum emphasized the role played by all stakeholders in the process.

Following the forum, a second TWG meeting took place on 22nd December 2022. During this meeting, the TWG reached a consensus on the overall theme of the report and agreed upon the table of contents that would provide guidance for the writing process. Subsequently, a third meeting was held on 31st January 2023, during which the TWG reviewed the zero draft of the VNR and sought feedback and input from TWG members. There were additional TWG meetings held after the second and third drafts of the VNR report to incorporate further revisions and improvements. Finally, on 24th April 2023, the final version of the VNR was produced.



*Technical Working Group (meeting of 4 May 2023)*

### **Core Team**

A Core Team (CT) was established to oversee the preparation of Fiji’s 2023 VNR. The team consisted of representatives from the Sustainable Development Goal Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, as well as the Methodology Unit of the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS). In addition, consultants provided by UNDP and ESCAP were also part of the CT.

The CT played a crucial role in providing technical support and ensuring overall coordination among relevant stakeholders. Their main focus was to gather up-to-date and high-quality data and information for the VNR.



*CSO consultations on Fiji’s SDG and review of the VNR*



*Meeting with Private Sector representatives - the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF) and the Fiji Hotels and Tourism Association (FHTA)*



## FIJI BUREAU OF STATISTICS

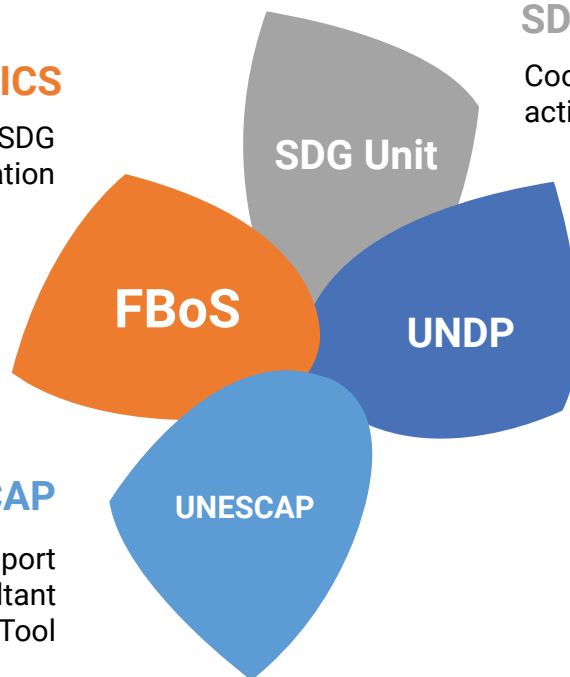
Statistical Data for SDG Implementation

## SDG UNIT

Coordinates on all the activities on SDG

## UNESCAP

Technical Support  
Consultancy - Database Consultant  
National Tracker Tool



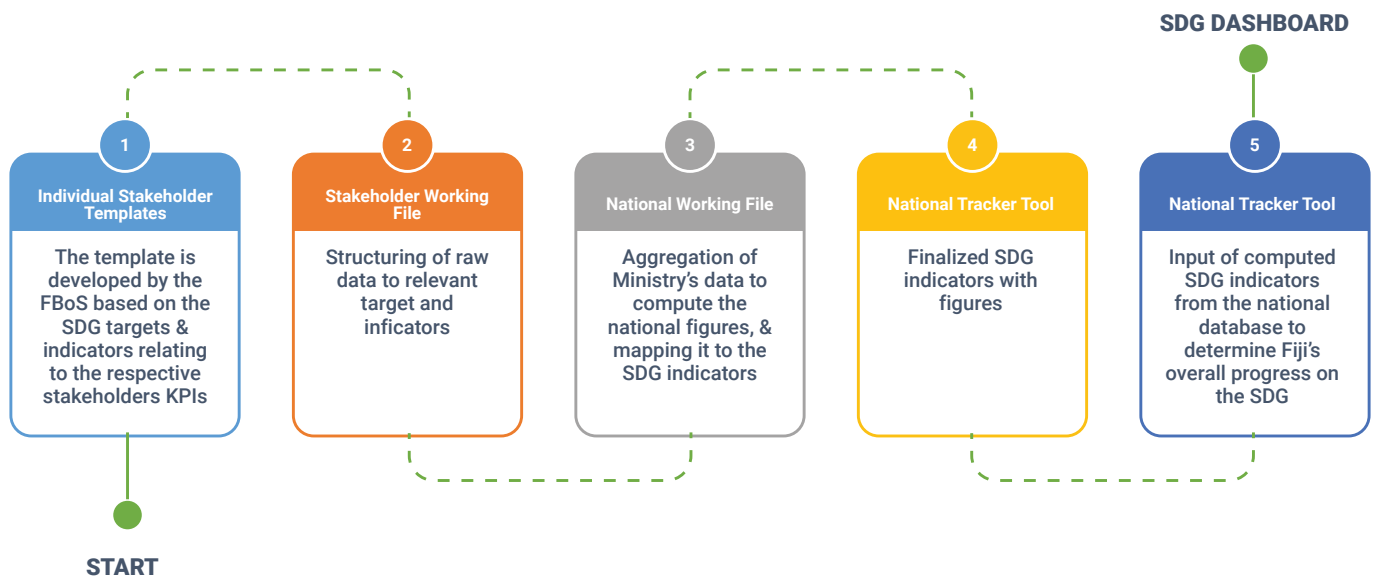
## UNDP

Technical Support  
VNR Content Writer

### Data and Information

The Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) played a crucial role in collecting the data for the SDG indicators. To support FBoS in this endeavor, a local statistics expert was engaged as a consultant. This expert worked closely with FBoS to enhance the national information management system, particularly by developing a robust database that would facilitate improved reporting on the national development plan and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The assistance provided by ESCAP was instrumental in supporting FBoS and the consultant in their work. ESCAP facilitated the process of strengthening the national information management system and played a key role in establishing Fiji's SDG Tracker<sup>7</sup> system. This system serves as a tool for FBoS to track and monitor SDG-related data not only for the VNR but also for future years, ensuring the availability of current and updated SDG data.



Fiji has made significant progress in improving its data availability in the Global SDG Database.<sup>7</sup> From 2019 to 2022, there has been a notable increase of 40 indicators for which sufficient data is now available. This improvement is illustrated in Figure A. When compared to other Pacific Island countries, Fiji stands out with a considerably higher amount of available data, as depicted in Figure B.

<sup>7</sup> ESCAP SDG Gateway <https://data.unescap.org>

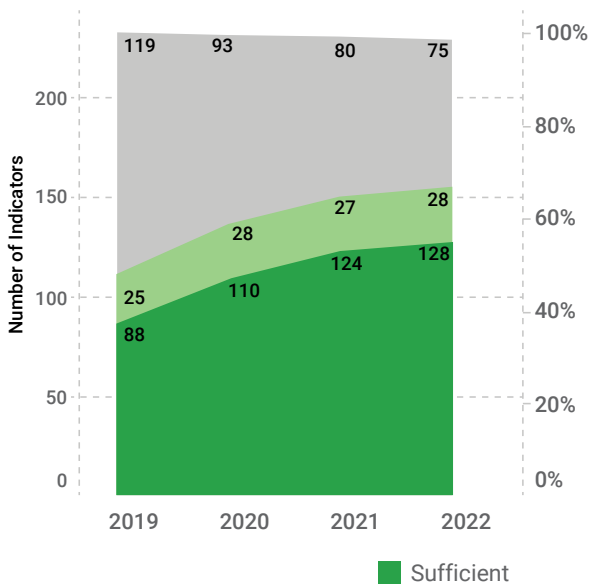


Figure A – SDG Data Availability in Fiji (2019-2022)<sup>7</sup>

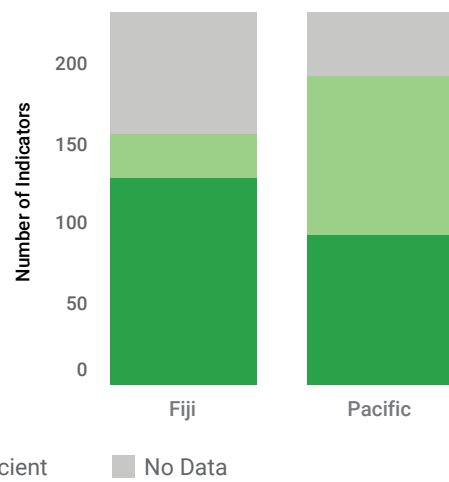
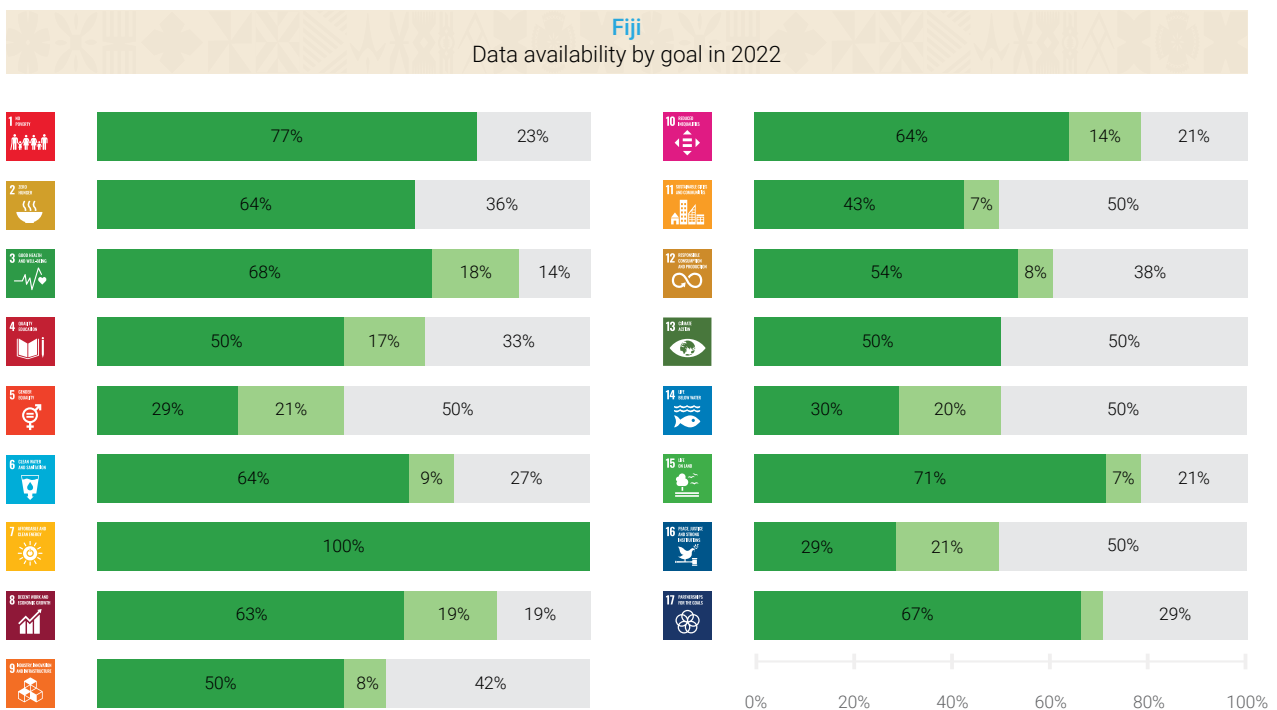


Figure B – Fiji vs. Subregion Data Availability in 2022

Data availability poses challenges for specific SDGs, particularly in the areas of gender equality (Goal 5), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), climate change (Goal 13), life below water (Goal 14), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (Goal 16). In these goal areas, 50 percent or more of the indicators currently lack sufficient data.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the importance of adopting new data acquisition and integration approaches to generate high-quality, timely, reliable, and disaggregated data, including geospatial information and earth observations. These data requirements are vital for informed policy-making, tracking development progress, and effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda. In line with the agenda’s commitment to reducing inequalities, the



W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Esri, PVBLIC Foundation, Chia, and the UN Statistical Division (UNSD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) have joined forces through the SDG Data Alliance to support countries in achieving the SDGs.

As part of this collaboration, the SDG Data Hub has been established to facilitate reporting, monitoring, and the delivery of progress towards the SDGs by 2030. The SDG Data Hub Solution encompasses a centralized platform featuring 17 dashboards and pages, each dedicated to one of the 17 SDGs. These dashboards can be populated with relevant data to provide a comprehensive overview of progress. Additionally, the Data Hub facilitates collaboration and community engagement through various tools such as surveys and Story Maps.

Fiji is one of the selected countries receiving support from the SDG Data Alliance to implement and operate the Fiji SDG Data Hub. This includes a technology grant for the Esri SDG Data Hub Solution. One notable advantage of this system is that Fiji will utilize an advanced online platform that integrates statistical and geospatial information with other relevant data necessary for monitoring and measuring SDG indicators. The system allows for disaggregated data analysis, enabling more meaningful decision-making at lower geographical levels. It is important to highlight that the SDG Data Hub is a Fiji-owned system, providing opportunities for further capacity development within the country.

UNDP played a crucial role in supporting the VNR (Voluntary National Review) process by engaging a skilled VNR writer who provided assistance to the SDG Unit of the Ministry of Finance. The VNR writer worked closely with the unit and produced four drafts of the VNR report, with one draft submitted each in January, February, March, and the final draft in April 2023.

The VNR Team conducted a series of individual meetings with line ministries to discuss data provision and gather responses to a set of questions posed by the consultant.

To foster engagement with non-state actors, the VNR team invited representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to participate in the Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting held on 16th March 2023. During the meeting, the second draft of the VNR report was discussed in preparation for the third draft.






Another CSO consultation took place on 24th March, providing an opportunity for CSOs to share their feedback on the latest draft of the VNR. Additionally, CSOs were encouraged to share relevant stories and insights related to the SDGs. The meeting also explored avenues for sharing CSOs' data with the government's Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBoS) to influence decision-making processes.


Furthermore, the National Economic Summit held on 20th and 21st April 2023 provided another platform for consultation. Although not solely focused on the SDGs, the discussions held during the summit held significant relevance to the SDGs. Notably, the presence of the private sector was prominent, highlighting their active involvement in the discussions.





Additionally, an online platform was established on the UNDP-hosted website Solevaka.com to facilitate the submission of stories, comments, and discussions. This platform was specifically created for non-state actors, including individuals from civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector entities, to actively participate during the month of February 2023.





# GET INVOLVED IN FIJI'S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR)

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## Policy and Enabling Environment

Since the submission of Fiji's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2019, ongoing efforts have been dedicated to addressing and advancing the SDGs. Notable progress has been made on several fronts, particularly pertaining to SDGs 4, 5, 6, 11, and 13. However, the global crises experienced in recent years have adversely affected progress on various other SDGs, particularly 1, 2, 3, 8, and 10. Recognizing the need for improvement, the Government of Fiji has prioritized enhancing this VNR compared to the previous 2019 report.

Significant endeavors have been undertaken to enhance access to statistics related to SDG indicators, facilitating a more accurate measurement of progress. In addition, robust consultations have been conducted with both CSOs and the private sector, recognizing and showcasing their invaluable contributions toward SDG achievement. These concerted efforts aim to ensure that the VNR report reflects the substantial role played by CSOs and the private sector in driving progress towards the SDGs.

### National Ownership of the Sustainable Developments Goals

While the SDGs serve as a global response to address worldwide challenges, Fiji has recognized their national relevance, aligning with most targets (though not all). The achievement of these SDGs and targets holds the potential for transformative impacts on the quality of life for all communities in Fiji.

Since 2019, there has been an enhanced understanding of the SDGs across all sectors of Fijian society. While the grassroots may not be familiar with the SDGs by name, they undoubtedly aspire to the underlying goals for their own lives and livelihoods. Efforts have been made, albeit sporadic, to gather SDG indicator data over the years. However, this process has not been systematically conducted as would have been preferable.

### Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in National Frameworks

Fiji recently developed its National Development Plan (NDP) in November 2017, encompassing both a 5-year and a 20-year plan. The initial 5-year period concluded in 2021, and the plan has now entered its second 5-year phase. Currently, a review of the NDP's implementation

during the first 5-year period is underway, which will inform the development of the next 5-year plan.

It is anticipated that the new coalition government's policy changes will also be reflected in the revised plan. Throughout the preparation of the NDP, deliberate efforts were made to align it with global commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. These commitments will likewise serve as guiding principles for the NDP review and the subsequent 5-year plan.

During the NDP review, a comparative analysis and mapping exercise was conducted to identify indicators that measure the success of the NDP and those aligned with the SDGs. This analysis revealed that 88 NDP indicators were aligned with the SDGs, and further alignment is expected in the upcoming NDP.

While not all sectoral policies necessarily align with the SDGs or the NDP, particularly those developed prior to 2015, many policies developed after 2015 do reference the SDGs. For instance, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services' Strategic Plan 2020-2025 explicitly incorporates the SDGs.

### Institutional Mechanisms


There are multiple government coordinating mechanisms and sector-specific working groups in place to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in Fiji. These mechanisms include the Maritime Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC) and the National Ocean Policy Steering Committee (NOPSC). A key focus is ensuring the alignment of each ministry's strategic work plan and other planning documents with the SDGs. This alignment is crucial to effectively address the challenges and issues related to SDG implementation. Efforts are being made to identify and rectify any gaps or discrepancies to ensure a cohesive approach towards achieving the SDGs.

### Structural Challenges

There are several structural challenges that Fiji needs to address in order to make greater progress in achieving the SDGs.

#### Collaboration

An important structural challenge that Fiji faces is the prevalence of government ministries and departments



working in silos. This compartmentalized approach to governance is partly a result of territoriality and a lack of collaboration among ministries. While there are existing structures, such as cabinet meetings and committees, that promote interaction and decision-making, there is still a need for enhanced collaboration and coordination.

During the VNR process, technical officials had the opportunity to jointly discuss the country's challenges and explore potential solutions. However, it was recognized that collaboration between government entities was still lacking, particularly in terms of engaging with non-state actors. Improving collaboration with CSOs and the private sector is a shared goal among government officials, and it has been highlighted as an area for improvement by the new coalition government. To address this structural challenge, there is a need for improved communication, coordination, and partnership arrangements. Technology plays a crucial role in this aspect, with Fiji implementing a Data Exchange Platform (DXP) as a key component of its digital transformation efforts. The DXP enables the secure and efficient exchange of current people and business data among Ministries. The system facilitates on-demand data exchange while ensuring appropriate safeguards and specified levels of access.

### **Data**

Data sharing is identified as a critical issue in Fiji's SDG implementation. There are several reasons why data holders may be reluctant to share their data more widely. One common concern is the confidentiality of the data. While some data may indeed be confidential in its raw form, there is potential to extract and separate information that could reveal identities, making the data valuable for guiding development decisions. However, other factors also hinder data sharing, such as ministries and departments lacking confidence in their own data and concerns that it may be used to criticize their performance. While these concerns may be legitimate, an open society like Fiji requires the free access and flow of information, and development data plays a crucial role in this context.

Another structural challenge is the absence of a central national database. This issue has been highlighted during the VNR process, leading to the implementation

of a national database and an SDG tracker system with the support of ESCAP, led by FBoS. Establishing a national database is essential for effective development planning and future reporting requirements, including future VNRs.

### **Programme and Project Management**

There is a recognized need for ministries responsible for implementing projects to establish Program Management Units staffed with personnel who are trained or experienced in project management. Alternatively, ministries could consider outsourcing the management of their projects to companies or individuals providing project management services.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

An area of program/project management that requires particular attention is the development of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategies and plans. It has been observed that M&E practices need improvement for most public projects. One crucial component of the M&E process is the collection of data to measure project success.

### **Institutional knowledge**

The loss of institutional knowledge has also been identified as a challenge, as experienced government employees have moved or retired. To respond to this problem, the government has already raised the retirement age from 55 to 60 years for those who choose to stay in employment until then.

### **Financing**

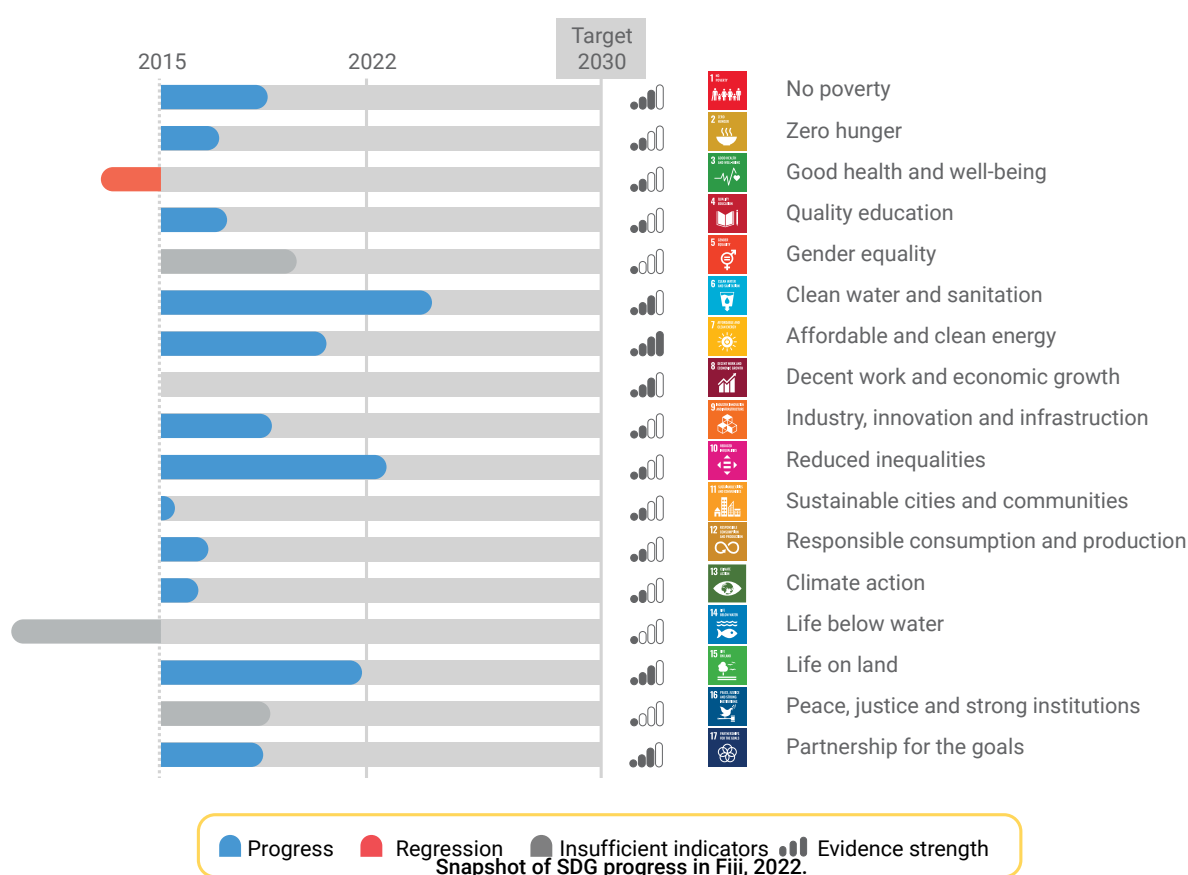
Fiji has multiple needs, and finding lasting solutions to these needs requires significant resources. It is crucial for the various line ministries of the government, the private sector, and civil society to collaborate and combine their resources and finances for development projects.

To move forward, it has been suggested that a comprehensive stock take and robust planning should be conducted, involving all relevant stakeholders. This will help address the needs of Fiji's communities and identify potential funding opportunities to meet these needs.

## Progress on the Goals

This section of the report focuses on Fiji's progress, or lack thereof, in achieving the 17 SDGs. The SDGs have been grouped into three clusters: People and Partnerships, Planet, and Peace and Prosperity. These clusters correspond to the Technical Working Groups established by the Fiji government to gather knowledge and data for this report.

Fiji has made progress<sup>8</sup> on most SDGs, with two SDGs on track to reach their targets by 2030: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). However, there has been negative progress in SDG 3 (good health and well-being), requiring greater efforts to reverse this trend in the years leading up to 2030. Three SDGs, namely SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), had insufficient data to accurately determine progress. Nevertheless, based on the available data, progress was evident in SDGs 5 and 16, while regression was observed in SDG 14. The other SDGs, despite some progress, are still not on track (refer to the chart below).



Source: ESCAP & Ministry of Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics

Seeing that progress on SDG implementation has been slow in certain areas, there is now a need to prioritize efforts and allocate resources to key SDG targets for implementation leading up to 2030, taking into account Fiji's limited financial resources. To determine these priority targets, the VNR development team engaged with line ministries to identify the specific SDG targets that require focused efforts in order to achieve positive outcomes. The discussions on each of the seventeen SDGs highlight the priority targets identified by the respective line ministries.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) manages a small grants program, which provides funds at the Prime Minister's

8 See the methodology of the progress assessments in ESCAPs Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2023 <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-progress-report-2023>



discretion to assist communities in urgent need. These small grant projects contribute to various SDGs. The OPM has identified the following priority SDG targets: 1.2, 2.3, 3.8, 3.b, 4.a, 9.1, 11.1, 11.7, and 13.b. The relevant sections discuss these small grant projects in relation to their respective targets. The OPM also recommended an internal review of their project criteria and selection processes for the small grants scheme, with a focus on aligning them with the principles of the 2030 Agenda.



## People and Partnerships



The People and Partnerships SDG cluster comprises SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the SDGs).

Progress within this cluster of SDGs has been mixed, with varying degrees of success in different targets. The following snapshot highlights several indicators that demonstrate the progress achieved thus far in this SDG cluster. The blue bars represent positive progress, while the red bars indicate a reversal of progress. It is worth noting that Fiji has already achieved its 2030 targets in certain areas, which allows for a concentrated focus on those areas where regression has occurred or where progress needs to be accelerated.

PEOPLE 

&

PARTNERSHIP 

# 1 NO POVERTY





## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 1 are:












**Target 1.1** - By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

**Target 1.2** - By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

**Target 1.3** - Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

**Target 1.4** - By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

**Target 1.5** - By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

<b>Goal 1</b>	1.1	International Poverty		 Maintain
	1.2	National Poverty		 Accelerate
	1.3	Social Protection		 Reverse
	1.4	Access to Basic Services		 Not Assessed
	1.5	Resilience to Disasters		
	1.a	Resources for Poverty Programs		
	1.b	Poverty Eradication Policies		

Fiji has made good progress in Target 1.3. However, there has been regression in Target 1.1, and efforts need to be accelerated for Targets 1.4, 1.5, and 1.a. Unfortunately, Targets 1.2 and 1.b could not be measured..

### Eradicating Poverty

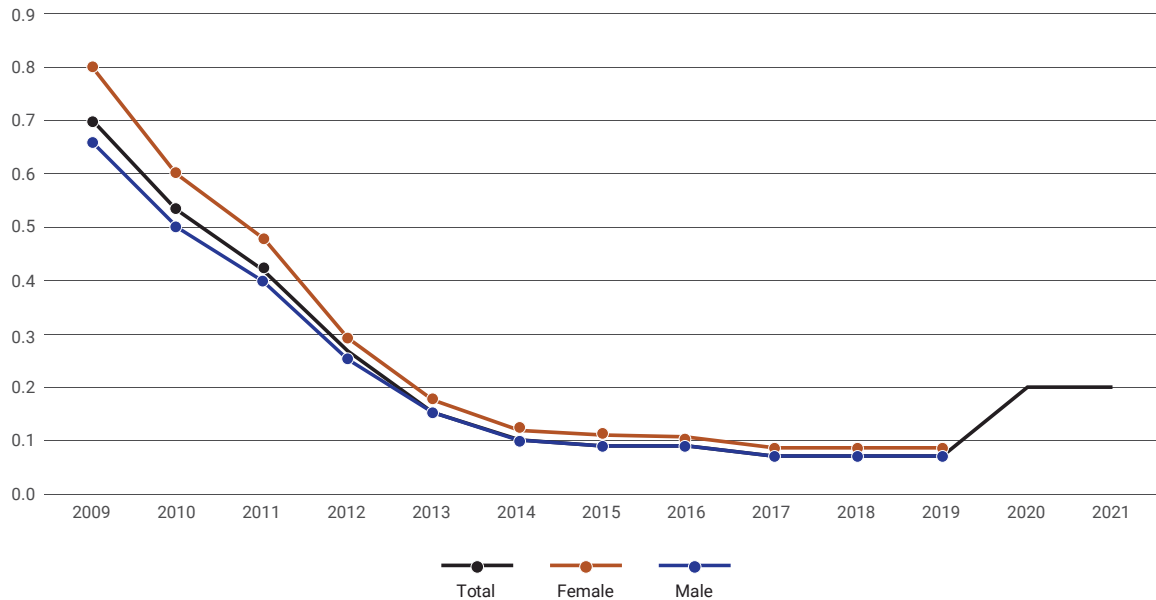
Approximately 30% of the population in Fiji lives below the national poverty line, according to the figures from the 2019 Pacific Data Hub.<sup>9</sup>

The number of individuals aged 15 years and above who were fully employed but earned less than USD 1.90 per day (equivalent to FJD 4.10) had been decreasing until recent years when a slight increase was observed. In this category, there were initially more females than males; however, the gender gap has been closing in more recent years.

<sup>9</sup> <https://pacificdata.org/dashboard/17-goals-transform-pacific>



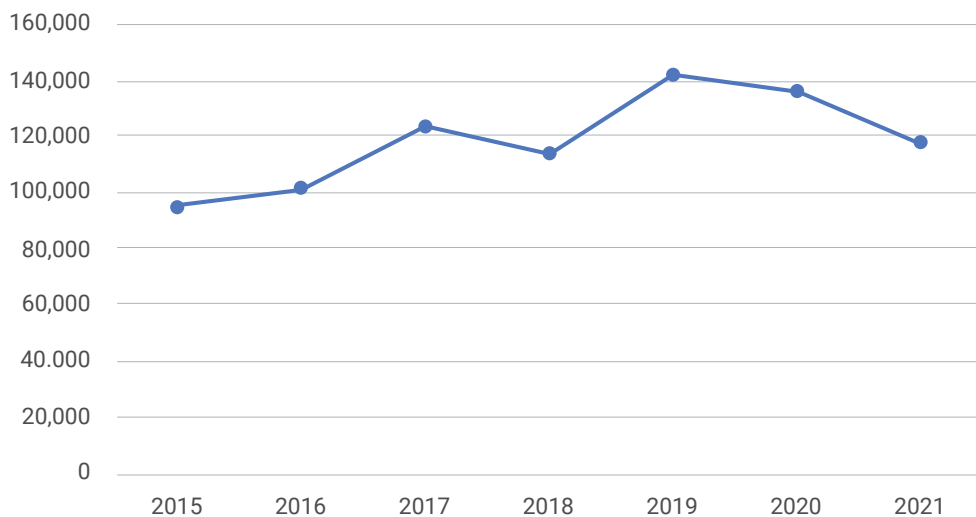
### Poor Living on Less Than USD 1.90 a Day in Total Employment, 15+ Years (% of Employed)



### Implementing Social Protection Systems

The total number of individuals covered by social protection in Fiji showed an upward trend, increasing from 95,540 in 2015 to a peak of 142,507 in 2019. However, it subsequently decreased to 118,272 in 2021. Despite the decrease, there was still an overall increase of 22,732 individuals between 2015 and 2021. This change can be interpreted in two ways: either more people required social protection, particularly during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, or the system has improved to better identify and support those in need. The objective remains to ensure that individuals who require social protection receive it, while also creating opportunities for all individuals, thus reducing the number of people dependent on social protection.

### Total Number of People Covered by Social Protection

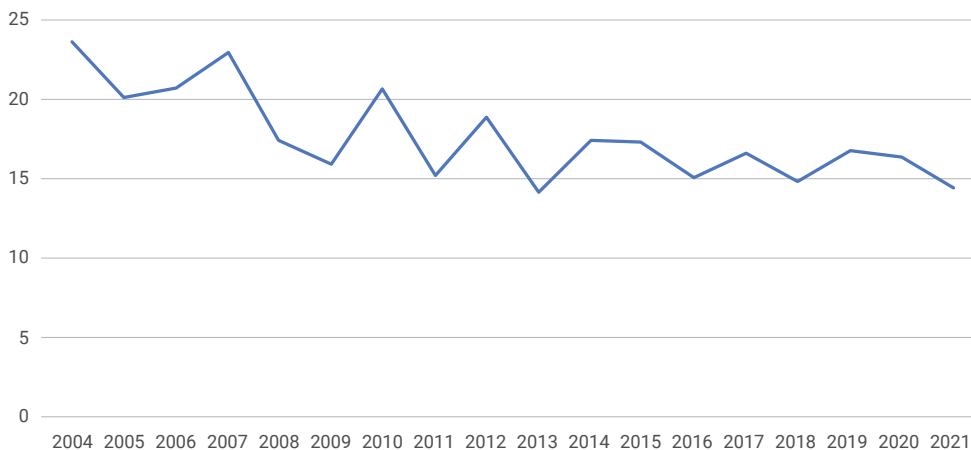


Fiji's Social Protection Programs (SPP) currently focus on assisting the poor and vulnerable groups. The Poverty benefits scheme is the only program specifically designed to address poverty, and it utilizes the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) indices for measurement. The Social pension provides support to the elderly population, while the Care and Protection scheme aids children in need of care. Additionally, the Disability Scheme offers assistance to individuals living with disabilities. The Bus Fare Assistance scheme plays a role in facilitating the travel of older persons and those with disabilities, helping them access essential services. The Ministry is undertaking a reform of the Social Protection Programs to enhance targeting, improve operating systems, and enhance service provision.

Gender mainstreaming has been incorporated into Fiji's SPP, service provision protocols, and access to benefits, ensuring equal opportunities and considerations for both men and women.

It is worth noting that the government's expenditure on essential services and education has declined from nearly 24% in 2004 to approximately 14.5% in 2021. While there are indications that spending on essential services may increase in the future, it remains uncertain whether it will reach the levels observed in 2004 or when that might occur.

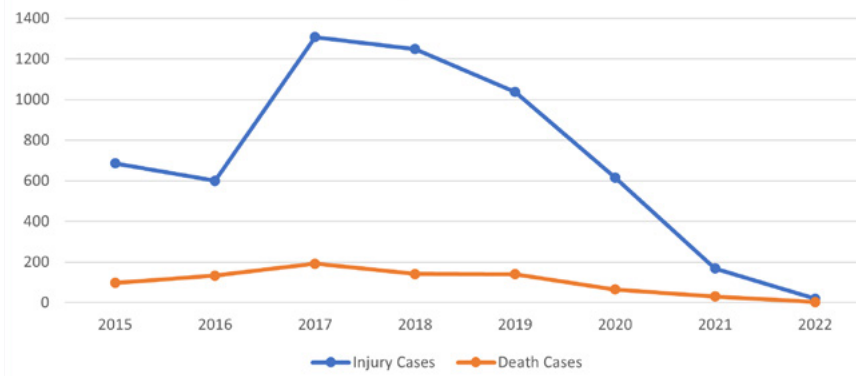
**Proportion of Total Government Spending on Essential Services and Education (%)**



The government has demonstrated its commitment to reviewing both the minimum wage rate and social protection policies to ensure they are more effectively targeted towards those who truly need assistance.<sup>10</sup>

In terms of work-related injuries and deaths, there has been a significant decline in reported cases that required professional occupational medical services since 2017 (refer to the chart below). This positive trend can be attributed to the increased emphasis on occupational health and safety (OHS) measures.

**Number of Occupational Injuries and Deaths provided Professional Occupational Medical Services**



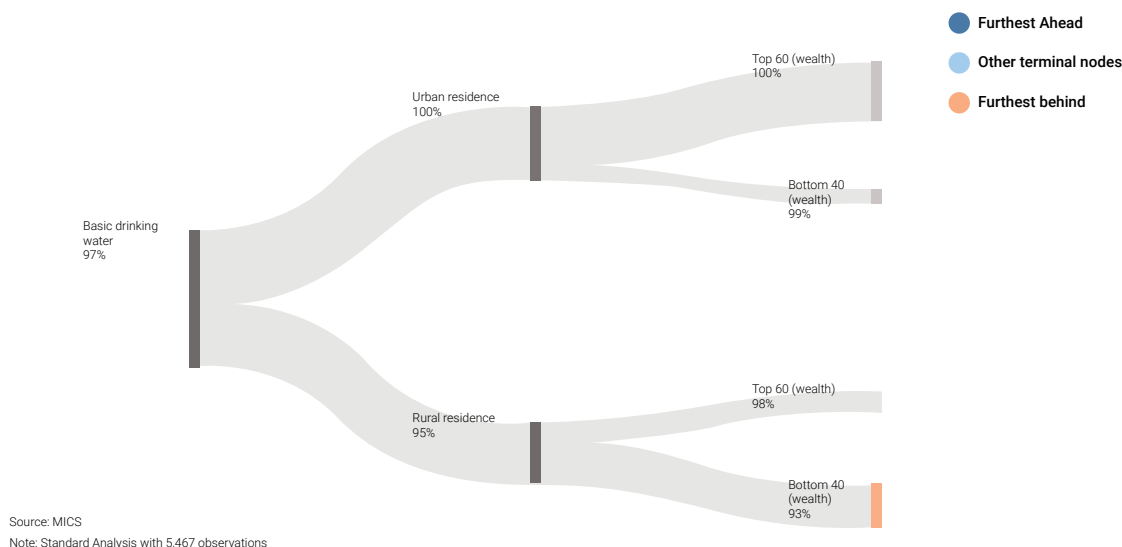
<sup>10</sup> Minister of Finance speech at the Fiji Trade Union Congress, April 2023.

## Equal Rights to Economic Resources

Examining basic access to water and sanitation, which serve as indicators of equitable access to economic resources, the analysis of leaving no one behind, utilizing MICS data, reveals certain patterns. Access to basic drinking water is primarily determined by the place of residence, with urban dwellers enjoying nearly 100% access, while rural dwellers have a 95% access rate. Subsequently, household wealth plays a role, as the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution residing in rural areas have a 93% probability of accessing basic drinking water, compared to 100% for the top 60% of the wealth distribution residing in urban areas.

### Basic drinking water, LNOB Tree

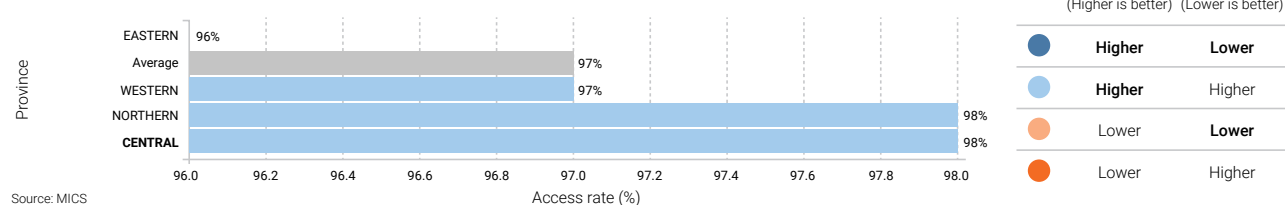
Fiji, 2021



The Eastern division exhibits slightly lower access to basic drinking water compared to the overall average, with a difference of just 1 percentage point. On the other hand, the Northern and Central divisions show a slight improvement of 2 percentage points, or 1% above the average.

### Basic Drinking Water, Access, Access Rate

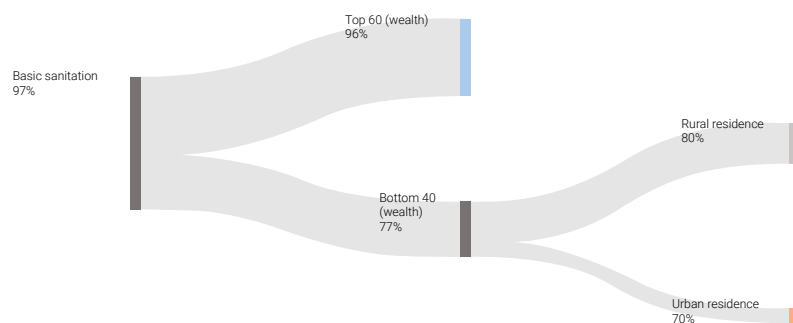
All Provinces, Fiji, 2021



The availability of basic sanitation also follows a similar pattern, influenced by both household wealth and place of residence. The top 60% of the wealth distribution has the highest access rate at 96%, while those in the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution living in urban areas face the greatest challenges, with the lowest access rate to basic sanitation.

### Basic sanitation, LNOB Tree

Fiji, 2021



#### Data Legend

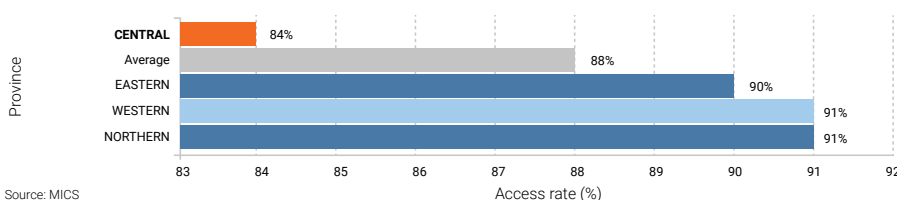
- Furthest Ahead
- Other terminal nodes
- Furthest behind

Source: MICS  
Note: Standard Analysis with 5,467 observations

The Central division has the lowest rate of access to basic sanitation, with only 84% of the population having access, which is 4 percentage points below the overall average. In contrast, the Eastern division has a higher rate of access at 90%, while both the Western and Northern divisions have slightly better rates at 91%.

### Basic sanitation, Access Rate

All Provinces, Fiji, 2021



#### Data Legend

	Access (Higher is better)	Inequality (Lower is better)
<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	Higher	Lower
<span style="color: lightblue;">●</span>	Higher	Higher
<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	Lower	Lower
<span style="color: darkorange;">●</span>	Lower	Higher

Source: MICS

## Building Resilience

In 2020, Fiji experienced the impact of two severe Category 5 Tropical Cyclones (TC). The first cyclone, TC Harold, struck Fiji in April 2020, resulting in the displacement of approximately 10,000 people and causing an estimated \$100 million in damages. The damage inflicted by TC Harold on agriculture and educational facilities amounted to FJD\$28.4 million (US\$12.5 million), while the extent of infrastructural damage remained unknown. Around 1,919 buildings were damaged by TC Harold, with 575 being completely destroyed, primarily in the Eastern Division.

## Women's Traditional Rights to Land Ownership

By law, women in Fiji have the same rights to land as men. This applies not only to statutory land ownership but also to traditional land ownership. In traditional land ownership, when women marry, their children are entitled to the land from the father's clan. However, for children of women who do not marry iTaukei men (and therefore do not have traditional land ownership from the father's side), the ownership of land from the mother's clan is not automatic. Instead, it is dependent on the agreement made by the clan.

The second cyclone, TC Yasa, made landfall on 17 December 2020 and proved to be one of the strongest cyclones on record to hit Fiji. It caused significant devastation, claiming at least four lives, destroying over 8,000 homes, and displacing tens of thousands of people. In the aftermath of TC Yasa, 7,731 individuals sought shelter in 183 evacuation centers. The cyclone resulted in power outages and water supply disruptions on several islands. It also triggered flash floods, landslides, and severe coastal inundation, with water levels rising up to 33 feet. Furthermore, TC Yasa severely damaged crops, exacerbating existing food insecurities in the affected areas. The cyclone caused an estimated loss of nearly \$250 million in infrastructure, livelihoods, and agriculture. Consequently, the government declared a 60-day State of Natural Disaster in Fiji's Northern Division due to the extensive impact of TC Yasa.

