



GENDER STATISTICS

The Pacific and Timor-Leste

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Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique





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Notes:

In this publication, “\$” refers to US dollars.

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About This Booklet

This booklet is an outcome of a series of capacity development activities carried out by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Pacific Community (SPC; formerly Secretariat of the Pacific Community) to promote the use of gender statistics and strengthen technical capacities of government agencies in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. A draft version of the booklet was discussed with participants at a regional gender statistics workshop held on 5–8 October 2015 in Nadi, Fiji. The participants included 33 representatives from national statistics offices and women’s ministries or departments across 14 countries in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The feedback from the participants contributed to finalizing the booklet’s structure and contents.

The booklet was developed by Jessica Gardner (ADB consultant) in collaboration with Kim Robertson at SPC and Sunhwa Lee at ADB. Other individuals from SPC also contributed to the booklet with a review of indicators and data sources being reported here: they are Blandine Mollard from the Social Development Division; and Fabiola Bibi, Gerald Haberkorn, and Arthur Jorari from the Statistics for Development Division. Lanieta Vakadewabuka, ADB consultant, helped the final preparation of the booklet as well. The preparation and publication of this booklet was supported by ADB’s regional technical assistance program (TA 7656), Promoting Evidence-Based Policy Making for Gender Equity in the Pacific.

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASFR	age-specific fertility rate
BMI	body mass index
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
DHS	demographic and health survey
EMIS	education management information system
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GER	gross enrollment ratio
GPI	gender parity index
HIES	household income and expenditure survey
ISCO	International Standard Classification for Occupations
LFS	labor force survey
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOH	ministry of health
NER	net enrollment ratio
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SPC	Pacific Community (formerly Secretariat of the Pacific Community)
TFR	total fertility rate
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

The availability of sex-disaggregated data and statistics is increasing in the region. The capacity to use this information to inform policies across government needs to be strengthened.¹

Gender statistics cut across all traditional fields of statistics, including demographic, economic, social, and environmental statistics. They are essential for national planning and developing policies that address the priority gender issues.

The Pacific region has recently made good progress in conducting population and housing censuses and household income and expenditure surveys, both important sources of gender statistics. Demographic and health surveys (DHS) have been conducted in most countries of the region at some point in the last decade, providing valuable data on fertility, child survival, family planning, and other health concerns. Surveys on domestic and other forms of violence, such as the family health and safety survey, have been conducted in 11 of the Pacific island countries, and Timor-Leste included a module on domestic violence in its last DHS.

Administrative records from government and related agencies are also important sources of gender statistics. These include information collected through schools, hospitals and health care providers, and customs and immigration. Pacific countries are in various stages of establishing information systems to collect, process, store, and analyze data from these sources.

Although plenty of data are collected, few countries are maximizing the use of statistics to assess and monitor gender issues. For the Pacific island countries and Timor-Leste, limited technical capacity and resources constrain governments' ability to monitor a wide range of sustainable development issues including gender. The lack of involvement by national statisticians in gender-related policy dialogues and the weak capability of gender policy experts to utilize statistical information are key challenges across many countries. In some countries, little attention has been paid to the use of gender statistics, although increased regional and national support is helping to improve the situation.

¹ Pacific Community (SPC). 2015. *Beijing +20: Review of Progress in Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island Countries and Territories*. Noumea.

Table 1: Censuses and Household Surveys Recently Conducted or Planned in Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste

Country	Population and Housing Census	Household Income and Expenditure Survey/Living Standard Survey	Demographic and Health Survey	Family Health and Safety Studies	Labor Force Survey
Cook Islands	2011 , 2016	2005–06 , 2015–16		2013	
Federated States of Micronesia	2010 , 2020	2012–13		2014	
Fiji	2007 , 2017	2008–09 , 2013–14	2016	2010–11	2010–11 , 2015–16
Kiribati	2010 , 2015	2006 , 2016	2009	2008	
Marshall Islands	2011 , 2019	2002 , 2016–17	2007 , 2017	2012	
Nauru	2011	2012–13	2007 , 2017	2013	2015
Niue	2011 , 2016	2002 , 2015–16			
Palau	2015 , 2020	2013–14		2013	2016
Papua New Guinea	2011 , 2020	2009–10 , 2017	2006 , 2016		
Samoa	2011 , 2016	2008 , 2013–14	2009 , 2014	2000	2012
Solomon Islands	2009 , 2019	2013–2014	2007 , 2015	2008	
Timor-Leste	2010 , 2015	2007 , 2011	2009–10	2009–10 ^a	2010 , 2013
Tonga	2011 , 2016	2009 , 2015–16	2012	2009	2003
Tuvalu	2012	2010 , 2015–16	2007 , 2017		
Vanuatu	2009 , 2016	2010 , 2017	2013	2009	

Note: Years shown in **bold** indicate censuses or surveys that have already been conducted or are under way; other years indicate those under planning, which are subject to change.