### **Jobs for Nature**

The Jobs for Nature Program is a World Bank funded project that aims to provide job opportunities for vulnerable communities residing in rural areas. The program supports small-scale projects focused on environmental enhancement. These projects include activities such as mangrove planting for wetland, coastal, and riverbank protection and rehabilitation, planting of vetiver grass, biodiversity conservation through forest restoration, native tree-planting, coral reef protection, and waste and wastewater management. The duration of each project is limited to three months. In its first round, the three-year project benefitted a total of 1169 individuals, with 839 of them being females and 330 being males. Among the beneficiaries, 128 were social assistance beneficiaries. Round one of the project had a total budget of FJD 1.2 million.

### **Tropical Cyclone Ana**

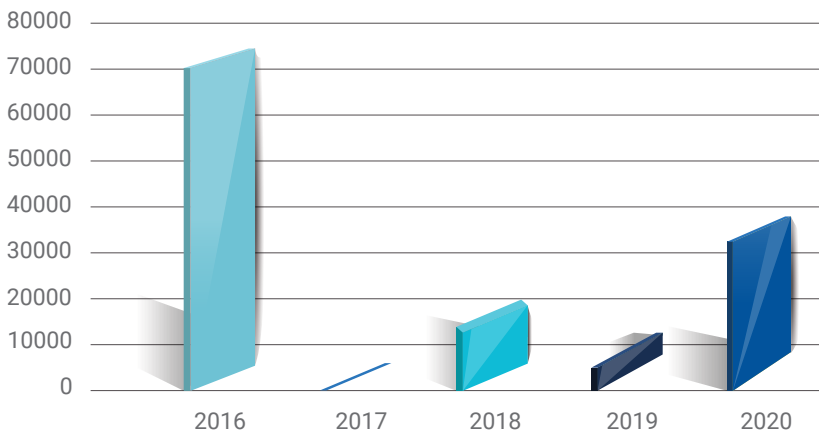
Fiji's National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018-2030 recognizes the importance of disaster risk reduction as a cross-cutting issue. The policy emphasizes the involvement of community-based and volunteer organizations and highlights the significance of cultivating community volunteering to prevent future threats and enhance community resilience.

Several tropical cyclones, namely TC Ana and TC Bina, caused extensive flooding across Fiji, resulting in urgent needs in areas such as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health, and shelter. The Provinces of Macuata and Cakaudrove, located in the northern part of Fiji, were severely affected, experiencing significant damage to roads and widespread flooding. To address the situation, over 350 evacuation centers were opened, accommodating more than 10,000 evacuees from over 2,000 households. In response to the disaster, the Fiji Red Cross Society redirected its resources to the affected areas in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. The focus was on providing hygiene and clothing materials through the WASH program.



The evidence indicates that the effects of natural disasters on the population have decreased since the peak levels observed in 2016 (refer to the chart below). This reduction could be attributed to a combination of factors, including the severity of the events themselves and, crucially, the improved preparedness of both the country and its people in dealing with natural disasters.

**Deaths / Missing / Affected from Disasters  
(Per 100,000 Population)**



### **Fiji Red Cross Society volunteers respond to TC Yasa and**

TC Yasa, a category 5 cyclone, made landfall in Fiji on December 17, 2020, followed by TC Ana on January 30, 2021. The following day, on January 31, TC Bina emerged, bringing additional rainfall. In response to the extensive damage in the northern regions, Fiji Red Cross provided assistance to 40,523 individuals. Among the aid provided, 13,327 people received shelter support, 40,523 people were reached through health activities, and 11,973 people were reached with both water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, as well as protection, gender, and inclusion activities.

The WASH activities included the distribution of hygiene kits, repairs of toilet facilities, repair of water systems, and distribution of water tanks and containers. Additionally, the society piloted a cash voucher assistance program, distributing FJD 200 cash grants to 309 households and FJD 100 cash grants to 290 households. Throughout this response, a total of 175 volunteers and 22 staff members were mobilized to support the affected areas.



# 2 ZERO HUNGER





**Fiji's priority targets for SDG 2 are:**

**Target 2.1** - By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

**Target 2.2** - By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

**Target 2.3** - By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

**Target 2.4** - By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Goal 2	2.1	Undernourishment and food security	Yellow	
	2.2	Malnutrition	Yellow	
	2.3	Small-scale food producers	Grey	
	2.4	Sustainable agriculture	Grey	
	2.5	Genetic resources for agriculture	Grey	
	2.a	Investment in agriculture	Yellow	
	2.b	Agricultural export subsidies	Grey	
	2.c	Food price anomalies	Green	
				Green Maintain
				Yellow Accelerate
				Red Reverse
				Grey Not Assessed

Fiji has made significant progress in Target 2.c, but there is a need for accelerated progress in Targets 2.1, 2.2, and 2.a. Unfortunately, Targets 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.b could not be measured.

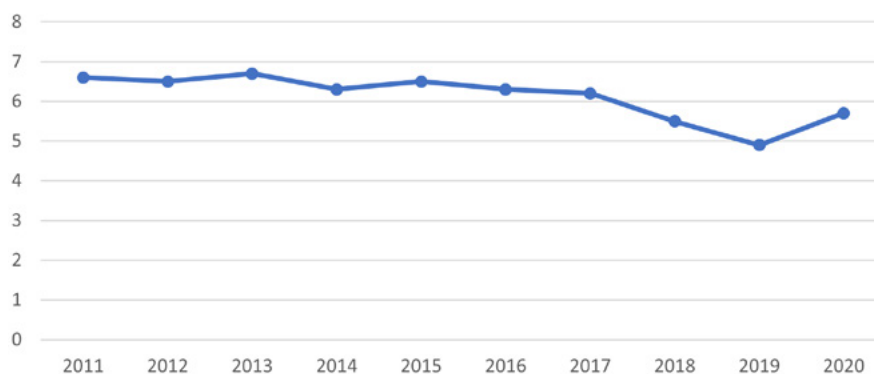
**Ensuring Access to Sufficient, Safe and Nutritious Food**

Given that Fiji's economy is predominantly agriculture-based, with tourism also playing a significant role, the agricultural sector holds great importance for the country. The people of Fiji have a strong understanding of and familiarity with the agricultural sector, allowing them to actively participate without requiring extensive orientation.

The food and agricultural sector in Fiji has been identified by Investment Fiji as a potential area for growth and attracting foreign investment. Fiji is capable of producing enough food to meet domestic needs and also has the capacity for export.



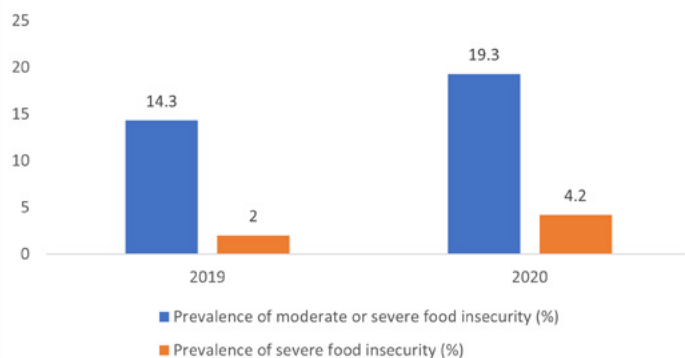
**Prevalence of Undernourishment (% of population)**



The prevalence of undernourishment in Fiji has shown a declining trend, decreasing from 6.6% of the total population in 2011 to 4.9% in 2019. However, there was a slight increase to 5.7% in 2020, which can potentially be attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the prevalence of both moderate and severe food insecurity, measured through the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), also exhibited an increase during this period. Moderate food insecurity rose from 14.3% in 2019 to 19.3% in 2020, indicating a higher proportion of the population experiencing limited access to adequate food. Similarly, severe food insecurity increased from 2% in 2019 to 4.2% in 2020, highlighting a greater level of deprivation and vulnerability to hunger.

**Prevalence of Food Insecurity (%)**



The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has been actively advocating for the enhancement of livelihoods and the creation of environmentally sustainable employment opportunities, particularly targeting women and youth. This objective is pursued through the implementation of youth in agriculture and gender in agriculture policies. The primary goals of these policies include improving overall food security by ensuring access to safe and nutritious food, enhancing the resilience of agriculture and food systems in the context of climate change, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the MOA aims to foster inclusive and efficient food value chains to promote agribusiness development.

### Increasing Agricultural Productivity

The agriculture sector in Fiji plays a significant role in the country's economy and employment. It contributes approximately 28% to total employment in the formal sector and also supports livelihoods in the informal sector. In terms of economic contribution, the agriculture sector is the third-largest in Fiji, contributing around FJD 451 million (USD 207 million) annually to the nation's GDP as of 2020. Historically, sugarcane was the dominant crop in the sector, but its prominence has been surpassed by other crops, horticulture, and livestock production. This diversification indicates the evolving landscape of agriculture in Fiji.

### Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC)

FCLC is a legislatively established council comprising various growers' associations in Fiji. These associations represent different agricultural sectors, including Pigs, Honey, Dalo, Yaqona, Tavioka, Grazing Livestock, Ginger, Cocoa, Agri-Exporters, Rice, Coconut Producers/Millers, Dairy, Organics, Fruits & Vegetables, and Mushrooms.

One of the primary roles of FCLC is to provide support, training, and upskilling services to crop and livestock farmers. To benefit from these services, farmers are required to register with FCLC. In addition, FCLC manages a risk insurance scheme specifically designed for farmers affected by climate-induced natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, and droughts.

Despite the shift in focus, the total agricultural land area in 2020 was 194,769 hectares, which decreased by 23% compared to 2009. However, the number of farming households with farmland increased by 5%<sup>11</sup> during the same period, indicating a higher concentration of farmers on available land.

In terms of crop production, the area harvested for temporary crops<sup>12</sup> experienced a substantial increase of 43% since 2009, reaching 29,334 hectares. The volume of temporary crops harvested also increased by 122%, totaling 306,035 metric tons. The value of these temporary crops amounted to FJD 2.4 billion, with the Yaqona (kava) crop accounting for 83.1% of the total value. This significant growth in temporary crop production demonstrates its economic importance.

On the other hand, permanent crops faced a different trend. The area harvested for permanent crops decreased by 72% to 5,598 hectares since 2009. However, the volume harvested increased by 2.6 times, reaching 93,023 metric tons. The value of permanent crops amounted to FJD 164 million. This indicates a shift in agricultural practices, with a smaller area dedicated to permanent crops but with increased productivity.

Between 2009 and 2020, there has been a noticeable increase in the percentage of farming households in Fiji that own less than one hectare of farmland. In 2009, 44% of farming households fell into this category, while by 2020, it had risen to 65%. This indicates a significant rise in the number of smallholder farming households in terms of farmland size.

In terms of income composition, agriculture activities contribute to the household income of Fijian families. On a national level, agriculture activities make up around 9.6% of the household income composition. In urban areas, this figure is lower, accounting for approximately 2% of the household income. In contrast, in rural areas, agriculture activities contribute significantly more, making up about 24% of the household income. This highlights the greater reliance on agriculture as a source of income in rural communities.

However, it is important to note that comprehensive data and information are still needed to obtain a more comprehensive overview of the income and productivity of small-scale food producers in Fiji.

At both the national and divisional levels in Fiji, the largest group of farmers in terms of population falls within the age range of 30-39 years. This holds true for both female and male farmers, with approximately 22% of farmers in this age group. Additionally, there is significant youth engagement in farming, particularly in the provinces of Cakaudrove and Bua in the Northern Division. In these areas, around 23.8% and 22.4% of farmers, respectively, are within the age range of 20-29 years. This trend may be attributed to the economic value of kava, which has attracted farmers to these regions in recent years.

In the province of Kadavu in the Eastern Division, the highest proportion of young female farmers is found, with 27.4% falling within the 20-29 years age range. However, similar to the national data, the majority of female farmers in each division are in the age group of 30-39 years. Notably, the Western Division has the oldest group of female farmers, with 25.3% of them falling within the 50-59 years age range. This is particularly prominent in the provinces of Nadroga/Navosa (26.9%) and Ba (25.7%).<sup>13</sup>

Since 2013, the agriculture sector has received substantial support through the Integrated Human Resource Development Programme (IHRDP), with over 58 projects benefiting from these initiatives. The investments made under the program have encompassed a wide range of activities aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing productivity. Examples of supported projects include the provision of bee equipment to facilitate apiculture, the introduction of farm mechanization through the acquisition of tractors, the implementation of modern hydroponics farming systems, and the expansion of the horticulture industry.

## Saltwater Inundation

In Narikoso Village, located on Kadavu Island, the residents are facing a significant challenge related to agricultural sustainability. The continuous exposure to saltwater inundation resulting from frequent storm surges and coastal erosion has led to the contamination of the soil, rendering it unsuitable for vegetable cultivation. As a consequence, villagers have observed a detrimental impact on their vegetable crops, which exhibit signs of distress such as browning, wilting, and ultimately dying.

11 Fiji Agriculture Census 2009 and 2020

12 Mainly cassava, bele, dalo, eggplant and yaqona (kava).

13 Ministry of Agriculture (2021) 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census. Volume 3: Gender Analysis Report. Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Agriculture Organisation

## Supporting Sustainability in Food Production

Agriculture plays a significant role as a major economic activity and a source of income for 70,991 households in Fiji.<sup>14</sup>

Agricultural sustainability is a complex and comprehensive concept that encompasses multiple dimensions, including economic, social, and environmental aspects. To assess and evaluate agricultural sustainability, various themes are considered, each capturing different facets of sustainability. These themes provide a framework for understanding and measuring the progress of agricultural systems. The key themes in assessing agricultural sustainability are land productivity, profitability, resilience, soil health, water use, risks associated with fertilizer and pesticide use, biodiversity, decent employment, food security and land tenure.

While further analysis is needed to comprehensively evaluate the economic, environmental and social sustainability of food production, the following observations can be made:

- In terms of land productivity, at the national level, the cumulative production value of temporary and permanent crops harvested was FJD 2.6 billion, over a cumulative harvested area of 34,882 hectares:<sup>15</sup> This translates to an average of FJD 6,100 per hectare per month (FJD 2,100 if Yaqona is not considered), which is a value 18 times higher than 11 years ago. The average size of land per household in 2020 ranged between 2 to 3 hectares..
- The average contribution of agricultural activities to households' income is FJD 209 per month, accounting for 9.6% of the income composition (compared to 7.1% in 2011<sup>16</sup>). A significant portion (32% to 95%) of the temporary crop production is consumed at the household level in 2020.
- Regarding access to finance, only 2.1% of agricultural households in Fiji took agricultural loans, a decrease from 6.0% in 2009.
- Deforestation, intensive sloping, flat farming, and reclamation of mangrove swamps are the primary drivers of land degradation in Fiji. The country is losing over 50 tons of soil per hectare each year through run-off, which is four times the average in tropical areas. Sustainable development is further threatened by the rising sea level, a consequence of climate change.<sup>17</sup> Numerous actions are currently being undertaken to support the UNCCD National Action Programme for Fiji, with the aim of building resilience, increasing the productivity of forest landscapes, and improving the livelihoods of the local population through the restoration of degraded land and the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Concerning water use, only 4.2% of agricultural households have a water tank for irrigation or stock watering.
- The 2020 Fiji Agriculture sector policy agenda emphasizes the prudent use of fertilizer based on site-specific recommendations instead of subsidizing it. However, the use of pesticides in the Pacific Island countries has doubled over the past decade, which is a significantly higher increase than the global average. This trend has raised concerns among policymakers due to its impact on human health and the fragile island ecosystems. In Fiji alone, the use of insecticides and herbicides increased by 34-fold between 1992 and 2013, according to FAO. Although the annual import trends show a rise in pesticide use, the technical capacity to make informed registration decisions, manage and control their use is extremely limited. This is primarily due to inadequate regulatory and compliance processes, limited technical expertise in evaluating pesticide risks, insufficient staffing for pesticide registration, sensitivity of (agro)ecosystems to pesticide disruption, and constraints on using personal protective equipment in hot weather conditions. The announcement of a new Pacific Pesticide Registration Scheme during the 2023 Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry is expected to facilitate monitoring of pesticide use in the region.<sup>18</sup>
- Livestock farming is a contributing factor to biodiversity loss that needs mitigation. Fiji has developed a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2020-2025, which aims to integrate biodiversity considerations into all aspects of development, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, and waterways. This involves conserving and sustainably using terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biodiversity, as well as maintaining ecological processes and the functioning of ecological systems.<sup>19</sup> Several initiatives are currently underway in Fiji to reduce biodiversity loss.

## Shifting Cropping Seasons

In Draubata, located in Navosa, farmers are confronted with the need to adapt their planting seasons due to shifting weather patterns. Previously, farmers relied on traditional planting calendars as a guide for their agricultural activities. However, with changing climatic conditions, they have had to make adjustments and wait for periods of wet weather to commence planting yagona (kava), dalo (taro), and vegetables.

14 Ministry of Agriculture Costed Operational Plan 2021/2022.

15 Fiji Agricultural Census 2020

16 HIES data

17 <https://www.fao.org/3/i9174en/i9174EN.pdf>

18 <https://spc.int/updates/news/2023/03/new-pacific-pesticide-registration-scheme-announced-at-pacific-week-of>

19 <https://leap.unep.org/countries/fj/national-legislation/national-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan-fiji-2020-2025>

- Starting from January 2023, the new rate for the National Minimum Wage (NMW) in Fiji is FJD 4.0 per hour. In the agriculture sector, employment is predominantly based on family involvement, with 77% of agricultural household members engaged as self-employed or unpaid family workers in at least one agricultural activity across the four sub-sectors (crop, livestock, fisheries, and forestry), as reported in the Fiji Agriculture Census 2020.<sup>20</sup>
- According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in Fiji was 19.3% in 2020, affecting approximately 173,000 people, with 4.2% of them classified as severely food insecure.<sup>21</sup> However, there is no FIES data specific to agricultural households.
- Regarding secure tenure rights to land, more than half (54.1%) of the total agricultural land in Fiji (194,768.6 hectares) is operated under traditional ownership systems (Mataqali, Tokatoka, Yavusa, Kovukovu). Native lease covers 23.7% of the land, while 13.9% is under freehold ownership, 6.0% under lease from the State, and 2.1% under informal arrangements. Only a negligible proportion, 0.2%, is operated without any legal or formal arrangement.

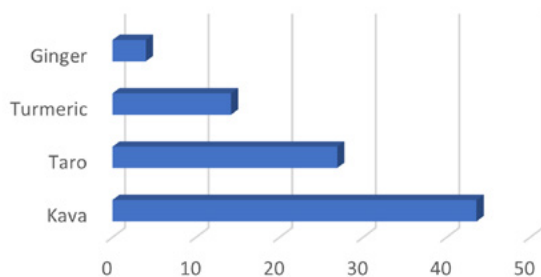
Efforts are currently underway to promote the development of organic farming in Fiji. However, a more concentrated and targeted approach is required to establish it as a mainstream activity within the agricultural sector. The MOA has been actively involved in the development of a National Organic Policy. The necessary skills to support these endeavors are available both in the country and the region.

### Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture

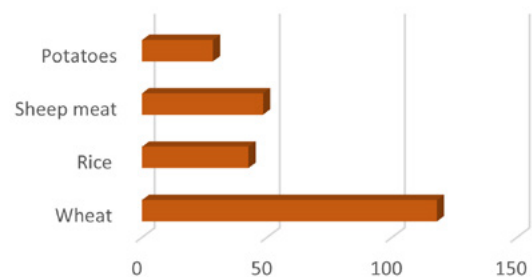
Climate change is already exerting a detrimental effect on Fiji's agriculture, and this impact is anticipated to escalate in the future. The consequences include a heightened decline in soil productivity, diminished crop yields, the emergence of new pests and diseases, land degradation, compromised water quality and availability, and alterations to cropping seasons.

Fiji relies on agricultural produce as a significant source of foreign exchange, with exports of ginger, turmeric, taro, and kava playing a crucial role. However, the country heavily depends on imports for various other agricultural products such as wheat, sheep meat, rice, and potatoes (refer to the charts below).

Key Agricultural Exports - 2020 (million FJD)



Key Agricultural Imports - 2020 (million FJD)



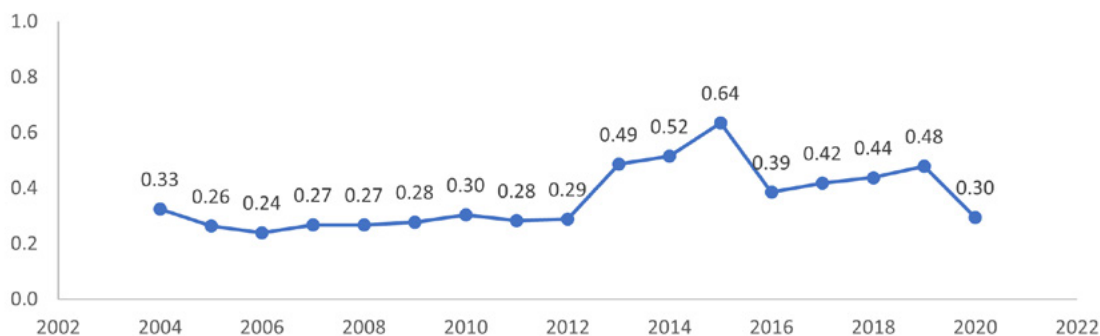
### Producing Local Cassava Flour

The production of cassava flour is recognized as a viable alternative to wheat, offering the additional advantage of being a healthier and highly sought-after gluten-free product. Cassava, also known as tavioka, holds the status of a staple food among indigenous Fijians, making it a crop they are adept at cultivating. A considerable amount of native land has the potential to be utilized for expanding cassava production, as it is currently primarily grown for subsistence purposes and sold in local markets on a small scale. While it is essential to maintain the domestic use of cassava for local consumption, there is a growing emphasis on increasing its production for milling into flour, both for domestic consumption and export. The Ministry of Agriculture and cassava growers are actively encouraging this expansion in cassava cultivation for the purpose of producing flour.

<sup>20</sup> Fiji Agriculture Census 2020  
<sup>21</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>

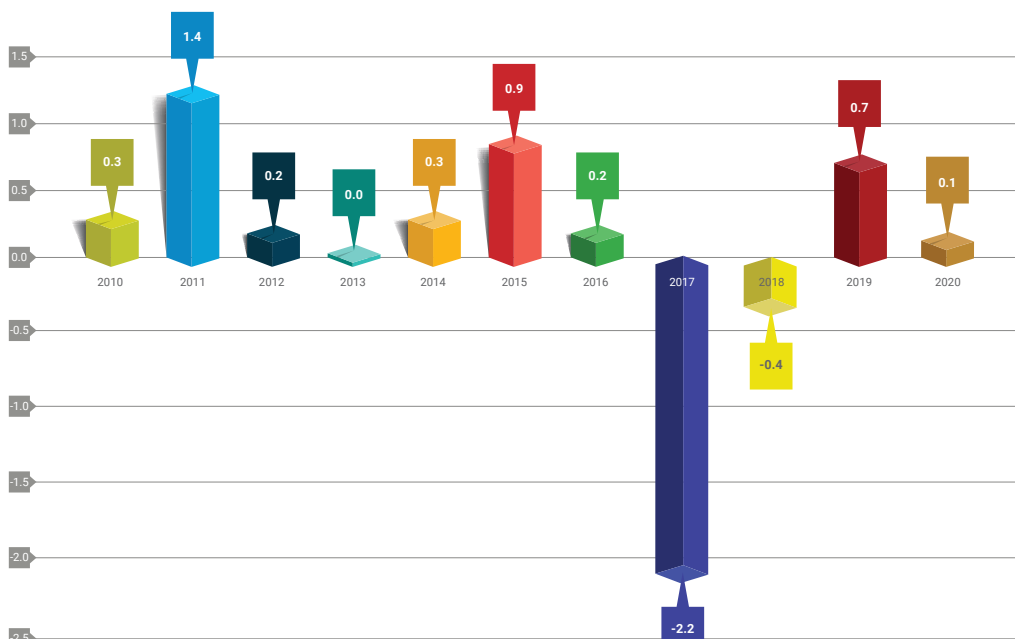
While the contribution of agriculture value added to the GDP has increased from 7.87% in 2015 to 14.89% in 2020, there has been a slight decline in the share of government expenditure allocated to the agriculture sector during the same period. Specifically, the agriculture share of government expenditure has decreased from 5% in 2015 to 4.4% in 2020. Consequently, the agriculture orientation index, which measures the proportion of government spending on the agriculture sector relative to its economic value-added, has experienced a decline from its peak of 0.64 in 2015 to 0.30 in 2020.

**Agriculture Orientation Index for Government Expenditures**



In relation to food price volatility, it was observed that moderate to high food prices were experienced in 2019, as indicated by the Consumer Food Price Index. However, in 2020, the food price anomalies decreased, returning to normal levels.

**Indicator of Food Price Anomalies (IFPA), by Consumer Food Price Index**



## Accelerating the achievement of SDG 2

Several strategic frameworks and sectoral policies are contributing to the acceleration of action towards achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) in Fiji. These initiatives demonstrate the national commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Here are some notable examples:

- The final draft of the Fiji Policy for Food and Nutrition Security (FPFNS) recognizes the importance of addressing food and nutrition security through a multi/inter-sectoral approach. It acknowledges that *"nutrition plays a direct role in achieving SDG 2 and SDG 3, while also enabling progress across the other 15 SDGs."*
- The Fiji 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy Agenda serves as an inclusive development framework. It aims to tackle both domestic

and global challenges related to food security, climate change, renewable energy feedstock, water resource utilization for aquaculture, agricultural exports, and the revitalization of traditional agriculture industries<sup>22</sup> such as sugarcane and coconut.

- Fiji's Social Protection schemes are among the most well-established in the Pacific region. They have proven to be invaluable assets in the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing support to over 118,000 individuals in 2021. However, the pandemic has also highlighted the need to enhance the social protection system,<sup>23</sup> to include informal workers and to ensure its responsiveness to disasters, safeguarding food security, nutrition, and development gains from the negative impacts of recurrent calamities.

The appropriate integration of crosscutting issues, such as climate change, gender, poverty, urbanization, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and nutrition-sensitive approaches to agriculture, as well as the transformation of agri-food systems, are crucial for accelerating the achievement of SDG 2.

The MoA has implemented various agricultural policies and projects, leading to recommendations to address several key areas:

1. Reviewing outdated actions and policies.
2. Strengthening consistency in policy direction and fostering a concerted political will to develop and revamp the entire agriculture sector.
3. Promoting a business-like approach to agriculture by mobilizing existing human resources and supporting small and medium-sized enterprises with a focus on secondary processing.
4. Upgrading rural infrastructure in a sustainable manner to support agriculture commodity development, including improvements in roads, water supply (through main grids and localized systems), communications, and electricity.

Additionally, research has highlighted the lack of monitoring and evaluation capacity, overambitious production projections, weather-related calamities, and an outdated policy environment as contributing factors to poor outcomes in numerous agricultural projects (Kumar and Kumar, 2015).<sup>24</sup> The Ministry of Agriculture had a Strategic Development Plan (SDP) in place for the period 2019-2023 and was actively working on finalizing a new SDP for the subsequent period of 2024-2028.

Adequate funding is essential for implementing existing strategies and policies related to food and nutrition security. The presence of appropriate political will, experience, and operational procedures for cross-sectoral implementation mechanisms are key factors for success.

To eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition in Fiji, it is crucial to strengthen data collection, analysis, and policy implementation capacities. Generating information and practical evidence on enhancing local food systems is vital. Accelerated efforts in collecting timely, relevant, and high-quality data are necessary to support policy formulation, sector decision-making, and measure progress towards achieving the 2030 SDG Agenda.

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22 <https://www.agriculture.gov.fj/documents/fiji-2020-agriculture-sector-policy-agenda.pdf>

23 [https://p4sp.org/documents/2/P4SP\\_Poster\\_Series\\_-\\_Fiji.pdf?download=True](https://p4sp.org/documents/2/P4SP_Poster_Series_-_Fiji.pdf?download=True)

24 [https://www.foodsecurityportal.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/PEAR\\_Fiji\\_Final.pdf](https://www.foodsecurityportal.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/PEAR_Fiji_Final.pdf)

# 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





# SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

*Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All at All ages*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 3 are:

**Target 3.1** – By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

**Target 3.2** - By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

**Target 3.3** - By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

**Target 3.4** - By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

**Target 3.5** - Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

**Target 3.6** - By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

**Target 3.7** - By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

**Target 3.8** - Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

**Target 3.c** - Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

<b>Goal 3</b>	3.1	Maternal Mortality	Yellow	Maintain Accelerate Reverse Not Assessed
	3.2	Child Mortality	Red	
	3.3	Communicable Diseases	Red	
	3.4	NCD & Mental Health	Yellow	
	3.5	Substance Abuse	Red	
	3.6	Road Traffic Accidents	Red	
	3.7	Sexual & Reproductive Health	Red	
	3.8	Universal Health Coverage	Yellow	
	3.9	Health Impact of Pollution	Red	
	3.a	Tobacco Control	Yellow	
	3.b	R&D for Health	Red	
	3.c	Health Financing & Workforce	Yellow	
	3.d	Management of Health Risks	Grey	



It is imperative that Fiji accelerates progress towards achieving this SDG. Targets 3.1, 3.4, 3.8, 3.a, and 3.c require accelerated progress if Fiji is to meet these targets by 2030. However, there has been regression in Targets 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, and 3.b. Target 3.d, unfortunately, could not be measured.

### Maternal Health

Fiji has made remarkable progress in Skilled Birth Attendance (SBA), Total Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR), and Adolescent Birth Rates (ABR) over the last three decades. The SBA increased from 98% in 1990 to 100% in 2021, CPR rose from 29% in 2009 to 36% in 2021, and ABR decreased from 36% in 2007 to 31% in 2021.

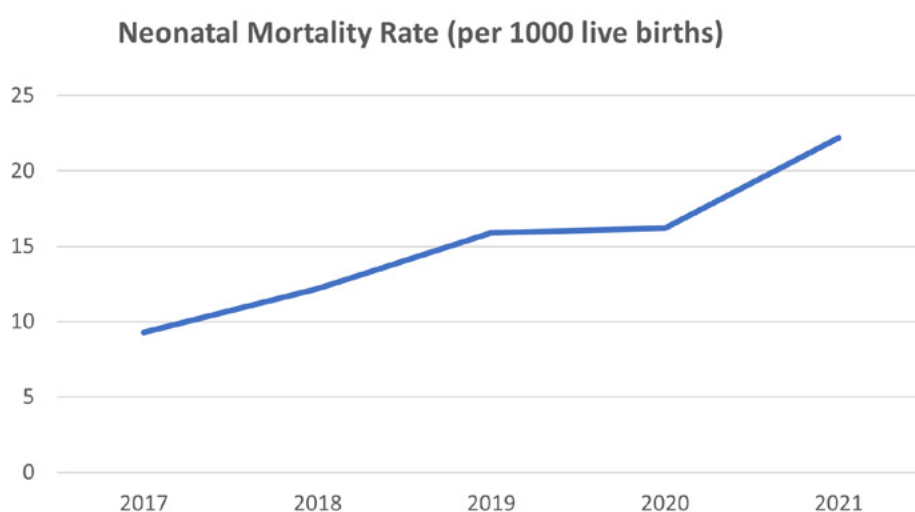
However, despite this progress, an independent review conducted in 2019 by Fiji’s Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Service Network, Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) revealed an MMR of 86/100,000 live births, surpassing the SDG target of 70/100,000 live births. This underscores the need for focused attention on improving the quality of maternal and newborn health services, particularly in hard-to-reach rural areas and for marginalized girls and women in the country.

To address this, Fiji has made significant efforts to provide transportation logistics for women in labor and ensure that the majority of births in the country are attended by skilled birth attendants, including midwives, nurses, and doctors.

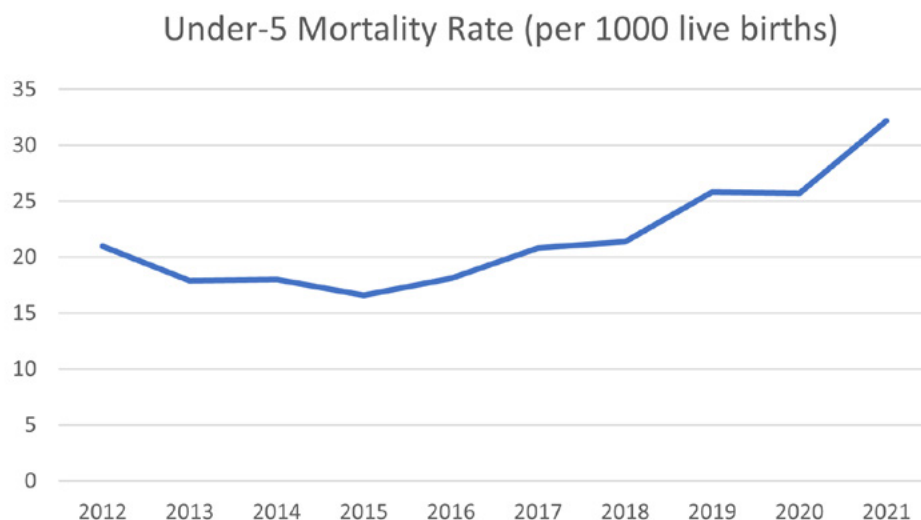
Fiji has made efforts to provide transportation for women in labor and to ensure that nearly all births occur in the presence of competent birth attendants. Currently, 87% of all deliveries in Fiji take place in six facilities: Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) in Suva, Lautoka, Labasa, Nadi, Sigatoka, and Nausori Hospitals. Referral rates for complications from SHD to DH are high, constituting between 22% to 34% of all deliveries in each division. Deliveries at DH have increased since 2003, and CWMH and Lautoka Hospital are operating beyond capacity. However, access to quality maternal healthcare remains a challenge for women residing in the hard-to-reach maritime areas.

### Children’s health

The neonatal mortality rate in Fiji has seen a significant increase, rising from 9.3 per 1000 births in 2017 to 22.2 in 2021. One possible reason for this increase is that while the number of deaths has remained relatively stable, there has been a decline in the number of births, which impacts the calculation of the mortality rate.



The under-5 mortality rate in Fiji has experienced a significant increase, nearly doubling over a six-year period, from 16.6 deaths per thousand live births in 2015 to 32.2 in 2021. This comes after showing positive signs of decline from a figure of 21 deaths per thousand live births in 2012.



### Combatting Communicable Diseases

As a tropical country, Fiji is susceptible to several diseases that are endemic to tropical regions. These include Dengue, Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Tuberculosis, and Lymphatic filariasis.

**Dengue** is a painful and debilitating disease that can have serious consequences. While most cases recover within approximately a week, there are instances where the disease can be fatal. It is primarily transmitted by infected mosquitoes. At times, the number of infections can reach epidemic levels. For instance, in the years 2013-2014, Fiji experienced over 15,000 confirmed cases of Dengue. During such periods, the government implements spraying campaigns to control the population of mosquitoes carrying the disease.

The WISH Fiji surveys conducted across 29 communities revealed that the incidence of Dengue cases, totalling 60 reported cases over three years, was associated with various factors. These factors include a lack of effort to control standing water (including water in containers) and overgrown vegetation around houses, the presence of mosquito larvae within households, the number of people in households and their relative wealth, the proximity of swamps, the frequency of flooding and the extent of flood-prone areas in the watershed, as well as the presence of highly erodible soil and pathways for its entry into creeks through road crossings.

### The WISH-Fiji Project

The WISH-Fiji project, initiated in late 2018, is a proof-of-concept research program supported by the Australian DFAT and Bloomberg Philanthropies. It receives backing from the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services. The project's objective is to evaluate ecosystem-based and health system interventions in five sub-catchments in Fiji to address the prevalence of three diseases: typhoid, leptospirosis, and dengue.

The research group involved in the project comprises members from the University of Sydney, Edith Cowan University, Fiji National University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Collaborative partnerships have been formed with the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, the Fijian National Drinking Water Quality Committee, WHO, and UNICEF.

The project team aims to develop and implement practical approaches that integrate water quality monitoring, assessment of water-related diseases, and interventions in the areas of water safety, sanitation, and catchment management. The primary focus is on implementing proactive measures to prevent, detect, and respond to water-related diseases in Fiji, emphasizing upstream solutions.

The project's objectives include establishing multi-sectoral planning and implementation processes to mitigate the risks of water-related diseases, providing a model for water-related disease control in the region, and generating crucial evidence to inform policy development not only in Fiji but also in other Pacific Island Countries.

**Leptospirosis** is a bacterial disease that can infect both humans and animals, and it is a common infection in Fiji. In February 2022, the Fiji Ministry of Health reported 179 confirmed cases of leptospirosis following a period of heavy rains and flooding in the country. Among the reported cases, 73 were from the Western Division, 65 from the Central Division, 38 from the Northern Division, and 3 from the Eastern Division. Unfortunately, 14 deaths were recorded among these cases. The majority of those affected were males between the ages of 20 and 49.

In early 2023, there was a significant increase in leptospirosis cases in the Northern provinces of Macuata and Bua. Between January 1st and February 26th, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services reported 171 cases, and an additional 50 cases were recorded in the following week. In response to this surge, the Ministry of Health actively conducted awareness and advocacy campaigns in the Northern division to emphasize the importance of adhering to preventive measures for leptospirosis.

**Typhoid** is an exclusively human, fecal-orally transmitted, systemic disease caused by infection with the bacterium *Salmonella enterica* subspecies *enterica* serovar Typhi (S. Typhi). Among Pacific countries, Fiji has the highest infection rate, which has been steadily increasing every year since 2005. Typhoid in Fiji is typically seasonal and is associated with prolonged heavy rainfall and tropical cyclones. It has also been recognized that socio-cultural and behavioral factors play a role in the transmission of typhoid.

**Tuberculosis (TB)** is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. While the bacteria primarily affect the lungs, they can also target other organs like the kidneys, spine, and brain. TB is both curable and preventable, but without proper treatment, it can be fatal. In recent years, TB rates have remained stable, with fewer than 100 cases reported annually. Since the year 2000, there has been an improvement in the detection of TB cases, and the treatment rate has remained relatively consistent.

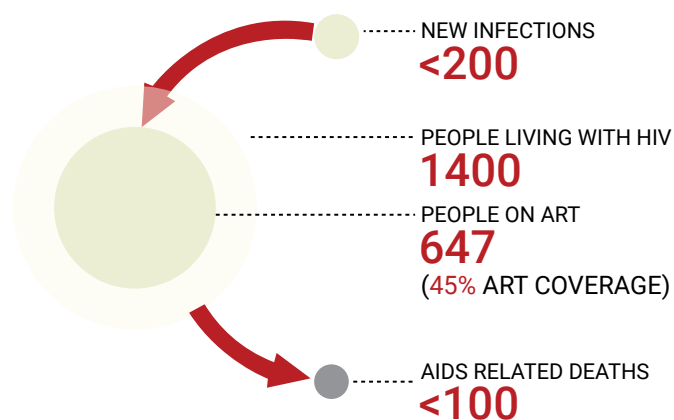
**Lymphatic filariasis (LF)** is a parasitic disease transmitted by mosquitoes that can cause significant morbidity in humans. In Fiji, LF is caused by the thread-like filarial worm, *Wuchereria bancrofti*. The Ministry of Health's Lymphatic Filariasis Programme focuses on two main pillars: transmission control through Mass Drug Administration (MDA) and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention. These pillars aim to eliminate lymphatic filariasis in Fiji, with the goal of reducing the prevalence to less than 1% by 2030.

Significant progress has been made in reducing the national prevalence of LF in Fiji. The prevalence decreased from 16.6% in 2000 to 9.5% in 2007. However, the disease has not been completely eradicated in Fiji.<sup>25</sup> In response to the 9.5% prevalence in 2007, two rounds of national MDA were implemented between 2008 and 2009. Due to limitations in human and financial resources, surveys and MDA were then conducted in four hotspot islands representing Fiji's four divisions. These islands include Serua (Central) with a prevalence of 28.4% (2022 Sentinel survey), Malolo Island (Western) with a prevalence of 15.9%, Taveuni (Northern) with a prevalence of 7.7%, and Rotuma (Eastern) with a prevalence of 15% (the last three determined through a 2019 Sentinel survey).

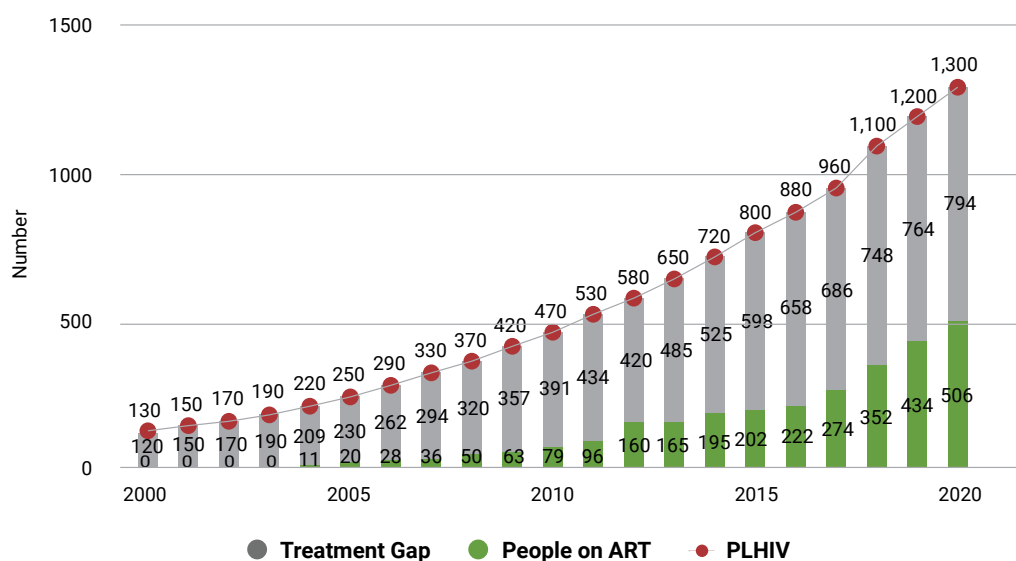
## HIV/AIDS

As of 2022, there were approximately 1,400 people living with HIV in Fiji. Out of this number, 647 individuals, or 45%, were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART).<sup>26</sup> According to UNAIDS estimates, new HIV infections have increased by 129% in Fiji since 2010. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services aims to reduce and prevent new infections while also addressing the treatment gap.

Starting from 2024, Fiji plans to re-engage with the Global Fund, although there may still be funding gaps that need to be addressed. Fiji's intention is to introduce PrEP, point-of-care testing, and community-based/led HIV programming, aligning with the 2021 HIV political commitments.



## People living with HIV, people on ART and treatment gap, 2000 - 2020



### COVID-19

The first case of COVID-19 was reported in Fiji on March 19, 2020. From March 2020 to January 2023, there were 68,771 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Fiji, resulting in 883 deaths.<sup>27</sup> The vaccination campaign for COVID-19 in Fiji has been successful, with 99% of the population aged 12 and above receiving the first dose and 89% receiving the second dose. Additionally, as of mid-February 2023, 170,867 individuals received a booster dose, and 29,208 received a second booster dose.<sup>28</sup> The economic impact of COVID-19 is discussed in another section of this report.

### Combatting Non-Communicable Diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have been a serious problem in Fiji. Approximately 800 people in Fiji require dialysis every year, and diabetes affects 15.8% of Fiji's population, with 60% of those admitted to the hospital being diabetic.<sup>29</sup>

The prevalence of NCDs in Fiji and the Pacific region has reached crisis levels. The most recent NCD STEPS survey in Fiji has revealed alarming trends of increasing levels of risk factors, unhealthy behaviors, and NCDs. This has highlighted the urgent need for a comprehensive response involving all stakeholders to address this crisis. In 2015, a Fiji NCD Strategy was developed to tackle the problem.

The strategy focuses on a multisectoral approach, improved service delivery through the integration of prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment at all levels of primary healthcare, enhanced monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building to deliver these services effectively.

Recently, the Ministry of Health has developed a Wellness Strategic Plan 2023–2030, which outlines an ambitious yet achievable approach to reducing preventable NCDs and related conditions in Fiji. The plan is based on a logical, results-driven framework that aligns with national, regional, and global wellness and NCD plans. It aims to achieve economic, social, and health objectives by addressing barriers, challenges, and deficits while capitalizing on strengths and opportunities. The plan provides flexibility to adapt to evolving external circumstances and focuses on three priorities: wellness promotion and disease prevention, clinical treatment and management for individuals with NCDs, and foundational systems and enabling support to create efficient and effective operations.

<sup>27</sup> World Health Organization Covid19 Data - <https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/fj>

<sup>28</sup> Fiji Ministry of Health

<sup>29</sup> Dr Eddie McCaig speaking at the National Economic Summit, April 2023.

## Addressing Mental Health

Mental health has traditionally been a taboo subject in Fiji, with individuals suffering from mental illness often hesitant to seek help. The country's main mental care institution, St Giles Hospital, provides care for all mental patients regardless of the level of care they require. Empower Pacific, a CSO, offers counseling services to individuals experiencing challenging, stressful, and psychologically traumatic experiences.

One positive development in Fiji is the decrease in the suicide mortality rate, which dropped from 3.8 per 100,000 population in 2017 to 0.9 in 2021.

Engaging in physical exercise and sports plays a significant role in reducing the incidence of NCDs and promoting better mental health. In the 2030 Agenda preamble, the UN recognizes sport as a crucial driver of sustainable development and peace, empowering women, youth, individuals, and communities.<sup>30</sup> Fiji has a strong sporting culture, and many Fijians have successful careers as professional athletes, particularly in rugby, with several playing for prominent international clubs. Sports also contribute to other SDGs, such as quality education (SDG4), gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG5), sustainable cities and communities (SDG11), peacebuilding, accountable and inclusive institutions (SDG16), and partnerships for the goals (SDG17).<sup>31</sup>

## Tobacco Use

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services in Fiji has been actively engaged in tobacco prevention and control efforts. Their primary objective is to enhance the overall health of the population by reducing tobacco use and addressing the associated social, economic, and health disparities. To achieve this, the Fiji Tobacco Strategic Plan for the years 2023 to 2030 has been developed, which outlines eight major strategies and corresponding activities aimed at achieving a 30% reduction in tobacco use.

The major strategies identified in the plan encompass various aspects of tobacco control, including:

1. Addressing tobacco industry interference.
2. Enhancing governance, infrastructure, and capacity building.
3. Regulating advertising, promotion, and sponsorship related to tobacco.
4. Promoting alternative crops to tobacco farming.

## Empower Pacific

Established in 2014, Empower Pacific is an organization dedicated to maximizing the potential of communities through collaborative efforts with the government and other community agencies. Their goal is to provide a comprehensive model of professional health services, encompassing various programs that enhance the health and well-being of their clients. Additionally, Empower Pacific facilitates opportunities for learning, income generation, and personal growth. One notable initiative of Empower Pacific is the management of a helpline, which offers assistance to individuals in need of support to address mental health issues.



**NI KO GADREVA MO  
ROGOCI, LIFELINE ENA  
ROGOCI IKO.**

**WHEN YOU NEED TO  
TALK, WE'RE HERE TO  
LISTEN**

Crisis Support Line  
**132 454**  
Toll Free | 24 hours a day

<sup>30</sup> [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_70\\_1\\_E.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf)  
<sup>31</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/role-sport-achieving-sustainable-development-goals>

5. Ensuring tobacco products are less affordable and accessible.
6. Expanding cessation services to support individuals in quitting tobacco use.
7. Implementing effective tobacco control policies.
8. Conducting communication and promotional campaigns to raise awareness

### **Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Although CPR was increasing in Fiji, the high rate of unmet needs for family planning (FP) remained a concern. Approximately 26% of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) who wished to avoid pregnancy were not using a modern contraceptive method. To address this issue, the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services, in collaboration with UNFPA, has been actively working to strengthen in-service training for FP health workers, including at the nursing station level, to ensure universal access to FP/SRH services.

In 2022, the Ministry successfully trained 82 health workers in FP, utilizing the updated WHO Family Planning curriculum. The training program was designed with a human rights and client-centered approach, aiming to equip health workers with the skills to provide comprehensive family planning counseling, including the provision of various contraceptive methods, such as long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). It also focused on screening women and girls at risk of gender-based violence, offering basic counseling and referrals, and delivering quality services to individuals with disabilities. The Ministry's objective is to have at least one fully trained staff member available in all health facilities, ensuring youth-friendly and disability-inclusive family planning services. Currently, 39% of health facilities have received training using the updated curriculum.

To improve the overall quality of FP/MH/SRH services, including client feedback, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with its partners, has developed a Sexual and Reproductive Health supportive supervision tool. This tool will be implemented to provide on-the-job mentoring and supervision for trained health workers.

The Ministry of Health also oversees a Family Health program, which focuses on managing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating programs related to Child Health, Maternal Health, HIV/STIs, Reproductive Health, and Gender.

Furthermore, the Reproductive & Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF) has been operating in Fiji since 1996. The organization plays a crucial role in supporting reproductive and sexual health issues, advocating for the rights of individuals, families, high-need groups, and the broader community.

### **Health Coverage**

Fiji's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) service coverage index has shown improvement, reaching 61 in 2019 compared to 56 in 2010. The UHC Index measures the average coverage of essential services, including reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and service capacity and access. The index is measured on a scale from 0 (worst) to 100 (best), indicating the level of coverage achieved.

### **Health workers**

Health workers play a crucial role in Fiji's health system and are considered its backbone. The country has tertiary education institutions that train medical, dental, and nursing professionals. However, the demand for health professionals remains a persistent challenge as these professions are highly sought after in overseas markets. Currently, Fiji has 3,056 nursing positions.

In 2022 alone, 807 nurses (26% of the total) resigned from the Health Ministry, highlighting the need to address retention and workforce stability. The Ministry recognizes the importance of having well-supported, appropriately compensated, and capable healthcare professionals who are compassionate and caring. Finding inclusive and consultative solutions to this ongoing problem is crucial.<sup>32</sup>

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32 Minister of Health's speech in Parliament (15 February 2023).

# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION





### **Fiji's priority targets for SDG 4 are:**

**Target 4.1** – By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

**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

**Target 4.3** – By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

**Target 4.4** – By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

**Target 4.5** – By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

**Target 4.6** – By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

**Target 4.7** – By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

**Target 4.a** – Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

**Target 4.b** – By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

**Target 4.c** – By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States



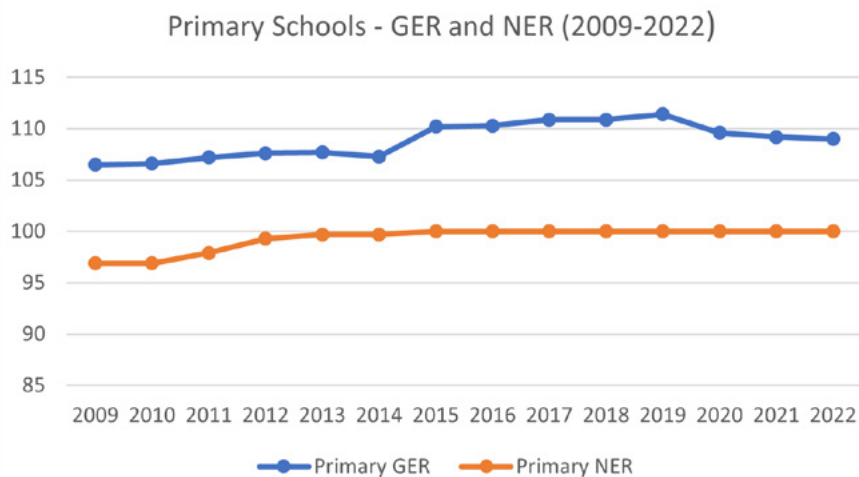
Goal 4	4.1	Effective learning outcomes	Yellow	
	4.2	Early childhood development	Green	Maintain
	4.3	TVET & tertiary education	Grey	Accelerate
	4.4	Skills for employment	Grey	Reverse
	4.5	Equal access to education	Red	Not Assessed
	4.6	Adult literacy & numeracy	Grey	
	4.7	Sustainable development education	Grey	
	4.a	Education facilities	Grey	
	4.b	Scholarships	Red	
	4.c	Qualified Teachers	Red	

Fiji has made good progress in achieving this SDG Target 4.2, which focuses on universal free access to quality education. However, there is a need for accelerated progress in Target 4.1, and there has been regression in Targets 4.5, 4.b, and 4.c. Unfortunately, Targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, 4.7, and 4.a could not be measured.

### Universal Free Access To Quality Education

One indicator of progress in education is the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which measures the ratio of total enrollment to the population of the corresponding age group at the same level of education. Fiji's GER reflects its efforts to provide universal access to education.<sup>33</sup>

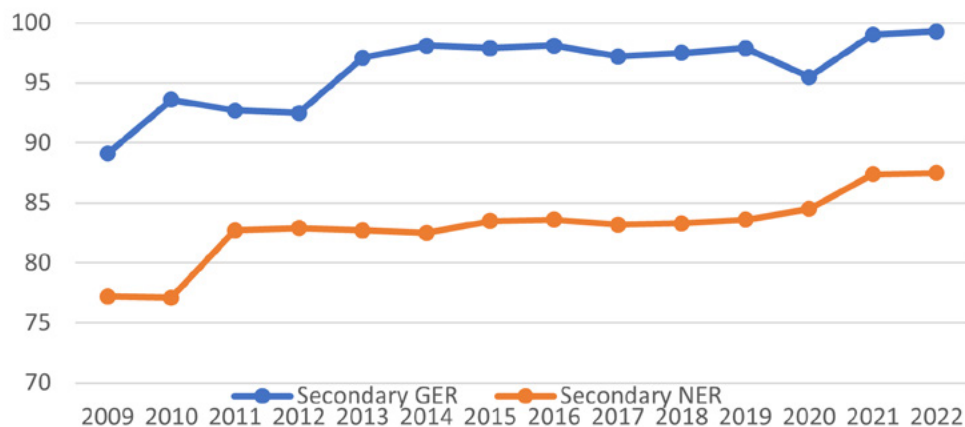
Another indicator is the Net Enrolment Ratio (NER), which measures the percentage of students in a particular age group enrolled in a specific level of education compared to the total population in that age group. NER provides insight into the enrollment of students at a specific level of education.



<sup>33</sup> GER can exceed 100% due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged students, because of early or late school entrance, and grade repetition.



## Secondary Schools - GER and NER (2009-2022)



The Government of Fiji has implemented various measures to support families with school-age children. These include providing free textbooks to all primary and secondary schools, offering Free Education Grants to government-funded schools (including Early Childhood Education, Primary, and Secondary schools), and assisting eligible parents with bus fares for their children's transportation to schools. In areas not accessible by bus, free boats and engines are provided for students attending maritime schools.

However, an analysis of the 2017 Population and Housing Census revealed significant challenges and limited educational opportunities for persons with disabilities<sup>34</sup> in Fiji. Attendance rates for persons with disabilities aged 6-14 were approximately 70%, compared to over 90% for persons without disabilities attending primary and secondary schools. Attendance rates for persons with disabilities decreased further by age 15 and declined significantly thereafter. The data also indicated that 22% of school-age persons with disabilities had never attended school, and among those currently attending school, 34% left before completing their education.

Furthermore, persons with disabilities had lower enrollment rates and were three times more likely to have never attended school compared to those without disabilities. Over 15% of persons with disabilities had never attended school, while the figure was around 6% for persons without disabilities. Persons with disabilities were also less likely to continue their education beyond secondary school, with only 5% attaining a post-secondary degree or higher, compared to 59% of persons without disabilities who achieved secondary qualifications.

### Access to Technical and Tertiary Education

In Fiji, students who achieve lower marks in Year 12 and Year 13 have had the opportunity to enroll in vocational centers to acquire practical skills. However, in 2019, the technical colleges were closed, which resulted in decreased accessibility for youth and adults seeking to attend vocational centers and acquire desired skills and qualifications. As part of this decision, the Fiji National University also closed its program, and all the sites were brought back under the Ministry of Education. Currently, there are 32 operational vocational colleges in Fiji.

Recognizing the importance of having qualified technical teachers, the Ministry of Education has prioritized the provision of scholarships and upskilling programs for teachers in this field. Efforts are being made to ensure that vocational centers can be reopened, and the Ministry is conducting surveys and site studies to facilitate this process. Additionally, there is a need to upgrade the tools and teaching materials used in vocational classes.

## Eliminating Gender Disparities in Education

In Fiji, the government ensures free education for all boys and girls, including children with disabilities. Schools that cater to children with disabilities receive additional funding through the Special and Inclusive Education Grant. However, it is worth noting that some schools may not be inclusive, and there may be accessibility challenges for children who require special schools. Additionally, the Ministry of Education recognizes that the lack of specialists for special schools is a significant issue. To address this issue, there is a need for training more teachers specifically for special schools.

## Literacy and Numeracy

The Ministry of Education in Fiji has collaborated with the Australian Quality Education Facility to bring about a fresh approach to literacy and numeracy education. Through this partnership, the literacy and numeracy curriculum has been revised, aiming to enhance the quality of education in these areas.

To assess the effectiveness of the new curriculum, a pilot program was conducted in 90 schools, focusing on Years 1 to 4. Following a successful pilot, a national rollout of the revised curriculum took place in 2022. Currently, a pilot program for Years 5 to 8 is underway in 90 schools, and it is anticipated that the curriculum will be implemented nationwide in 2024. The initiative recognizes that improving retention rates plays a vital role in enhancing literacy and numeracy skills.

## Education and Culture for Sustainable Development

The Fiji National Culture Policy 2022-2032 (NCP) has been formulated with the objective of preserving and promoting culture in Fiji while also facilitating culturally sustainable development. Recognizing that culture holds different meanings for various communities in Fiji, the policy emphasizes the equal significance of all perspectives. It outlines eight priority areas to guide cultural initiatives and interventions:

1. Cultural rights and heritage of all Fijians
2. Sustainable cultural and natural heritage development
3. Cultural and creative industries
4. Culture and tourism
5. Sustainable funding and investment
6. Education, training, and research
7. Cultural diplomacy
8. Cultural institutions and infrastructure


The policy recognizes that culture plays a cross-cutting role in various development areas such as commerce and trade, women empowerment, poverty alleviation, youth development, land management, health, agriculture, fisheries, and employment.

In addition, the National Trust of Fiji (NTF) is a statutory authority established under the National Trust of Fiji Act 1970. Its mandate is to manage designated areas of heritage significance, ensuring their preservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations.

## The Education Policy Framework

The Ministry of Education in Fiji has developed a comprehensive policy framework to guide various aspects of the education system. These policies address a wide range of areas and issues to ensure the effective management and delivery of education in the country. Some of the notable policies include:

1. Policy on Research
2. Policy on Mobile Phones in Schools
3. Policy on FEMIS
4. Teacher Transfer Policy
5. Teacher Remuneration Setting
6. Policy on Open Merit Recruitment and Selection
7. Policy on Location Allowance for Teachers
8. Professional Development Policy
9. Policy in Study/Training Leave

- 
10. Customer Service Policy
  11. OHS Policy
  12. Policy on National School Library
  13. Financial Management Arrangements for Schools
  14. Police Check Policy
  15. School Procedures - Visitors in School
  16. Student Code of Conduct
  17. Policy on School Zoning
  18. School Boarding
  19. Policy on Food and School Canteen
  20. Fiji School Health Policy
  21. Policy on Special and Inclusive Education
  22. Child Protection in Schools
  23. Policy on Behaviour Management in Schools
  24. Policy on School Excursions
  25. Policy in Community Use of Government School Grounds
  26. Policy on Early Childhood Education
  27. Policy on External Examinations and Assessment
  28. School Counselling Policy in National Management of HIV& Aids at the Ministry of Education Fiji Schools
  29. Drugs and Substances Abuse Policy
  30. National Policy on Open Educational Resources
  31. Free Education Resources
  32. Enterprise Education Policy
  33. Policy in National Curriculum Assessment and Reporting
  34. Policy on Transport Assistance for School Students
  35. Risk Management
  36. Education in Emergencies and School Safety Policy
  37. Schools Standard Monitoring and Inspection Policy
  38. Policy in Establishment and Recognition Registration of Schools

Many of these policies are currently under review and consultation processes to ensure they remain relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the education system in Fiji.

### **Improvement of Infrastructure of Educational Facilities**

The Ministry of Education in Fiji has prioritized the goal of inclusivity in primary schools, aiming to eliminate barriers that children with disabilities may face in accessing education. To achieve this objective, the Ministry recognizes the need for financial resources to make schools accessible and inclusive. Some of the key measures being undertaken include the installation of toilet facilities, ramps and railings.

### **Improving Teacher Qualifications**

The Ministry of Education runs a teacher in-service program that prioritizes TVET, SIE, Maths/Physics, and ECE. According to the Regional Review of Inclusive Education, only 10% of teachers were trained in inclusive education.<sup>35</sup> Teachers' salaries would be upgraded when they complete their studies, depending on the type of qualification attained, and this served as an incentive. However, there is still a lack of teachers in several specialized areas, which requires further study programs to upskill teachers. The Ministry has a Professional Development Policy that guides this process.

# 5 GENDER EQUALITY





# SDG 5: Gender Equality

*Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 5 are:

**Target 5.1** - End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

**Target 5.2** - Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**Target 5.5** - Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

**Target 5.6** - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

**Target 5.a** - Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

**Target 5.b** - Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

**Target 5.c** - Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Goal 5	5.1	Discrimination against women & girls	■	
	5.2	Violence against women & girls	■	
	5.3	Early marriage	■	
	5.4	Unpaid care and domestic work	■	
	5.5	Women in leadership	■	
	5.6	Reproductive health access & rights	■	
	5.a	Equal economic rights	■	
	5.b	Technology for women empowerment	■	
	5.c	Gender equality policies	■	
				■ Maintain
				■ Accelerate
				■ Reverse
				■ Not Assessed

Out of the nine targets, only two (5.1 and 5.5) could be measured, and both require accelerated progress. The other seven targets (5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.6, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c) could not be measured.

## Ending all Forms of Discrimination Against all Women and Girls

Statistics show that Fiji has made some progress in this area. Women and girls are protected against discrimination by Fiji's laws. However, more needs to be done in terms of raising awareness about women's rights, both among women themselves and men. Schools should be engaged to increase awareness among girls and boys. Similarly, awareness in the workplace needs to be improved to address issues of discrimination and sexual harassment.

## Eliminating all Forms of Violence Against all Women and Girls

One in three Fijian women has experienced sexual violence in Fiji, while three in five have been subjected to physical or emotional violence.<sup>36</sup> Patriarchy has been identified as a major contributing factor to this pervasive issue.

In April 2023, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services launched comprehensive health guidelines for the management of gender-based violence in an effort to address the alarming rates of violence against women and girls. These guidelines serve as a reference package for healthcare workers attending to gender-based violence cases, providing guidance on evidence collection and linking victims with social support services.

The establishment of a Safety and Protection Cluster has facilitated efforts to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) incidents during disasters. The GBV Working Group has played a crucial role in developing communication strategies and tools to assist in addressing the challenges faced, even when there were restrictions on movement.

The Department for Women, in partnership with UN Women, is working on the Women's Resilience to Disaster (WRD) initiative, which aims to map and document women's experiences during disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative also seeks to assess their traditional knowledge in terms of responsiveness, disaster risk reduction, climate change, and pandemic resilience.

To achieve SDG Target 5.6, it is necessary to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, as agreed upon in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome documents of their review conferences. In 2023, the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services launched its inaugural Health Guidelines for Comprehensive Case Management for Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

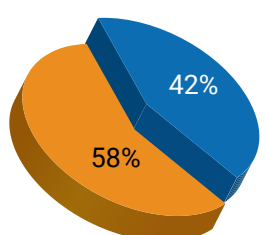
This recognition stems from the fact that no other sector has a greater opportunity to aid survivors of violence than the health sector, as it is likely the only institution that interacts with every woman and girl at some point in her life. For many women and girls, a visit to a health facility may be their first and sometimes only effort to seek help, receive support and care, and escape an abusive situation. The guidelines serve as a comprehensive reference package that health workers require when attending to GBV cases, and they encompass all Fiji laws pertaining to GBV issues.

## Women in Leadership

In the current legislature that began in December 2022, there are five women out of fifty-five members of parliament, accounting for 9% of MPs. This figure includes the resignation of an elected woman MP in February 2023. This represents a decrease from the previous legislature, which had 11 women MPs, constituting 20% of the legislature.

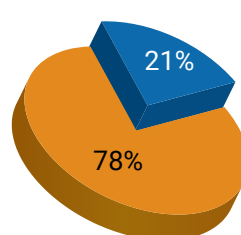
Regarding women's leadership in the economic sector, a recent analysis indicated that out of 192 board members across 38 boards, women comprised only 21% of all board members. Furthermore, 42% of the 38 boards had no women members at all.<sup>37</sup>

Representation on Boards



■ % of Boards with No Women  
■ % of Boards with Women

Board Members in Fiji



■ % of Female Board Members  
■ % of Male Board Members

36 Shamima Ali, Coordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, April 2023.

37 [https://www.fwrn.org.fj/images/fwrn2017/PDFs/research/FWRM\\_Gender\\_Diversity\\_Incl\\_GoF\\_Boards-Final\\_.pdf](https://www.fwrn.org.fj/images/fwrn2017/PDFs/research/FWRM_Gender_Diversity_Incl_GoF_Boards-Final_.pdf)

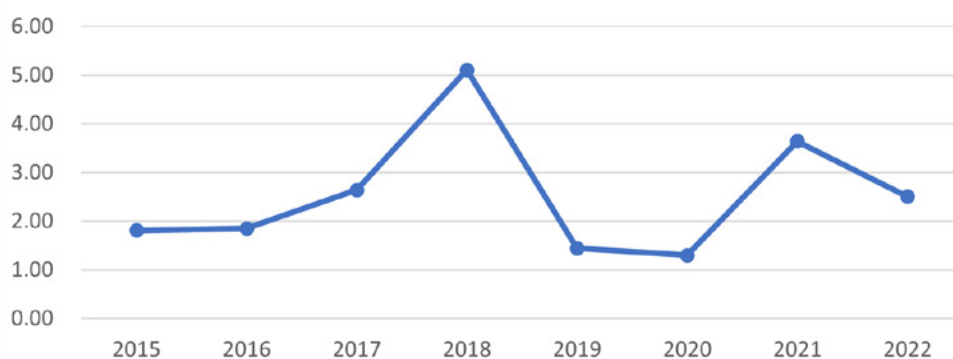


Many committees and selection panels have been formed, and there has been a significant increase in female participation. Over the past four years, there has been a notable rise in women and youth occupying leadership roles, primarily attributed to the increase in co-operative registrations. More women and youth are now assuming key positions on boards and in management. This development signifies both growth and inclusivity in business and communities.

In the financial year 2021-2022, the Ministry of Trade reported a remarkable increase in the number of women and youth holding leadership positions. Compared to 56 individuals in the previous financial year (2020-2021), there were 149 women and youth in leadership roles, representing a substantial surge of 166%.

The budgetary allocation for women empowerment in the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MoWCPA) has fluctuated significantly over the past seven years. In 2015, there was an allocation of FJD 1.81 million, which increased to FJD 5.11 million in 2018, and then decreased to FJD 2.5 million in 2022. The connection between this budgetary allocation and the actual empowerment of women remains unclear.

**Total Budget Allocated for Women's Empowerment (FJD million)**



### Equal Rights to Economic Resources

Female workers play a vital role in the success of Fiji's two largest economic sectors – tourism and agriculture. The chart below demonstrates that female economic participation slightly lags behind that of males in crop farming, forestry, and fisheries. However, female participation in livestock agriculture is significantly lower compared to their male counterparts.



As an indicator of the gender share of wealth in Fiji, one can examine the data published by the FNPF, which represents approximately FJD 6 billion. The female share of wealth rose from 20% in 1994 to 33% in 2018, with growth then



slowing down, particularly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the female share reached about 35%, still considerably lower than the male share.

Compulsory legal contributions into workers' superannuation funds remained the most crucial safety net for all workers, both female and male, for their retirement. By 2021, there were approximately 446,000 members, of whom 209,000 were compulsory members and 7,000 were voluntary members. In the same year, the FNPF held a total of FJD 8.2 billion in assets and FJD 6.4 billion in members' funds. Active compulsory members accounted for 42% of the total, and the female share of this was at 44%.

### **The USP Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership (PEUMP) Project**

The University of the South Pacific (USP) acknowledges that women fishers and entrepreneurs within the fisheries and aquaculture sector face significant barriers, including inequitable access to resources, training, education, decision-making, financing, marketing, and fair working conditions. To address these challenges, the USP's Institute of Marine Resources, through the PEUMP project, is actively working on the development of the Pacific's first Gender and Environment Postgraduate course. This course examines dynamics and issues related to gender equity and social inclusion, with a focus on Fiji and other Pacific Island countries, and equips students with intervention tools. The course incorporates a range of scientific work and draws on the Pacific Handbook for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Coastal Fisheries and Agriculture. Notably, 70% of the PEUMP team consists of women, and in the past three years, 50% of the trainees funded by PEUMP were women. Additionally, 60% of the research students funded by PEUMP are women, some of whom have published papers in esteemed publications

### **Policies and Legislation for Gender Equality**

Fiji has had a gender policy since 2014, which aims to:

- i. Enhance the quality of life for men, women, boys, and girls at all levels of society by promoting gender equity and equality
- ii. Strengthen the interconnectedness between gender equality and sustainable development goals in national development
- iii. Advocate for active and visible gender mainstreaming in all sectors and within civil society to ensure empowerment for gender equity and equality across all aspects of national life
- iv. Eliminate all forms of gender inequality and discrimination in Fiji



### Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)

FWCC was established in 1984 to offer crisis counseling and provide legal, medical, and other practical support services to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. As a result, FWCC's program is dedicated to the eradication of violence against women in Fiji and the Pacific region. FWCC played a pivotal role in establishing the NGO coalition on human rights and has been at the forefront of the fight for human rights and democracy in the country.



### Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)

On April 10, 1986, a group of 56 women from diverse backgrounds embraced the challenge of addressing the inequalities in women's socio-economic and political status, aiming to restore balance. Guided by the principles of feminism, human rights, the rule of law, multiculturalism, and good governance, they saw an opportunity to champion these values. These very principles continue to guide FWRM as a movement today. FWRM is a prominent feminist human rights organization that connects local concerns with global discussions. Similar to FWCC, FWRM has been actively involved in promoting human rights and democracy in the country.



As of 2021, Fiji has made significant progress in establishing systems to monitor and disclose allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. The country has implemented gender-responsive policies and allocated resources to support their implementation. Moreover, the government has provisions in place to ensure public access to information on allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment. However, there is currently no government mechanism to track these allocations through public financial management, which still needs to be established.<sup>38</sup>

Fiji benefits from the presence of robust women's NGOs that have tirelessly advocated for the improvement of women's rights in the country. Additionally, there is a strong movement working towards LGBTGI rights. While there have been advancements, there is still much work to be done to achieve gender equity in the country.

<sup>38</sup> To ensure continuity in the reporting for SDG indicator 5.c.1 (, the OECD together with UNDP and UN Women coordinated the 2021 data collection for this indicator for 105 countries, including Fiji..

# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





# SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

*Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development*

## **Fiji's priority targets for SDG 17 are:**

**Target 17.1** - Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

**Target 17.6** - Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

**Target 17.7** - Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

**Target 17.9** - Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

**Target 17.11** - Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020

**Target 17.13** - Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence

**Target 17.14** - Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

**Target 17.15** - Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

**Target 17.16** - Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

**Target 17.17** - Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

**Target 17.18** - By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

<b>Goal 17</b>	17.1	Tax & Other Revenue Collection	Red
	17.2	ODA Commitment by Dev. Countries	Grey
	17.3	Additional Financial Resources	Green
	17.4	Debt Sustainability	Yellow
	17.5	Investment Promotion for LDCs	Grey
	17.6	Science and Tech Int. Cooperation	Yellow
	17.7	Transfer of Technologies	Yellow
	17.8	Capacity Building for ICT	Green
	17.9	Capacity Building for SDGs	Green
	17.10	Multilateral Trading System (WTO)	Red
	17.11	Exports of Developing Countries	Red
	17.12	Duty-Free Market Access for LDCs	Red
	17.13	Global Microeconomic Stability	Grey
	17.14	Policy Coherence for SD	Grey
	17.15	Respect Country's Policy Space	Grey
	17.16	Global Partnership for SD	Grey
	17.17	Partnerships (Public, Private, CSO)	Yellow
	17.18	National Statistics Availability	Grey
	17.19	Statistical Capacity	Yellow

<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Maintain
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Accelerate
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Reverse
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	Not Assessed

Three targets (17.3, 17.8, and 17.9) are on track, while accelerated action is needed for five other targets (17.4, 17.6, 17.7, 17.17, and 17.19). Four targets (17.1, 17.10, 17.11, and 17.12) have regressed. Fiji does not measure the remaining seven targets (17.2, 17.5, 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16, and 17.18).

In 2018, Fiji participated in the Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC). A renewed monitoring exercise for the Global Partnership was launched at the 2022 Effective Development Co-operation Summit. This monitoring exercise serves as a globally recognized source of evidence on multi-stakeholder action for more effective development co-operation and aims to enhance accountability for effectiveness commitments. It emphasizes a country-anchored process to foster inclusive and evidence-based dialogue on results, promoting behavior change. Starting in 2023, over 35 countries have already expressed interest in leading the next monitoring exercise in their respective countries.

### Enhancing North-South, South-South and Triangular Regional and International Cooperation

According to World Bank data, Fiji received USD 193.6 million in net official development assistance and official aid in 2020.<sup>39</sup>

Fiji has a diverse range of development partners, with Australia, the EU, and New Zealand being among the largest donors. Additionally, Fiji hosts several UN organizations, many of which use Fiji as a regional base to provide assistance to Fiji and other Pacific Island countries. Fiji is also a member of various regional organizations, including the Pacific Islands Forum (PIFS), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), the Pacific Power Association (PPA), the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF).

<sup>39</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/fiji/net-official-development-assistance-and-official-aid-received-us-dollar-wb-data.html>



## Fiji's South-South (SSC) & Triangular Cooperation (TrC) Focus

South-South cooperation is a form of partnership in which two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity-development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources, and technical know-how. It involves regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships among governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, and other relevant actors, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. These partnerships are guided by the principles of South-South cooperation.

Triangular cooperation, on the other hand, entails Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries, with support from a developed country or countries, or multilateral organization(s). It aims to foster partnerships and trust, combining diverse resources and capacities under the ownership of the requesting developing country or countries, to achieve the SDGs, including within the context of multilateral development cooperation initiatives. Triangular cooperation adds value by leveraging and mobilizing technical and financial resources, sharing experiences, promoting new areas of cooperation, and combining affordable, context-based development solutions under flexible arrangements and agreed shared modalities.

South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships remain the informal *modus operandi* in Fiji and the Pacific, albeit with different labels, given the lack of awareness. Countries in the region cooperate and support each other, demonstrating strategic cohesion towards achieving common goals. Fiji has shown its commitment to SSC with notable initiatives, such as the establishment of the UNOSSC Sub-Regional office in Suva in 2019 and the secondment of officials from PIDF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Operating under the umbrella of UNDP Suva, the office provides an immersive and focused approach for Fiji and the Pacific in advancing and strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation in the region.

Over the past five years, Pacific member countries, including the private sector and CSOs, have actively participated in UNOSSC-PIDF South-South and triangular cooperation annual forums. These conferences have paved the way for various initiatives, as Pacific leaders and people have embraced and pledged support for the principles and practicality of sharing solutions to development challenges. Subsequently, UNOSSC has continued to provide support to Fiji and the Pacific through Trust Funds, which foster collaboration and pilot South-South initiatives across the Global South. Technical support is also provided for transformative sustainable development projects, poverty and hunger reduction, implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and capacity development.

Fiji engages in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with its regional partners, leveraging its hub status, and continues to pursue various South-South and Triangular initiatives. One example is the Fiji Volunteer Scheme (FVS), through which medical and education experts support host countries in the region, contributing to institutional and nation building. Fiji's cooperation has expanded to include areas such as security, disaster response, and humanitarian support. This is evident in the current deployment of Fiji officials in Vanuatu, providing rapid assistance and rehabilitation support following the recent Category 4 Cyclones Kevin and Lucy.

The decision to centralize functions and close the UNOSSC Suva sub-regional office raises concerns among Pacific member countries and partners. This concern has been expressed to UNOSSC officials in various forums. However, it is anticipated that the new centralized structure will ensure an enhanced status of South-South and triangular cooperation in the region, preventing a regression to the pre-2015 situation.

## Partnerships for Development of Clean Technology

A Blue Concrete initiative was launched at COP27 in Egypt, featuring research conducted through a collaboration among academia (University of Queensland), the private sector (TARA Research Institute of India), and the Government of Fiji, represented by the Climate Change Division and the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. This initiative introduced a novel technology in cement production that optimized environmental, social, and economic outcomes by utilizing raw materials such as aggregate, limestone, clay, and gypsum in an innovative manner.

The project, titled 'Low Carbon Concrete Adoption in Fiji and other PSIDS,' spanned multiple years and aimed to complement the Pacific's leadership in climate change advocacy with leadership in climate change mitigation. Through this initiative, significant reductions in Fiji's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were achieved, amounting to approximately 80kt/year or roughly 4% based on 2019 figures. Moreover, the project strengthened the local supply chains of cement, aggregate, and concrete, contributing to the construction of resilient infrastructure and housing necessary for climate change adaptation.

## Fiji's Policy Space and Leadership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

In Fiji, providers of development cooperation use country-owned results frameworks and planning tools to a moderate extent (54%), which represents a decrease compared to 2016 when it was 62%. The GPEDC 2018 Monitoring Round revealed that 73% of the outcome objectives of new development cooperation projects and programs align with those defined in the country's strategies and plans. However, only 47% of results indicators for these new projects and programs were derived from country-owned results frameworks, and 42% of all results indicators can be monitored using data from government monitoring systems and statistics.<sup>40</sup>

## Enhancing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

In the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients, Fiji is classified as an upper middle-income country for reporting on 2022 and 2023 flows. The net ODA and official aid received in Fiji was approximately USD 193.64 million in 2020,<sup>41</sup> marking a significant increase compared to previous years. Over the last decade, ODA to Fiji has shown almost continuous growth.

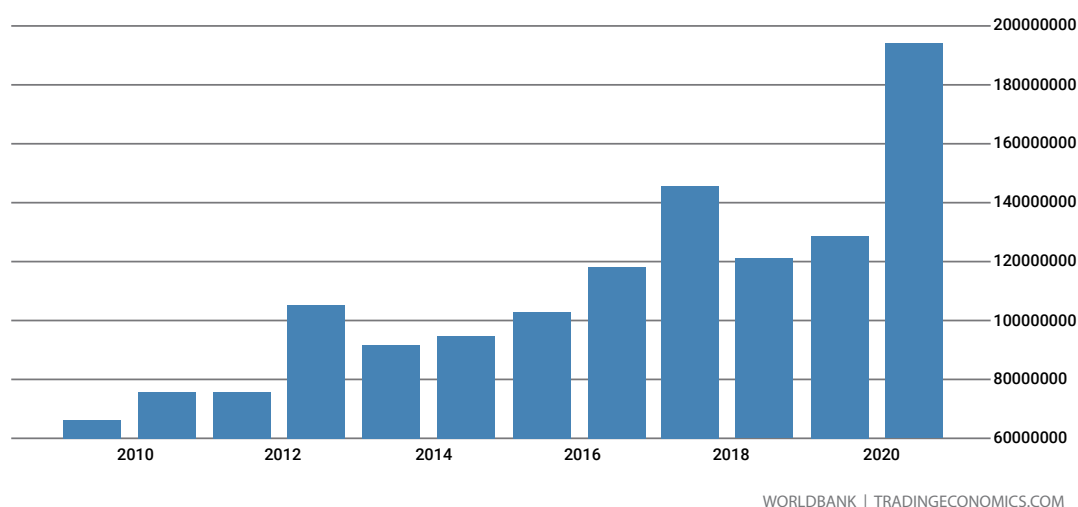
In 2018, Fiji, along with its bilateral and multilateral providers of development cooperation, participated in the Global Partnership monitoring exercise to assess progress in effective development cooperation commitments. However, since the 2016 Monitoring Round, Fiji has not reported overall progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks. Furthermore, Fiji has experienced a decline in the share of development cooperation recorded in the national budget and subject to parliamentary scrutiny compared to 2016. Additionally, Fiji has not maintained a mutual accountability mechanism for development cooperation since 2016.<sup>42</sup>

In October 2020, Fiji and the United States of America signed a bilateral arrangement known as the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). This landmark agreement established a platform to enhance and strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries. Notably, the US-Fiji TIFA marked the first trade and investment agreement between the United States and Fiji, as well as the first agreement signed by the US with a Pacific Island Country. Its primary objective was to bolster economic commitments and cooperation between the two nations.

Under the TIFA, the United States and Fiji committed to engaging in consultations on a wide range of trade and investment-related issues. The agreement aimed to facilitate increased trade in goods and services and foster an environment conducive to further investment between the two countries. It served as a framework for ongoing collaboration and dialogue, paving the way for the expansion and deepening of economic ties.

Furthermore, Fiji was actively involved in negotiations for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF). This initiative, led by the United States and launched by partner countries in May 2022, brought together 14 participating nations, including Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Collectively, these countries accounted for 40% of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and represented 60% of the global population.

The IPEF focused on four key pillars: trade, supply chains, clean economy, and anti-corruption and taxation.



40 Provided by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)

41 World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources. Fiji - Net official development assistance and official aid received - actual values, historical data, forecasts and projections were sourced from the World Bank on January of 2023 (<https://tradingeconomics.com/fiji/net-official-development-assistance-and-official-aid-received-us-dollar-wb-data.html>)

42 Provided by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC)



## Planet



The Planet SDG cluster comprises SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

In this cluster of SDGs, there has been a mixed level of success in achieving progress towards the various targets. The following snapshot provides an overview of several indicators that show the progress made so far within this SDG cluster. The blue bars indicate progress, while the red bars (which are fewer in number in this particular cluster) indicate areas where progress has been reversed. It is worth noting that Fiji has already achieved its 2030 targets in some areas, allowing it to shift its focus towards addressing areas where regression has occurred or where progress needs to be accelerated.

# PLANET





# 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





# SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

*Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 6 are:

**Target 6.1** - By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

**Target 6.2** - By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

**Target 6.3** - By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

**Target 6.4** - By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

**Target 6.5** - By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

**Target 6.5** - By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

**Target 6.b** - Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

Goal 6	6.1	Safe drinking water	■	
	6.2	Access to sanitation & hygiene	■	■ Maintain
	6.3	Water quality	■	■ Accelerate
	6.4	Water-use efficiency	■	■ Reverse
	6.5	Transboundary water cooperation	■	■ Not Assessed
	6.6	Water-related ecosystems	■	
	6.a	Int. cooperation on water and sanitation	■	
	6.b	Participatory water & sanitation	■	

Fiji has made significant progress in two targets (6.2 and 6.a), demonstrating commendable achievements. However, there is a need for accelerated progress in Targets 6.4, 6.6, and 6.b. Unfortunately, Targets 6.1, 6.3, and 6.5 could not be accurately measured at this time.

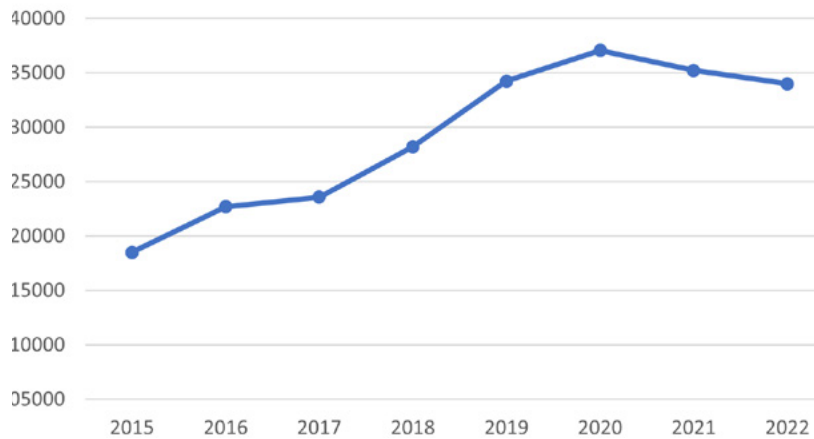
### Access to Safe Drinking Water

While Fiji has made notable strides in expanding access to safe drinking water and implementing various projects across different communities, there is a need for further accelerated progress to meet the target by 2030.

The production of water has shown a significant increase, rising from 118,503 million litres in 2015 to 137,068 million litres in 2020. However, there has been a slight decline to 133,995 million litres by 2022. Concerns have been raised regarding the potential negative impact on water production due to anticipated precipitation reductions associated with El Nino in the near future.



Annual Water Production (total million litres)



The Constitution of Fiji guarantees every Fijian the right to access clean and safe water in sufficient quantities, along with accessible sanitary facilities. This provision contributes to an improved standard of living, benefiting the overall economy. Over the past decade, the Fijian Government has demonstrated unwavering commitment to ensuring universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation services. This commitment is enshrined in the constitution, and further emphasized in the National Development Plan, which aims to achieve 100% access to safe drinking water by 2030 and 70% access to improved sanitation systems by 2021.

To support these efforts, the Fijian Government is in the process of finalizing the “National Water and Sanitation Policy,” which will serve as a framework to guide water and sanitation initiatives. Collaborative partnerships have been established in the water sector, including the cooperation between Fiji and UNICEF in implementing WASH programs. Additionally, Fiji has actively participated in the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) Survey, conducted by the World Health Organization on behalf of UN-Water, to assess the country’s sanitation and drinking water situation.