^a A survey module on domestic violence was included in the 2009–10 Timor-Leste Demographic and Health Survey.

Sources: SPC. 2012 and 2015. Prism: Explore the Statistic of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (www.spc.int/prism/collections-schedule). For Timor-Leste, information comes from the General Directorate of Statistics website (www.statistics.gov.tl).

The booklet is intended to

- (i) illustrate the availability and importance of key gender statistics,
- (ii) provide a snapshot of major gender issues in the region, and
- (iii) promote the use of gender statistics for evidence-based policy making and rigorous monitoring of progress in gender equality issues.

The availability of key gender indicators, or the lack thereof, illustrated in the booklet should encourage the countries to continue their investment in data collection and strengthen their technical capacity for analysis. The statistics in this booklet can also be used by data producers and users for developing infographics and other products that appeal to a wide audience.

Finally, the booklet is intended to help the countries prepare national summaries of gender-related data by providing a template that could be adopted to present national data. The tables and graphs in the booklet are available for download in Microsoft Excel format to help users access and reuse the data and create their own presentations.

Violence against women is a major issue in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Many countries are committed to eliminating it through enacting legislation and providing services, such as shelters and legal support to survivors. Training health care professionals, police officers, and other authorities to identify and effectively deal with potential victims of gender-based violence is also an important strategy.











































To better understand gender-based violence, most countries in the region have conducted national surveys based on international standards. These surveys gather data on the percentage of the population who have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by an intimate partner or others. The results provide evidence that is used to advocate for action and to inform policies to eradicate violence against women.

Available data indicate that nearly two-thirds of women in Kiribati (68%), Fiji (64%), and Solomon Islands (64%) have lifetime experience of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner (Table 2). The rate of lifetime experience is also high in Vanuatu (60%), Marshall Islands (51%), and Nauru (48%), while the lowest rate is in Palau (25%). Current experiences of violence (during the last 12 months) are also prevalent in Vanuatu (44% of women) and Solomon Islands (42%), where lifetime experiences are high (Table 3). Emotional violence by an intimate partner—behaviors such as humiliating, intimidating, and threatening harm—is also widespread, with the two highest lifetime rates in Vanuatu (68%) and Fiji (58%).

Physical violence by nonpartners since age 15 is extremely high in Tonga (68% of women), where the main perpetrators of this violence are fathers and teachers. One reason for this is that corporal punishment of children and adolescents remains a common form of discipline in families and schools, despite the fact that the Education Act of 2002 prohibits it in schools.² Lifetime experience with physical violence by nonpartners is lowest in the Federated States of Micronesia (10%) and Kiribati (11%).

² Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili. 2012. *National Study on Domestic Violence against Women in Tonga 2009*. Nuku'alofa.

Table 2: Experiences with Violence since Age 15 (Lifetime)

REGION	Country	Percentage of Ever-Partnered Women (aged 15–49, 15–64, or 18–64) Experienced:			
		Physical and/or Sexual Violence by Intimate Partner (%)	Emotional Violence by Intimate Partner (%)	Physical Violence by Someone Other Than Intimate Partner (%)	Sexual Violence by Someone Other Than Intimate Partner (%)
MELANESIA	Fiji	64 	58 	27 	9 
	PNG	—	—	—	—
	Solomon Islands	64 	56 	18 	18 
	Vanuatu	60 	68 	28 	33 
MICRONESIA	FSM	33 	33 	10 	8 
	Kiribati	68 	47 	11 	10 
	Marshall Islands	51 	47 	33 	13 
	Nauru ^a	48 	—	—	47 
	Palau	25 	23 	14 	15 
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	33 	27 	39 	7 
	Samoa	—	19 	—	11 
	Tonga	40 	24 	68 	6 
	Tuvalu	—	—	—	—
	Timor-Leste	35 	8 	—	—

— = not available, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Notes: Only comparable data from the Samoa Family Health and Safety Study are included. See the explanatory notes on terms used in Annex 1 for more information on what constitutes different types of violence.

^a For the 2013 Family Health and Safety Study in Nauru, more than half of eligible women refused to be interviewed. Given a low response rate (38%) and small sample size, the findings of this study may not be representative of the entire population.