Recognizing the importance of sustainable development, the Government of Japan has provided funding to the Water Authority of Fiji, as part of Japan’s ongoing development plan. This support has alleviated challenges faced by Fijian communities, such as in the Navunivesi & Malabi Settlement where 300 people have directly benefited from this partnership.

## Our Key Facts

### About us

We operate under a range of legislative and regulatory instruments, including:

- Water Authority of Fiji Act 2007
- Constitution 2013
- Land Transfer Act 1971
- Environment Management Act 2005
- Financial Management Act 2004
- Finance Instructions 2010
- Employment Relations Act 2007
- Accident Compensation Act 2017
- Health and Safety At Work Act 1996











**Our Coverage:**

**Water**

- National – 82%
- Urban – 98% - 484,357 Population
- Rural – 58 % - 214,903 Population

**Wastewater**

- Urban – 28% - 127,881 Population

				
<b>156,571</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>4,203</b>
Number of Water Connections	Water Treatment Plants	Water Sources	Reservoirs	Water Distribution Length (km)
				
<b>33,392</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>36</b>
Number of wastewater connections	Wastewater Treatment Plants	Wastewater Pumpstations	Wastewater Distribution Length (km)	WAF Depots

**Key facts**

Provided water and wastewater service to more than 800,000 people annually

Supplied over **130,000** mega litres of drinking water annually

Treated over 21,000 mega litres of wastewater annually

Issue date: 31/01/2023

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## Access to Sanitation and Hygiene

The Ministry of Waterways is working on a 10-year Watershed Management Plan in which relevant ministries will collaborate with other stakeholders to ensure that open defecation, farming practices, and development activities are not carried out within a designated distance from the rivers. The watershed management program also aims to address this issue. The flood retention dams, which are part of this program, prevent debris and materials from flowing downstream and potentially affecting communities in those areas.

According to the baseline surveys conducted by the WISH Fiji project, it was found that out of 29 communities surveyed, 23 did not have safely managed sanitation due to the absence of safely contained latrine backends. This may contribute to higher environmental water quality risks in 12 out of 27 communities (44%). DNA analysis of samples from the backend leach zones of two community latrines (although only 40% of samples were analyzed) detected Salmonella Typhi, indicating a potential transmission pathway for Typhoid Fever.

## Improving Water Quality

The Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources in Fiji played a vital role in developing groundwater sources and boreholes to ensure access to clean and safe water supply, particularly in rural and maritime areas. This initiative was initiated in 2014, specifically targeting regions that were not reached by the Water Authority of Fiji. As of July 2022, a total of 3,406 households had already benefited from this project, improving their access to clean water.

To ensure the quality of water supply, the Ministry of Health conducted routine sampling every month. This was in response to the increasing number of cases related to waterborne diseases such as leptospirosis, dengue fever, and typhoid. By monitoring both treated and rural water supplies, the ministry aimed to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases and safeguard public health. Additionally, a Water Safety Committee was established, which periodically reviewed action plans to ensure the continued safety of water sources.

In parallel, the Ministry of Waterways played a crucial role in raising awareness about the significance of waterways and promoting their protection. This involved educating the public about the importance of adhering to relevant laws and regulations governing waterways.

## Water Efficiency

The Ministry of Waterways has developed multipurpose gravity-fed irrigation systems that supply clean water from aquifers to 8 to 10 households for both household and farm irrigation purposes. Moreover, the Ministry provides irrigation kits, including tanks, pipes, pumps, and sprinklers, to small-scale farmers or farmer groups. These kits help supplement water requirements during dry seasons.

## Clean Water for the Community at Savusavu Lailai, Momi

Momi is located approximately fifteen miles southwest of Nadi in the driest region of Viti Levu. Due to its arid nature, sustainable groundwater resources are limited in this area. In 2019, after conducting groundwater assessments, five communities were chosen for thorough groundwater investigations. The selection criteria were based on three factors: population size, insufficient water sources, and potential contamination risks.

In 2021, borehole drilling was carried out to determine the presence of a viable groundwater source. Once the availability of groundwater was confirmed, a proper water supply system was installed in 2022. The system was commissioned in November, benefiting the Savusavu lailai community, which comprises 28 households with a population of 140. As a result, the community now has convenient access to clean and safe drinking water directly within their homes.

## New Borehole Benefits 340 People

340 people in Qelemumu, Labasa are benefiting from a new borehole commissioned in January 2023. This borehole provides them with access to clean and safe drinking water. The project, with a cost of FJD 295,000 (USD 136,000), brings relief to a community that has experienced frequent water cuts in the past, particularly during the dry season when surface water sources dry up and rainwater harvesting becomes inadequate.





*The villagers of Navunikabi, Namosi, constructing their waste recycling point which would separate glass, plastic and metal waste materials  
(Source: WISH Project, Fiji National University)*

In the framework of the WISH Fiji project, 14 solid waste management workshops have been implemented across 14 iTaukei villages in Tailevu and Namosi. The primary focus of these workshops is to educate and promote proper household waste management practices, aiming to prevent dumping into waterways and rivers. Presently, 10 villages are in the process of constructing waste separation facilities and incinerators to ensure proper disposal of items such as tins, bottles, and plastic waste. Once the collection bags are full, village trucks transport them to recycling centers for recycling purposes.

### **Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management**

Fiji recognizes the significant importance of integrated water resources management, and as part of this commitment, the Ministry of Waterways is actively implementing policies and enforcing regulations to safeguard the purity of rivers and creeks. Their primary objective is to prevent pollution and prohibit the dumping or release of hazardous chemicals and materials into Fiji's water bodies.

### **Protecting Water-Shed Areas**

The Ministry of Waterways is in the process of developing a Watershed Management Act, with support from the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific, facilitated by the Australian High Commission. As a significant step, the Sovi Basin, a crucial watershed area on the main island of Viti Levu, has been designated as a Protected Area. This designation ensures the preservation and safeguarding of this vital water source for Fiji.

Under the WISH Fiji initiative, activities have been carried out in five sub-catchments located in the Central, Eastern, and Northern Divisions. These sub-catchments include Bureta (Ovalau, Lomaiviti), Dama (Dama, Bua), Dawasamu (Dawasamu, Tailevu), Upper Navua (Namosi), and Waibula (Namalata, Tailevu). Across these 29 communities in the sub-catchments, a total of 154 watershed interventions have been implemented through the WSSP process. These interventions primarily focus on enhancing water systems, integrated planning, land use management, and waste management. Furthermore, a reforestation project covering over 11 hectares has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry. This reforestation effort aims to mitigate risks related to sediment control and flood damage, providing long-term risk reduction benefits.

### **Post-cyclone support to the people of Kia Island**

Kia Island, located in the northwestern group of the Macuata District in Vanua Levu, is the furthest island in the area. It comprises three villages: Yaro, Ligau, and Daku. In December 2020, Cyclone Yasa caused significant destruction on the island, including 26 homes, two evacuation centers, and the village church. The cyclone also had adverse effects on the community's livelihoods, as it destroyed rainwater tanks, limiting their access to freshwater.

In 2021, the Mineral Resources Department and the SPC worked together to locate groundwater sources for these communities. Borehole drilling and development were undertaken to provide 147 individuals in 29 households with access to a clean and fresh water supply for the first time. However, this project encountered various challenges, particularly in terms of machinery and vehicle access to the area. To overcome these obstacles, the villagers themselves assisted in physically moving the necessary equipment and items, demonstrating their commitment to the project's success.



## Participation of Local Communities in Improving Water and Sanitation Management

The Ministry of Waterways is actively engaged in raising awareness and providing guidance to local communities regarding the prevention of water contamination and the implementation of proper sanitation measures. This work is an ongoing effort, with a focus on reaching as many rural communities as possible.

The WISH Fiji project has collaborated with the iTaukei Affairs Board to integrate and strengthen the pillars aimed at enhancing health, well-being, and the environment in each of its targeted iTaukei communities. Through the WSSP process, 29 communities have identified 339 priority watershed interventions, which have been incorporated into their respective Integrated Village Development Plans (IVDP). The implementation of these plans is monitored and evaluated by the provincial council and district offices responsible for each community.

To facilitate coordination and stakeholder engagement, three district joint stakeholder workshops were conducted in Namosi and Tailevu, involving the participation of 140 individuals from 32 communities. The purpose of these workshops was to foster collaboration and collective decision-making.

The WSSP process, employed by the WISH Fiji project across the 29 communities, ensured that each community had a functional Water Committee in place. These committees play a crucial role in overseeing the successful management of community-based water supplies. Furthermore, the formation of these Water Committees has resulted in increased participation and membership of women and youth, promoting inclusivity and diverse perspectives in water resource management and decision-making processes.



Water system successfully installed by the villagers of Naqarawai, Namosi. This was done during the COVID-19 lockdown. PC – Laisenia Tui. (Source: WISH Fiji, Fiji National University)

## Water for Nasaqalau Village in Lakeba

Lakeba is the largest island in the Lau group of islands and is home to eight villages. In 2019, a groundwater drilling and development project was initiated in Nasaqalau village with the goal of providing safe and clean drinking water to the community. Subsequently, in 2022, the drilling team from the Mineral Resource Department carried out the reticulation process, which involved the installation of a comprehensive groundwater supply system for the village. As part of this system, standpipes were installed at each household's doorstep. As a result, 48 households, comprising a total population of 122 individuals, now have access to a safely managed water supply.

The project faced certain challenges, particularly in terms of material availability. However, these challenges have been successfully overcome, and the project is now completed.

## Water for Naqarawai Village

Naqarawai Village in Namosi has been grappling with water-related issues for several decades. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was identified that the village was particularly vulnerable due to restricted access to water. In response, the village sought assistance from WAF and FNU through the WISH Fiji project.

WAF conducted assessments of the village's water supply and provided technical expertise and guidance on the design and monitoring of the construction process. Despite the challenges posed by the Wainadoi COVID-19 Border restrictions, the necessary materials were procured and delivered to Naqarawai Village. A WAF Technical Officer supported the villagers in completing the construction of their water infrastructure, thereby significantly improving the water supply for the village. This intervention benefited a total of 243 people in Naqarawai Village, especially during the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION





# SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

*Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns*

## **Fiji's priority targets for SDG 12 are:**

**Target 12.1** - Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries acting, with developed countries taking the lead, considering the development and capabilities of developing countries

**Target 12.2** - By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

**Target 12.3** - By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

**Target 12.4** - By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

**Target 12.5** - By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

**Target 12.6** - Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

**Target 12.7** - Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

**Target 12.8** - By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

**Target 12.c** - Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities



Goal 12	12.1	Programmes on SCP	■	
	12.2	Sustainable use of natural resources	■	
	12.3	Food waste & losses	■	
	12.4	Managing chemicals & wastes	■	■ Maintain
	12.5	Reduction in waste generation	■	■ Accelerate
	12.6	Corporate sustainable practices	■	■ Reverse
	12.7	Public procurement practices	■	■ Not Assessed
	12.8	Sustainable development awareness	■	
	12.a	Support for R&D capacity for SD	■	
	12.b	Sustainable tourism monitoring	■	
	12.c	Fossil-fuel subsidies	■	

Fiji has achieved commendable progress in Target 12.2. However, there is a need to accelerate efforts in three specific targets: 12.4, 12.a, and 12.b. Unfortunately, Target 12.c has experienced regression, indicating a decline in performance. It is worth noting that six targets, namely 12.1, 12.3, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, and 12.8, are currently not being measured, implying that their progress or status is not being tracked at the moment.

## Food Waste

It is estimated that approximately 75 kg per capita per year of food is wasted in Fiji (based on 2019 figures). Fiji requires a concerted effort to address this significant issue, which has thus far been largely overlooked by both the government and civil society.

## Environmentally Sound Management of Waste

The provision of waste management services in Fiji is carried out by each of the 13 municipalities, in accordance with the Local Government Act. Since its establishment in August 2005, the Naboro Landfill, Fiji's sole landfill, has received an estimated 1,295,651 tons of waste. Additionally, there are two other managed landfill sites and four sites that resemble open dumps scattered across the country. The operations of the Naboro Landfill have been outsourced to a private company.

It is worth noting that two-thirds of Fiji's population resides outside of these municipalities. Legislative changes implemented in 2018 mandated the 13 municipalities to extend waste management services to residents beyond their administrative boundaries. However, providing waste management services to areas outside municipal boundaries has posed challenges due to long distances, residents' lack of awareness regarding proper disposal methods, and the fact that these residents do not pay municipal taxes or waste management fees. Presently, each municipality is delivering services outside its jurisdiction using a dedicated budget allocated by the Ministry of Local Government.

Fiji is in the early stages of implementing recycling practices. Organic materials are being composted at a composting facility supported by JICA through the *Waste Minimization and Recycling Promotion Project*. Furthermore, a private company is collecting waste paper and manufacturing toilet paper. To foster knowledge sharing and collaboration, a Waste Management and Recycling Association has been established, holding regular meetings for information exchange.

The Ministry of Environment has been actively engaged in public awareness and advocacy efforts through media platforms and community outreach programs. They have conducted training for Litter Prevention Officers and provided support for recycling and composting initiatives, aiming to promote sustainable waste management practices throughout the country.

## Corporate Sustainability

The Fiji economy is continuously influenced by the ongoing consequences of the global pandemic, natural disasters, and other global factors. However, through the spirit of cooperation and collaboration between the private sector, government ministries, and agencies, Fiji has managed to overcome numerous challenges. The National Sustainable

Tourism Framework, serving as the successor plan to the Fijian Tourism 2021 Strategy, has been developed to guide the revitalization and improvement of the tourism industry's competitive position.

Recognizing that tourism can be a catalyst for development, it is crucial for the sector's growth to be sustainable, with stakeholders demonstrating corporate social responsibility and adhering to environmental, social, and governance principles in their operations. Several key areas of intervention have been identified, including the improvement of food waste management, adoption of renewable energy technologies, and the implementation of programs and initiatives that benefit the communities where hotels and resorts are located. By promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction, tourism has the potential to make a positive impact.

Efforts are also being directed towards enhancing connectivity and infrastructure in rural and maritime areas, enabling tourism to reach these areas and generate benefits in underdeveloped regions. This expansion will not only foster economic growth but also contribute to the overall well-being of local communities.

### Sustainable Public Procurement

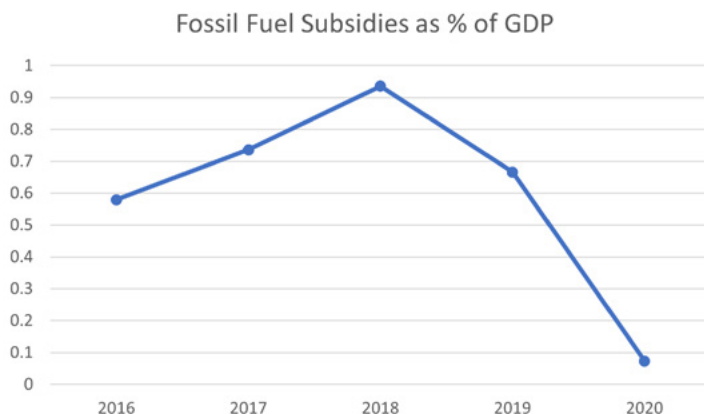
The focus on sustainable practices in Fiji demands additional attention, particularly in certain areas that require further development. In the past, there have been appeals for the implementation of greener procurement policies within the public sector; however, progress in this domain has been limited. One specific example is the need to replace the government's substantial vehicle fleet with EVs. Advocates argue that such a transition would not only serve as a signal for businesses to establish EV charging stations and import EVs but also contribute to the overall adoption of clean transportation.

Another avenue for promoting sustainability is the installation of solar panels on government buildings. Such initiatives would not only convey a strong message to the business community but also inspire the general public to embrace renewable energy practices.

### Fossil-Fuel Subsidies

Fossil fuel subsidies have been recognized as counterproductive to the ongoing efforts aimed at reducing reliance on expensive fossil fuels and facilitating the much-needed transition to renewable energy sources. These subsidies create a disincentive for recipients to invest in cleaner and more sustainable energy alternatives, hindering progress towards a greener future.

Fuel subsidies specifically targeted transport services, particularly in remote and uneconomical areas, ensuring that these communities maintain access to vital transportation. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, data illustrates an increase in subsidies from 0.58% to 0.94% of GDP in 2018. However, the subsequent years of the pandemic witnessed a significant decline in subsidies due to mobility restrictions implemented across the country to mitigate the spread of the virus, particularly to remote communities.



It is recognized that supporting uneconomical routes is important to ensure essential services in remote areas. However, it is widely acknowledged that alternative forms of economic incentives and subsidies would be more appropriate and beneficial, rather than relying on fossil fuel subsidies.

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION





### Fiji's priority targets for SDG 13 are:

**Target 13.1** - Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

**Target 13.2** - Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

**Target 13.3** - Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

**Target 13.b** - Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Goal 13	13.1	Resilience & adaptive capacity			Maintain
	13.2	Climate change policies			Accelerate
	13.3	Climate change awareness			Reverse
	13.a	UNFCCC commitments			Not Assessed
	13.b	Climate change planning & management			

Fiji actively engaged in various initiatives related to climate-driven goals and environmental sustainability. The country participated in the Fossil Fuel Subsidies Reform initiative, which aimed to address the issue of subsidies provided to fossil fuel industries.

Furthermore, Fiji was involved in two key initiatives under the World Trade Organization (WTO). The first initiative was the Joint Statement Initiatives on Plastics Pollution, which aimed to tackle the pressing issue of plastic pollution in the environment. The second WTO initiative was the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD).

Out of the five targets in focus, only two (Targets 13.1 and 13.2) are being actively measured. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that significant progress is needed in both of these areas if Fiji is to successfully achieve these targets by 2030. Unfortunately, there is a lack of measurement and monitoring for Targets 13.3, 13.a, and 13.b.

### Nabavatu Villagers' Relocation

The relocation process for the displaced Nabavatu villagers is scheduled to take place in 2023. Following the occurrence of TC Ana and the subsequent heavy rainfall in January 2021, the village experienced significant structural damage, with cracks appearing throughout the area. As a result, the land on which the village is situated became unstable, necessitating the evacuation of its residents. For nearly two years, the affected villagers have been residing in temporary tents while awaiting a safer and more stable living environment.

In 2023, the villagers will be relocated to a secure area that has been carefully assessed to ensure their safety. The chosen location not only prioritizes the well-being and security of the villagers but also seeks to provide them with a sense of comfort and familiarity. The relocation process is being undertaken through the collaborative efforts of multiple government ministries, reflecting a coordinated approach to address the needs and concerns of the affected community.

## **Climate Projections for Fiji**

There is a high level of confidence among experts that annual temperatures will continue to rise, along with a corresponding increase in sea levels throughout this century. Additionally, it is expected that the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events will also intensify. While there is medium confidence in the projection of a decrease in the frequency of tropical cyclones, there is an anticipated increase in their severity.

Given these projections and the potential risks associated with climate change, Fiji recognizes the importance of taking proactive measures to enhance the nation's resilience to these challenges. Efforts are being made to build adaptive capacity and develop strategies that can mitigate the impacts of climate change and other crises.

## **Strengthening Resilience**

Building the resilience of all Fijians is the approach Fiji is taking towards the climate crisis. Resilience has become a common goal for most government ministries and departments.

FijiCare, a private insurance company, in partnership with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), established the Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Fund (PICAP), a parametric microinsurance product that responds to the growing need for climate disaster risk insurance solutions to address the economic impacts of natural hazards in Fiji and the Pacific region.

Fiji introduced the Pacific's first parametric microinsurance product, launched on 25 August, covering 1,388 Fijian households with potential growth to 5,000 households. This product aims to provide prompt post-disaster payouts to the insured through e-wallets such as M-Paisa and MyCash. Initially, the products were offered for cyclones and floods, with a maximum coverage of FJD 1,000. However, it has now expanded with the recent launch of the 'Combined Wind and Rainfall Cover' product, which uses a predefined index to enable payouts for wind speed and rainfall independently, or a joint payout based on both factors.

Recipients can choose coverage amounts of either FJD 1,000 or FJD 2,000. Additionally, the 'Parametric Microinsurance Cover for Welfare Beneficiaries Fiji' provides a combined wind and rainfall cover based on a predefined index. This combined methodology allows recipients to receive an additional payout for rainfall, regardless of the wind speed requirements previously set to trigger payouts from the impact of a Category 1 or above event within 100km of the insured location. Consequently, these climate and disaster risk parametric microinsurance products have immense potential to bridge the financial protection gap for climate-vulnerable communities in the country.

## **Relocating Communities Vulnerable to Sea-Level Rise**

In 2018, at COP24 in Poland, Fiji launched its Planned Relocation Guidelines (PRG). The PRG serves as an overarching framework to guide and advance the subsequent national processes and procedures required to manage national relocation needs. In 2023, the government launched the Standard Operating Procedures for Planned Relocation, which operationalize the PRG.

## **Employing Nature-Based Solutions to Address Climate Change**

Fiji has witnessed the devastation caused by cyclones and storm surges on coastal communities. The utilization of nature-based solutions to protect these communities has gained significant traction. Instead of relying solely on solid seawalls, as was the previous practice (which proved inadequate), these are now being combined with living plants like mangroves, which not only strengthen the structure but also provide natural protection. These new nature-based walls have been found to be more effective and less expensive to construct. In addition, other nature-based solutions using bamboo are also being tested in certain communities.

## **Integrating Climate Change in National Policy**

Fiji has made significant progress in developing climate-related policies, strategies, and plans. However, the challenge lies in their implementation. One notable policy accomplishment is the Climate Change bill, which serves as the foundation for other initiatives with the potential for significant emission reductions. These include the introduction of a carbon-tax system, which may be implemented through a separate fiscal bill. Other important policies include the



Planned Relocation Strategy, the Low Emissions Development Strategy, and the NDC Investment Plan. These strategies, policies, and plans establish the necessary groundwork for further action in Fiji's efforts to address climate change.

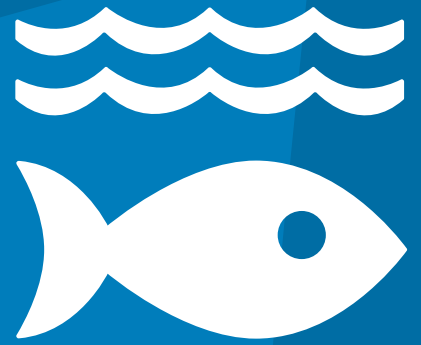
### **Increasing Climate Change Awareness**

Fiji's people, like those in other PICs, are well aware of climate change and its impacts on various sectors. The leadership displayed by Pacific leaders on this issue at international forums is widely recognized and reported in the media. Pacific regional organizations and NGOs have developed a variety of educational materials for schools, while climate change training sessions are regularly organized for media professionals. Annual events are held to highlight the significance of this issue for the Pacific region. As a result, climate denial is extremely rare in Fiji and the Pacific.

### **Linkages of SDG 13 with Other SDG Goals**

Given that climate change impacts all sectors, there are numerous linkages between the SDG related to climate change and all other SDGs. Climate change is already leading to more severe storms, increased flooding, landslides, and droughts. These have a significant impact on agriculture and food production (SDG 2), driving up costs and pushing more people into poverty (SDG 1). Mitigating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions requires a transition to cleaner cities (SDG 11), sustainable energy (SDG 7), and efficient transportation systems (SDG 11). Additionally, there are clear connections with SDG 14 through the Ocean-Climate nexus, ocean acidification, and various linkages with SDG 15, such as the need to expand forest cover to capture carbon, the proliferation of invasive species more adaptable to climate changes than native species, and the occurrence of droughts and floods that lead to soil erosion.

**14** LIFE  
BELOW WATER



## **Fiji's priority targets for SDG 14 are:**

**Target 14.1** - By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

**Target 14.2** - By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

**Target 14.3** - Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

**Target 14.4** - By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

**Target 14.5** - By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

**Target 14.6** - By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

**Target 14.7** - By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

**Target 14.a** - Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, considering the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

**Target 14.b** - Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

**Target 14.c** - Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want"



<b>Goal 14</b>	14.1	Marine pollution	■	
	14.2	Marine & coastal ecosystems	■	
	14.3	Ocean acidification	■	
	14.4	Sustainable fishing	■	
	14.5	Conservation of coastal areas	■	■ Maintain
	14.6	Fisheries subsidies	■	■ Accelerate
	14.7	Marine resources for SIDS & LDCs	■	■ Reverse
	14.a	Research capacity & marine technologies	■	■ Not Assessed
	14.b	Small-scale artisanal fishing	■	
	14.c	Implementing UNCLOS	■	

Fiji currently tracks progress on three out of the ten targets within this SDG. There is a need for accelerated progress in Targets 14.1 and 14.5, while Target 14.7 has experienced regression. At present, indicators for seven targets (14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.6, 14.a, 14.b, and 14.c) are not being measured.

As an archipelago, Fiji’s past, present, and future are intrinsically linked to the ocean. Given the significance of the ocean for Pacific Island countries, being the only oceanic continent on the planet, Fiji has actively engaged in the international sphere regarding ocean-related matters.

Fiji has acceded to several International Maritime Organization (IMO) treaties, including the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004; the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973; the International Convention on Salvage, 1989; the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001; and the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001.

Fiji’s National Ocean Policy 2020-2030 (NOP) has established the legislative framework for ocean management. The NOP supports, synergizes, promotes, and establishes best practice standards for ocean management within the Fiji Government, as well as for all relevant stakeholder groups, including community groups, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. It provides a roadmap for strengthening sectoral policies and legislation by addressing identified gaps, incorporating lessons learned from national implementation, adopting evolving international good practices, and aligning with recent international developments and commitments. The NOP aims to facilitate effective stakeholder coordination to address gaps and prioritize the implementation of key ocean-related initiatives.

### Nawi Island Resort Mangrove Planting

Nawi Island, a tourism resort located on a small island off Savusavu, Vanua Levu, has undertaken a mangrove planting initiative. The resort’s management recognized the need to compensate for the mangroves that were removed during the construction of the resort. As a result, they committed to planting six mangroves for every one that was removed. In collaboration with the Nawi Island Integrated Tourism project, seven communities in Savusavu have joined forces and planted mangrove seedlings as part of this rehabilitation project. Additionally, the project has been working closely with the Ministry of Fisheries to establish nurseries for coral, aiming to replace those affected by bleaching and overexploitation.



## Addressing Marine Pollution

Fiji is a signatory to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) is responsible for its implementation. Fiji has enacted regulations under both the Maritime Transport Decree 2013 and the Ship Registration Decree 2013 to safeguard its seas against pollution caused by the shipping industry.

## Establishing Marine Protected Areas

Sustainable management is a 2030 target of the Fiji government outlined in the National Ocean Policy. With its commitment to designate 30% of its EEZ as Marine Protected Areas (MPA) by 2030, Fiji is on track to surpass this target ahead of schedule. Ongoing efforts are being made to identify marine areas for the establishment of MPAs, ensuring that Fiji meets its target.

## Ocean-Climate Nexus

In the Ocean-Climate nexus, the Fijian government's Climate Change Unit collaborates closely with Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Wildlife Conservation Society, the World Wildlife Fund, the Waitt Institute, and the World Bank. Additionally, in 2023, the government is expected to establish a collaborative relationship with the Reserve Bank of Fiji.

## Blue Carbon (Mangroves and Seagrass)

There is growing awareness in the country regarding the significance of mangroves in terms of coastal protection, providing nursery spaces for fish and other coastal animals, and their capacity for carbon capture. Mangroves are included in the tree planting efforts of the Ministry of Forestry, and in recent years, there has been an increase in collaborative efforts between civil society, the private sector, and the government to expand mangrove coverage through planting activities. Fiji has developed a Mangrove Management Plan as a crucial tool for the sustainable management of its depleting mangrove forests. These mangroves are recognized for their carbon capture properties and their role as a nature-based solution for climate adaptation. The primary objective of the plan is to emphasize the significance of preserving this natural ecosystem through controlled harvesting and limiting conversion activities to purposes of national interest.

### Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network

The FLMMA network comprises members representing village communities, research institutions, and international non-profit organizations. FLMMA holds regular meetings to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on conserving ocean life and involving communities in decision-making regarding resource management. The concept of locally managed marine areas is rooted in the idea of 'traditional taboo', which gained considerable interest when government officials and non-governmental members collaborated to revive the 'taboo' in Verata during the 1990s. This initiative caught the attention of other communities, prompting them to consider adopting the concept. Presently, around 400 villages have embraced the concept and are effectively managing their qoliqoli (customary marine tenure areas that are systematically recorded and demarcated).

There is a growing interest in the seaweed industry, which has the potential to contribute to carbon capture in the blue carbon sector. Additionally, it can provide employment opportunities for coastal and island communities through private-community partnerships. This industry has the potential to generate much-needed income for these communities and contribute to rural employment and economic growth.

## Blue Bonds and a Blue Accelerator Grant Scheme

Building on the success of the first Green Bond issuance, Fiji is now shifting its focus toward the issuance of a Blue Bond. This bond aims to raise capital market finance to support projects in four priority sectors: Blue Shipping, Sustainable Fisheries, a Blue Investment Fund, and Sustainable Waste Management. Additionally, in January 2023, the Blue Accelerator Grant Scheme (BAGS) was launched. The BAGS aims to support the private sector, including MSMEs and cooperatives, in unlocking the development potential of Fiji's Blue Economy in a sustainable manner. The grants provided through the scheme will support eight projects with a total value of over FJD 8 million, facilitating private sector access to financing in this critical area. These efforts demonstrate Fiji's commitment to bridging the gap with more innovative climate financing instruments.

## Improving the Markets for Small Fishers

Fiji's fisheries exports experienced significant growth, increasing from FJD 94 million in 2021 to FJD 149.8 million in 2022. By December 2023, the exports further rose to FJD 207 million. On the other hand, fisheries imports remained relatively stable, with a consistent 1% rate over the past two years.

The fisheries sector plays a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of 29,450 households in the country, both directly and indirectly. This accounts for 41.5% of the total 70,991 agricultural households. The sector comprises 411 customary qoliqoli owners, 32 service centers, and six hatcheries.<sup>43</sup>

The Ministry of Trade has entered into a Letter of Agreement with the FAO to conduct capacity development training, utilizing internally developed modules, with the aim of strengthening at least twelve fisher organizations. The training program is designed to promote the formation and enhancement of fisher cooperatives and associations that support small-scale fisheries. Through this Agreement, fisher associations and cooperatives in Fiji will gain knowledge about the processes and responsibilities involved in becoming a registered fisher group. The training will also focus on improving the skill sets and business acumen of members, covering operational matters such as basic accounting, bookkeeping, and financial management. Additionally, participants will receive comprehensive training on harvesting, processing, and marketing of their produce and products. The importance of fish hygiene and equipment maintenance will be emphasized, along with creating awareness about the adverse effects of unsustainable fishing practices. The overall objective is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishing industry, thereby supporting the livelihoods of fishers.

In the Pacific, there are approximately 22,350 tuna-related jobs, of which about one-third are in fishing, and almost all of the individuals involved are men. There is still much that is unknown about the role of women in fisheries value chains. In the Levuka and Suva fishing ports, there are a few women who have been trained as cadets through recent donor-funded programs. In Levuka, women comprise 65 percent of the employees in the tuna processing plant, working at all levels, including on processing lines, quality control, and even management.

## Lau SeaScape

The Lau SeaScape encompasses an area of 335,895 km<sup>2</sup>, including 13 inhabited islands and 52 locally managed marine areas. It boasts 80% live coral cover and is home to 200 hard coral species. The area faces various threats, including unsustainable land-use practices, excessive use of chemicals, unsustainable fishing methods, pollution, illegal fishing by local people and commercial vessels, the crown-of-thorns invasive species, unsustainable tourism development, and physical damage to reefs from anchoring.

Conservation International Fiji leads the multi-partner initiative known as the Lau Seascape. The initiative collaborates with Chiefs, communities, the Lau Provincial Council, the Fijian government, and other non-governmental agencies. Its approach emphasizes both production and protection, aiming to strike a balance between sustainable resource use and conservation to support community livelihoods while preserving the region's ecological integrity. This is achieved through the development of village-based plans, support for alternative livelihoods, research on key biodiversity areas and drivers of degradation, and the establishment of protected areas in terrestrial and marine environments.

The Lau Seascape is listed as one of Fiji's voluntary commitments to the inter-agency mechanism UN-Oceans under SDG 14. It is also aligned with other SDGs, including SDGs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15.





## Linkages of SDG 14 with Other SDG Goals

In ocean states like Fiji, SDG 14 is interconnected with several other SDGs. The coastal and marine resources are crucial for the livelihoods of many people, especially those from the poorest segments of society who rely on them for subsistence. This includes not only fish but also other marine species such as crustaceans, mollusks, and algae (SDG 2). Unfortunately, mangroves, which are important coastal ecosystems, are still being harvested for fuelwood by many rural households, impacting sustainable energy (SDG 7) and terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15).

The blue economy sector, including activities like blue tourism, provides employment and income opportunities for both men and women, contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction (SDGs 8, 9, and 1). The ocean habitats are experiencing severe impacts from climate change (SDG 13). Additionally, droughts, floods, and terrestrial pollution, including plastic waste originating from land and ending up in the ocean, have detrimental effects on the health of our oceans (SDGs 15 and 12).

# 15 LIFE ON LAND





*Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss.*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 15 are:

**Target 15.1** - By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

**Target 15.2** - By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

**Target 15.3** - By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

**Target 15.5** - Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

**Target 15.6** - Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

**Target 15.8** - By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

Goal 15	15.1	Terrestrial & Freshwater Ecosystems	Yellow	
	15.2	Sustainable Forests Management	Yellow	
	15.3	Desertification and Land Degradation	Grey	
	15.4	Conservation of Mountain Ecosystems	Yellow	
	15.5	Loss of Biodiversity	Red	
	15.6	Utilization of Genetic Resource	Green	
	15.7	Protected Species Trafficking	Grey	
	15.8	Invasive Alien Species	Green	
	15.9	Biodiversity in National & Local Plan	Grey	
	15.a	Resources for Biodiversity & Ecosystems	Green	
	15.b	Resources for Forest Management	Green	
	15.c	Protected Species Trafficking (Global)	Grey	
				Green Maintain Yellow Accelerate Red Reverse Grey Not Assessed

Fiji has made significant progress in achieving four targets of SDG 15 (15.6, 15.8, 15.a, and 15.b). However, there is a need for accelerated progress in three targets (15.1, 15.2, and 15.4). Target 15.5, is showing regression, indicating the need for additional efforts in this area. Unfortunately, there are currently no measurements available for four targets (15.3, 15.7, 15.9, and 15.c), highlighting the need for data collection and monitoring to assess progress in these areas.

## Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation

Fiji has been a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 1993 and ratified the Cartagena Protocol in 2003, demonstrating its commitment to biodiversity conservation. However, Fiji has not signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing or the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

In its 6th National Report to the CBD, Fiji outlined six national targets that guide its commitments and actions toward achieving both national and global biodiversity targets. These targets include:

- Improving knowledge (SDG Targets 15.1 and 15.2)
- Enhancing protected areas management (15.5)
- Implementing species management strategies (15.5)
- Addressing invasive species management (15.8), creating an enabling environment and mainstreaming biodiversity (15.1 and 15.2)
- Promoting sustainable use and development (15.2 and 15.6)

As of 2013, a total of 1,417 species in Fiji were assessed according to the IUCN Categories and Criteria for inclusion in the Red List of Threatened Species. These species face various threats, including the introduction of invasive species, agricultural activities, habitat loss, development projects, climate change impacts, overexploitation, mining operations, wildfires, human disturbance, and pollution.<sup>44</sup>

Although the NBSAP does not explicitly outline its linkages with the SDGs, there are several connections, particularly with regards to SDG Targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.5, and 15.8.

### Protecting Fiji's Forests

There are two types of forest ecosystems in Fiji: wet forests, which consist of forests that thrive in cooler regions such as the eastern and central parts of Viti Levu, and dry littoral forests, which are found mainly in the western and dry parts of the country.

### NatureFiji-MareqetiViti (NFMV)

NFMV is Fiji's only domestic NGO dedicated to the conservation and sustainable management of Fiji's unique natural heritage. Its mission is to enhance biodiversity and habitat conservation, protect endangered species, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources in the Fiji Islands through collaborative conservation action, awareness raising, education, research, and biodiversity information exchange.

NFMV's initiatives include work on the conservation of threatened species, establishment of protected areas, safeguarding island ecosystems, sustainable management of Fiji's forest ecosystems, building a strong conservation constituency, and education and communication.



### Addressing Floods and Droughts

The Ministry of Waterways has developed five flood retention dams in Nadi and is currently working on constructing a flood retention dam in Ba. However, more flood retention dams need to be developed. These dams have reduced flooding in communities and prevented waterways from being contaminated, allowing communities to have proper sanitation during times of heavy downpour. The Ministry is also working on developing a 10-year plan that involves relevant line Ministries in various programs to ensure proper utilization and conservation of resources.

## Addressing Land Degradation

The Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries' Reforestation on Degraded Forest Project (RDF) promotes the reforestation of degraded forests (see box).

## Benefit Sharing

The barriers for maximizing benefits from genetic resources have been identified as:

- Limited scientific research, technological, and development capacity preventing national stakeholders from adding value to Fiji's genetic resources
- Limited capacity to implement and operationalize ABS Agreements and Benefit Sharing mechanisms with communities, including insufficient human resource capacity and piecemeal operation of draft bio-prospecting policy and guidelines
- Limited national capacity to institutionalize and operationalize the Nagoya Protocol, and a lack of understanding of ABS and its link to biodiversity conservation

## Tackling Invasive Alien Species

Invasive alien species (IAS) are considered the greatest threat to biodiversity in Fiji and other Pacific Islands. Numerous IAS have been introduced to Fiji, resulting in significant impacts on natural landscapes and biodiversity. Five of the most serious invasive species in Fiji are the Giant Invasive Iguana (*Iguana iguana*), the Asian Subterranean Termite (*Coptotermes gestroi*), the American Foulbrood disease (*Paenibacillus larvae*), the Varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni*), and the Taro Beetle (Papuan unionid). Additionally, the African Tulip Tree (*Spathodea campanulata*), the cane toad (*Rhinella marina*), the small Indian mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), and the common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) are also invasive species of concern. Rats and cats are also identified as problematic invasive species in key biodiversity areas.

## Protected Areas

Fiji's forests harbor the majority of the country's endemic flora and fauna, making them crucial for biodiversity conservation. The forests are home to at least 2,641 species of plants, with 35% of them being endemic. Additionally, there are approximately 5,024 species of insects, although many species remain undiscovered. The forests also support around 164 known species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, of which 28.7% are endemic (NRI GoF 010a,b; DoF and SPC, 2010).

## 30 Million Trees in 15 Years (30MT15Y)

In 2019, the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries made a commitment to plant 30 million trees in the following 15 years under the Ministry's Reforestation on Degraded Forest Project (RDF). This was an initiative of the Ministry's Reforestation on Degraded Forest Project (RDF) to promote the reforestation of degraded forests in Fiji. Up to January 2023, the project had planted almost 17 million trees over an area of approximately 152 km<sup>2</sup>. Of these, 730,000 trees were mangroves. By January, an investment of FJD 4.6 million (USD 2.2 million) had been made into this project. At this rate, there is a high probability of surpassing the 30 million trees target well before the 15-year mark. The Ministry has called for expressions of interest from land-owning communities who want to participate in this program and reforest their lands.



## Village Will Reforest 350 Hectares of Land to Fund Own Projects

An agreement was reached between the Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries and four landowning units in Cakaudrove, Northern Province, for the reforestation of degraded forests. The plans involve the planting of nearly 97,300 seedlings in an idle land area spanning 350 hectares. The five-year contract will assist the landowners with funding their Village Development Plan. In total, the four landowning units will receive FJ \$93,247.50 as payment for tasks ranging from poling, line cutting, planting, and weeding. The income generated from the project will be used to establish electricity power in as many settlements as possible, establish fishponds, register youth clubs as cooperatives, and venture into agroforestry and permaculture.



## Giant Invasive Iguana

The introduction of the Giant Invasive Iguana (GII) to Fiji represented the first established population of this species in the Pacific, which posed a potential threat to some of the world's most isolated island ecosystems. The GII was initially reported in Fiji on the island of Qamea and has since been discovered in Matagi, Laucala, and the ecologically important island of Taveuni. In collaboration with the UNDP and GEF, Fiji has developed an eradication plan that is currently being implemented.

Currently, Fiji has three protected areas: Sovi Basin, Yadua Tabua, and Waisali Rainforest Reserve. Among these, Sovi Basin in Waimaro, Naitasiri Province, holds significant importance as Fiji's most valuable land ecosystem in terms of its biological and landscape heritage. Spanning 19,600 hectares, the basin is covered with undisturbed tropical lowland forest, making it the largest, most diverse, and visually stunning natural forest in Fiji. The exceptional natural and cultural features of the Sovi Basin present an opportunity for it to become a focal point for heritage-based tourism and the development of ecotourism in Fiji.

### Nature-Based Solutions

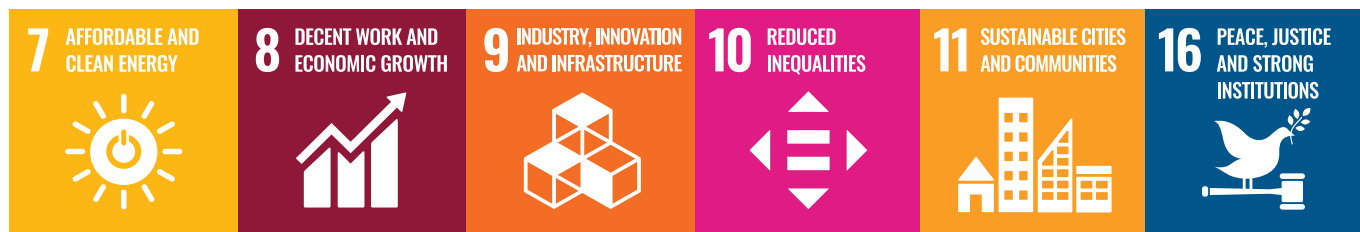
Nature-based solutions are playing a significant role in Fiji's efforts to build back better in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. One notable example, led by the Ministry of Waterways, is the construction of seawalls using natural materials sourced from local communities. Rocks obtained from within the communities are used to build the seawalls, and vetiver grass is planted along the walls. The roots of the grass interlock with the rocks, providing stability and reinforcement.

The design of these seawalls incorporates engineered crevices that create habitats for various plant and animal species, particularly indigenous endemic species. As a result, these seawalls become living ecosystems that support biodiversity. Additionally, mangrove systems are planted around the walls, further enhancing the ecological richness of the area. Alongside their ecological benefits, these seawalls also serve as crucial protective barriers against coastal erosion and rising sea levels, safeguarding local communities from the loss of lives, property, and livestock.

An important advantage of these nature-based seawalls is their minimal environmental impact. Unlike traditional construction methods, they do not involve the use of chemicals or generate construction-based waste that could harm marine ecosystems and seascapes.



## Peace and Prosperity



The Planet SDG cluster encompasses several SDGs, including SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Progress within this cluster of SDGs has been mixed, with achievements in some targets and areas, as well as areas where progress has been slower or reversed. The following is a snapshot of indicators that highlight the progress made so far in this SDG cluster. Blue bars represent progress, while red bars indicate reversed progress. Fiji has reached its 2030 targets in certain areas, but there are indicators that are regressing, and additional efforts are needed to accelerate progress in most areas.



# 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY





# SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

*Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 7 are:

**Target 7.1** - By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

**Target 7.2** - By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

**Target 7.3** - By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

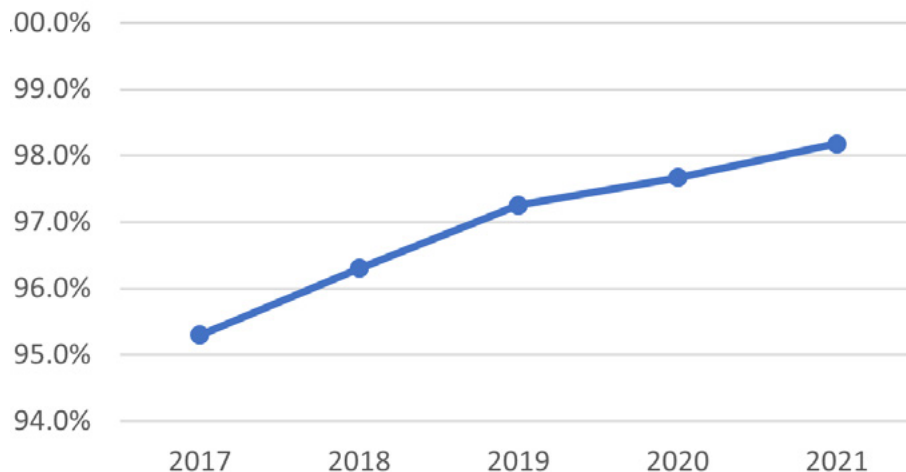
Goal 7	7.1	Access to energy services	Yellow	Green	Maintain
	7.2	Share of renewable energy	Yellow	Light Yellow	Accelerate
	7.3	Energy efficiency	Green	Red	Reverse
	7.a	Int. cooperation on energy	Yellow	Grey	Not Assessed
	7.b	Investing in energy infrastructure	Yellow		

Fiji has shown positive progress in achieving Target 7.3. However, there is a need for accelerated action in the other four targets (7.1, 7.2, 7.a, and 7.b) to meet the SDG 2030 targets.

### Ensuring Universal Access

In 2021, Fiji made significant progress in improving access to electricity, with over 98% of the population having access, compared to 95.3% in 2017.<sup>45</sup> However, reaching the remaining 1.8% of the population may present challenges, as many of them reside in informal settlements and require regularization of their tenements before they can be provided with electrical connections.<sup>46</sup>

Percentage of Population with Access to Electricity

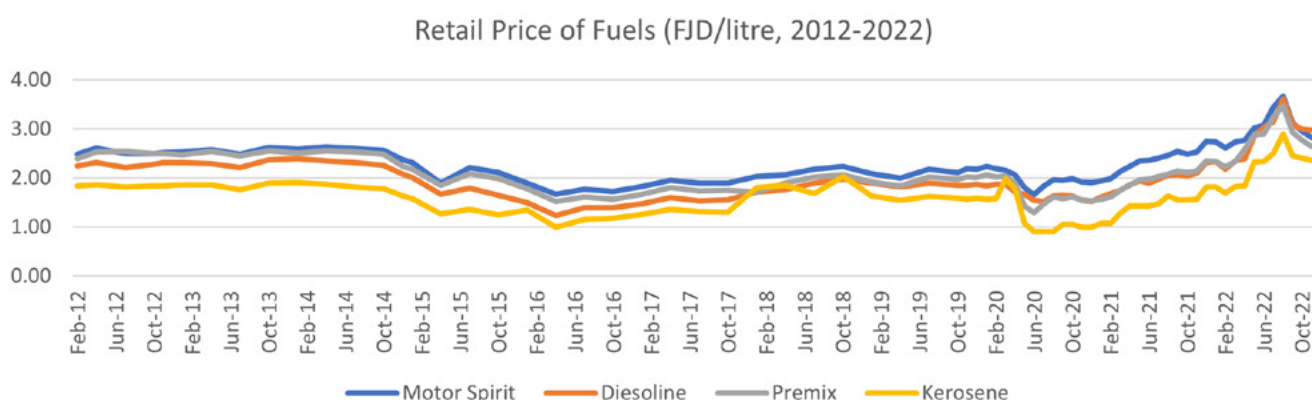


<sup>45</sup> Fiji Department of Energy data.

<sup>46</sup> Revealed in consultations with the Department of Energy/Industry

## Affordable Energy

The increase in fuel prices has resulted in hardships for a significant number of people and has impacted various sectors, particularly those heavily reliant on transportation, due to the rise in transportation costs. The retail price of motor spirit (gasoline) in Fiji experienced fluctuations over the years. In February 2012, the price was FJD 2.48 per litre, reaching its lowest point at FJD 1.66 per litre in June 2020, and then escalating to its highest price of FJD 3.67 per litre in August 2022 before starting to decrease again. Similar trends were observed for diesel, premix, and kerosene. Such price volatility in petroleum fuels underscores the need to transition to renewable energy sources.



Despite the increase in fuel prices, the Fijian government has managed to maintain control over electricity rates to prevent additional hardships for the population. Electricity rates in Fiji are categorized into domestic and commercial/industrial sectors.

For domestic consumers, the electricity rate is FJ 34.01 cents per kWh. Schools and places of worship also fall under this domestic category. Commercial and industrial consumers are charged at a rate of FJ 40.99 cents per kWh for usage below 15,000 kWh, and FJ 42.85 cents per kWh for usage exceeding 15,000 kWh.

To provide assistance to low-income households, customers with a combined household income of less than FJD 30,000 per annum, who are registered for government subsidies, receive a subsidy of FJ 17.67 cents per unit for the first 100 units of electricity usage.

It is important to note that the tariff rates and subsidy programs are subject to periodic review. Under the new tariff regulatory framework, a tariff review process is conducted every four years. The next review is scheduled to take place in October 2023.

## Clean Energy

Fiji is currently heavily reliant on imported energy resources, and energy security is high on Fiji's agenda. The government is very supportive of renewable energy sources and actively seeks partners in the energy sector to help increase the country's renewable energy generation capacity. Therefore, key aims of the country include diversification of the power generation mix, with a focus on indigenous sources such as solar and hydro, and a reduction in reliance on imported petroleum fuel. This would require a significant growth in the share of renewable energy (RE) in the total final energy consumption (TFEC), which was 9.4% (excluding traditional biomass) in 2018. Furthermore, the levelized cost of electricity from renewable power technologies has experienced a steep decline in the past decade, making them economically more competitive than conventional fossil fuel-based technologies.<sup>47</sup>



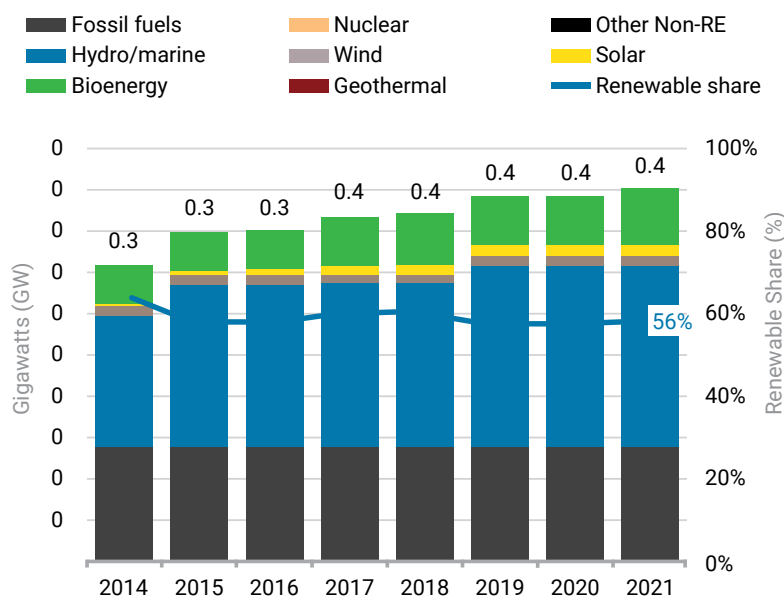
Currently, approximately 45% of Fiji’s power needs are supplied through fossil fuels, 50% through hydropower, and the remaining 5% from biomass and wind. However, as an island nation, Fiji is heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, which accounted for a fuel import bill of FJD 1.17 billion in 2019, constituting 20% of the country’s total imports. With 90% of Fijians connected to the power grid provided by EFL, the total daily generation capacity required is around 267MW. Even a relatively small 15MW solar project can make a noticeable contribution, fulfilling approximately 5% of the country’s power needs.

The chart below (IRENA<sup>48</sup>) illustrates the proportion of renewable energy in Fiji’s electricity generation. In 2020, renewables accounted for 56% of the energy mix. Despite the growth of renewable installations in the country, the overall energy demand has also increased. As a result, Fiji has witnessed a rise in the share of fossil fuels used for electricity generation, from 26% in 2014 to 44% in 2021.

## The Barefoot College Programme

The Barefoot College in Fiji focuses on localisation of 11 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through, and with, rural women across Fiji and 14 Pacific Island nations. Barefoot College Fiji is the first and only institutional facility in the Pacific where studies on renewable energy technologies are provided, coupled with a holistic approach to building entrepreneurial skills, to women with close to no previous formal education. It is an approach that represents Fiji’s visionary leadership towards driving inclusion and gender equity within the frameworks of climate change, accelerating SDG localization at community level and a commitment to ensuring women prosper. For most impact and outreach, the College organises a wide network of indigenous CSOs to deliver additional curriculums focused on sustainable livelihood capacity building. The College will also champion the fight against climate change, by bringing communities much closer to energy independence and sustainability.

Installed Capacity Trend



Private sector involvement in the renewable energy sector has been slow, primarily due to regulatory factors.

The Fiji Electricity Authority (FEA), now Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), was established and incorporated under the provisions of the Electricity Act of 1966 and commenced operations on 1 August of that year. The corporatization of FEA into EFL took place on 16 April 2018, transforming it into a public company limited by shares registered under the Companies Act. One of the main objectives of this corporatization was to allow the people of Fiji to participate in the economic benefits of EFL and list the newly corporatized entity on the South Pacific Stock Exchange, thereby promoting the development of Fiji’s capital market. In 2017, a new Electricity Act was passed by Parliament and came into effect in October 2019 upon gazetting. The Fiji Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) was appointed as the regulator under this Electricity Act. However, EFL has signed a MOA with the FCCC to continue carrying out certain regulatory

48 IRENA - Country Profile – Fiji (24 August 2022 update)  
[https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical\\_Profiles/Oceania/Fiji\\_Oceania\\_RE\\_SP.pdf](https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Statistics/Statistical_Profiles/Oceania/Fiji_Oceania_RE_SP.pdf)

functions. The dual role of EFL as a producer and supplier of electricity, while still retaining regulatory functions, has raised concerns regarding competition-related issues in Fiji.

EFL relies on several major generation sources for electricity production, including the Monasavu, Nadarivatu, Wainiqueu, Somosomo Hydroelectric Schemes, as well as the Vuda, Kinoya, Sigatoka, and other smaller Thermal Power Stations located around Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, Ovalau, and Taveuni. Hydroelectric generation accounts for approximately 50% to 60% of the total electricity demand in a year with favorable rainfall conditions, making it a significant contributor to renewable energy.

There are several ongoing projects aimed at expanding renewable energy production. These projects include the development of the Qaliwana and Upper Wailoa Diversion Hydro-electric Schemes, the Lower Ba Hydro-electric Scheme, the Namosi Hydro-electric Scheme, the Qeleloa 5MW Solar Farm, the establishment of a 1MW Solar PV Farm at Mua, Taveuni, the construction of Grid-Connected Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants in Ba, Tavua, and Nadi with a combined capacity of 15MW, as well as the acquisition of additional land for future renewable energy projects.

Substantial investments were necessary to develop both power generation and transmission infrastructure, as well as grid-stabilization technologies like battery-energy storage systems, in order to facilitate the transition to renewable energy sources.

In 2020, the government initiated the construction of a solar farm in Nadi, aiming to reduce the country's dependence on expensive imported fossil fuels. Energy Fiji Limited (EFL), a government-owned company responsible for electricity generation, transmission, and distribution in Fiji's main islands (Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and Ovalau), partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to implement the 15MW solar project. This solar farm would supply electricity to the national grid, with a projected cost of FJD 32 million. The anticipated outcome was to enable approximately 14,000 households to transition to solar energy. The IFC's involvement in the project was supported by the governments of Australia and New Zealand through the Fiji Partnership, which was established in 2016 with initial funding from Australia. The Fiji Partnership aims to stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and foster private sector development in Fiji. New Zealand's participation in the partnership was announced in October 2019, contributing to the Partnership's objective of mobilizing \$AU280.5 million in new private sector investment in Fiji.

A Solar Farm project has been initiated in Batiri, Vanua Levu by Fiji Food Processors, with the aim of developing an Agrivoltaic (APV) system capable of generating 4MW of power. The project revolves around the concept of combining solar power generation with agricultural production in the same area, maximizing the synergistic benefits and potential of both systems. This approach is particularly advantageous in Fiji, where the dry season can be intense. The estimated cost of the project is approximately USD 5.7 million.

In addition to its renewable energy generation, the Solar Farm project also aims to establish sustainable farmland, addressing food security concerns and aligning with Fiji's Agriculture Policy.



*Project Layout of the Batiri Agrivoltaic System*

Through South-South cooperation, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, has provided support to the project 'Solarization of the Head of State Residences' in eleven Pacific Island countries, including Fiji.

In Fiji, the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) and the non-profit organization Solar Head of State (SHOS) have partnered to implement the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at the President's residence in Suva. This initiative aims to showcase the use of solar technology and have the President champion renewable energy. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serves as the executing agency for the project, which advocates and supports the transition to cleaner and renewable energy in the Pacific region.



## Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF)

FREF is a crucial initiative aimed at providing clean, affordable, and renewable energy to rural and remote areas in Fiji that currently lack access to the main electricity grid. The project's first phase, which received initial funding from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, was successfully implemented on Vio Island. Currently, FREF is in the process of gradually implementing the second phase, which will introduce alternative technologies such as mini hydro systems into the existing FREF model.

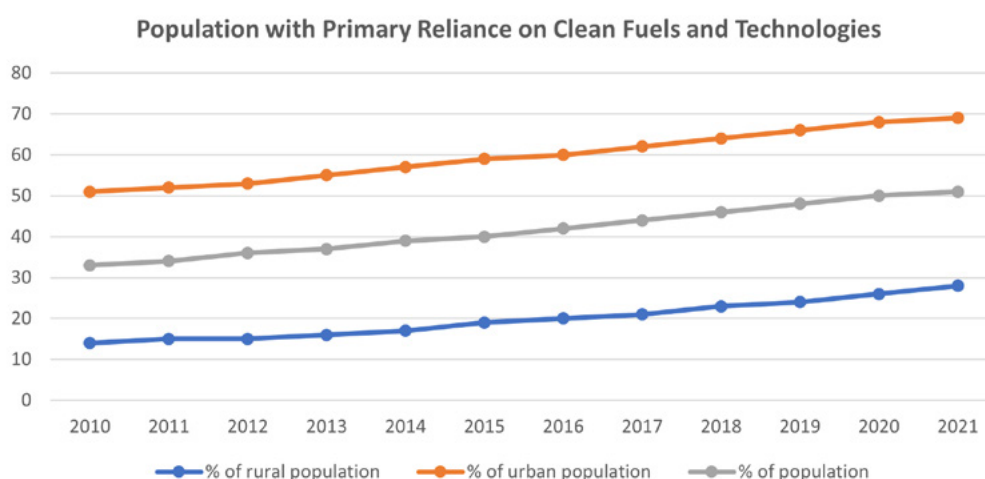
The second phase of the project will be executed in three tranches, with the goal of incorporating these alternative technologies into the FREF framework. Furthermore, a third phase is being planned, which will involve seventy communities that will be tender-ready for implementation by the private sector. This phase will also include additional developments such as the installation of mobile phone towers to enhance connectivity and enable mobile phone payment for electricity, as well as the establishment of desalination plants.

The FREF project provides an opportunity to establish robust financing and ownership mechanisms for rural electrification, thereby enabling Fiji to fulfill its commitments to the SDGs, NDCs, LEDS, and NDP.

Additionally, civil society organizations such as FCOSS are taking steps to transition their energy needs to renewable sources. FCOSS has partnered with the UK government and LEAF to begin its transition to clean and sustainable energy. The initial support received will enable FCOSS to remain connected, even during humanitarian and disaster coordination efforts when the power supply may be intermittent. By adopting solar panels, battery backup capacity, electric vehicle chargers, and using an electric vehicle, FCOSS aims to shift from diesel-based energy to clean and green energy sources. This transition is expected to result in electricity savings of up to 30% compared to their current expenses. The funds saved can then be directed towards initiatives focused on poverty alleviation and reducing inequality.

## Access to Clean Cooking

Only 51% of Fiji's population, which amounts to approximately 450,000 people, had access to clean cooking in 2021, marking a significant improvement from 28% in 2000.<sup>49</sup> Data from the FBoS chart below indicates that the urban population enjoys better access to clean fuel, with a rate of 69%, compared to the rural population, which stands at 28% as of 2021.

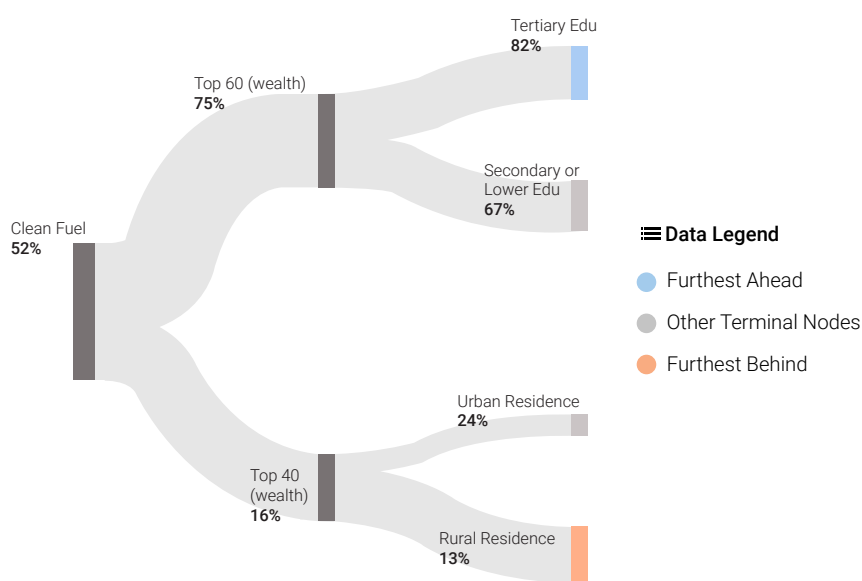


<sup>49</sup> World Health Organization. Population data based on the 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects. (<https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/country/fiji>)



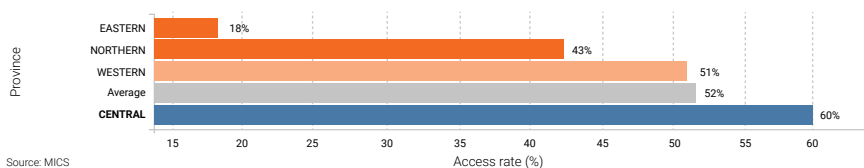
A detailed analysis conducted at the national level in Fiji reveals significant disparities in access to clean fuels, particularly among certain marginalized groups. The findings indicate that only 13% of poorer households, specifically those in the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution, residing in rural areas have access to clean fuels. In contrast, 82% of wealthier households, belonging to the top 60% of the wealth distribution and with tertiary education as the highest level of education attained, have access to clean fuels.

When examining access at the divisional level, the gap becomes even wider in the Central division. Here, 85% of wealthier, urban, and tertiary-educated households have access to clean fuels. However, upon considering additional factors such as the language spoken by the head of the household, a new group emerges as the most disadvantaged, with a low access rate of 11%. This group consists of poorer households with secondary education or lower and where the native language of the household head is iTaukei.<sup>50</sup>



### Clean Fuel, Access Rate

All Provinces, Fiji, 2021



Source: MICS

### Data Legend

Access	Inequality
(Higher is better)	(Lower is better)
Higher	Lower
Higher	Higher
Lower	Lower
Lower	Higher

Access to clean cooking fuel in Fiji exhibits significant regional disparities, with the Eastern division having the lowest access rate at 18%. The Northern division follows with a slightly higher access rate of 43%, while the Western division fares better with 51%. In contrast, the Central division stands out with the highest access rate of 80%. These figures highlight the pressing need for concerted efforts to improve access to clean cooking fuel, particularly in regions with lower rates.

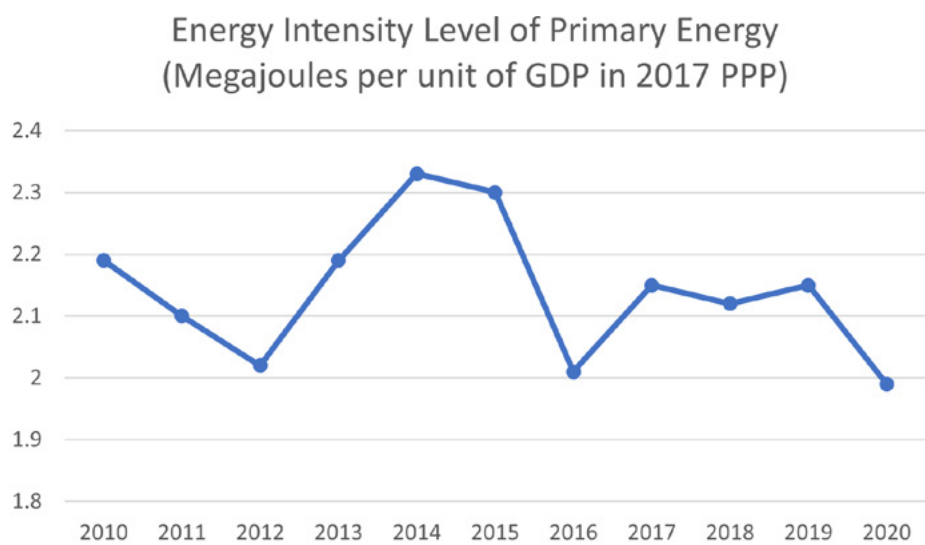


### Energy Efficiency (Target 7.3)

Achieving energy efficiency targets by 2030 presents a significant challenge for developing countries like Fiji.<sup>51</sup> Recognizing this, several donor-funded projects are being planned to provide support and assistance to Fiji in its efforts to enhance energy efficiency.

The rate of improvement in primary energy intensity serves as a proxy indicator for measuring progress in energy efficiency. The provided graph indicates that energy intensity improvements in Fiji accelerated during the early years of the last decade but subsequently slowed down. Notably, the rate of improvement remains below the global annual target of 2.6%.

The deceleration in energy intensity improvements could be attributed to various factors, including the absence of robust energy efficiency policies and the growing demand for energy-intensive activities.



51 From Climate Change Division Submission.

# 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH





# SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

*Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 8 are:

**Target 8.1** - Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

**Target 8.2** - Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

**Target 8.3** - Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

**Target 8.5** - By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

**Target 8.6** - By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

**Target 8.8** - Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

**Target 8.9** - By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

**Target 8.10** - Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Goal 8	8.1	Per capita economic growth	Red	
	8.2	Economic productivity & innovation	Red	
	8.3	Formalization of SME's	Green	
	8.4	Material resource efficiency	Yellow	
	8.5	Full employment & decent work	Green	Green Maintain
	8.6	Youth NEET	Red	Yellow Accelerate
	8.7	Child and forced labour	Grey	Red Reverse
	8.8	Labour right and safe working environments	Red	Grey Not Assessed
	8.9	Sustainable tourism	Red	
	8.10	Access to financial services	Yellow	
	8.a	Aid for Trade	Yellow	
	8.b	Strategy for youth employment	Grey	

Fiji has made notable progress in achieving Targets 8.3 and 8.5. However, there has been a reverse trend observed in Targets 8.1, 8.2, 8.6, 8.8, and 8.9, highlighting areas where Fiji's efforts need to be intensified. To meet the targets set for 8.4, 8.10, and 8.a by 2030, Fiji needs to accelerate its progress significantly. It is important to note that the progress in Targets 8.7 and 8.b cannot be measured currently.

Between 2010 and 2018, Fiji experienced an average annual economic growth rate of 3.7%. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fiji's real GDP declined by 17% in 2020 and contracted by another 5.1% in 2021. The pandemic had a significant impact on tax collections, which declined by almost 50%. As a result, Fiji's debt levels increased to around 91.15% of GDP by the end of July 2022, compared to around 48.8% of GDP before the pandemic.

To address this situation, the government implemented a Medium-Term Fiscal Strategy (MTFS) for the period covering FY2023-2024 to FY2025-2026. The main objective of the MTFS is to reduce net deficits and put debt on a downward trajectory, ensuring fiscal sustainability in the medium term.

Fiji's economy experienced a strong rebound in 2022, with an estimated growth rate of 15.6%. This recovery was primarily driven by a better-than-expected rebound in tourism and tourism-related activities. For 2023, a broad-based growth rate of 6% is forecasted, followed by 3.8% in 2024 and 2.4% in 2025.

However, there are several challenges in the near-term outlook. Persistent inflation, particularly for food and energy, is a concern. Fiji's annual average inflation rate was 4.3% in 2022, mainly driven by imported inflation resulting from higher global food and energy prices. In 2023, inflation is forecasted to be around 2.8%, with potential upside risks related to supply-side shocks associated with geopolitical tensions and domestic weather-related events.

## Financial Services

The degree of formal financial inclusion among the people of Fiji has shown significant improvement. From 2014 to 2020, the percentage of Fijians with access to formal financial services increased from 64% to 81%. This increase in financial inclusion is accompanied by a reduction in the gender gap in bank access, which decreased to less than 7%.<sup>52</sup> Youth in Fiji have also experienced increased access to financial services, with 77% of youth having access in 2020 compared to 51% in 2014. Similarly, in 2020, more than 81% of persons with disabilities were able to access financial services.

However, there is still a segment of the population without access to financial services. Approximately 19% of the adult population in Fiji, particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities, do not have access to financial services.

A significant proportion of the population in Fiji still lacks basic financial knowledge, which leaves them vulnerable to financial scams and fraudulent activities. To address this issue, the government needs to invest in initiatives aimed at improving the financial literacy and knowledge of communities.

In terms of investment levels, Fiji has experienced a decline over time. The investment rate dropped to a record low of 12% of GDP in 2020. This rate is significantly lower than the global average of 26.4% and lower than what has been observed in other Pacific Island Countries (19%).

Efforts to improve access to formal financial services in Fiji have yielded positive results. Bank account ownership among adults has significantly increased, reaching 84% in 2021 compared to 60% in 2010. The data shows that 89.4% of male adults and 78.3% of female adults now have bank accounts.

Furthermore, there has been a notable rise in the adoption of digital banking services. In 2021, 39.5% of bank account holders were registered for internet banking, compared to 22.7% in 2018. Similarly, the registration for mobile banking has increased, with 45.4% of bank account holders registered for mobile banking in 2021, up from 17.8% in 2018.

Mobile money services have played a significant role in transforming the financial services sector in Fiji. The number of active mobile money users has surged, reaching 556,142 in 2021, accounting for 65.7% of total registered users. This is a substantial increase from 20,418 active users in 2018, representing 7.5% of total registered users. The rise in mobile money usage can be attributed to the introduction of government unemployment assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was distributed through mobile platforms such as MPAiSA and MyCASH. Additionally, mobile digital wallets have become an increasingly popular channel for remittance inflows, making it the second-largest remittance channel after foreign exchange dealers.

The insurance landscape in Fiji has experienced some shifts in recent years. While the number of life insurance policyholders declined by 16% from 2018 to 2021, with a decrease from 98,112 to 82,393 policyholders, the number of general insurance policyholders increased from 23,408 in 2018 to 53,940 in 2021. In 2021, general insurance policyholders accounted for approximately 5% of adults.

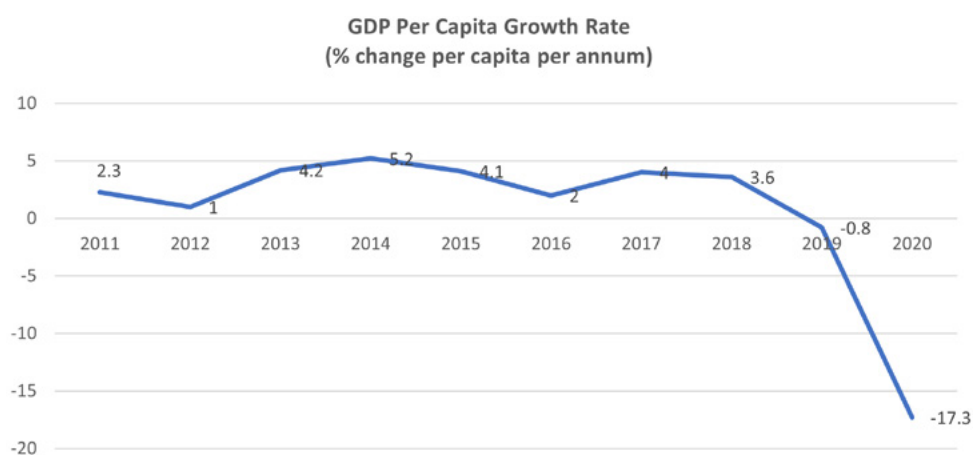
The overall uptake of insurance products among adults in Fiji increased from 12% in 2014 to 15% in 2020. However, it is worth noting that only 2% of the insurance uptake was related to climate change, suggesting that there is room for further progress in promoting insurance coverage for climate-related risks.

In terms of other investment options, approximately 4.6% of adults held unit trust investments in 2021, showing a slight increase from 3.5% in 2018. Additionally, a small percentage of adults, 0.1%, had bond investments, while 1.6% were involved in share investments, and 2.8% had term deposits.

## Per Capita Economic Growth

Fiji experienced a significant decline in per capita economic growth rate due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. After reaching a high of 5.2% in 2014, the per capita growth rate dropped to a negative 17.3% in 2020.

However, there has been a positive reversal in this trend. According to estimates from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Fiji's per capita growth rate rebounded strongly in 2022, reaching an estimated 15.9%. Looking ahead to 2023, Fiji is projected to experience a per capita GDP growth rate of 5.7%.<sup>53</sup>



The government is currently in the process of establishing the Navutu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Lautoka. This SEZ will be distinctive in its ability to provide all the necessary infrastructure and utilities required for industrial development, catering to the specific needs of potential investors through its "Plug-and-Play" approach. By offering a seamless business opportunity to stakeholders and investors, the Navutu SEZ aims to facilitate value creation and promote economic growth.

It's important to note that BusinessNow Fiji, a recent initiative by digitalFIJI, is not included in the 2023 report. However, under the digitalFIJI initiative led by the Ministry of Trade, the Fiji government has undertaken efforts to enhance the Ease of Doing Business indicators. BusinessNow Fiji aims to establish a streamlined and efficient process by fostering collaboration among the various government agencies involved in "Starting a Business" and "Obtaining a Construction Permit." This initiative involves 16 government agencies and initially includes 25 e-services, which will modernize and streamline business operations in Fiji.

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.adb.org/countries/fiji/economy>

## Increased Economic Productivity

There is a growing focus on raising Fiji's productivity levels as the country aims to enhance its economic performance. While an assessment would be conducted to determine Fiji's overall productivity, it is generally acknowledged that the current levels are below their ideal and potential. Addressing Fiji's productivity challenges has become increasingly urgent, particularly in light of the need to generate more employment opportunities for the expanding young population and to curb outward migration.

The availability of labor in Fiji is considered an attractive factor for foreign investment. Recognizing the potential for economic growth, the government is actively considering reforms to create a more investment-friendly environment. However, one of the challenges faced is the presence of a skills mismatch in the labor market, largely due to outward migration. This skills gap could potentially discourage certain types of foreign direct investment unless addressed effectively.

Investment Fiji, the country's investment promotion agency, plays a crucial role in identifying and promoting investment opportunities in Fiji. They actively promote investment opportunities in several sectors, including agriculture, audio-visual, energy, fisheries, forestry, health, ICT, manufacturing, mining, groundwater, and tourism.<sup>54</sup>

Persons with disabilities were found to have lower rates of access to paid employment compared to persons without disabilities. Only about 15% of persons with disabilities were engaged in paid work, whereas approximately 45% of persons without disabilities had paid employment. The majority of individuals with disabilities were not economically active and did not participate in the labor force. This could be attributed to factors such as their inability to work, retirement, or reliance on welfare support.

The data also indicated that persons with disabilities who were employed tended to be more involved in skilled agriculture and fisheries work. These individuals were predominantly located in rural areas rather than urban areas.<sup>55</sup>

## Policy Framework for MSMEs and Cooperatives

Fiji recognizes the need to update its policy framework to create an economic environment conducive to the growth and success of MSMEs and cooperatives. The government is committed to undertaking this task in the coming months.

## Saving Fiji's Sugar Industry

The Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) plays a crucial role in the sugar industry as it is responsible for the manufacturing and sale of raw sugar, along with molasses as a by-product. FSC also owns and operates a railway network that facilitates the transportation of sugar to the mills. With a workforce of approximately 1,700 individuals during the peak crushing season, FSC is one of the largest employers in Fiji's agricultural sector.

The sugar industry holds significant economic importance for Fiji, contributing around 1.1% to the country's GDP. Additionally, it generates approximately 4.5% of Fiji's total exports (as of 2019). The industry's significance extends beyond economic contributions, as an estimated 200,000 people depend on it for their livelihoods either directly or indirectly.



## Improved Registrar of Companies

Since June 2019, the Registrar of Companies (ROC) office has implemented a fully automated system that enables online registrations and lodgments for businesses and companies. One notable feature of the ROC platform is the ability to conduct online searches for digitally registered businesses and companies. Users can access comprehensive information about these entities and make online purchases as needed.

In 2020, the ROC office undertook a comprehensive re-registration project for all businesses and companies registered prior to June 14, 2019. Thanks to the implementation of the digital platform, the processing time for new registration applications at the ROC office has significantly improved. In most cases, applications are now processed within three to five working days, with some even processed on the same day.

54 <https://www.investinfiji.org/sector-opportunities>

55 [Fiji disability monograph: an analysis of the 2017 Population and Housing Census | Statistics for Development Division \(spc.int\)](#)

MSMEs and co-operatives in Fiji have shown a rapid adoption of green technology, particularly in the Eastern Division. In sectors such as retail, wholesale, and fisheries, where grid-based electricity and fuel access is limited, these businesses have embraced solar energy as an alternative source of electricity. The Ministry, through the IHRDP, has supported projects that provide solar-based equipment like freezers and dryers to MSMEs and co-operatives. Moreover, resource-based MSMEs and co-operatives in the agriculture, fisheries, and tourism sectors have adopted environmentally friendly business practices.

The Ministry of Trade and MSMEs have continued to emphasize the importance of formalization for micro, small, and medium enterprises. As part of this initiative, a valid Business Registration Certificate is a key criterion for qualifying for grant assistance from the Ministry. This requirement applies to all programs under the Ministry, including registration for the Fijian Made emblem and Standardized Roadside Stall. The Ministry also offers services such as policy research and design, business advisory services, grant assistance programs, monitoring and evaluation of income-generating projects, and business training.

Since 2023, the MSME Fiji Training Unit has conducted a total of 330 training sessions in various disciplines, benefiting 8,093 individuals by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills. Training programs offered include CEFE (Competency Based Economies through Formation of Enterprises), basic financial literacy, Improve Your Business (IYB), Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), Start Your Business (SYB), and cash flow training. In the 2022/2023 financial year alone, 15 training sessions were conducted with a total of 414 participants, including 292 women and 122 men. Many of these sessions were made possible through collaborations between private and public agencies such as Fiji Fashion Week, Fiji Arts Council, and the Ministry of Youths and Sports.

Commercial banks have also established mechanisms to train and support businesses, improving their financial knowledge and access to financial services. For example, Fiji Development Bank collaborated with Visa Financial Services Corporation to provide free digital educational resources that enhance financial literacy among their customers. BSP launched a joint 2023 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Program with the Australian Business Volunteers (ABV).

After the repeal of the Small and Micro Enterprises Development Act 2002 in December 2019, the MSME Fiji Unit was established within the Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications. This unit works in collaboration with various stakeholders to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate MSME development. The Ministry is also partnering with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to draft the MSME policy framework, which will define the role of MSME Fiji and ensure that all businesses in Fiji align with a common definition.

Monitoring and evaluation reports from the Ministry of Trade indicate that MSMEs and co-operatives that received assistance have been able to venture into commercial activities and sustain themselves. For instance, the Wai Farmers Co-operative Limited, assisted in the 2019-2020 financial year, acquired a farm tractor that generated revenue through its hire to members and non-members at different rates. Cooperative members paid a special rate, which was lower than the rate charged to non-members. The introduction of the tractor eliminated manual labor in farming, promoting farm mechanization and enabling farmers to further invest in diversifying agricultural produce.

## **Labour Rights**

Fiji has taken significant steps to enhance its labor and employment framework. The reinstatement of the tripartite wages council is a notable development, as it will play a crucial role in determining minimum wages for various sectors of the economy. Effective from 1st January 2023, Fiji introduced a minimum wage rate of FJD 4, which aims to provide fair compensation to workers.

Furthermore, Fiji has re-established the Tripartite Forum, which comprises representatives from the government, employers, and trade unions. Recognizing the need for comprehensive labor law reform, Fiji has initiated a labor law review process. Additionally, with the support of the ILO, Fiji is in the process of developing an updated and revised national employment policy.

## **A Focus on Youth**

Approximately 20% of Fiji's population aged 15-24 were not engaged in employment, education, or training, as indicated by data from 2016. However, Fiji possesses a relatively young and well-educated workforce, with proficiency in the



English language. These factors, coupled with the availability of labor within the country, have the potential to attract foreign direct investment and create employment opportunities.

Since 2015, a total of 2,412 Fiji workers have participated in New Zealand's Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Scheme, and it is expected that several hundred more workers will join the scheme in 2023. Additionally, Australia has implemented the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme as a key program to address labor shortages in unskilled, low-skilled, and semi-skilled positions in rural and regional areas.

Under the PALM scheme, Australian businesses facing local labor shortages can hire workers from Pacific Island countries, including Fiji. Once approved to participate in the PALM scheme, employers can recruit workers for seasonal positions lasting up to nine months or longer-term placements ranging from one to four years. These workers can be employed in any sector and can work in all regional and rural areas, particularly within the agriculture sector.

It is worth noting that the PALM scheme is also piloting the inclusion of individuals with disabilities. Fiji workers engaged through these labor mobility programs often provide support to their families back home through remittances.

The Government of Fiji implemented various grant programs designed to enhance livelihoods and promote sustainable employment, particularly in rural communities. These programs were aligned with the development of MSMEs and aimed to support economic growth and empowerment. Some of the key grant programs included the Integrated Human Resources Development Programme, Northern Development Programme, National Export Strategy Programme and Young Entrepreneurship Scheme.

## Sustainable Tourism

Tourism plays a vital role in Fiji's economy, serving as the largest economic sector. It contributes over a third of Fiji's GDP and serves as a significant source of employment opportunities. Over the years, visitor arrivals to Fiji have witnessed substantial growth. From approximately 190,000 arrivals in 1980, the numbers escalated to 894,389 in 2019. In 2004, Fiji welcomed over half a million visitors. Between 2010 and 2019, the tourism industry experienced an annual growth rate of 5.2%, indicating a positive trajectory. It was anticipated that visitor numbers would surpass the one-million mark by 2022 if not for the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic had severe repercussions on Fiji's tourism industry, resulting in a significant decline in tourism earnings. In 2020 and 2021 alone, Fiji experienced a loss of almost FJD 4 billion in tourism earnings, posing considerable risks to the country's external stability. The adverse effects were felt throughout the economy, leading to a contraction of 17% in 2020 and an additional decline of 5.1% in 2021. As a consequence, government revenues also decreased by approximately 50%.

## Namosi Eco Retreat

Located in the scenic and serene Namosi Province, this Eco Retreat provides a unique experience for visitors seeking to disconnect from the modern world. The retreat emphasizes an unplugged environment, free from electronics and mobile phones, allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in a traditional Fijian experience.

At the retreat, guests have the opportunity to savor locally harvested crops and indulge in authentic Fijian meals. Accommodation consists of traditionally handcrafted Fijian Bures (huts), offering a charming and rustic ambiance. Positioned on the edge of the pristine Luva River, which is a popular swimming spot for locals, guests can enjoy the soothing sounds of nature and immerse themselves in the natural beauty of the surroundings. A range of nature-friendly activities are available for guests to enjoy during their stay. These activities include bamboo rafting, mountain walks, village tours and Fijian cooking classes.



The earnings generated from tourism in the nine-year period from 2010 to 2019 amounted to FJD 2 billion. This significant revenue stream supported nearly 120,000 jobs, directly and indirectly. Moreover, tourism spending had a positive ripple effect on various local sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, food industries, building and construction, cultural industries, and more. Australia, New Zealand, and the USA are the three primary source markets for tourism in Fiji, contributing 41%, 23%, and 10.8% of total visitor arrivals as of 2019, respectively. In 2019, tourism earnings reached approximately FJD 2.0 billion, accounting for 17.4% of Fiji's GDP. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, earnings declined in 2020 and 2021. Nevertheless, there was a strong rebound in 2022, with tourism earnings amounting to FJD 1.5 billion.

The average length of stay for visitors in Fiji was around 11.1 days, and repeat visitors tended to stay even longer. To attract more tourists beyond traditional areas, tourism marketing efforts needed to focus on high-end, value-adding activities. The development of sports tourism held significant potential to attract visitors during off-peak seasons. Additionally, the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) segment presented opportunities for growth and should be capitalized on.

Fiji's tourism industry could tap into emerging market segments such as weddings, cruises, yachts, scuba diving, and adventure tourism, as these segments were experiencing growth. Furthermore, health and wellness tourism was identified as a key focus area in the long term. However, its success would require substantial development of local medical facilities and expertise to cater to the needs of wellness travelers.

In order to meet the growing demand in the tourism sector, infrastructure and utilities in Fiji would require maintenance and expansion. However, it is essential to approach these developments with caution to minimize any negative impact on Fiji's natural environment, heritage, and traditions, as these are key factors that drive the tourism industry.

Improving linking and feeder roads to rural areas holds great potential for various forms of tourism, including eco-tourism, cultural tourism, adventure tourism, backpacking, and agriculture tourism.

Modernizing urban spaces is also important to create a positive image for tourists. This would involve strategic urban planning and development that incorporates elements of smart street-scaping. To enhance the attractiveness of urban and suburban areas, the development of urban gardens, seaside walkways, cultural and heritage sculptures, art installations, and museums should be prioritized. These initiatives would encourage visitors to explore and engage with urban spaces.

The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need to reduce reliance on tourism as the sole driver of Fiji's economic growth. While efforts to diversify the economy are important, it is recognized that tourism will remain a crucial sector for Fiji. Investment in the tourism industry is expected to continue and grow in the future, given the unique advantages that Fiji possesses.