Source: Statistics were compiled from national reports on the surveys listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Experiences with Violence During the Last 12 Months (Current)

REGION	Country	Percentage of Ever-Partnered Women (aged 15–49, 15–64, or 18–64) Experienced:			
		Physical and/or Sexual Violence by Intimate Partner (%)	Emotional Violence by Intimate Partner (%)	Year and Data Source	Age Range (years)
MELANESIA	Fiji	24 <div></div>	29 <div></div>	2010–11 Survey on Women’s Health and Life Experiences	18–64
	Papua New Guinea	—	—	—	—
	Solomon Islands	42 <div></div>	43 <div></div>	2008 Family Health and Safety Study	15–49
	Vanuatu	44 <div></div>	54 <div></div>	2009 Survey on Women’s Lives and Family Relationships	15–49
MICRONESIA	Federated States of Micronesia	24 <div></div>	25 <div></div>	2014 Family Health and Safety Study	15–64
	Kiribati	36 <div></div>	30 <div></div>	2008 Family Health and Safety Study	15–49
	Marshall Islands	18 <div></div>	23 <div></div>	2012 National Study on Family Health and Safety	15–64
	Nauru	22 <div></div>	—	2013 Family Health and Safety Study	15–64
	Palau	8 <div></div>	9 <div></div>	2013 Family Health and Safety Study	15–64
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	9 <div></div>	10 <div></div>	2013 Family Health and Safety Study	15–64
	Samoa	—	—	2000 Family Health and Safety Study	15–49
	Tonga	19 <div></div>	13 <div></div>	2009 National Study on Domestic Violence against Women	15–49
	Tuvalu	—	—	—	—
Timor-Leste		32 <div></div>	8 <div></div>	2009–10 Demographic and Health Survey	15–49

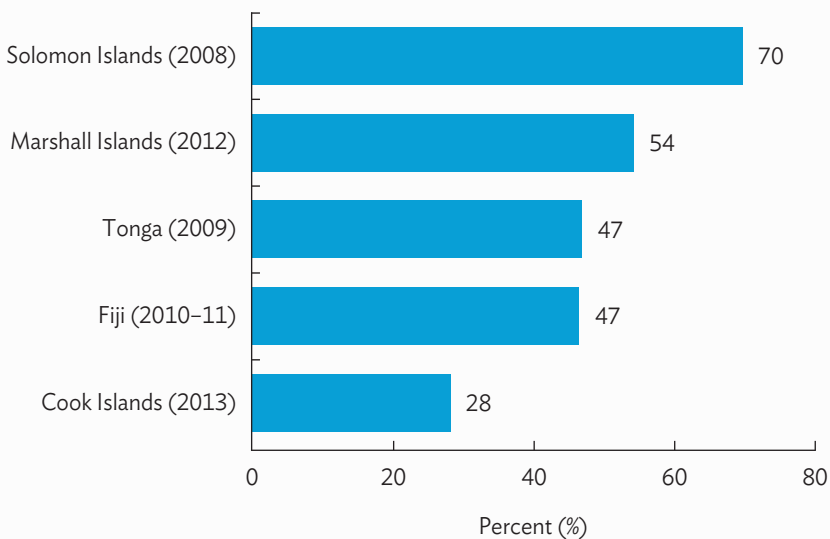
— = not available.

Notes: Only comparable data from the Samoa Family Health and Safety Study are included. See the explanatory notes on terms used in Annex 1 for more information on what constitutes different types of violence.

Police records are also an important source of information on cases of gender-based violence. However, these incidents often go unreported by the women who experience them. As shown in Figure 1, the vast majority of women experiencing domestic violence in the Solomon Islands (70%) told no one about it, not even a friend or family member. National surveys are important to measure the true extent of the problem.

Many Women Tell No One about Partner Violence

Figure 1: Percentage of Women Experiencing Physical or Sexual Partner Violence Who Told No One



Source: National surveys on the prevalence of gender-based and domestic violence as listed in Table 3.

3 Public Life and Decision Making

Women's political representation in the Pacific islands region is the lowest in the world. Traditional beliefs about gender roles, women's limited social capital, and a lack of support from political bodies are restricting progress towards fuller participation of women in public life.³

Increasing women's representation in politics at the national and local levels is key to achieving gender equality goals. Except for Timor-Leste, where nearly 39% of parliamentarians are women, most countries in the Pacific region have few or no women in national parliament (Figure 2). In Melanesia, women's representation is highest in Fiji, with 16% of the 50 parliamentarians being women. In Micronesia, Palau, which has a bicameral parliament with a total of 29 seats and a total of 3 women senators, has the highest proportion of women (10%). In Polynesia, the percentage of women in parliament is highest in the Cook Islands (17%). There are no female parliamentarians in the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Temporary special measures or quotas that guarantee women's representation as parliamentary candidates or members exist in two countries of the region: Timor-Leste since 2006, and Samoa since 2013. In Timor-Leste, the Law on the Election of National Parliament enacted in 2006 and amended in 2011 provides that one in every three candidates be a woman.⁴ Amendments to the Constitution in Samoa now ensure that 10% of parliamentarians are women.⁵

In 2013, the Vanuatu Parliament approved an amendment to the Municipality Act to provide a temporary quota of reserved seats for women in municipal councils, ranging from 30% to 34% across the various municipalities.⁶ The measure facilitated the election of five women to the Port Vila Municipal Council in 2013. Producing statistics on women's participation in subnational and local government is a priority

³ SPC. 2015. *Beijing +20: Review of Progress in Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island Countries and Territories*. Noumea.

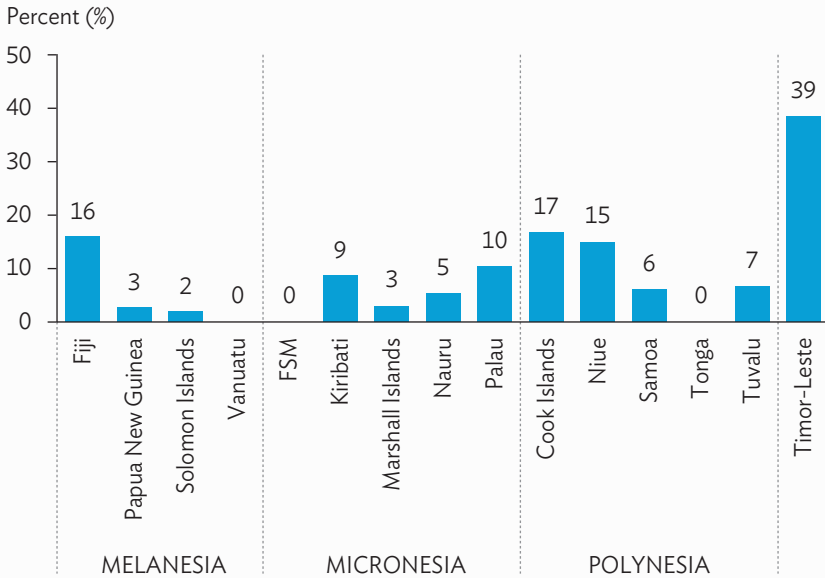
⁴ Timor-Leste Law No. 7/2011, Second Amendment to Law No. 6/2006 Law on the Election of the National Parliament, Article 12.3.

⁵ Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa 1960 (2013 amendments), Part V, Article 44 (1A). Members of the Legislative Assembly.

⁶ Republic of Vanuatu. 2013. *Municipalities (Amendment) Act 2013*. Port Vila.

Women's Share in Parliament is Highest in Timor-Leste

Figure 2: Seats Held by Women in National Parliament, 2015 (% of all seats)



FSM = Federated States of Micronesia.

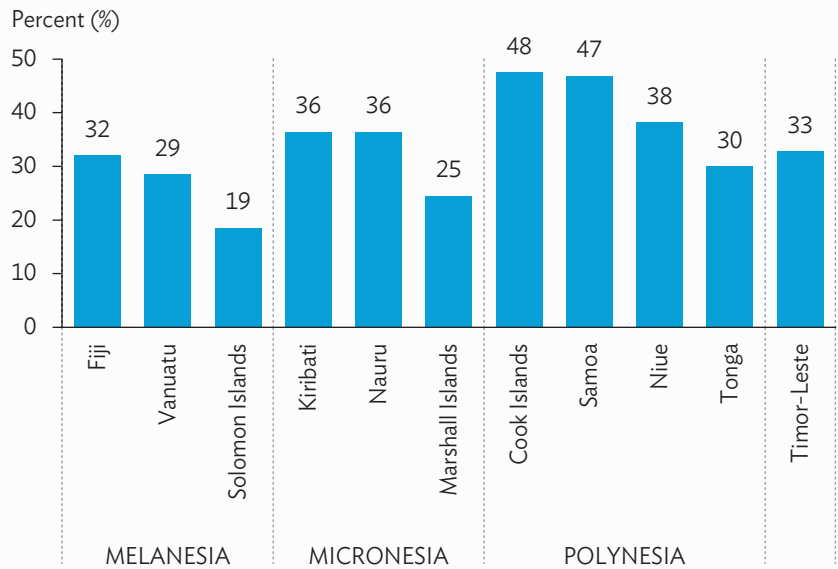
Source: Websites of national parliaments.

for many countries, especially those with programs to encourage more women to go into local politics. Collating comparable data for a regional overview is hampered by the different levels of local government in different countries and limited data availability.

Another measure of women's role in decision making and, to some extent, the equality of opportunity in education and employment is women's share of managerial positions in the labor force. According to the most recent population census or employment survey, women's participation in management roles is lowest in Solomon Islands (19%), while it is highest in the Cook Islands (48%) and Samoa (47%) (Figure 3). Managerial positions include politicians, senior government officials, and corporate and general managers, who play an important role in shaping how the public and private sectors operate.

Women Hold a Minor Share of Management and Decision-Making Positions

Figure 3: Percent of Legislators, Senior Officials, and Managers Who are Women



Source: Data are from population and housing censuses or labor force surveys as published or provided by national statistical offices (various years between 2009 and 2013 as indicated in Table 4).

All countries have established a specific agency to oversee gender mainstreaming and to monitor and report on gender-related goals and commitments. The names of each agency are provided in Table 4. All, except Tonga, have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Niue was the first country which signed via New Zealand in 1980 and ratified CEDAW in 1985. Most recently, Palau signed and Nauru acceded to CEDAW in 2011.