Fiji's national liabilities in other economic sectors, such as smallness, geographical isolation, remoteness, and small markets, are transformed into assets in the tourism sector. The country's pristine environment, favorable warm weather, chain of islands, beautiful beaches, coral reefs, friendly people, and tropical fruits contribute to its appeal as a tourist destination.

## The Contribution of Sports to SDG 8

Academics from the University of the South Pacific (USP) have been actively involved in sports research across various Pacific SIDS since 2018. Through their studies, they have discovered that sport plays a role in economic development, aligning with SDG8. This contribution stems from foreign remittances, investments in infrastructure, and grants provided to sporting organizations. However, governments have often overlooked or underutilized sport as a tool for achieving the SDGs.

In more recent developments, the research team at USP has initiated a project with two primary objectives. Firstly, they aim to determine the specific contribution of sport to national development by using prioritized targets and indicators outlined in the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development and the Commonwealth Secretariat's Model Indicators on Sport and the SDGs. Secondly, the team intends to evaluate the voluntary national review process in terms of accountability, effectiveness, and inclusiveness.

While larger resort tourism will continue to generate income and provide employment opportunities, especially in areas with limited job prospects, there is also recognition of the importance of community-based SMEs within the tourism sector. Supporting these local businesses ensures that the benefits of tourism reach directly to the local owners and communities.

### **Strengthening Domestic Financial Institutions**

Fiji is currently undergoing the process of updating its fiscal strategy with the primary objective of reinstating fiscal discipline, reducing wastage, and achieving fiscal sustainability. The aim is to strike a delicate balance between ensuring fiscal sustainability and having the flexibility to maneuver fiscal policy effectively. This strategy is expected to support economic growth and promote inclusive development, while addressing critical challenges such as the cost of living, healthcare service delivery, infrastructure enhancements, and social justice.

One of the key areas of focus in Fiji's fiscal strategy is improving the ease of doing business. By creating a business-friendly environment, the government aims to attract investments and facilitate private sector-led economic rejuvenation. This approach is crucial in generating more job opportunities and driving improvements in overall living standards.

### **Establishment of a Fiscal Review Committee**

In February 2023, the Fiji Government established the Fiscal Review Committee as an advisory entity to provide guidance on taxation and other fiscal matters. Comprised of fourteen members, the committee's role is to examine the overall setting of fiscal policy, revenue generation, and expenditures.

The committee's involvement extended to the National Economic Summit held in April. This summit served as a platform to bring together diverse stakeholders from Fiji's communities and organizations. Its primary objective was to shape the country's trajectory for the next four years and aid in the formulation of the national budget. Additionally, the summit contributed to developing an economic policy framework that supports sustainable growth in the short and medium term.

To address various sectors of the economy, the National Economic Summit established twelve thematic working groups. These groups focused on key areas such as:

- Macroeconomic management (overall macro-fiscal strategy for Government)
- Key growth sectors (tourism, manufacturing and commerce, micro, small and medium enterprises, financial services and business process outsourcing, and construction industry)
- Governance reforms and indigenous participation (law and order, reform of State institutions, foreign affairs and external trade, indigenous participation in development)
- Human development (health, education and training, housing and urban development, youth and protection of children, culture and heritage, sports development, poverty alleviation, employment and the labour market, women in economic development)
- Rural and outer island development
- Land-based activities (sugar, non-sugar crops and livestock, forestry, land resource development and management, mineral and groundwater resources)
- Marine-based activities and resources
- Technology (information and communication technology)
- Waste management
- Water resource management (water and sewerage)
- Transport
- Energy (electricity)

## Key outcomes of the National Economic Summit

Fiji's first National Economic Summit in many years was held on April 20th and 21st, 2023, under the theme "Reshaping Our Future through Genuine Dialogue and Collaboration." The summit provided a platform for comprehensive discussions across twelve sectors encompassing economic, social, and environmental aspects. In addition to these sector-specific discussions, five plenary sessions were conducted to address related topics.

Each of the twelve thematic groups presented the challenges faced by their respective sectors and put forth recommendations for improvement. The outcome of the summit was captured in two documents: a communique summarizing the key points and a more detailed resolution outlining the discussions and agreed-upon actions.

The summit recognized several critical areas that required the government's focused attention. Trusted leadership and good governance were identified as essential pillars of the economic strategy, along with a strong emphasis on climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability. Creating a conducive business environment that encourages investment and growth was also highlighted as a priority.

Sound fiscal discipline was deemed crucial for both revenue generation and expenditure management. The summit emphasized the need for the government to address operational and investment requirements, reduce government debt to sustainable levels, and actively engage with development partners to access funding and development opportunities. Furthermore, there was a call for enhanced accountability from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the government to foster economic confidence.

Human development emerged as a key area that required upgrading and prioritization, particularly in healthcare, education, housing, youth empowerment, women's and girls' rights, child protection, and poverty alleviation. The summit emphasized the importance of incorporating community representation in decision-making processes related to human development. To support the economic agenda, the summit stressed the significance of maintaining and improving infrastructure to ensure consistent and enhanced service delivery across sectors.

# 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE





## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 9 are:

**Target 9.1** - Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

**Target 9.2** - Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

**Target 9.3** - Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

**Target 9.4** - By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries acting in accordance with their respective capabilities

**Target 9.5** - Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

**Target 9.a**- Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

**Target 9.b** - Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

**Target 9.c** - Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide

Goal 9	9.1	Infrastructure development	■	
	9.2	Sustainable/inclusive industrialization	■	
	9.3	Small-scale industries access to finance	■	
	9.4	Sustainable and clean industries	■	
	9.5	Research and development	■	
	9.a	Resilient infrastructure	■	■ Maintain
	9.b	Domestic technology development	■	■ Accelerate
	9.c	Access to ICT & the internet	■	■ Reverse
			■	■ Not Assessed

Fiji has made significant progress in achieving Targets 9.a and 9.c. However, there has been a reversal in progress towards Targets 9.1 and 9.2. It is important for Fiji to accelerate its efforts to meet Target 9.b by 2030. Currently, Targets 9.3, 9.4, and 9.5 cannot be measured.

### **Infrastructure Development**

There was a desperate need for infrastructure investment in the country, with health, water, and electricity infrastructure failing to cope with the increasing demands. Transport-related infrastructure suffered from congestion and needed urgent upgrades. An asset management system needed to be put in place, rather than the current system that allowed infrastructure to deteriorate and then be rebuilt. Additionally, corruption in the sector needed to be addressed.

In 2023, the coalition government disbanded the Construction Implementation Unit, which was established following Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, due to certain discrepancies that had been uncovered in its systems and processes. It was discovered that projects that could have been completed at a certain cost had increased in cost, and there were variations in the tender amounts that had been approved.

### **Access to Financial Services**

The financial sector in Fiji is relatively well-developed and is predominantly dominated by the banking industry, which is made up of six commercial banks, five of which are foreign-owned and one is local. There are four credit institutions, and the insurance industry consists of two life insurers, seven general insurance companies, five insurance brokers, and 542 insurance agents.

In 2022, the financial and insurance activities sector employed over 6,100 employees across 120 employers, representing around 8% of GDP. Commercial banks account for approximately 49% of the total financial sector assets, followed by FNPF with 33 percent. The total financial assets have more than doubled to FJD 27.2 billion in 2022 from FJD 12.1 billion in 2012. The financial services sector is guided by several key legislations, including:

- RBF Act 1983
- Exchange Control Act 1952
- Banking Act 1995
- Companies Act 2015
- FNPF Act 2011
- Insurance Act 1998 and regulations
- Insurance Law Reform Act 1996
- Fiji Development Bank Act 1966
- Consumer Credit Act 1999
- Credit Unions Act 1954
- National Payment System Act 2021
- Financial Transactions Reporting Act 2004 and regulations
- Fair Reporting of Credit Act 2016

The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) has established a microfinance unit that provides support, mentoring, and close monitoring of microfinance members and their small businesses to ensure high growth. FCOSS offers financial literacy programs for their clients, providing training workshops on financial literacy and budgeting across Viti Levu. The microfinance scheme operates in Bua, Kadavu, Malolo, Ovalau, and the Western division (Nadroga to Rakiraki), with approximately 2,500 – 3,000 clients currently enrolled in the scheme.



FCOSS also has a Lololo project to address economic inclusion. It promotes small businesses in setting up savings schemes. Funded by Fiji's youth diaspora in Australia, Project Lololo aims to encourage vulnerable sectors of the community to save funds for future needs or unexpected financial demands. This project helps clients who need advice on a business plan, assistance with applying for government grants, or gaining access to business services.

## Bula Coffee

Bula Coffee began its journey by purchasing coffee beans from a single family in a Fijian village ten years ago. Today, they harvest wild-grown coffee from approximately 52 villages, supporting 5,000 people annually. Bula Coffee has expanded its exports to the United Kingdom, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. In the U.K., Bula Coffee is sold for FJD 300 per kilogram. The impact of Bula Coffee has been transformative for some of the most remote Fijian communities. This serves as a great example of how private sector investment can bring benefits to communities throughout Fiji.



## Establishing a Bamboo Industry in Fiji

Bamboo could become potentially an important component of Fiji's Green Economy transformation. Its versatility could offer Fijians sustainable solutions to their needs. It could also become an important source of employment and income-generation for unemployed or under-employed youth living in rural communities. A Fiji Bamboo Association (FBA), a public-private partnership, was formed in 2019 for the purpose of promoting, supporting and protecting the bamboo industry in Fiji. In 2020 Fiji also became a member of the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) with representation by the Ministry of Forestry. FBA promotes the use of bamboo for innovative and nature-based solutions. Projects involving bamboo are planned for the coming years that are expected to contribute to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17.



## Access to Information and Communications Technology

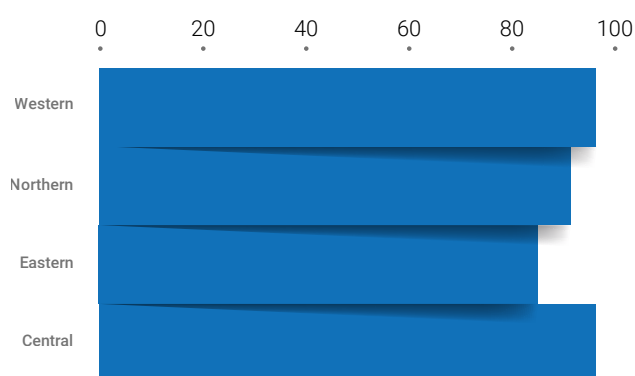
Fiji has experienced rapid growth in mobile phone and internet connectivity over the past decade. However, there is a clear divisional difference in home internet access, with the Central Division (the most urbanized) reaching 83%, while the Eastern Division (the least urbanized) lags behind at only 49%. Similarly, the Eastern Division has the lowest mobile phone connections, although it still stands at 82%.<sup>56</sup> Access to smartphones has provided people with internet access and enabled the government and development partners to develop internet-based solutions, knowing that this information would be accessible to all.

Fiji has made remarkable progress in ensuring the accessibility of data to the general public. The cost of acquiring 10GB of data in Fiji was approximately USD 1.50, making it one of the most affordable options globally. In fact, within the Oceania region, Fiji boasted the lowest cost for this amount of data.

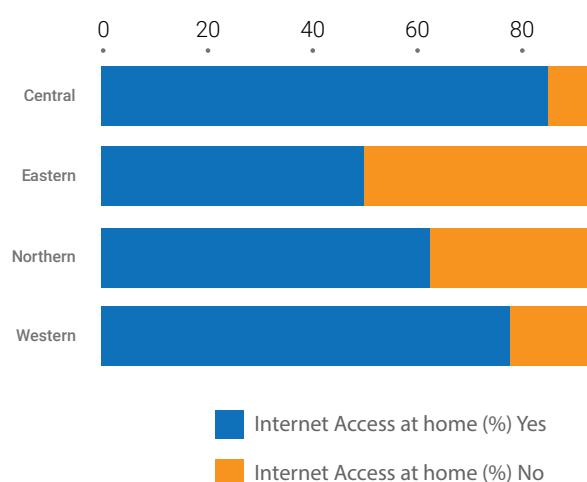
Fiji has witnessed remarkable growth in its mobile-broadband services, as evidenced by the increase in mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 population from 55.9 in 2016 to 150.6 in 2021. This expansion can be largely attributed to the increased affordability of mobile and internet services, made possible by the liberalization of the telecommunications sector.



## Access to a Mobile Phone (%)



## Internet Access at Home



A significant development in Fiji's connectivity infrastructure was the completion of the extension of the Southern Cross Cable between Fiji's two major islands, as mentioned in the 2019 VNR report. This extension has resulted in a fifty-fold increase in connectivity speeds on Vanua Levu (Fiji's second-largest island), from 2GB to 100GB per second, enabling faster and more reliable internet access across the island. In addition, in 2022, Fiji achieved another major milestone by completing the additional Southern Cross NEXT Cable Network, which provides speeds of up to 240 Gbps and connects Fiji with Australia, New Zealand, and the USA.

To enhance local internet traffic routing and improve efficiency, Fiji established a national Internet exchange point (IXP) in 2017. This IXP allows internet traffic to route through the Fiji IXP switch, reducing the need for costly international links and improving bandwidth efficiency. Furthermore, the establishment of the IXP has contributed to improved service quality, reducing latency and enhancing the overall internet experience for users in Fiji. Efforts were also underway to establish a Regional IXP between Fiji, Samoa, and New Zealand, facilitating regional collaboration and further enhancing connectivity in the Pacific.

The Fijian economy is predominantly composed of services, which account for two-thirds of the GDP, while the manufacturing sector remains the second-largest contributor to Fiji's GDP. The manufacturing sector is primarily led by the private sector and plays a vital role in the Fijian economy by providing employment to over 25,000 local workers in 2019. Its share of GDP fluctuates around 11%. Fiji's manufacturing sector encompasses the production of food products, garments, footwear, sugar, tobacco, alcoholic beverages including mineral water, as well as various construction materials such as cement and wood-based products. In 2021, the manufacturing sector accounted for 25.7% of Fiji's merchandise export value.

Investment Fiji recognizes five sectors that have the potential to attract investment in Fiji. These sectors include:

- Tourism (traditional tourism, sports tourism, and medical tourism)
- Outsourcing (business process outsourcing, IT outsourcing, and knowledge process outsourcing)
- Manufacturing (clothing, footwear, and other apparel and accessories)
- Food and agriculture (cropping including Kava, fisheries, and breweries and distilleries)
- Healthcare (pharmaceutical operations, medicinal and botanical, and dental services)



Among these sectors, four have been identified as having greater trade potential and are thus encouraged and supported. These sectors are:

- Food and agriculture
- Mining (copper, aluminum, and precious stones)
- Manufacturing, and chemicals (cosmetic and household chemicals, organic and inorganic)

According to the latest economic survey in 2019, manufacturing and commerce accounted for 10.1% of total employment in Fiji, marking an increase from 3.5% in 2016.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 led to an unprecedented increase in unemployment levels, with 100,000 jobs affected in both the formal and informal sectors.

The manufacturing and commerce sector in Fiji has always faced challenges related to market access, value addition, trade facilitation, capacity building, and information sharing. By effectively implementing the policy recommendations outlined in the Fijian Trade Policy Framework 2015-2025(FTPF), Fiji has the potential to become a manufacturing hub in the Pacific.

The FTPF was developed with the aim of enhancing the competitiveness of Fiji's firms throughout the entire supply chain. It focuses on various aspects such as establishing efficient infrastructure services, promoting exports and foreign investment, facilitating access to inputs and capital goods, and streamlining cross-border trade processes to effectively address export market challenges.

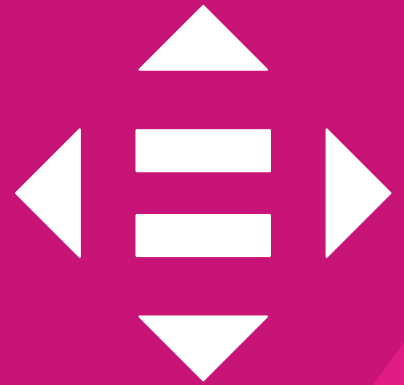
The FTPF recognizes and tackles the fundamental obstacles encountered by both the public and private sectors in each stage of production and distribution of goods and services for export.

## Performance Floatation Developments (PFD) Fiji Pte Ltd

PFD is Fiji's sole lifejacket manufacturer and the largest lifejacket manufacturer in the southern hemisphere. It primarily supplies the Australian and New Zealand markets. PFD currently generates 50% of its power from renewable energy sources and has a future plan to increase that percentage to 100%.



# 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





# SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

*Reduce inequality Within and Among Countries*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 10 are:

**Target 10.1** - By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

**Target 10.2** - By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

**Target 10.3** - Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

**Target 10.4** - Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

**Target 10.6** - Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

**Target 10.b** - Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

**Target 10.c** - By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

Goal 10	10.1	Income growth (bottom 40%)	■	
	10.2	Inclusion (social, economic & political)	■	
	10.3	Elimination discrimination	■	
	10.4	Fiscal & social protection policies	■	
	10.5	Regulation of financial markets	■	
	10.6	Inclusive global governance	■	
	10.7	Safe migration & mobility	■	■ Maintain
	10.a	Special & differential treatment (WT..)	■	■ Accelerate
	10.b	Resource flows for development	■	■ Reverse
	10.c	Remittance costs	■	■ Not Assessed

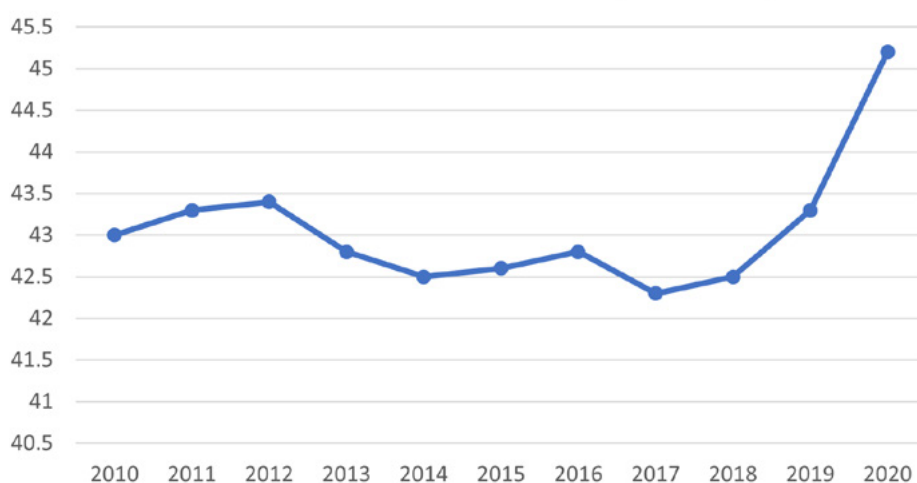
Fiji has successfully measured five out of the ten targets of this SDG. The country has made significant progress in four of these targets, namely 10.7, 10.a, 10.b, and 10.c. However, efforts need to be accelerated in achieving SDG Target 10.4. Unfortunately, Targets 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.5, and 10.6 could not be measured.

### Ensuring Equal Opportunity and Reducing Inequalities

Currently, Fiji does not collect data on the proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months (indicator 10.3.1).

The labor income share of GDP (indicator 10.4.1) has increased in the last decade, from 43% in 2010 to 45.2% in 2020. This indicator represents the total compensation of employees as a percentage of GDP, serving as a measure of total output. It provides information about the relative share of output that is paid as compensation to employees compared to the share paid to capital in the production process. However, in Fiji, this figure remains below the desired proportion, and the goal should be to increase it above the 50% mark.

Labour Income Share of GDP (% of GDP)



### Solo Moms

International Needs Fiji (INFJ) operates the Solo Moms Project, which aims to address poverty, limited opportunities, and social isolation among single mothers residing in informal settlements. The project provides skill training to these young mothers, offering courses in fabric art, jewelry making, and sewing. Additionally, market days are organized for these mothers to showcase and sell their creations.

### Strumphet Alliance Network (SPAN)

SPAN is an organization in Fiji led by female sex workers, dedicated to advocating for the promotion and protection of the health and human rights of sex workers. SPAN engages in lobbying the government for policy changes to enhance the protection of sex workers, promote more inclusive services, and conduct public campaigns to foster a better understanding of sex work. The organization also organizes community events, such as picnics, Kava and Konversation Nights, and Sunday pre-packed lunches held on the last Sunday of every quarter, providing a safe space for young sex workers in need. Additionally, members of the organization participate in weekly voluntary condom distribution efforts, specifically targeting street-based sex workers.

### Rainbow Pride Foundation (RPF)

RPF is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for the human rights of LGBTQIA+ persons, striving to ensure that they are respected and able to live with dignity, free from discrimination, persecution, and violence. RPF collaborates with various partners to promote equal access to sustainable livelihoods, economic assets, and resources for LGBTQIA+ individuals, ensuring they have access to basic education, healthcare, and other essential services for their personal well-being and growth. The organization offers a range of programs and initiatives, including promoting LGBTQIA+ inclusivity and awareness in care and support services, raising awareness about HIV and LGBTQIA+ communities, and supporting employers in LGBTQIA+ workplace inclusion through Pride in Diversity. RPF works closely with legislators, policymakers, and service providers to help them understand and address the needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals and those with HIV. Furthermore, the organization promotes and supports research on HIV and LGBTQIA+ health in Fiji and the Pacific region.

## Rise Beyond the Reef

Rise Beyond the Reef is an organization dedicated to empowering women in rural and remote communities. Located at Nalotawa Village in Ba, the organization engages women by utilizing the available resources to create homemade products such as mats, wall hangings, tote bags, earrings, pencil cases, pouches, and other items, which are then sold to generate income. This income-generating program extends to five other villages as well. Rise Beyond the Reef serves as a bridge between remote communities, the government, and the private sector, working towards sustainable development and creating a better world for women and children. In addition to their economic empowerment efforts, the organization supports communities by improving educational infrastructure and facilitating access to continued learning. They also provide training to women in areas such as saving money, budgeting, investing, and other business skills.

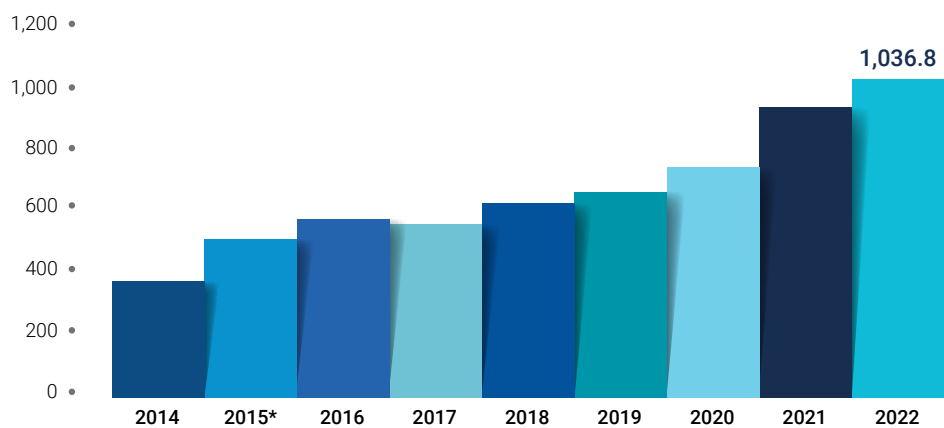
## The Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development (FRIEND)

FRIEND is a locally-based community development NGO located in Lautoka. The distinguishing feature of FRIEND's work is its integrated approach to community development, focusing on rural and underserved areas in Fiji's western, northern, and central divisions. This inclusive approach encompasses both formal and informal settlements, with a particular emphasis on marginalized community members such as those living with disabilities, widows, single parents, orphans, and former prisoners. Through its integrated social, health, and economic interventions, FRIEND empowers communities by providing knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their lives and overcome poverty. With the assistance of donor partners and its own funding, FRIEND engages communities in governance programs, sustainable livelihoods, disaster preparedness, and promoting healthy living. The organization targets women, youth, and men to foster sustainable development within Fiji's communities.

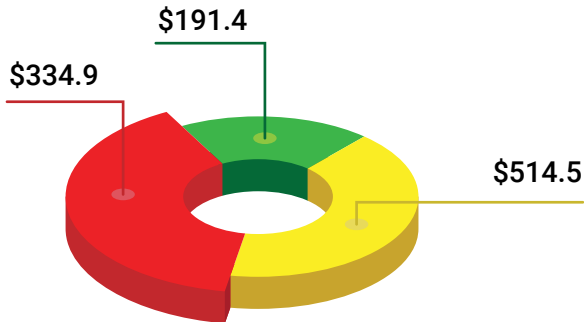
## Reducing the Cost of Remittances

Remittances have consistently increased over the years, as shown in the graph below. The figure has risen from under FJD 400 million in 2014 to over FJD 1 billion in 2022. The ease of making these remittances has been facilitated by mobile money transfer systems. The use of mobile money transfer tools has significantly grown, going from a negligible amount in 2015 to over FJD 300 million in 2022.

### Total Personal Remittances

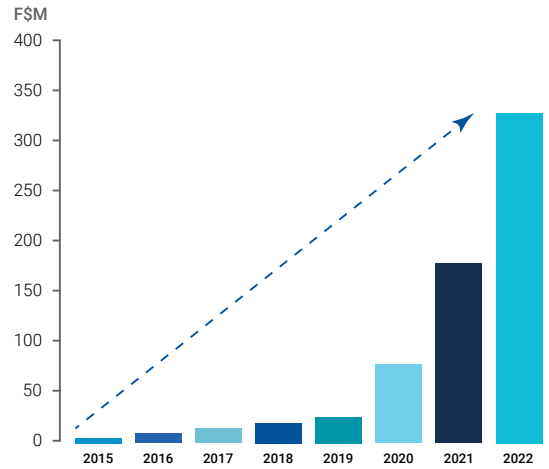


### Remittances Transfer Channels (F\$M)



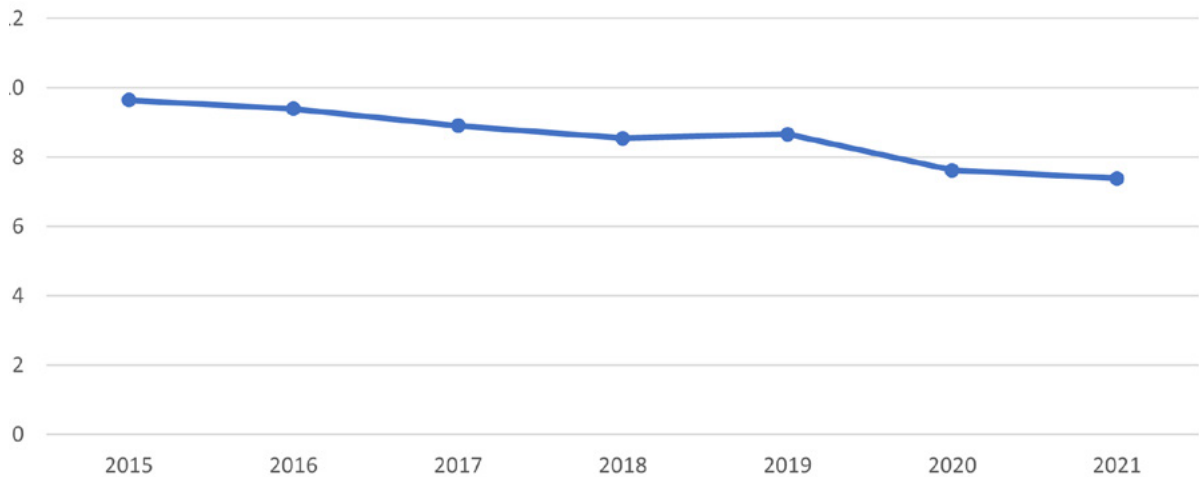
- Mobile Network Operators (Vodafone & Digicel)
- Money Transfer Operators (FX Dealers)
- Commercial Banks

### Remittances: Mobile Money



The cost of remittances, measured as a proportion of the remitted amount, has decreased from 9.65% in 2015 to 7.39% in 2021, reflecting a decrease of 2.26% over a seven-year period. While this represents a positive trend, it is still considerably higher than the target of below 3%.

### Remittance Cost as a Proportion of the Amount Remitted (%)







# 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES





# SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

*Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable.*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 11 are:

**Target 11.1** - By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

**Target 11.2** - By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons











**Target 11.5** - By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

**Target 11.6** - By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management





**Target 11.7** - By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

**Target 11.a** - Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

**Target 11.b** - - By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Goal 11	11.1	Housing & basic services		
	11.2	Public transport systems		
	11.3	Sustainable urbanization		
	11.4	Cultural & natural heritage		
	11.5	Resilience to disasters		
	11.6	Urban air quality & waste management		
	11.7	Urban green & public spaces		
	11.a	Urban planning		
	11.b	Disaster risk management policies		
	11.c	Sustainable & resilient buildings		

	Maintain
	Accelerate
	Reverse
	Not Assessed

Fiji measures only four targets of SDG 11. Among these, two targets (11.5 and 11.6) have shown reversed progress, indicating a negative trend. The remaining two targets (11.1 and 11.b) require accelerated progress in order for Fiji to meet the set targets by 2030. Unfortunately, the other six targets (11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.7, 11.a, and 11.c) could not be measured.

### **Housing Needs**

It is estimated that by 2030, Fiji's urban population will constitute approximately 60% of the country's total population. To address housing needs in both urban and rural communities, the government has implemented Housing Assistance programs. Additionally, the Fijian government has introduced tax incentives to encourage private sector investment in residential housing development. Furthermore, a First Homeowners Buyer Programme was established, providing a grant of FJD 30,000 to assist those in constructing or purchasing their first homes.

To support households living in poverty, the Ministry provides grant assistance to housing partners and statutory bodies. Rental subsidies are provided to the Public Rental Board (PRB) for public rental housing. The Model Town Charitable Trust (MTCT), also known as Koro-i-pita, received a grant to carry out civil works and construct low-cost cyclone-resistant housing for families residing in informal settlements around Lautoka's peri-urban areas.

Moreover, the Ministry of Housing's Formalisation of Informal Settlements program aims to secure long-term tenure by providing fully serviced and subdivided lots with 99-year leases within these areas. These upgrades are conducted with minimal disruption to the residents' daily lives. This program aligns with Fiji's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The upgrading and formalisation of informal settlements contribute to Fiji's progress in achieving SDG 11, which focuses on creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements. The target is to ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing, as well as to upgrade slums (informal settlements) by 2030.

### **Access to Safe, Affordable, Accessible and Sustainable Transport Systems**

To facilitate the transition of the transportation sector away from polluting fossil fuels, the Fiji Government is providing subsidies to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by customers. In the 2022-23 National Budget, the Government announced an allocation of FJD 1.0 million for a new initiative that offers potential EV purchasers a cash grant of up to FJD 10,000. This initiative aligns with Fiji's goal of generating 100% of its electric power from renewable energy sources by 2036, and the increased uptake of EVs plays a crucial role in the country's low-emissions development strategy.

### **Reducing Losses Caused by Disasters**

The Ministry of Waterways developed seawall structures and was responsible for the maintenance of flap gates and flood gates to ensure effective drainage. These measures protected soil from erosion, communities, and farmlands from flooding, and prevented saltwater intrusion, thus ensuring the safety of farmlands, homes, and entire communities. The Ministry acknowledged the need to construct additional seawalls for coastal protection as more communities made requests. Ongoing mitigation works for flooding in Ba and Rakiraki were being carried out by the Ministry.

### **Disaster Readiness**

Between 2000 and 2016, a total of 41 climate-related disasters occurred in Fiji, resulting in 237 deaths, affecting 1.6 million people, and causing a total loss of FJD 3.2 billion. Furthermore, the damages caused by tropical cyclones and floods have led to an annual average of 25,700 people falling into poverty.

The Ministry of Waterways' scope of work focuses on disaster risk reduction, primarily flood protection. The Ministry is involved in the construction of seawalls, drainage works, dredging works, community involvement in seawall construction, river bank protection, establishment of mangrove nurseries, and raising awareness on the importance of mangroves, vetiver grass, and waterways. These efforts aim to increase public awareness of the significance of these resources and their vulnerability to climate change, thereby motivating individuals to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

### Waste Management

Waste collection in urban areas is managed by municipal governments. Currently, there is no separation of waste at the source, and there is no clear pathway for recycling. However, several private sector entities are involved in the collection of selected materials for recycling, including paper, metal, glass, plastic, car batteries, and tires.

### The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Fiji (WMRRAF)

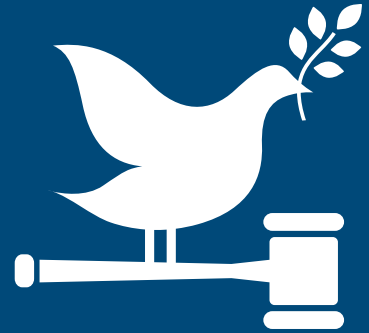
WMRRAF was initiated in April 2019, with the board consisting of representatives from manufacturers (e.g. H.G. Leach and Pleass Global), Waste Recyclers Fiji and Suva City Council, with a sustainability researcher from USP with no vested interest in the industry selected to chair the board. Meetings were held regularly for the following year, with organizational documents drawn up, and a variety of CROPs, private sector, and bilateral/multilateral donor agencies present at meetings. WMRRAF was disbanded following the refusal by the Department of Environment to endorse the formation of a national association. The absence of WMRRAF set back coordination of the waste management sector in Fiji substantially over the past three years.

### Waste Recyclers Fiji Ltd (WRFL)

WRFL is a recycling company that has operated in Fiji for over 28 years. Their goal is to ensure that no recyclables end up in landfills, dumpsites, or the environment, and are actively involved in promoting discussions, and creating awareness, on best practices for upcycling, recycling and general waste management. They are emboldened by engaging in research, particularly with partners that are developing innovative solutions towards using waste glass as inputs into other products, as well as upcycling waste plastics of a particular type into types of building blocks. A large part of WRFL's work in the implementation projects involves collaborating with "Collection Pillars" – formally known as "informal waste pickers" – who are mostly women. Fiji recently became the first country in the world to formally recognise "informal waste pickers" when 14 women, currently involved in waste picking, selected this new name for themselves and those engaged in the trade.



# 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



# SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

## Fiji's priority targets for SDG 11 are:

**Target 16.1** - Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

**Target 16.2** - End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

**Target 16.3** - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

**Target 16.5** - Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**Target 16.6** - Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

**Target 16.7** - Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

**Target 16.8** - Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

**Target 16.10** - Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

**Target 16.a** - Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

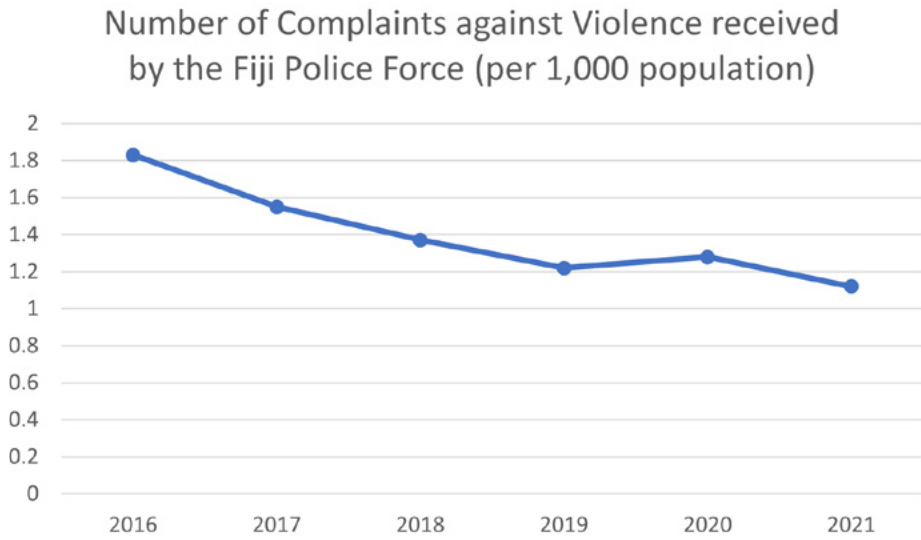
Goal 16	16.1	Reduction of Violence & related deaths	■	
	16.2	Human Trafficking	■	
	16.3	Justice for All	■	
	16.4	Illicit financial & arms flows	■	
	16.5	Corruption and bribery	■	
	16.6	Effective institutions	■	■ Maintain
	16.7	Inclusive decision-making	■	■ Accelerate
	16.8	Inclusive global governance	■	■ Reverse
	16.9	Legal identity	■	■ Not Assessed
	16.10	Public access to information	■	
	16.a	Capacity to prevent violence	■	
	16.b	Non-discriminatory laws	■	

Fiji is currently able to measure five out of the twelve targets of SDG 16. It has made progress in two targets (16.6 and 16.a), experienced reversed progress in Target 16.7, and requires accelerated action in Targets 16.1 and 16.3. Seven targets (16.2, 16.4, 16.5, 16.8, 16.9, 16.10, and 16.b) are not currently being measured.

It is widely recognized that achieving sustainable development requires peace, stability, human rights, and the rule of law. Fiji still has work to do in implementing SDG 16. While people of Fiji are generally peaceful, the country has experienced political instability, including four coups, since 1987. However, there are signs that Fiji has moved past this instability and is prioritizing stability to foster economic growth and attract much-needed foreign investment. Although progress is still underway, there are positive signs of improvement, with more to come.

### Reducing all Forms of Violence and Related Death Rates

Figures from 2020,<sup>57</sup> indicate that there were 20 victims of intentional homicide that year, accounting for 0.002% of Fiji’s population. Data from 2014, which also recorded 20 intentional homicide victims, revealed that 60% of these victims were female, while 40% were male. This highlights the prevalence of gender-based violence in the country. Addressing gender-based violence would not only improve homicide statistics but also contribute to reducing overall levels of violence.

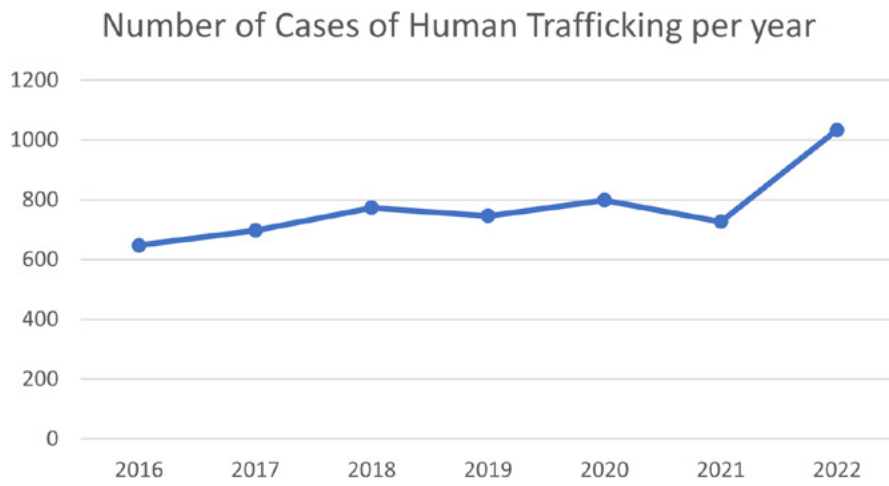


The number of complaints on violence received by the police has declined from 1.83 per 1,000 population in 2016 to 1.12 in 2021.

In 2022, there were 110 reports of violence against children, of which 22% were domestic-related incidents. In March 2023, the Western Division recorded 42 reports of crimes against children, compared to 41 for the same period the previous year. Similarly, the Northern Division recorded 20 reports, an increase from 8 reports in the previous year.

### Addressing Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence

Human trafficking was a bigger problem in Fiji than realized, and further action in this area was needed. Police statistics reveal that cases of human trafficking have been on the rise, increasing from 648 cases in 2016 to 1,034 cases in 2022.

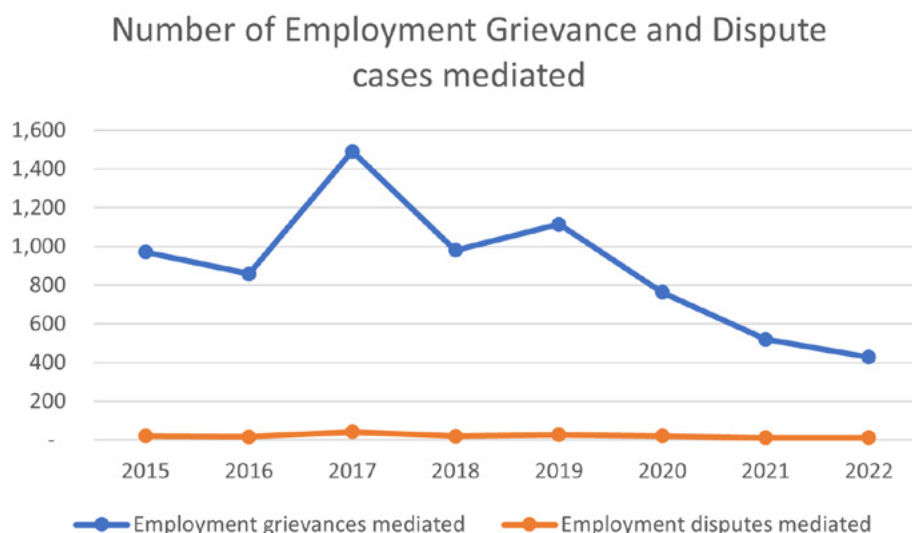




## Promoting the Rule of Law

In his opening remarks for the 2023-2024 Session of Parliament, Fiji's President announced that a specialist review of Fiji's defense and security systems would be undertaken. This review would include finalizing the national security strategy and introducing a related Defense Council Bill to provide the necessary legal framework. The President also emphasized the importance of reviewing defense-related legislation. In response, the Minister for Home Affairs informed the house that the defense review would be led by a civilian and an independent panel of experts with extensive experience in national and international security and defense matters. The panel would include members from academia, civil society, and the security and defense industry and service providers. One of the aims of the Defense Review would be to precisely define Fiji's national interests and objectives in the complex and ever-changing global landscape. This would help shape Fiji's Foreign and Security policy.

In the employment sector, there has been a notable reduction in grievances, particularly those initiated by employees, since reaching a high point in 2017. Disputes, whether initiated by unions or employers, have averaged about 22 per year over the past eight years.



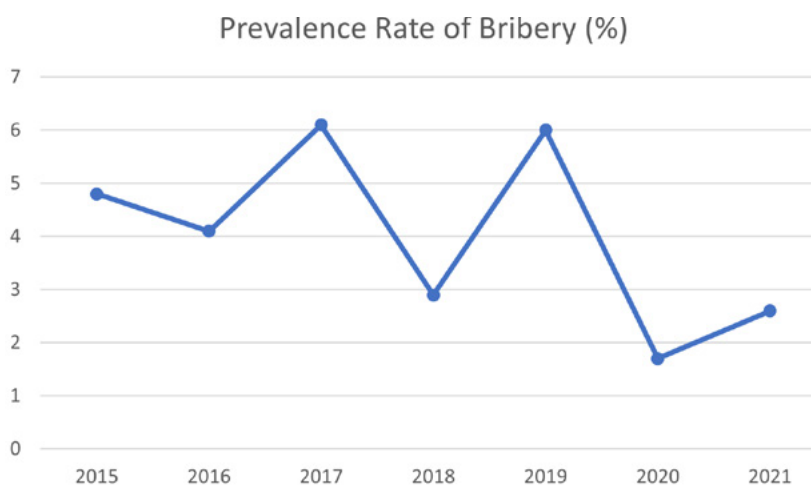
## Reducing Corruption

In accordance with the FICAC Act No. 11 of 2007, the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) was constituted..