Table 4: Key Indicators Relating to Public Life and Decision Making

REGION	Country	Seats Held by Women in National Parliament (as % of seats)			Women's Share of Managerial Positions (as % of managerial positions)		Government Agency with Mandate for Monitoring Gender Equality	CEDAW Signatory Status
		No. of seats	Percent (%)	Last election year	Percent (%)	Year and source	Name of agency	Date and status: (s) signature only, (r) ratification, (a) accession
MELANESIA	Fiji	50	16.0	2014	32.1	2010–11 LFS	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation	28 Aug 1995 (a)
	PNG	111	2.7	2012	—	—	Ministry of Community Development and Religion	12 Jan 1995 (a)
	Solomon Islands	50	2.0	2014	18.5	2009 census	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	6 May 2002 (a)
	Vanuatu	52	0.0	2012	28.5	2009 census	Department of Women's Affairs	8 Sep 1995 (a)
MICRONESIA	FSM	14	0.0	2015	—	—	Department of Health and Social Affairs	1 Sep 2004 (a)
	Kiribati	46	8.7	2011	36.5	2010 census	Ministry for Women, Youth and Sports	17 Mar 2004 (a)
	Marshall Islands	33	3.0	2011	24.5	2011 census	Ministry of Internal Affairs	2 Mar 2006 (a)
	Nauru	19	5.3	2013	35.6	2011 census	Women's Affairs Department	23 Jun 2011 (a)
	Palau	29	10.3	2012	29.2	2005 census	Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs	20 Sep 2011 (s)
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	24	16.7	2014	47.5	2011 census	Ministry of Internal Affairs	11 Aug 2006 (a)
	Niue	20	15.0	2014	38.2	2011 census	Department of Community Affairs	10 Jan 1985 (r)
	Samoa	49	6.1	2011	47.3	2012 LFS	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	25 Sep 1992 (a)
	Tonga	26	0.0	2014	30.0	2009 census	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Not ratified
	Tuvalu	15	6.7	2015	—	—	Office of the Prime Minister	6 Oct 1999 (a)
	Timor-Leste	65	38.5	2012	32.7	2013 LFS	Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women	16 Apr 2003 (a)

— = not available, CEDAW = Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, LFS = labor force survey, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Notes: Palau has a bicameral parliament of 16 members in the lower house (no women) and 13 senators in the upper house (3 women); both houses are combined to give a total of 29 seats. Managerial positions include all occupations coded by the national statistical office as falling under International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) Major Group 1 (referred to as "Legislators, senior officials and managers" under ISCO-88 and "Managers" under ISCO-08). For Palau, the occupational group "Management related" is used.

Source: Data on number of seats in national parliament and percent held by women are sourced from the websites of national parliaments. Women's share of managerial positions is calculated based on population and housing census (census) or labor force survey (LFS) data, published or provided by national statistics offices. Government agency with mandate for monitoring gender equality is as indicated on government websites for each country. CEDAW signatory status is as indicated on United Nations Treaty Collection website (<https://treaties.un.org>).

4 Work and Employment




The labor markets of Pacific island countries are limited. Many countries rely on the agriculture sector with a large proportion of men and women engaged in subsistence work, particularly those in rural areas. Some countries are able to draw significant revenue from mining and fishing operations, but these industries provide limited employment opportunities.

All countries of the region include own-use production of goods (subsistence) in their definition of employment, except for the Cook Islands and Timor-Leste. This results in reasonably high labor force participation rates, even in countries where the opportunities for income-generating employment are few. Labor force participation is highest for men in Vanuatu (81% of the population aged 15 and above) and Fiji (80%), and lowest in Timor-Leste (40%). Women's participation is highest in Solomon Islands (67%) and Cook Islands (65%), and lowest in Timor-Leste (21%) and Samoa (24%). The gender gap in labor force participation is apparent in many of the countries (Table 5), particularly in Fiji, Nauru, and Tonga, where far fewer women than men participate. The gender gap is small or nonexistent in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, where large shares of both men and women are engaged in subsistence work. It is also low in the Cook Islands and Niue.

Major sectors of employment vary across the region and include agriculture; forestry and fishing; tourism; manufacturing; and the provision of services like health, education, and public administration. Subsistence agriculture remains an important part of economic production and this is reflected in the low rates of paid employment in countries like Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Vanuatu (Figure 4). In general, women are less likely to be in paid jobs than men, with the gender gap most significant in Fiji.

Women's share of wage employment in the nonagriculture sector—industry (e.g., construction and manufacturing) and services—is commonly used as a measure of gender equality in formal sector employment (Figure 5). Wage employment refers to those jobs with regular wages or salaries, which also tend to provide paid leave and other benefits such as retirement pensions. Women hold a nearly equal share of these jobs in Tonga (48%), Kiribati (47%), the Cook Islands (47%), and Niue (46%). Women's share is lowest in Timor-Leste (31%), Fiji (33%), and Solomon Islands (33%).

Table 5: Key Labor Market Indicators

REGION	Country	Labor Force Participation Rate (employed and unemployed persons as % of total working age population)				Paid Employment Rate (persons in paid work as % of total working age population)			Women's Share of Wage Employment in the Nonagriculture Sector	
		Male	Female	Gender gap (male–female)	Year and source	Male	Female	Year and source	%	Year and source
MELANESIA	Fiji	80	46	34 	2010–11 LFS	64.3	28.8	2010–11 LFS	33.2	2010–11 LFS
	PNG	62	62	0	2009–10 HIES	—	—	—	—	—
	Solomon Islands	69	67	2 	2009 census	35.2	17.6	2009 census	33.2	2009 census
	Vanuatu	81	61	20 	2009 census	37.2	23.4	2009 census	41.3	2009 census
MICRONESIA	FSM	66	48	18 	2010 census	—	—	—	37.9	2010 census
	Kiribati	67	52	15 	2010 census	33.9	25.9	2010 census	47.4	2010 census
	Marshall Islands	—	—	—	2011 census	48.0	26.5	2011 census	36.7	2011 census
	Nauru	79	49	30 	2011 census	58.2	35.2	2011 census	37.6	2011 census
	Palau	77	60	17 	2005 census	—	—	—	39.6	2005 census
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	77	65	12 	2011 census	68.9	59.3	2011 census	47.3	2011 census
	Niue	69	61	8 	2011 census	65.5	56.1	2011 census	46.0	2011 census
	Samoa	40	24	16 	2012 LFS	29.8	20.1	2011 census	37.5	2012 LFS
	Tonga	63	42	21 	2011 census	44.0	29.6	2011 census	47.9	2011 census
	Tuvalu	68	51	17 	2012 census	—	—	—	43.5	2012 census
	Timor-Leste	40	21	19 	2013 LFS	29.6	14.3	2013 LFS	30.8	2013 LFS

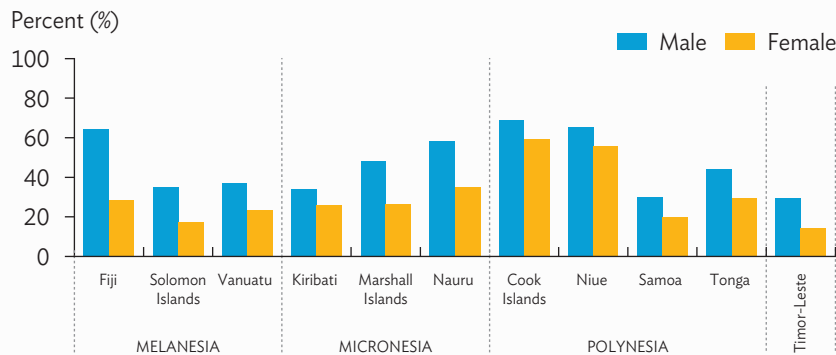
— = not available, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Notes: Working age population is 15 years and above. Employment, as part of the labor force participation rate, includes paid employment, subsistence production of goods and materials for own-use and consumption, unpaid community work and unpaid work in a family business (except for the Cook Islands and Timor-Leste where subsistence work is not included). Paid employment includes those with an employment status of employees, employers, self-employed, producing goods mainly for sale, and paid family workers.

Source: As indicated in the year and source columns, data are from population and housing censuses (census), labor force surveys (LFS), or household income and expenditure surveys (HIES).

Gender Gaps in Paid Employment

Figure 4: Percent of Population Aged 15 and Above in Paid Employment, Latest Year Available

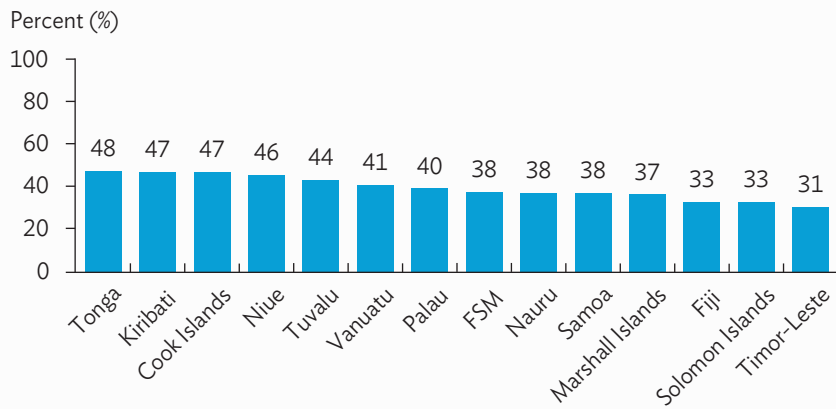


Note: Paid employment includes work as an employee, employer, self-employed, producing goods mainly for sale, or a paid family worker.