FICAC is guided by standards laid out in the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and this is encapsulated in the FICAC Act No 11 of 2007. Since its inception in 2007, FICAC focused on building corruption-resilient public services as this was considered a key enabler for sustainable development. The Public Integrity Anti-Bribery Campaign (PIABC) was a first-ever nation-wide public sector integrity and anti-bribery campaign which targeted thousands of public servants in over 95 institutions. This initiative fully aligned with SDG target 16.5 and Fiji's commitment to UNCAC Article 7 and Article 15. As of May 2023, 52 organizations have committed to the initiative, and 371 awareness training sessions were conducted to over 4,117 participants from the public and private sectors. Additionally, FICAC conducts Corruption Risk Assessment and Management (CRAM) workshops throughout the public sector, offers the Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) training to private sector entities, produced Anti-Corruption Policy Booklets for organisations, offers one-week intensive Financial Investigations Training to interested individuals and organisations, and provided anti-corruption related content for an online Public Financial Management (PFM) course. In 2017, FICAC launched a first-ever nation-wide Young Leaders Seminar which targeted 120 Head Boys and Head Girls from 30 secondary schools across the country, where the seminar focused on the value of integrity and the importance of being ethical leaders. With youth being close to 40% of the population who will constitute future leadership across all sectors, the seminar has since become an annual event. FICAC's efforts over the years were bolstered by assistance from the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) project and through Leaders' commitments such as the Teieniwa Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision. Through a project implemented by the United Nations Office



on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), FICAC supported the development of an Anti-Corruption Toolkit for women-owned MSMEs. UNDP, in partnership with the NZ-supported Public Service Fale under UN-PRAC, piloted an Ethics and Integrity Assessment Methodology Tool for FICAC in July 2022 which FICAC plans to roll out to the public service institutions in 2024. FICAC's integrity campaign expanded to Fiji's education sector through the National Anti-Corruption Curriculum (NACC) Manuals; FICAC's integrity competition to the schools and public servants; and together with Integrity Fiji and Transparency International (TI), FICAC supported the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Humanities and Education to develop the Ethics and Anti-Corruption in Oceania (EACO) Course. FICAC continues to welcome increase national, regional, and international stakeholder co-operation and continues to align itself with international benchmarks such as the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2022 – where Fiji scored 53/100 and was ranked 49 out of the 180 countries – and the Global Corruption Barometer Pacific 2021 – where Fiji was noted to maintain the lowest overall bribery rate of 5% compared to other countries in the Pacific.



FICAC operates in accordance with the standards outlined in the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Since its establishment in 2007, FICAC has focused on building corruption-resilient public services, recognizing that this is crucial for sustainable development. One of the significant initiatives undertaken by FICAC is the Public Integrity Anti-Bribery Campaign (PIABC), which is the first-ever nationwide public sector integrity and anti-bribery campaign.

The PIABC aims to promote integrity and combat bribery within the public sector. It aligns with Fiji's commitment to UNCAC Article 7 and Article 1, as well as SDG target 16.5. The campaign targets thousands of public servants in over 95 institutions and has garnered commitments from 52 organizations as of May 2023. FICAC has conducted 371 awareness training sessions, reaching over 4,100 individuals. Additionally, FICAC has conducted Corruption Risk Assessment and Management (CRAM) workshops across the public sector, offered the Corporate Integrity Pledge (CIP) to private sector entities, produced customized Anti-corruption Policy Booklets, provided intensive week-long Financial Investigations Training, and contributed anti-corruption content to an online Public Financial Management (PFM) course.

Recognizing the importance of engaging the youth, FICAC organized the first-ever Young Leaders Seminar, a nationwide event that took place in 2017 and has since become an annual gathering due to the youth population being close to 40%. 120 students from 30 secondary schools took part. This seminar focused on promoting integrity, raising awareness about corruption, and fostering youth leadership. FICAC's efforts have received support from various stakeholders, including the United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) project and initiatives such as the Teieniwa Pacific Unity against Corruption Vision.

In collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), FICAC has supported the development of an Anti-Corruption Toolkit for women-owned MSMEs. UNDP, in collaboration with the New Zealand-supported Public Service Fale under the UN-PRAC project, piloted an Ethics and Integrity Assessment Methodology Tool for FICAC in July 2022.

FICAC has also been actively engaged in promoting integrity in Fiji's education sector through the National Anti-Corruption Curriculum (NACC) Manuals. Working alongside Integrity Fiji and Transparency International (TI), FICAC



supported the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Humanities and Education in developing the Ethics and Anti-Corruption in Oceania (EACO) Course.

FICAC values enhanced cooperation with national, regional, and international stakeholders. It actively aligns itself with international benchmarks such as the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), where Fiji scored 53/100 in 2022 and was ranked 49th out of 180 countries. FICAC also participates in the Global Corruption Barometer Pacific, where Fiji is recognized for maintaining the lowest overall bribery rate of 5% compared to other countries in the Pacific

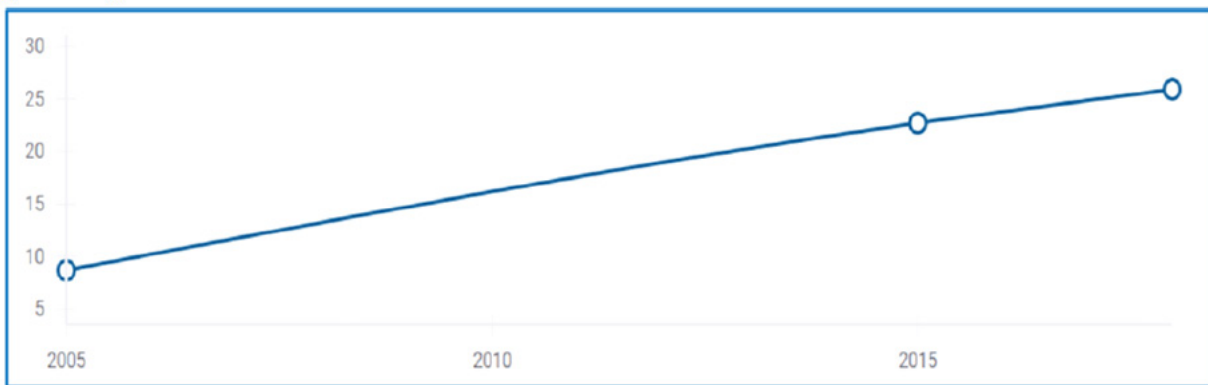
In the NES conducted in April 2023, it was suggested that the nation should identify laws that restrict challenges to executive decision-making and explore legal options to enhance accountability. Additionally, a review of the Audit Act was recommended to improve timely accountability and financial transparency of government entities. These measures would provide decision-makers with more up-to-date financial information, enabling them to make informed decisions to enhance performance.

### Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions

Fiji has made progress in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions; however, several challenges still remain. The capacity of the judicial system and the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) has grown, but not at the required pace to handle the increasing number of court cases and human rights matters brought forward by the people. More efforts are needed to raise awareness among the general public, especially in rural and maritime areas, about Fiji's laws and legislation. It is crucial to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels and improve the representation of different segments of society, including sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups, in national and local institutions such as the Legislature, public service, and judiciary, to align with the national distributions.

Efforts have been made to enhance access to judicial services for those unable to afford legal procedures and fees. The Legal Aid Commission serves as a mechanism to improve access to justice for people who claim to be victims, providing legal advice and representation to those who cannot afford private legal practitioners. However, the proportion of unsentenced detainees in the overall prison population has increased, indicating bottlenecks in bringing cases to court and a growing number of remand detainees awaiting judgment.

### Indicator 16.3.2: Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (percent)

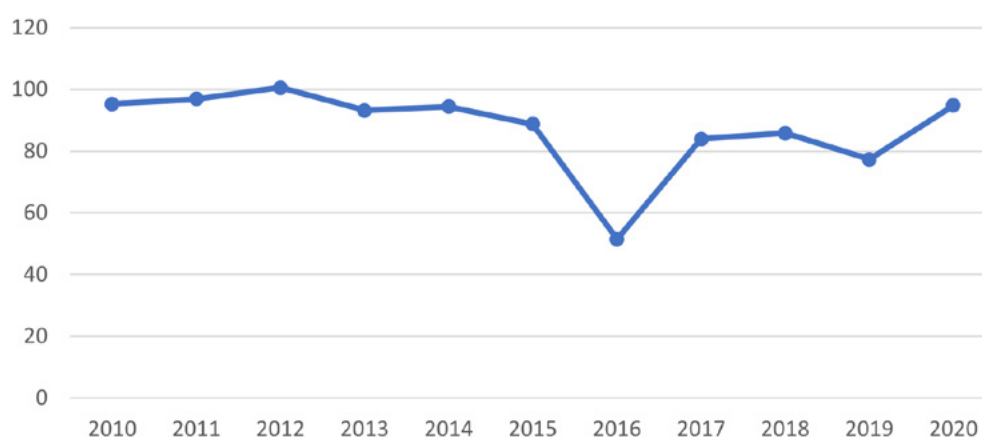


Source: UN STATS 2021

Fiji's coalition government is committed to improving the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of its institutions.

As a measure of effectiveness, the SDGs utilize the government's expenditure as a share of the original approved budget. In six out of the eleven years between 2010 and 2020, expenditure exceeded 90%, with three years exceeding 80%. However, in one year (2016), expenditure was just above 50%. It is worth noting that 2016 was the year when Category 5 Cyclone Winston struck Fiji, one of the most devastating cyclones in the country's history.

## Primary Government Expenditures as Share of Original Approved Budget (%)



Civil Society also contributes through the Public Finance Management (PFM) Project in Fiji, which engages communities in the national budget process by developing Citizen Budget Guides and, ultimately, Citizen Audit Guides. FCOSS is also working on strengthening collaboration between its district councils and the government's Divisional Officers.

### Responsive and Inclusive Decision-Making

There were 6,219 chiefly or customary titles in Fiji, of which 3,398 or 53% were still vacant.<sup>58</sup> The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs is addressing this issue.

### Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration

In 2021, 85% of children under 5 had their births registered according to UNICEF.<sup>59</sup>

The Births, Deaths, and Marriages (BDM) office is primarily responsible for all registrations of births, deaths, and marriages in Fiji, including related changes and updates. The recording and registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Fiji are governed by the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act 1975. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for overseeing the civil registration of births and deaths, with the national BDM Office located in Suva and an additional 20 BDM offices across Fiji. These offices are located in Navua, Nasinu, Nausori, Korovou, Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki, Keiyasi, Vunidawa, Labasa, Savusavu, Nabouwalu, Taveuni, Lakeba, Levuka, Kadavu, and Rotuma, with more to be opened. The BDM Office has participated in many 'REACH' programs in partnership with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation (with UNDP assistance) to reach the unreachable and the most vulnerable in society.

### Public Access to Information

Fiji's public is demanding more information from its government. The Constitution of Fiji establishes the Accountability and Transparency Commission, which covers all public office holders. The Information Act of 2018 recognizes the right of a person to access information held by a public agency and allows individuals to request the correction or deletion of personal information held by a public agency regarding themselves. The Act also ensures that people are informed about the operations of a public agency, including the rules and practices followed by the agency in its dealings with members of the public. There are already calls for the review of the Act itself and the processes involved to improve transparency.<sup>60</sup> The MOF is currently in the process of developing an Information Disclosure Policy to ensure that relevant information is made available to the public and that proper processes are followed.

Since 2019, Fiji has taken significant steps to improve access to legal information by placing its consolidated laws online. These laws are regularly updated to ensure their accuracy and relevance, and they are freely accessible to the public.

<sup>58</sup> Speech by Minister of iTaukei Affairs in Parliament.

<sup>59</sup> UNICEF MICS, 2021

<sup>60</sup> National Economic Summit, April 2023.



The Kacivaka Project, supported by UNDP and the UK Government and implemented by FCOSS, is developing a diagnostic tool for improved access to information and open data. This process involves a co-design approach jointly identified by civil society and government institutions. The tool aims to assist civil society in assessing government information and its reach to communities.

### Combatting Cybercrime

Fiji has made significant progress in addressing cybercrime by enacting the Cybercrime Act 2021, which is aligned with the Budapest Convention. The Budapest Convention is the only binding international treaty on cybercrime, and Fiji's alignment with it demonstrates the country's commitment to combating cyber threats effectively.

To strengthen its cybercrime response efforts, Fiji has been collaborating closely with the UN, development partners, leading technology firms, and the Council of Europe. These partnerships aim to secure capacity building support, enabling Fiji to enhance its capabilities in dealing with cybercrime effectively.

Furthermore, the GOF is in the process of finalizing a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) Report. The establishment of a CERT is crucial in improving incident response to cybersecurity threats. It allows for timely and coordinated actions to mitigate cyber incidents, thereby bolstering Fiji's overall cybersecurity posture.

Recognizing the evolving nature of cybersecurity challenges, the Ministry of Communications is reviewing the 2016 National Cybersecurity Strategy.

### Protecting Fundamental Freedoms

Fiji has ratified all nine core human rights treaties, and the protection of human rights is embedded in the constitution. Individuals have legal redress available if their rights are breached.

The Bill of Rights chapter of the Fiji Constitution includes the following rights:

- the right to life
- right to personal liberty; freedom from slavery, servitude, forced labor, and human trafficking; freedom from cruel and degrading treatment; freedom from unreasonable search and seizure
- rights of arrested and detained persons
- rights of accused persons; access to courts or tribunals; executive and administrative justice; freedom of speech, expression, and publication; freedom of assembly; freedom of association; employment relations; political rights; access to information
- right to equality and freedom from discrimination; freedom from compulsory or arbitrary acquisition of property
- rights of protection of iTaukei, Rotuman, and Banaban lands
- right of landowners to a fair share of royalties for the extraction of minerals
- right to education
- right to economic participation
- right to work and a fair minimum wage

### NGO Coalition on Human Rights

Established in 1997, the Coalition is a coordinating network for NGOs engaged in different aspects of human rights education, advocacy, or project work. Its aim is to raise awareness of human rights and the various human rights instruments in the community and to educate people about human rights in a way that is relevant to their daily lives. The NGO coalition is administered by a rotating secretariat. Members usually come together in the months of November and December, intensifying their campaign leading up to World Human Rights Day on December 10th.



- right to housing and sanitation
- right to adequate food and water
- right to health
- environmental rights
- rights of children
- rights of persons with disabilities

## Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms

Fiji's national laws related to human rights and freedoms include the:

- Domestic Violence Act 2009
- Crimes Act 2009
- Child Welfare Act 2010
- Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy Act 2015
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018
- Online Safety Act 2018
- Climate Reallocation of Communities Trust Fund Act 2019

The Republic of the Military Forces Act was amended to remove the death penalty in 2015. Fiji won the presidency of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2021, becoming the first Pacific Island nation to do so.

In practice, however, several human rights issues were cited by CSOs in Fiji. There was particular concern about police brutality, media freedom, and restrictive legislation, such as the sedition provisions in the Crimes Act and the controversial Public Order Act, which received a lot of criticism from civil society groups. Between May 2015 and April 2020, around 400 charges of serious violence were laid against police officers in Fiji, including murder, manslaughter, rape, and aiding prisoners to escape.

SDG 16.a.1 tracks the "Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles." In March 2007, the accreditation of the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission (FHRADC) was suspended following a Commission statement supporting the military takeover in 2006. In 2021, the Commission was re-accredited with B status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). Recommendations were made aimed at strengthening its institutional framework, working methods, and effectiveness in line with the Paris Principles. To gain A status, GANHRI pointed out the problematic areas that need to be addressed by the FHRADC, particularly ensuring its political and financial independence and increasing its staff and general capacity. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance has emphasized the fundamental role of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission in providing guidance to the government on issues of racism and discrimination, as well as receiving complaints and providing assistance and guidance to victims of alleged acts of racism and discrimination.

The new coalition government has already taken steps to address some of these concerns. Some of its first acts in government were related to redressing unfair expulsions from the country of the vice-chancellor of the University of the South Pacific and the famous Fijian historian Brij Lal and his wife Padma. Unfortunately, Professor Brij Lal had passed away before being allowed to visit his country of birth. Padma Lal recently visited Fiji to deliver Professor Lal's ashes to his place of birth at Tabia, Labasa, on the island of Vanua Levu, thereby respecting his wishes before his death. The new coalition government has also repealed the Media Industry Development Act 2010, which was described as draconian by Fiji's media organizations.

# Pursuing the 2030 Agenda while Responding to the Crises of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Increase in Food and Fuel Prices and Geopolitical Conflict

The start of the COVID-19 pandemic was marked by unexpected restrictions on social activity and concerns about the virus and its impact on vulnerable people. COVID-19 cases in Fiji heightened in 2021, leading the Fiji government to impose lockdowns and curfews on COVID-19 hotspot communities and implement public health safety measures such as wearing face masks in public places, practicing social distancing, limiting the number of people in gatherings, and mandating the provision and use of the Care Fiji app for check-in and check-out through the use of QR codes in every operating business and public transport across the country. In July 2021, the government announced the “No Jab No Job Policy,” which was activated and enforced in August 2021. The implementation of the “No Jab No Job” Policy, along with the announcement of a \$360 government assistance and a lottery competition for vaccinated people whose employment was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in an increase in the number of people visiting vaccination sites. The “No Jab No Job” Policy was lifted in March 2023.

## Response to COVID-19

A COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) was established, comprising the Permanent Secretaries of Finance, Health and Medical Services, and Trade, Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications. Its purpose was to develop and implement a COVID-19 Safe Economic Framework. The CRMT created lists of essential and non-essential services to facilitate the safe movement of goods and services in a COVID-safe environment. This ensured the continuous supply of essential goods and services to Fijians with minimal disruption. Businesses intending to operate had to agree to adhere to the mandatory protocols set by the Ministry and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services.

As Fiji made progress towards achieving vaccination targets, high-risk businesses such as hairdressers, cinemas, and tattoo parlours gradually reopened. Monitoring mechanisms were implemented by the Ministry, in collaboration with the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC), through a system of COVID Safe Ambassadors. The CRMT lifted COVID-19 measures when 100% of Fiji’s adult population had received at least one vaccine dose, 95% had received the second dose, and 168,675 (53.9%) booster-eligible individuals had received their third dose.

As part of the COVID-19 response, the Ministry of

Communications developed the careFIJI app to assist the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in their manual contact tracing efforts. Fiji was one of the first countries in the region to develop a COVID-19 contact tracing tool based on Bluetooth tracking that did not capture any location or GPS information. The system was further enhanced to use QR check-in and check-out, which allowed individuals to scan in and out when entering premises. It also enabled officials to identify and track positive cluster cases effectively. The careFIJI app had over 600,000 downloads through the Google Play Store, Apple App Store, and Huawei App Gallery.

A Vaccination Registry System (VRS) was developed in-house by a team from the Ministry of Communications in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services for the COVID-19 Vaccination campaign in Fiji. The system recorded all vaccinations administered to verified individuals in Fiji and made the information accessible for issuing Vaccination Certificates or tools such as VAX-Check. Throughout the vaccination campaign, over 730,000 registrations were recorded, and the system played a pivotal role in issuing Vaccination Certificates for travel. The VRS system was also utilized by the Ministry of Economy (now the Ministry of Finance) to assist in identifying vaccinated individuals for the distribution of a FJD 360 COVID-19 relief fund. This system also allowed the development of the VAX-Check tool for verifying the vaccination status of patrons of high-risk businesses or businesses requiring proof of vaccination. VRS also facilitated initiatives such as the Vaccine Lottery, which was used to encourage vaccination, by developing an additional in-house module to conduct computerized random draws.

It is important to note that while the worst of the pandemic is behind us, COVID-19 still persists in Fiji and other countries worldwide. The emergence of new strains of the virus could potentially trigger another pandemic. It is crucial to remain vigilant.

## The Role of Volunteers

The Ministry of Health & Medical Services requested an increase in the number of volunteers across all vaccination sites as a surge response to vaccinate as many people as possible, with a target of 80% of the target population fully vaccinated by November 1st, 2021. By mobilizing volunteers in support of the Government of Fiji’s vaccination campaign, the partnership between the government and CSOs has been strengthened in

the fight against COVID-19. With funding support from the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Reproductive Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF), and Medical Services Pacific (MSP) were able to mobilize volunteers to reinforce the government's efforts in vaccinating the population of Fiji, contributing to a rapid increase in vaccination rates in the second half of 2021.

RFHAF and MSP recruited and mobilized 122 volunteers as part of the COVID-19 Phase I & II project. These volunteers underwent training with Ministry of Health staff on online and offline registration and verification of data registration. Fiji recorded 99% of its target population fully vaccinated, and this achievement was made possible with the assistance of MSP and RFHAF volunteers who were part of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The volunteers were involved in various activities including vaccination registration, data verification, scribing and tallying of data, verifying swab test data, meeting and greeting clients, providing one-to-one awareness on the vaccine, updating vaccination cards, participating in mobile outreach, assisting with issues of isolation for positive cases at the Emergency Operation Center in Sigatoka, collecting information from the RDT team, cleaning and sorting COVID-19/Leptospirosis/Measles raw data, updating the COVID-19 database results, importing cleaned data into the MoHMS database system, follow-up and sorting of imported COVID-19 negative results, providing weekly summaries of test results, assisting in business house vaccinations, and assisting in the documentation of vaccination certificates.

MSP and RFHAF volunteers were stationed at various Health Centres within the Central, Western, and Northern Divisions, as well as command centers in Sigatoka and Tamavua. During their engagement in the program, volunteers were empowered to take ownership of their livelihoods and were upskilled, which enabled them to secure employment within the health sector and other government departments. Between September and October, MSP bid farewell to 5 volunteers, and RFHAF bid farewell to 7 volunteers as they secured full-time employment in different organizations.

## Economic and Social Impacts

Besides the impact on people's health and the loss of loved ones to the disease, the COVID-19 pandemic also had a devastating impact on the economy. Tourism-based economies like Fiji, where approximately 30% of the country's gross domestic product comes from tourism, were hit the hardest as borders were closed and tourists were unable to visit. The tourism and airline businesses were severely affected. In May 2020,

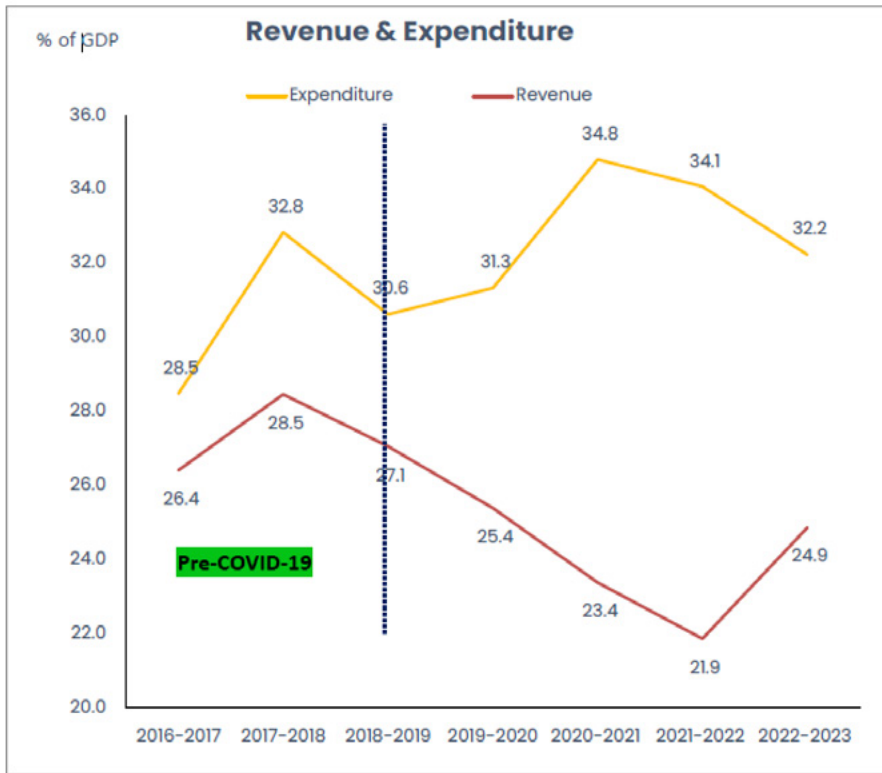
Fiji Airways, the country's national airline, laid off 775 staff members, and the company had to negotiate with lenders and aircraft lessors for loan and lease payment deferrals, as well as arrange debt finance from financial institutions. Other businesses were not spared, as prolonged total lockdowns meant that workers could not go to work and businesses had to close for extended periods. Many small businesses did not survive this crisis and permanently closed down. Other businesses had to lay off workers or reduce wages in order to survive. Many laid-off workers resorted to setting up their own informal businesses, often using social media to sell the products they were producing.

A survey carried out by the International Finance Corporation and published in July 2020, found that 50 percent of tourism businesses had to go into hibernation or were fully closed, while only 19 percent of non-tourism businesses were hibernating or closed. 29% of the surveyed tourism businesses and 11% of the non-tourism businesses anticipated potential bankruptcy. Regarding employment, 27% of staff from tourism businesses were on reduced hours/days, 25% were on leave without pay, and 8% were made redundant. In comparison, 20% of staff from non-tourism businesses were on reduced hours/days, 7% were on leave without pay, and 4% were made redundant.

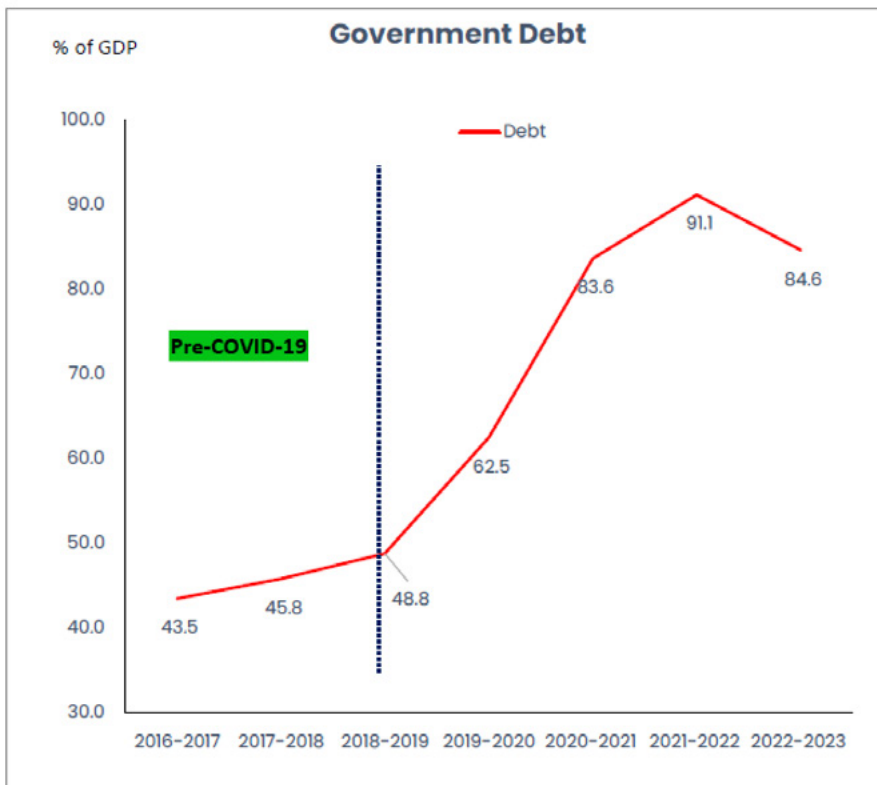
The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated the importance of a nation's ability to handle shocks in areas of health, climate, biodiversity, and natural disasters. In response to such shocks, there is a need for more inclusive economies. As a small island developing state, Fiji faced various economic vulnerabilities that often hindered its long-term growth and development outcomes. Climate-induced natural disasters, in addition to causing human casualties, frequently damage production and livelihoods, eroding development gains over time.

In March 2020, as part of the COVID-19 response efforts, the Ministry of Agriculture launched a Home Gardening Programme. This initiative aimed to contribute to the government's long-term mission of increasing local food production, transitioning to organic agriculture, and involving more people in the agricultural sector, all while addressing self-sufficiency and promoting long-term resilience for both people and the environment. The Home Gardening Program was specifically designed for individuals residing in urban and semi-urban areas. By the end of March, MOA extension officers were distributing 12 varieties of seeds for short-life-cycle crops.

Before COVID-19, revenue and expenditure were relatively balanced. However, with the onset of COVID-19, Fiji experienced a significant drop in revenue and an increase in expenditure as the government responded to the pandemic.<sup>61</sup>



This resulted in a rapid increase in national debt, which has only recently begun to be addressed.







Fiji's remarkable pace of vaccinations has enabled the government to gradually ease COVID-19 restrictions and ultimately reopen international borders in December 2021. Fiji received assistance from several development partners, including vaccines and direct budgetary support, which helped support businesses and families during this period.

The pandemic itself also highlighted the urgent need for the rapid implementation of certain SDGs, particularly the target related to access to clean water and reliable water provision, as people were advised to wash their hands frequently.

### Remittances


Remittances served as an important coping mechanism for many communities in Fiji, with a significant increase in the amount of money sent by family members working overseas to their families in Fiji during this period. In 2022, remittances reached a record FJD 1 billion,<sup>62</sup> more than doubling over the last decade.

### Price Increases

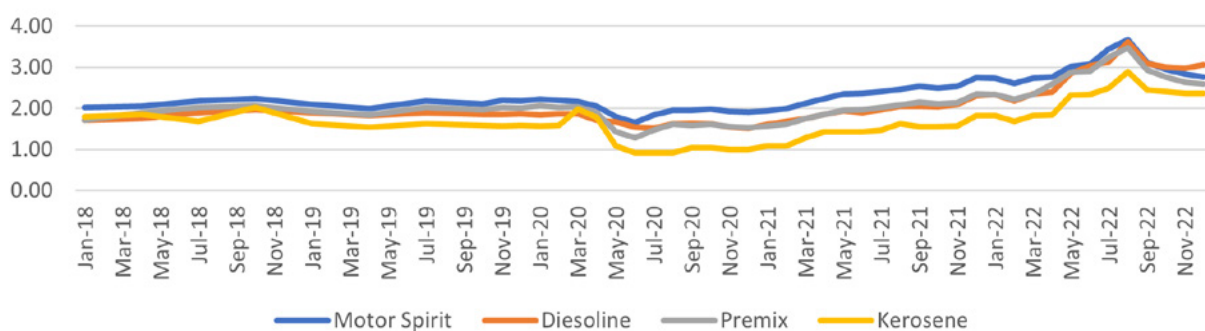
The retail price of fuel has been rising since 2020, with a slight respite in the last quarter of 2022 as they seemed to have leveled off, although they are still higher than the pre-pandemic/war levels. Fuel prices have a cumulative impact on other prices, as transport costs increase. Products derived from petroleum, such as fertilizers, also experience price increases, which in turn can result in higher prices for other items, particularly in the case of fertilizers, affecting the price of food produce.

### Barter for Better Fiji

Marlene Dutta, a Fijian business consultant, started the Barter for Better Fiji page on Facebook as a cashless, commercial-free way to trade. The practice of bartering is deeply rooted in Fiji's traditional culture. The inspiration to revive bartering, but with the use of modern digital technology, came in response to the job crisis caused by the closure of Fiji's borders in March 2020, which left an estimated 100,000 people unemployed. The Facebook page quickly gained a following of over 165,000 people, an impressive number considering Fiji's population. Although its popularity declined after the COVID-19 pandemic, it provided significant assistance to many people during those challenging times.



Retail Price of Fuel (FJD/litre, 2018-2022)



Chemical fertilizers have also experienced a rapid increase in price since 2020.<sup>63</sup> This price hike is a direct result of increases in petroleum products. Consequently, there has been a corresponding rise in food prices. This situation highlights the need for promoting the use of locally available fertilizers, such as manure, compost, and seaweed-based fertilizers, all of which are organic. Utilizing organic fertilizers would not only support Fiji's drive towards organic agricultural production but also help mitigate the impact of increasing prices on food affordability.

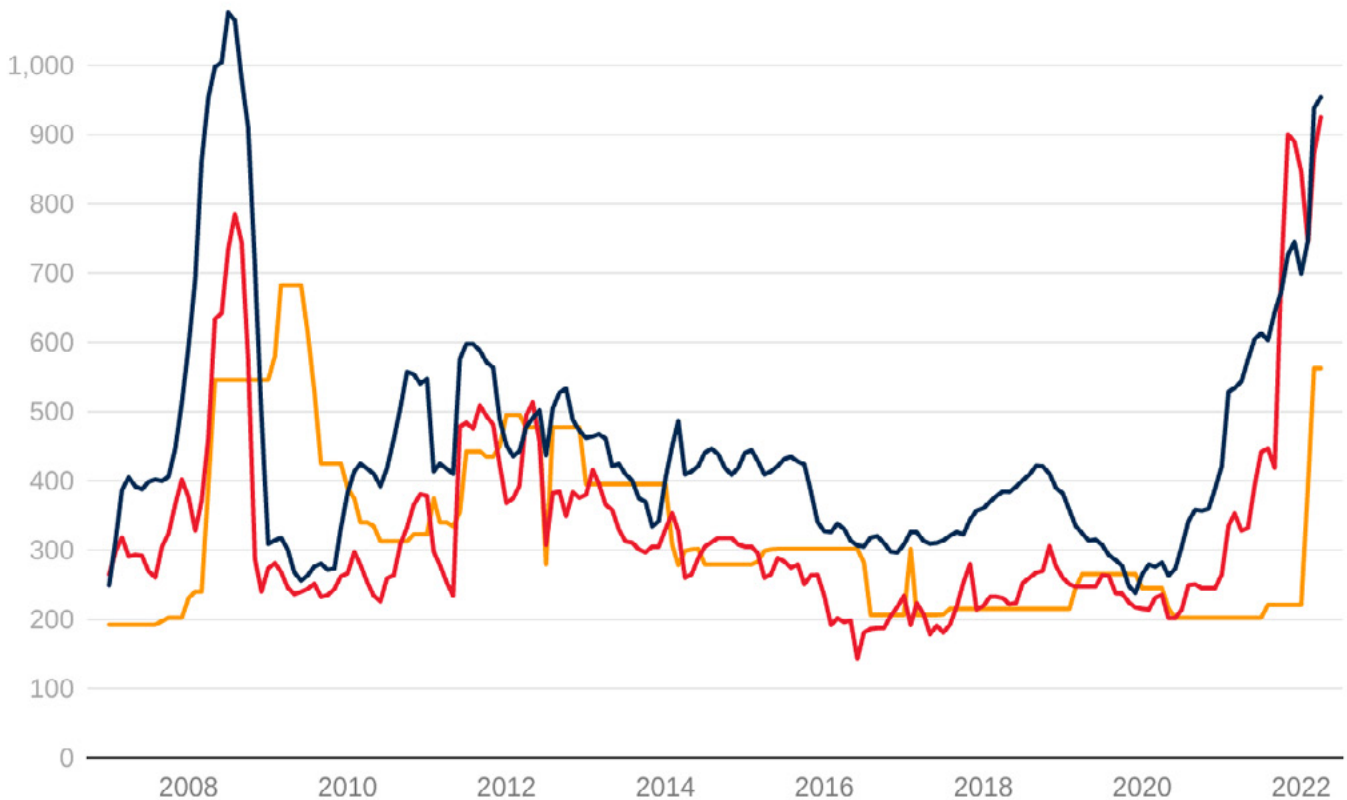
62 Quoting the Minister of Finance, Fiji Times, 29 January 2023 Sunday edition.

63 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/fertilizer-prices-expected-remain-higher-longer>

## Fertilizer prices

US\$/mt

— DAP — Urea — MOP



*Note: DAP = diammonium phosphate. MOP = muriate of potash. Last observation is April 2022.*

Source: Bloomberg; World Bank.

On the 15th of August 2022, the Government of Fiji initiated an Inflation Mitigation Assistance (IMA) program aimed at supporting vulnerable families, children, the elderly, and underprivileged individuals who were affected by the rapid price increase in basic food and other essential items due to imported inflationary pressures. This assistance program was implemented for a duration of 6 weeks.

### Silver Lining

These crises have had a devastating impact on many individuals, families, and communities, resulting in loss of life and livelihoods, and pushing many into poverty. If there is any silver lining to be found, it would be that they have compelled Fiji (and potentially many other countries) to reconsider the organization of their economic systems in a way that makes them resilient against future crises and shocks, while also ensuring that the economy is responsive to the needs of the people, especially those who are most vulnerable and in need of social protection.

Fiji is actively working towards diversifying its economy as a means to strengthen its economic defenses against such shocks. A more diversified economy would reduce its sensitivity to external shocks and help manage volatility in growth. Furthermore, effective management of fiscal and monetary policies to achieve macroeconomic stability would also enhance the economy's capacity to mitigate the impact of future crises and shocks.



### **Diversifying the Economy**

Tourism revenues are highly vulnerable to domestic and external economic volatility and shocks. There is now a concerted effort in the country to diversify the economy and reduce its heavy reliance on tourism. While tourism will remain an important economic sector, potentially the most important for many years, there is a recognized need to promote growth in other sectors, particularly agriculture and manufacturing. This is to avoid a repeat of the economic decline experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic when international borders, including Fiji's, were closed and the tourism industry practically came to a halt overnight, only sustained to a minimal extent through domestic tourism. The government and private sector are now actively exploring other industries that may be less vulnerable to such economic shocks in the future.

### **Economic Recovery**

The tourism sector's recovery is progressing well, with the industry showing signs of rebound. In fact, tourism numbers in December 2022 surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels. On February 14, 2023, Fiji removed all COVID-19 restrictions for travelers, including the requirement for proof of vaccination and travel insurance. This was welcomed by the tourism industry as it would aid in the recovery. While the need for economic diversification to reduce dependence on a single sector has been acknowledged, there is also recognition of the need for diversification within the tourism industry itself. This includes diversifying the geographical origin and types of tourists Fiji attracts, as well as the types of accommodations, activities, and training (including language training) provided to workers in the tourism industry.

### **Building Back Better**

Turning the concept of 'building back better' from a mere slogan into a reality requires significant work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a global realization that the existing economic model was not serving everyone equally and was exacerbating gaps, particularly during times of economic hardship. Unfortunately, as the situation normalizes following the pandemic, there has been a diminishing emphasis on the need to truly build back better, and a return to business as usual seems to be taking place. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a lesson that we must not forget, and it is crucial to maintain momentum in promoting fairness and equity, enhancing preparedness for future crises, expanding the role of CSOs and the private sector, and making communities safer by reducing risks and building resilience.

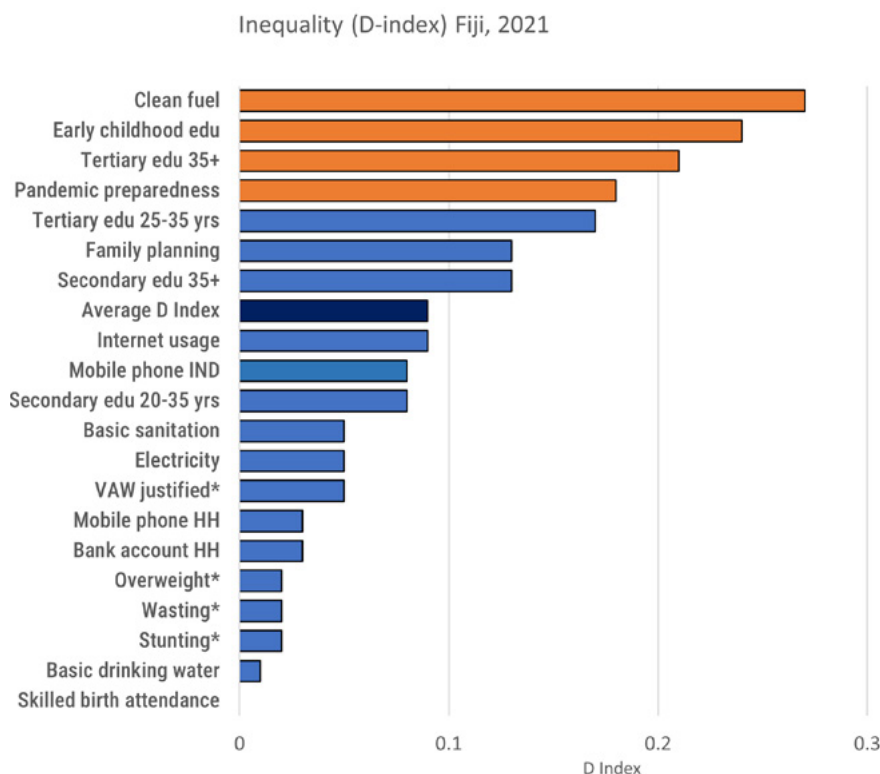
## Leaving No One Behind

The Office of the Prime Minister is promoting inclusive growth in Fiji to ensure that no one is left behind. It is argued that national sustainable development can only be achieved if activities and projects are implemented across all four divisions of Fiji, reducing the risk of some communities being excluded while others benefit from development progress, as evidence has shown has been happening. When identifying projects to receive government support, it is deemed necessary to conduct needs-based assessments on the priorities required for growth, particularly for those people and communities in the greatest need.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) conducted a “Leaving No One Behind” (LNOB) analysis based on Fiji’s recent 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). This analysis reveals that the size and composition of the furthest left-behind groups, in terms of various Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, vary across the country’s four geographical divisions. While individuals living in poorer households (i.e., the bottom 40% of the wealth distribution) are the most common furthest left-behind group nationwide, the place of residence and level of education emerge as key drivers of inequality in the Western and Eastern regions, respectively. On average, the furthest left-behind groups represent a much higher proportion of the population in the Eastern and Northern divisions.

Inequality refers to the unequal distribution not only of income and wealth but also of opportunities and services in education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, social protection, and access to justice. Inequality of opportunity undermines the realization of human rights and acts as a barrier to social mobility. The dissimilarity index (D-Index) measures the differences in access to certain opportunities or the disproportionate experience of certain barriers among different groups, such as women, poorer households, or rural residents. Like the Gini coefficient, the D-Index ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates no inequality and 1 indicates that access to a service is entirely reserved for a specific group with shared circumstances (e.g., men from urban areas).