Source: Data are from population and housing censuses or labor force surveys as published or provided by national statistical offices (various years as indicated in Table 5).

Women Occupy Nearly Half of Wage-Paying Jobs in a Few Countries

Figure 5: Women’s Share of Wage Employment in the Nonagriculture Sector, Latest Year Available



FSM = Federated States of Micronesia.

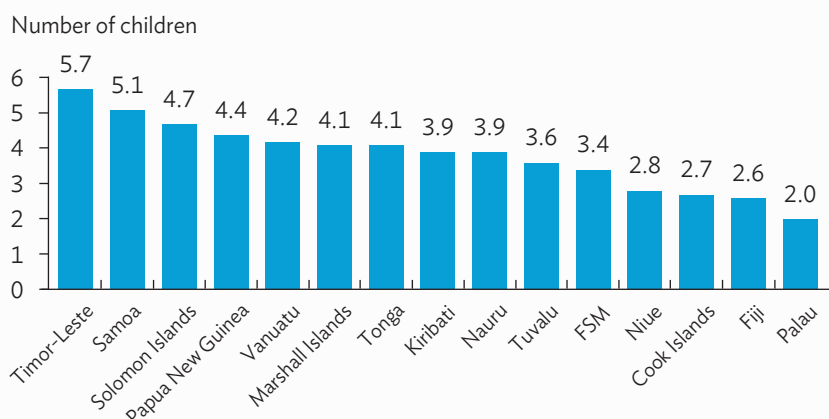
Source: Data are from population and housing censuses or labor force surveys as published or provided by national statistical offices (various years as indicated in Table 5).

Sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis are essential for monitoring the health status of the population and the effectiveness of service delivery. Males and females have different health concerns, and gender roles shape health-seeking behavior and risks to health.

A primary gender concern is fertility, as this directly impacts on women's and children's health and influences the division of labor between men and women in the home. Fertility rates remain high in the majority of countries of the region, with Timor-Leste being the highest at 5.7 children per woman, followed by Samoa at 5.1 (Figure 6).⁷ Average fertility is highest in Melanesia (except for Fiji), with Solomon Islands (4.7), Papua New Guinea (4.4), and Vanuatu (4.2) all reporting rates above 4 children per woman. The Marshall Islands (4.1) and Tonga (4.1) also have a total fertility rate above 4. Palau has the lowest fertility rate in the region with 2.0 children per woman. Rates are at a moderate level in Fiji (2.6), the Cook Islands (2.7), and Niue (2.8).

Fertility Rates are High in Many Countries of the Region

Figure 6: Average Number of Children per Woman, Latest Year Available



FSM = Federated States of Micronesia.

Source: Total fertility rates are from population and housing censuses, demographic and health surveys, or vital statistics systems based on birth registration records (various years as indicated in Table 6).

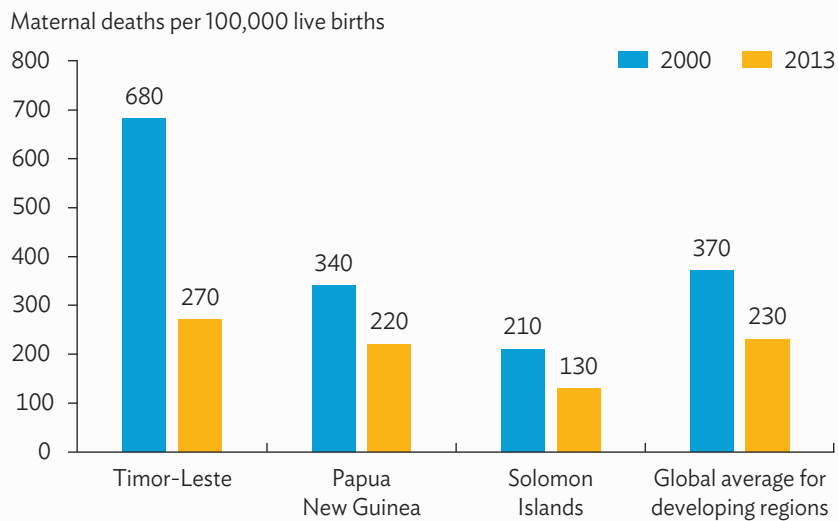
⁷ High fertility is defined as a total fertility rate (TFR) of 3.2 children per woman or higher, and low fertility is defined as a TFR of 2.0 or lower. Replacement-level fertility is a TFR of 2.1 children per woman. United Nations Population Division. 2014. *World Fertility Report 2013: Fertility at the Extremes*. New York.

Continued high fertility has implications for population growth, the provision of public services, and the environment. It leads to large youth populations and creates challenges in meeting the demand for education and health services, particularly in countries with populations dispersed across remote islands. Urban centers also face challenges in growing young populations, with pressures on adequate provision of housing, water, and sanitation, which have important health implications.