The figure below shows the D-Index for 20 indicators related to SDGs 1 to 8 and 17. The highest inequality is observed in access to clean fuels, followed by access to early childhood education, tertiary education attendance, and pandemic preparedness. There is virtually no inequality in access to skilled birth assistance, while minimal inequality is observed in access to various basic services and child malnutrition.<sup>64</sup>



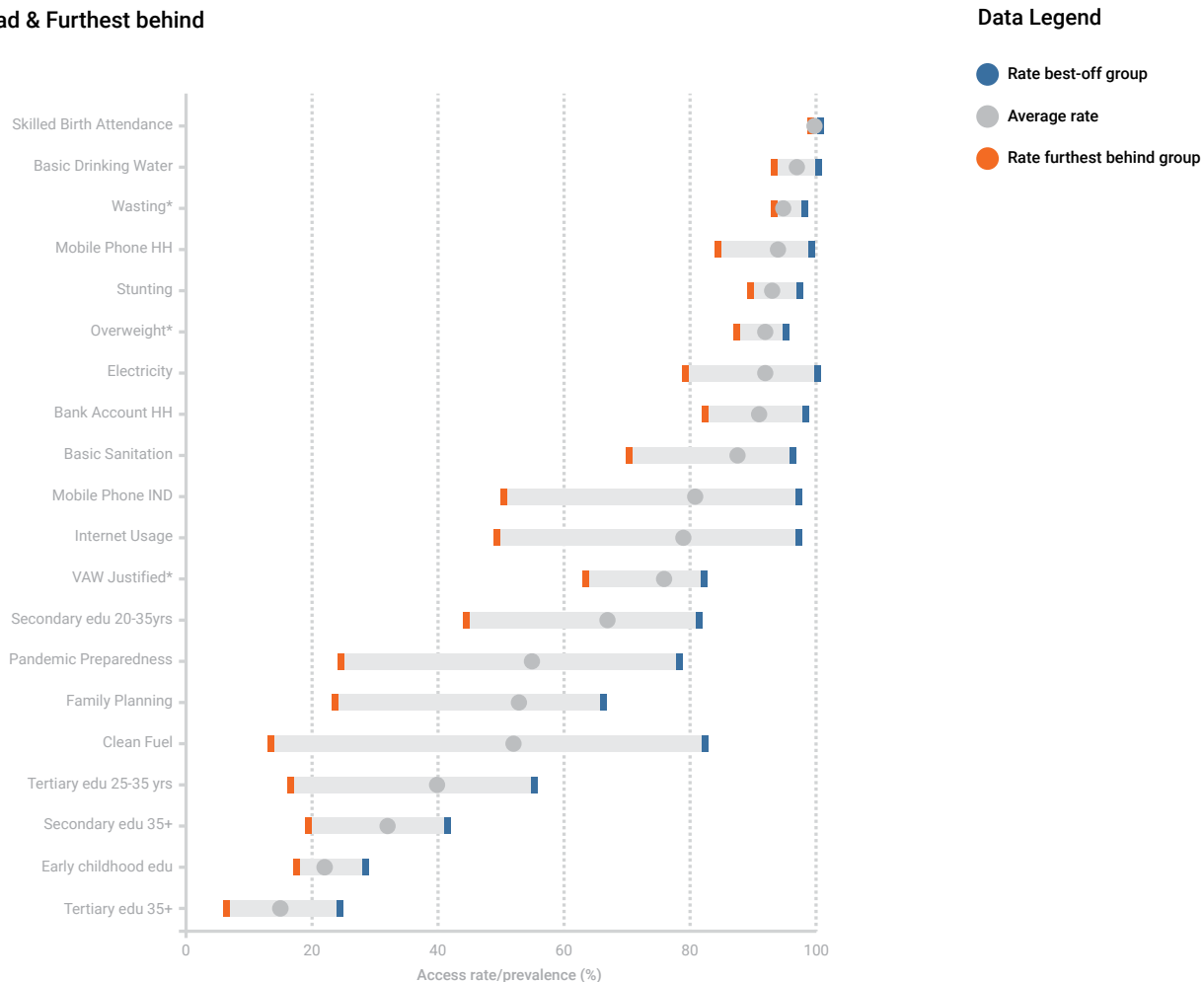
<sup>64</sup> Note: ESCAP calculations based on MICS 2021. Standard analysis with up to 5,467 observations. (\*) To keep the same interpretation as for other positively defined indicators (opportunities), inequality in the absence of the barrier is calculated.



The chart below illustrates the extent of inequalities in Fiji across various SDG indicators. With the exception of access to skilled birth assistance, where no one has been left behind, there are significant gaps between those who are furthest ahead and those who have been left behind. The largest gaps exist in access to clean fuels (a difference of 69 percentage points), followed by the ability to protect against the pandemic (a difference of 45 percentage points), and closely behind is internet use in the past three months (a difference of 44 percentage points).

### Furthest Ahead & Furthest behind

Fiji, 2021



Source: MICS

Note: For barrier indicators (\*) the rate shown refers to the absence of the barrier (e.g. stunting becomes absence of stunting), to allow for data comparability with opportunity indicators.

# Means of Implementation

## Better Coordination

The implementation of the SDGs requires a concerted effort from the government and society as a whole. There is a need for better coordination between the government and the private sector, civil society, local government administrations, academia, media, citizen groups, and communities.

The technical working groups established for this VNR will remain in place, with a change in the terms of reference focusing more on collaboration in the implementation of the SDGs. This will ensure that efforts continue to make progress on the SDG targets and will open their membership to other key stakeholders from CSOs and the private sector. These measures should promote better coordination between different line ministries and between the government and non-state actors.

## Growing the Economic Pie

In order for Fiji to achieve the SDGs, it first needs to grow its economic resources to ensure there are enough resources dedicated to programs aimed at achieving the SDGs. The support of development partners and technical agencies is also imperative for Fiji to make better progress in areas where it lacks funds and technical expertise. It is also important to diversify the economy to reduce reliance on a single sector, which increases vulnerability to external shocks. As the economic pie grows, it is essential to ensure a fairer distribution of national wealth, particularly to those most in need.

## In-House Expertise

Government ministries are well aware of the need for expertise in SDG implementation and data management. Some ministries already have their own statistical expertise, such as health and education, but this expertise is needed in all sectoral ministries. An important area is the need for SDG expertise, and the same person in charge of data management could also be trained to monitor SDG implementation for the relevant goals in their ministry. Due to the nature of the SDGs, there may be relevant targets across more than one goal.

The relevant SDGs for each ministry can be included in their operational plans, and an officer can be assigned within the ministry to oversee the related SDGs and provide regular updates to TWG and the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

## Citizen Power

Engaging citizen power is crucial to accelerate progress on SDGs. As evidenced many times before, citizens are often willing to help in times of disaster as volunteers. Many are actively involved in various charities and civil, political, and democratic causes, and also serve as first responders during crises. In a true democracy, like Fiji is becoming, citizens are encouraged and supported to engage in work that benefits their communities and country. Voluntary action, especially at the community level, should be further encouraged, and strong partnerships with volunteers should be formed to leverage local knowledge and expertise. This will ensure more tailored and responsive development interventions for those who need them the most, as well as foster shared social responsibility.

## Increased Better-Targeted Finance

There has been a heightened focus on the need for better-targeted finance for programs that have a significant impact, particularly in growing the economy by creating investment and employment opportunities, as well as lifting people out of poverty.

## Local SDG Action Begins with Voluntary Local Reviews

Implementation of the SDGs requires specific targets within the national context to be met at the subnational, often local level, making coherent 'whole of government' action a necessity. Localization is a key means of implementation in tackling the critical sustainability challenges faced by Fiji, which include rapid urbanization, growing inequalities, and the impact of climate change and disasters.

The Suva City Council (SCC) plays an important role in implementing the SDGs as the main council responsible for managing the affairs of the country's largest population, economic, and political center. In January 2023, the SCC embarked on its own Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which will be the first VLR undertaken by a local government in Fiji and the Pacific region. With technical support from the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific as part of the Pacific Urban Partnership, the VLR will comprehensively assess the status of SDG progress in Suva City and recommend policy, planning, and fiscal actions in line with national and regional guidance, including the Asia-Pacific Guidelines for VLRs. The VLR will support an inclusive review and



data inventory of SDG progress locally and provide inputs to the next SCC development strategy. It will prioritize action on the SDGs in future policies and investments with the active participation of all municipal departments, residents, and stakeholders. VLR coordination will also extend to the management of local finances by aligning local policies with the SDGs and the local budget.

Conducting a VLR will help spread awareness of the SDGs within local communities and accelerate their uptake across all of SCC's departments, strengthening horizontal and vertical coordination between them, as well as facilitating more informed decision-making. The Suva City VLR serves as a unifying exercise at the local level, acting as a model for comprehensive bottom-up action to achieve the SDGs in Fiji.

### **Continuous Update of the SDG Database**

The availability of reliable data has been a perennial problem for Fiji. SDGs that were found to be particularly scarce in data in Fiji were in relation to:

- Goal 5 (disaggregated marital age data, disaggregated

unpaid domestic work and care work, gender representation in decision making (public/private), reproductive choice, rights, and regulations promoting gender equality)

- Goal 6 (water ecosystems data, water and sanitation management, integrated water management, and data on water quality)
- Goal 14: Data on ratification of ocean-related frameworks, protection of rights of small-scale fisheries, marine research spending, combating unregulated fisheries, biological sustainable fisheries, marine acidity, marine management approaches, coastal eutrophication data
- Goal 15 (benefit-sharing of genetic resources, prevention or control of invasive species, integration of biodiversity values in development planning and wildlife trading)
- Goal 16 (child abuse, human trafficking, public/private bribery, population representation on public institutions by required disaggregation, memberships and voting rights in international organizations, independence of human rights institutions, human rights violation)<sup>65</sup>



## Conclusion

It is unlikely that Fiji will be able to meet all the SDGs by 2030 unless there are some major developments between now and then.

Fiji needs to address the “triple threat” confronting its economy, which includes excessively high government debt, delayed investment in critical infrastructure, and the impact of unforeseen shocks from climate change and other global and local risks that require urgent attention. These factors will require the government to raise revenue to meet the country’s critical social and economic needs.<sup>66</sup>

The country has accumulated a national debt of about FJD 10 billion (USD 4.56 billion). The new government is committed to addressing this debt through a number of fiduciary measures and fiscal discipline in both revenue generation and expenditure. The aim is to address critical operational and investment needs, bring government debt down to fiscally manageable and responsible levels, and actively engage with development partners to capitalize on funding and development opportunities. It is crucial that the government’s economic strategy focuses on trusted leadership, good governance, climate change and environmental sustainability, and improving the climate for investment and business growth.

Good governance requires better accountability from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government to build economic confidence. This includes the legislature using its processes to build consensus and policy consistency on important long-term issues such as health, education, water and sanitation, social protection, and key industries. The executive should be held legally and financially accountable for its actions and decisions, and the judiciary’s work should become more efficient and timely.

There is a critical need for the government to prioritize and enhance its efforts in human development, particularly in the areas of health, education, housing, youth, women and girls, child abuse, and poverty alleviation. There should be an increased focus on segments of the population that are lagging behind, including those with disabilities, victims of abuse, those vulnerable to disasters and the impact of climate change, and those with limited access to social protection. Additionally, better community representation should be ensured in decision-making processes related to human development.

Fiji needs to unleash the potential of rural and outer island areas by providing them with the necessary infrastructure and resources for their own economic transformation. Efforts should be accelerated to reform outdated laws that hinder the development of economic activities, such as agriculture. It is also essential to strengthen biosecurity measures and provide related support for exports, as well as enhance institutional capacity to respond to the needs of the agricultural sector.

There is a need for coordinated conservation and improved regulation of fisheries to develop marine-based activities. A community-based approach with additional focused support is required to enhance commercial participation and ensure the sustainable commercialization of Fiji’s marine resources. Upgrading technology-based education at all levels and providing the necessary infrastructure to improve Fiji’s capacity to use, innovate, and create technological solutions are also essential. It is important to promote the participation of women in these sectors.

Prioritizing the upgrading and maintenance of Fiji’s water, sewerage supply, and waste management systems is necessary. Support for the development of efficient and eco-friendly land, marine, and air transportation systems is crucial for Fiji’s sustainable development. The economic and social challenges caused by inconsistent electricity supply and the need for greater capacity and connectivity call for exploring more effective public-private partnerships that focus on renewable and climate-resilient energy sources.

Increasing the engagement and empowerment of Fiji’s indigenous population in commerce and business, in collaboration with other communities and stakeholders, is important. The indigenous community should leverage its land and natural resources as assets for direct equity ownership of businesses and commercial ventures, in partnership with key stakeholders, communities, and domestic and international financial institutions.

Evidence-based policy making is critical for informed decision-making. Fiji needs to strengthen the institutional and planning mechanisms within each ministry and ensure their coordination and linkage with the national strategic development policy and planning machinery. This will contribute to Fiji’s recovery and enhance its resilience



# Annexes



## Fiji's Progress on the SDGs

### 1. Introduction

This chapter provides an assessment of the progress made by Fiji on the sustainable development goals and targets based on the analysis conducted by the Ministry for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics of Fiji in partnership with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Section 2 provides an overview of the progress<sup>1</sup>, drawing attention to areas that require prioritization for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Section 3 discusses the availability of SDG data in Fiji and highlights data gaps for monitoring SDG progress. This analysis uses national data on SDG indicators relevant to Fiji and applies ESCAP methodology (see Annex I for details) to assess progress against nationally set target values. The indicators and respective target values used are listed in Annex II.

### 2. Overview

The assessment shows that Fiji is making progress on most of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), but certain areas still need concentrated attention to accelerate progress or reverse current trends (Figure 1).

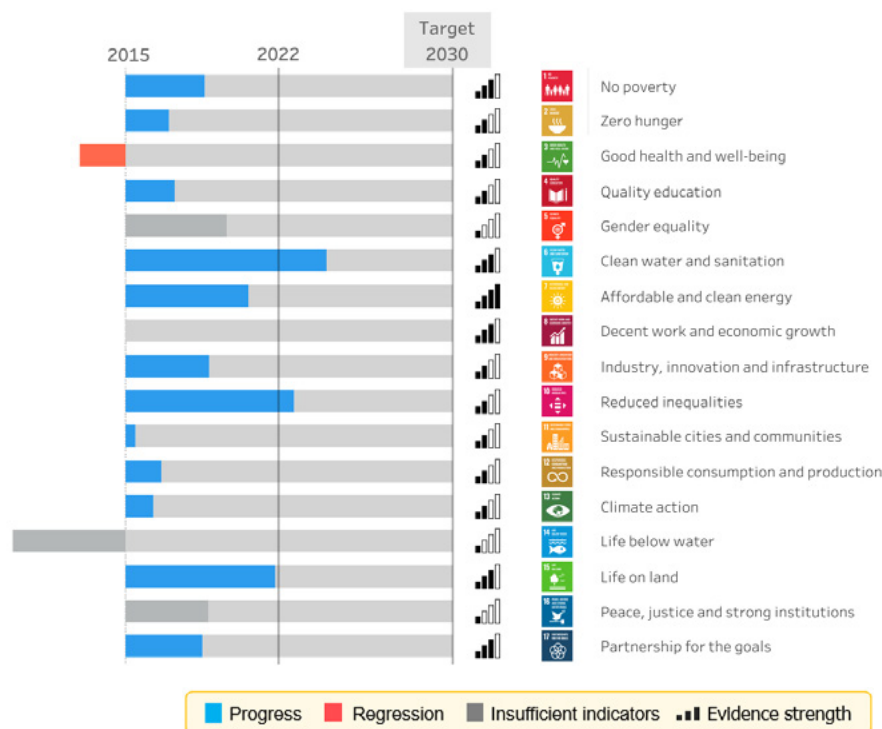


Figure 1 - Snapshot of SDG progress in Fiji, 2022.

Source: ESCAP & Ministry of Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary results are available at: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/unescap.statistics.division/viz/SDG-FJI-2023/Story1>

Fiji has made good progress since 2015, and is on track to achieve its 2030 targets, for clean water and sanitation (Goal 6) and reduced inequalities (Goal 10). The progress in Goal 6 has been driven by better access to sanitation and hygiene, water quality and official development assistance (ODA) for water and sanitation. For Goal 10, the progress is due to a reduction in refugee numbers and in tariff lines applied to imports from Fiji, and an increase in total resource flows for development. Furthermore, Fiji is nearly on track for reaching its 2030 targets for life on land (Goal 15) and affordable and clean energy (Goal 7). For Goal 15, the progress is due to an increase in forest area, a high mountain green cover index, and progress adopting relevant national legislation and adequate resourcing for the prevention or control of invasive alien species. For Goal 7, progress has been due to a reduction in energy intensity level of primary energy, as well as international support for clean and renewable energy.

The country needs to reverse several negative trends in good health and well-being (Goal 3). Some areas which need addressing include recent increases in both under-five and neonatal mortality as well as increases in both HIV infections and tuberculosis. Increases in alcohol consumption per capita and road traffic deaths have also contributed to the regression seen in this goal. While data is limited for life below water (Goal 14), available data shows this goal also regressing due to an increase in beach litter and a reduction in sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP.

At the current pace, Fiji risks missing 75 percent of the 97 targets that could be measured in this assessment (figure 2), with nearly 30 percent of measurable targets regressing. Beyond the areas covered above, the assessment has identified specific areas requiring urgent attention such as a decline in the agricultural orientation index (agriculture share of government expenditure, divided by the agriculture value added share of GDP). Real GDP per capita growth rate and Tourism direct GDP also took drastic declines due to covid, but when more recent data becomes available these are expected to be on a significant improve. The impact of Covid-19 also resulted in significant spikes in deaths due to disasters which impacted progress for Goals 1, 11 and 13.

It is crucial for Fiji to continue to prioritize data production as 42 percent of the SDG targets could not be measured due to lack of data.



Figure 2 - Dashboard of SDG target achievements by 2030.  
Source: ESCAP & Ministry of Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics



### 3. Data Availability

Fiji's data availability in the Global SDG Database<sup>2</sup> has shown a remarkable improvement, with an increase of 40 indicators with sufficient data from 2019 to 2022, as illustrated in Figure 3.

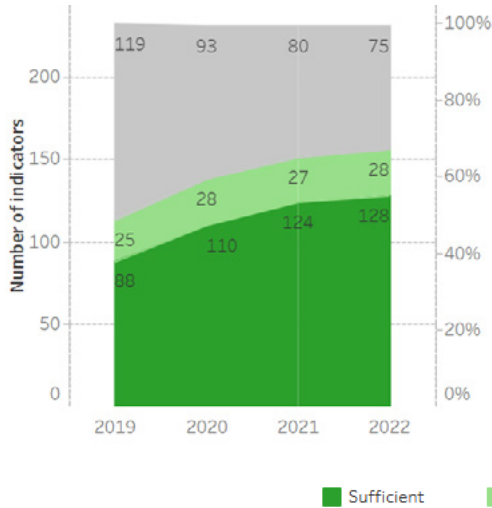


Figure 3 – SDG data availability in Fiji (2019-2022)<sup>3</sup>

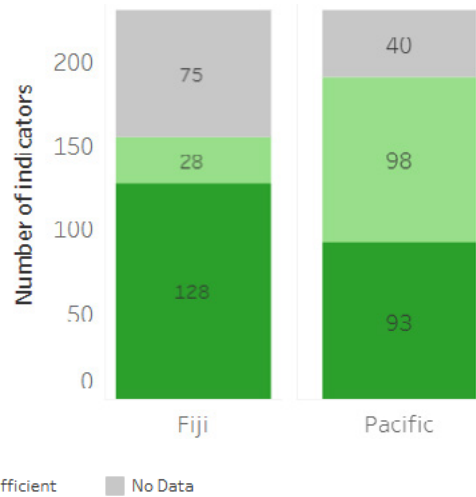


Figure 4 – Fiji vs. subregion data availability in 2022

Furthermore, Fiji is the best performing country out of all the Pacific small island developing states (SIDS) with 128 indicators having sufficient data, compared to the Pacific average of 93, as shown in Figure 4.

Data availability proves to be more challenging under certain SDGs. Gender equality (Goal 5), sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11), climate change (Goal 13), life below water (Goal 14) and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16) have 50 per cent or more of indicators with no data.

<sup>2</sup> DESA, Global SDG Database: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>

<sup>3</sup> ESCAP, Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway: <https://data.unescap.org/data-analysis/sdg-data-availability>

## Annex I- Progress Assessment Methodology

### Selection of indicators

The indicators used in this assessment were jointly selected by Ministry for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, in consultation with relevant Line Ministries and United Nations ESCAP based on the following criteria:

- Availability of two or more data points since 2010;
- Ability to set a quantitative target value.

### Target setting

The target values used for each indicator have been drawn from the following sources:

- Targets for Fiji's 5-Year and 20-Year National Develop Plan;
- Targets directly from the SDG framework;
- Regional benchmarks based on top performance of countries in the Pacific<sup>4</sup>.

### Progress assessment methodology

To measure progress towards the sustainable development goals, ESCAP developed the Current Status Index. It measures progress in relation to a baseline and a target value, designed to answer two questions:

- How much progress have we made?
- Are the SDG targets going to be achieved by 2030?

The index is calculated for each time series. Progress at each indicator is measured as the average of progress over all these series (sub-indicators). These are then averaged at the SDG target and, subsequently, at goal levels, using equal weights. The accuracy of the results becomes more robust as the number of indicators and availability of data increases.

To account for disparities in progress among different groups within the population and to recognize the 2030 Agenda's spirit of leaving no one behind, disaggregated data is incorporated into the assessment wherever available. A disadvantaged group is identified for each indicator as the population group furthest away from the target value. Progress is then measured as the average of progress in the disadvantaged group and the reference population.

More information on the methodology is available at the Asia-Pacific SDG Gateway on the following address: <https://data.unescap.org/resource-guides/progress-assessment-methodology>.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://data.unescap.org/resource-guides/progress-assessment-methodology>

## National Indicators to determine Fiji's SDG progress

Ind Display	Indicator Name	Indicator Unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Latest Value	Latest Year	Target
1.1.1	Poor living on less than US\$1.90 a day in total employment, total 15+ years	% of total employment	0.3	2015	2.3	2022	0
	Population living in poverty at less than \$1.90 a day at 2011 PPP	% of population	0.4	2013	1.3	2019	0
1.3.1	Child care and protection	% of household	1.63	2015	4.4	2021	4
	Proportion of population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension	% of population	10.6	2015	92.1	2020	100
1.4.1	Population using basic drinking water services	% of rural population	89	2015	89	2020	100
	Population using basic sanitation services	% of urban population	97	2015	99	2020	100
	Proportion of population using basic sanitation services	% of population	96	2015	99	2020	100



	Proportion of population with access to safe drinking water	% of population	94	2015	94	2020	100
1.5.1	Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Number	0	2015	76.9	2021	0
	Directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Per 100,000 population	68989.97	2015	8439.12714	2020	0
1.5.2	Direct agriculture loss attributed to disaster	Million US Dollar	258.42565	2015	12.97975599	2020	0
	Direct economic loss attributed to disaster	Million US dollars	258.42565	2015	24.26622522	2020	0
1.5.3	Score of adoption and implementation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy [2018-2030]	Index	0	2015	0.975	2021	1
1.5.4	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national DRR strategies	Percentage	0	2015	0	2020	100

1.a.1	Official development assistance grants for poverty reduction, by recipient countries	% of GNI	0.44336	2015	0.42662	2020	0.7
1.a.2	General government education expenditure	% of government expenditure	17.39185	2015	14.46442	2020	20
	General government health expenditure	% of government expenditure	7.18	2015	14.43	2020	20
	General government social protection expenditure	% of government expenditure	0.36	2015	0.96	2020	1.5
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	% of population	6.5	2015	5.7	2020	0
2.2.3	Prevalence of anaemia in women	% of pregnant women	42.6	2015	41.4	2019	22
	Prevalence of anaemia in women, aged 15-49	% of female aged 15-49	31.5	2015	32	2019	16
	Prevalence of anaemia in women, non-pregnant	% of non-pregnant women	30.8	2015	31.5	2019	16
2.a.1	Agriculture orientation index	Index	0.64	2015	0.26	2021	1
2.a.2	Official flows (disbursements) for	Million 2019 US dollars	21.41263	2015	17.11141	2020	25





	agriculture, total, by recipient						
2.c.1	Food price anomalies, Index	Index	0.949	2015	0.054	2020	0
3.1.1	Maternal mortality	Deaths per 100 000 live births	38.99871	2015	38.04679	2020	30
3.1.2	Births attended by skilled health personnel	% of live births	99.9	2015	99.8	2021	100
3.2.1	Infant mortality rate	Deaths per 1 000 live births, boys	22.3	2015	25.2	2021	10
		Deaths per 1,000 live births	20.7	2015	23.3	2021	10
	Under-five mortality rate	Deaths per 1 000 live births, boys	26.4	2015	29.9	2021	15
		Deaths per 1,000 live births	24.5	2015	27.7	2021	15
3.2.2	Neonatal mortality rate	Deaths per 1,000 live births	10.1	2015	13.7	2021	5
3.3.1	New HIV infections, all ages	Per 100,000 population	0.11884	2015	0.18741	2021	0



3.3.2	Tuberculosis incidence rate	Per 100,000 population	52	2015	66	2021	0
3.3.5	People requiring interventions against NTD: Total	Thousand people	898.821	2015	923.1	2021	0
3.4.1	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases	Probability, men (%)	42.6	2015	41.8	2019	28.4
		Probability (%)	38.5	2015	37.7	2019	25.7
3.4.2	Suicide, both sexes	Per 100,000 population	9.4	2015	9	2019	4.56
	Suicide, male	Per 100,000 population	13	2015	12.2	2019	6.18
3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption	Litres per annum, male population aged 15+	5.07609	2015	5.738	2019	3.972366
		Litres per annum, population aged 15+	3.05805	2015	3.44896	2019	2.387683
3.6.1	Road traffic deaths	Per 100,000 population	10.7	2015	13.5	2019	3.291536
	Road traffic deaths, men	Per 100,000 population	15.6	2015	19.5	2019	4.740402



3.7.2	Adolescent fertility rate (SDG), aged 10-14	Live births per 1 000 women (aged 10-14)	0.12	2015	0	2019	0
	Adolescent fertility rate (SDG), aged 15-19	Live births per 1 000 women (aged 15-19)	31.06	2016	31.1	2019	8.147316
3.8.1	Universal health coverage, service coverage index	Index	58	2015	61	2019	100
3.9.3	Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning	Per 100 000 population, men	0.3	2015	0.3	2019	0.1
		Per 100,000 population	0.2	2015	0.3	2019	0.1
3.a.1	Prevalence of current tobacco use	% of male aged 15 and above	38.7	2015	35.6	2019	22.48044
		% of population aged 15 and above	25.1	2015	23.1	2019	14.58703
3.b.1	Target population with access 3 doses vaccination against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DPT3)	% of population	99	2015	99	2021	100



	Target population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis, human papillomavirus (HPV)	% target population	67	2015	89	2020	100
	Target population with access to pneumococcal conjugate 3rd dose vaccination (PCV3)	% of population	99	2015	99	2021	100
	Target population with access to vaccination against measles (MCV2)	% of population	94	2015	94	2021	100
3.b.2	Official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors, total gross disbursement, by recipient	Million 2018 US dollars	15.01624	2015	12.31	2020	20
3.c.1	Dentistry personnel density	Per 10,000 population	0.7	2015	1.17	2019	4
	Nursing and midwifery personnel density	Per 10,000 population	28.58	2015	38.37	2019	72
4.1.2	Completion rate, lower secondary education	% relevant age group,	93	2015	95	2021	100



		female population					
	Completion rate, primary education	% relevant age group, total population	97.29999	2015	97.6	2020	100
	Completion rate, secondary education	% of relevant age group	99.15	2016	93	2020	100
	Completion rate, vocational education	% of relevant age group	88.32	2016	97.54	2019	100
4.2.2	Enrolment rate for 5 years in ECE Programs	Percentage	35.07	2015	72.58	2020	100
	Adjusted net enrolment rate (one year before the official primary entry age), female	Percentage	55.2	2016	88.5	2021	100
	Adjusted net enrolment rate (one year before the official primary entry age), total	Percentage	53.9	2016	89.3	2021	100
4.5.1	Gender parity index for participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	Female-to-male ratio	1.04748	2016	0.98404	2021	0.01
	Gender parity index in primary education level	Female-to-male ratio	0.92	2015	0.93	2020	0.01



	Gender parity index in secondary education level	Female-to-male ratio	0.94	2015	0.86	2020	0.01
	Gender parity index of teachers in primary education who are trained	Female-to-male ratio	1	2012	0.98616	2020	0.01
	Gender parity index of teachers in upper secondary education who are trained	Female-to-male ratio	1	2012	1	2012	0.01
4.b.1	Official flows for scholarships, total, by recipient	Million 2019 US dollars	6.34409	2015	5.43813	2020	12.7
4.c.1	Trained teachers, primary education, male	Percentage	100	2012	47.39357	2021	100
	Trained teachers, primary education, total	Percentage	100	2012	50.05646	2021	100
	Trained teachers, secondary education, female	Percentage	100	2012	100	2012	100
	Trained teachers, secondary education, total	Percentage	100	2012	100	2012	100
5.1.1	Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 -	Percentage	60	2018	60	2022	100



	100)_Area 1 (legal framework and public life)						
	Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 - 100)_Area 2 (violence against women)	Percentage	100	2018	100	2022	100
	Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 - 100)_Area 3 (employment and economic benefits)	Percentage	60	2018	80	2022	100
	Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 - 100)_Area 4 (marriage and family)	Percentage	90.9091	2018	100	2022	100
5.5.1	Seats held by women in national parliament	% of seats	14	2015	10.91	2023	50
5.5.2	Women share of employment in managerial position	Percentage	30.4	2014	38.9	2016	50
	Women share of employment in senior	Percentage	30.71	2011	38.58	2016	50



	and middle-management						
5.c.1	Systems for public allocations on gender equality and women's empowerment	1: Approaches requirement, 0: Does not meet requirement; 2: Fully meets requirement	1	2018	1	2021	2
6.2.1	Population practicing open defecation	% of rural population	0.1662803	2015	0	2020	0
		% of population	0.0752818	2015	0	2020	0
6.3.2	Proportion of water-related ecosystems with good ambient water quality	Total (%)	100	2017	100	2020	100
6.4.1	Water use efficiency	USD/M3	39.11	2015	35.44	2020	60
	Water Use Efficiency, Services (G to T)	USD/M3	105.54954	2015	117	2019	200
6.4.2	Water stress: (total freshwater withdrawal as proportion of available freshwater)	% of total renewable water per annum	0.29737	2015	0.29737	2020	0.270816
6.6.1	Lakes and rivers permanent water area	% of total land area	0.00042	2015	0.00054	2022	0.00084



	Reservoir maximum water area	% of total area	0.00015	2015	0.00019	2022	0.00035
	Reservoir minimum water area	% of total area	0.0002	2015	0.00029	2022	0.00025
6.a.1	Official development assistance (total gross disbursement) for water supply and sanitation, by recipient	Million 2019 US dollars	3.34438	2015	2.60642	2020	6.68876
6.b.1	Countries with procedures in law or policy for participation by service users/communities in planning program: rural drinking-water supply	10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined; 0 = N/A	10	2014	10	2020	10
	Countries with procedures in law or policy for participation by service users/communities in planning program: water resources planning and management	10 = Clearly defined; 5 = Not clearly defined; 0 = N/A	10	2017	5	2020	10
	Countries with users/communities participating in planning	3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A	3	2014	3	2020	3



	programs in rural drinking-water supply						
	Countries with users/communities participating in planning programs in water resources planning and management	3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A	1	2017	0	2020	3
7.1.1	Access to electricity (SDG)	% of rural population	88.8	2015	86.8	2021	100
		% of population	93.2	2015	92.1	2021	100
7.1.2	Population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technologies	% of rural population	19	2015	28	2021	100
		% of population	40	2015	51	2021	100
7.2.1	Renewable energy share of total final energy consumption, renewables	% of total final energy consumption	32.74	2015	31.79	2020	50
	Renewable energy share of total final energy consumption, renewables (SDG)	% of total final energy	49.74	2015	64.15	2021	80
7.3.1	Energy intensity level of primary energy (SDG)	Megajoules per unit of	2.3	2015	1.99	2020	1.986504



		GDP in 2017 PPP					
7.a.1	International support for clean energy and renewable energy	Million 2020 US dollars	1.76	2015	0.48	2021	3.4
7.b.1	Renewable electricity capacity, total	Watts per capita	210.261	2015	237.539	2021	350
8.1.1	GDP per capita growth rate (2015 US dollars, average annual)	% change per capita per annum	4.48	2015	-5.54	2021	7
8.2.1	Output per worker growth rate (2015 US Dollar)	% change per annum	5.32	2015	10.12	2022	5.25
8.3.1	Informal employment in total employment	% of total employment	12.71	2016	13.46	2019	7.6
8.4.1	Material footprint, total	Kg per 1 USD (2010) GDP	1.7123782	2015	1.680483801	2017	1.096
		Tons per capita	7.2101685	2015	7.229466418	2017	5.9
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption intensity	Kg per 1 USD (2015) GDP	1.32029	2015	0.8	2019	0.56
	Domestic material consumption, total	Tons per capita	8.19635	2015	5.41477	2019	5.764891
8.5.1	Average hourly earnings, all occupation	Average hourly earnings	10474.97	2015	20,515.52	2022	35,000

8.5.2	Unemployment rate (15+ years, SDG)	% of labour force	6.17	2014	4.32	2016	1.586911
8.6.1	Not in Employment, Education, Training (NEET)	% of female aged 15-24	27.32	2014	29.59	2016	26.16
8.8.2	Level of national compliance with labour rights	Score from 0 (better) to 10 (worse) compliance with labour rights	5.09	2015	5.73	2020	0
8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP	% of GDP	13.7	2015	0.1	2021	20
8.10.1	Number of automated teller machines (ATMs)	Per 100 000 adults	47.918656	2015	50.47735374	2021	60
	Number of commercial bank branches	Per 100 000 adults	12.800189	2015	10.59401251	2021	15
8.a.1	Aid for trade, total official flows (commitments), by recipient	Million 2020 US dollars	24.61125	2015	41.65814	2020	49.2225
9.1.2	Air transport passengers carried	Million passenger-km	5451.7693	2017	347.6	2021	10,000
	Container port traffic, maritime transport	Million TEU	0.086244	2015	0.093723	2020	0.18628
9.2.1	GDP by activity: Manufacturing	% of GDP	10.5	2015	11.19	2022	14.12947



9.2.2	Manufacturing employment (SDG)	% of total employment	6.1635819	2015	4.968080236	2019	8
9.a.1	Total official flows for infrastructure, by recipient	Million 2019 US dollars	8.57777	2015	164.8	2020	20
9.b.1	Medium and high-tech industry value added	% of total value added	7.06	2015	7.76	2020	11.67982
9.c.1	Population covered by at least a 2G mobile network	% of population	88	2015	98	2021	100
	Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	% of population	68.35	2015	96	2021	100
	Population covered by at least a 4G mobile network	% of population	17	2015	80	2020	100
10.2.1	Population living below 50 percent of median income	% of population	9	2013	9.6	2019	3.644141
10.4.1	Labour income share of GDP	% of GDP	42.6	2015	45.2	2020	52.582
10.7.4	Population who are refugees, by country of origin_movingavg	Per 100,000 population	96.54464	2015	39.56419	2022	0
10.a.1	Tariff lines applied to imports with zero-tariff, all products	Percentage	48.50942	2015	70.49422	2021	56.53331



10.b.1	FDI inflows	% of GDP	4.3839876	2015	5.36	2020	6.58
	Total assistance for development, by recipient	Million US dollars	144.13292	2015	524.53683	2020	288
10.c.1	Remittance cost as a proportion of the amount remitted	Percentage	9.65	2015	7.39	2021	3
11.1.1	Urban slum population	% of urban population	10.4	2014	9.4	2020	0
11.1.P1	Proportion of population having access to housing with all basic services	Percentage	37.15	2015	49.98	2021	74.4
11.5.1	Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters	Per 100,000 population	0	2015	76.89729	2021	0
	Directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Per 100,000 population	0	2015	8439.12714	2021	0
11.5.2	Direct agriculture loss attributed to disasters	Million US dollars	258.42565	2015	12.97975599	2020	0
	Direct economic loss attributed to disaster	Million US dollars	258.42565	2015	24.26622522	2020	0
	Direct economic loss resulting from damaged or destroyed critical	Million US dollars	0	2015	0	2020	0



	infrastructure attributed to disasters						
11.6.2	Annual mean concentration of PM2.5, urban	Micrograms per m3	8.05264	2015	8.14282	2019	6.157481
11.b.1	Score of adoption and implementation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy [2018-2030]	Index	0	2015	0.975	2021	1
11.b.2	Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national DRR strategies	Percentage	0	2015	0	2021	100
12.2.2	Domestic material consumption intensity	Kg per 1 USD (2015) GDP	1.52049	2015	0.91527	2019	0.556358
12.4.1	Hazardous waste, Montreal protocol compliance	Percentage	100	2015	100	2020	100
	Hazardous waste, Stockholm convention compliance	Percentage	33.33	2015	25	2020	100
12.4.2	Hazardous waste generated	Kg per capita	13.6207	2015	16.6404	2021	6.861845



	Hazardous waste treated or disposed	Percentage	100	2015	100	2017	100
12.a.1	Renewable electricity capacity, total	Watts per capita	210.261	2015	237.539	2021	350
12.b.1	Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism: SEEA tables	Number	3	2015	3	2020	4
	Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism: Tourism Satellite Account tables (pilot)	Number	3	2015	3	2020	7
12.c.1	Fossil-fuel subsidies (consumption and production)	% of GDP	0	2015	0.07357	2020	0
13.1.1	Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters	Per 100,000 population	0	2015	76.9	2021	0
	Directly affected persons attributed to	Per 100,000 population	0	2015	8439.12714	2021	0



	disasters per 100,000 population						
13.1.2	Score of adoption and implementation of National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy [2018-2030]	Index	0	2015	0.975	2021	1
13.2.2	Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture	Tons CO <sub>2</sub> eq per 1,000 (2015) USD GDP from agriculture	2.4711374	2015	2.557822893	2017	0
14.1.1	Beach litter per square kilometer	Number	134314.31	2017	815794.7485	2018	0
	Chlorophyll-a deviations, remote sensing	Percentage	3.23736	2015	1.37173	2022	0
14.5.1	Proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected area status	Percentage	16.54836	2015	16.54836	2022	20
14.7.1	Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP	% of GDP	0.67	2015	0.52	2019	1.34
15.1.1	Forest area	% of land area	60.57033	2015	62.4	2020	60.9
15.1.2	Important sites for fresh water biodiversity	Percentage	0.12804	2015	0.12804	2022	0.31723



	Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity	Percentage	11.17772	2015	11.17772	2022	31.15442
15.2.1	Above ground biomass in forest	Tons per hectare	203.23	2015	202.8	2020	227.196
	Forest area net change rate	Percentage	0.64	2010	0.6	2020	0.68
15.4.1	Important sites for mountain biodiversity	Percentage	5.46863	2015	5.46863	2022	13.94316
15.4.2	Mountain green cover index	Index	99.72	2015	99.72	2018	100
15.5.1	Red list index total	Index	0.70768	2015	0.69239	2023	0.97
15.6.1	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), contracting party	Yes (1)/No (0)	1	2015	1	2022	1
	Leg., admin./policy framework reported through Online Reporting Sys. on Compliance of the Int. Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food&Agriculture	Yes (1)/No (0)	0	2015	1	2022	1
15.8.1	Legislation, Regulation, Act related to the prevention of	Yes (1)/No (0)	1	2016	1	2022	1



	introduction and management of Invasive Alien Species (1 = YES, 0 = NO)						
	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets alignment to Aichi Biodiversity target 9 set out in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity	Yes (1)/No (0)	1	2016	1	2022	1
15.a.1	Official development assistance for biodiversity, total, by recipient	Million 2018 US dollars	2.65387	2015	2.50625	2020	5.30774
15.b.1	Official development assistance for biodiversity, total, by recipient	Million 2018 US dollars	2.65387	2015	2.50625	2020	5.30774
16.1.1	Victims of intentional homicide	Per 100,000 population	2.18	2014	2.17	2020	0.029849
16.3.2	Unsentenced detainees	% of overall prison population	23.25	2014	19.92	2021	0
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as share	Percentage	88.76634	2015	94.83535	2020	100

	of original approved budget						
16.7.1	Female members of parliaments, ratio over female in national population, lower chamber	Ratio	0.43439	2021	0.21735	2023	1
	Youth in parliament (45 and below), lower chamber	% of seats	19.61	2021	19.61	2023	30
16.a.1	National Human Rights Institutions, no application for accreditation with the Paris Principles, D status	Yes (1)/No (0)	1	2015	1	2020	1
17.1.1	Government revenue (budgetary central government)	% of GDP	27.36132	2015	23.70927445	2021	41.54918
17.1.2	Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	Percentage	80.026003	2015	43.77194867	2021	90
17.3.1	FDI inflows	% of GDP	4.3839876	2015	5.36	2020	6.575981
17.3.2	Personal remittances received	% of GDP	5.03	2015	10.02	2021	7.006116



17.4.1	Debt service	% of exports of goods, services and primary income	13.43576	2015	1.95802	2021	2.955867
17.6.1	Fixed-broadband equal to or above 10 Mbit/s subscriptions	Per 100 population	1.38836	2015	2.49424	2021	32
17.7.1	Total trade of tracked Environmentally Sound Technologies	Million US dollars	207.28256	2015	220.619998	2020	414.5651
17.8.1	Internet users	% of population	42.5	2015	87.66	2021	100
17.9.1	Official development assistance (gross disbursement) for technical cooperation, total	Million 2019 US dollars	13.13958	2015	109.4	2020	26.27916
17.10.1	Most-favoured nation, worldwide weighted tariff-average, all products	Percentage	13.68973	2015	12.69351	2021	0
	Preferential rate, weighted mean, all products	Percentage	13.64978	2015	12.59497	2021	0

17.11.1	Exports of commercial services	% of world services exports	0.02543	2015	0.00467	2022	0.05236
	Exports of merchandise	% of world merchandise exports	0.00723	2015	0.00365	2022	0.01082
17.12.1	Most-favoured nation, average tariff applied by developed countries, all products	Percentage	8.58991	2015	11.52401	2021	0
	Preferential rate, average tariff applied by developed countries, all products	Percentage	5.06198	2015	5.90374	2021	0
17.15.1	Extent of the use of country-led result framework, by recipient of development cooperation	Percentage	61.96667	2016	53.9	2018	100
	New interventions drawn from country-led result framework, by recipient of development cooperation	Percentage	58.8	2016	72.72727	2018	100



	Result indicators drawn from country-led result framework, by recipient of development cooperation	Percentage	56.1	2016	47.22222	2018	100
	Result indicators using government sources/monitoring systems, by recipient of development cooperation	Percentage	71	2016	41.66667	2018	100
17.17.1	Public-private partnerships for infrastructure, commitment	Million US dollars	0	2015	58.605	2020	80
17.19.1	Resources made available to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries	Million US dollars	0.1512448	2016	0.42548906	2019	0.540372
17.19.2	Births registration data at least 90% complete	Yes (1)/No (0)	1	2015	0	2020	1
	Deaths registration data at least 75% complete	Yes (1)/No (0)	1	2015	1	2020	1

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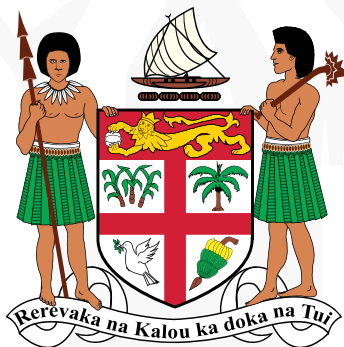
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