Many countries in the region have achieved goals relating to maternal health and child survival, but high fertility remains a health risk in some. While most maternal deaths are preventable, the prevention requires access to skilled care during pregnancy and childbirth. The rates for skilled birth attendance are high in most countries, except for Timor-Leste where only 30% of births are attended by skilled health personnel, and Papua New Guinea where 53% of births are (Table 6). Maternal deaths remain high in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Solomon Islands, although these countries are making steady progress (Figure 7).

Reducing Preventable Maternal Death is a Key Gender Issue

Figure 7: Trends in the Maternal Mortality Ratio between 2000 and 2013



Source: World Health Organization. 2014. *United Nations Report on Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990–2013*. Geneva.

Table 6: Fertility and Maternal Health Indicators

REGION		Total Fertility Rate (average children per woman)		Adolescent Fertility Rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15–19)		Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (any method) (% of currently married women aged 15–49)		Proportion of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel (% of all births)	
	Country	Total	Year and source	Total	Year and source	Percent (%)	Year and source	Percent (%)	Year and source
MELANESIA	Fiji	2.6	2007 census	27	2014 MOH	38.3	2014 MOH	99	2014 MOH
	PNG	4.4	2006 DHS	65	2006 DHS	32.4	2006 DHS	53	2006 DHS
	Solomon Islands	4.7	2009 census	62	2009 census	34.6	2006–07 DHS	86	2006–07 DHS
	Vanuatu	4.2	2013 DHS	82	2013 DHS	49.0	2013 DHS	89	2013 DHS
MICRONESIA	FSM	3.4	2010 census	44	2010 census	49.5	2011 MOH	90	2008 MOH
	Kiribati	3.9	2010 census	49	2010 census	22.3	2009 DHS	80	2009 DHS
	Marshall Islands	4.1	2011 census	85	2011 census	42.4	2007 DHS	98	2011 MOH
	Nauru	3.9	2013 VS	94	2013 VS	35.6	2007 DHS	97	2007 DHS
	Palau	2.0	2005 VS	33	2005 census	22.3	2010 MOH	100	2010 MOH
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	2.7	2013 VS	68	2013 VS	46.1	2005 MDG	100	2008 MOH
	Niue	2.8	2011 VS	20	2011 census	22.6	2001 MDG	100	2011 MOH
	Samoa	5.1	2014 DHS	56	2014 DHS	26.9	2014 DHS	83	2014 DHS
	Tonga	4.1	2012 DHS	27	2012 DHS	34.1	2012 DHS	98	2012 DHS
	Tuvalu	3.6	2012 census	28	2012 census	30.5	2007 DHS	98	2007 DHS
	Timor-Leste	5.7	2009–10 DHS	51	2009–10 DHS	22.0	2009–10 DHS	30	2009–10 DHS

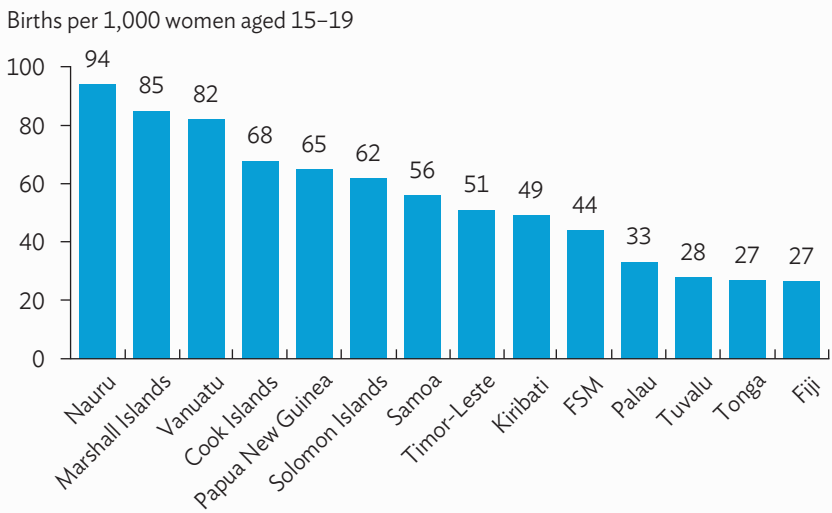
FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Source: As indicated in the year and source columns, data are from population and housing censuses (census), demographic and health surveys (DHS), vital statistics systems (VS), ministry of health publications (MOH), and national Millennium Development Goals reports (MDG).

Teenage pregnancy continues to be a gender concern for countries such as the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Vanuatu, where adolescent fertility rates are high (above 80) (Figure 8). Early childbearing increases risks to the health of the mother and child, as well as limiting education and employment options for young mothers.

Teenage Pregnancy is High in Nauru, the Marshall Islands, and Vanuatu

Figure 8: Adolescent Fertility Rate (Births per 1,000 Women Aged 15–19), Latest Year Available

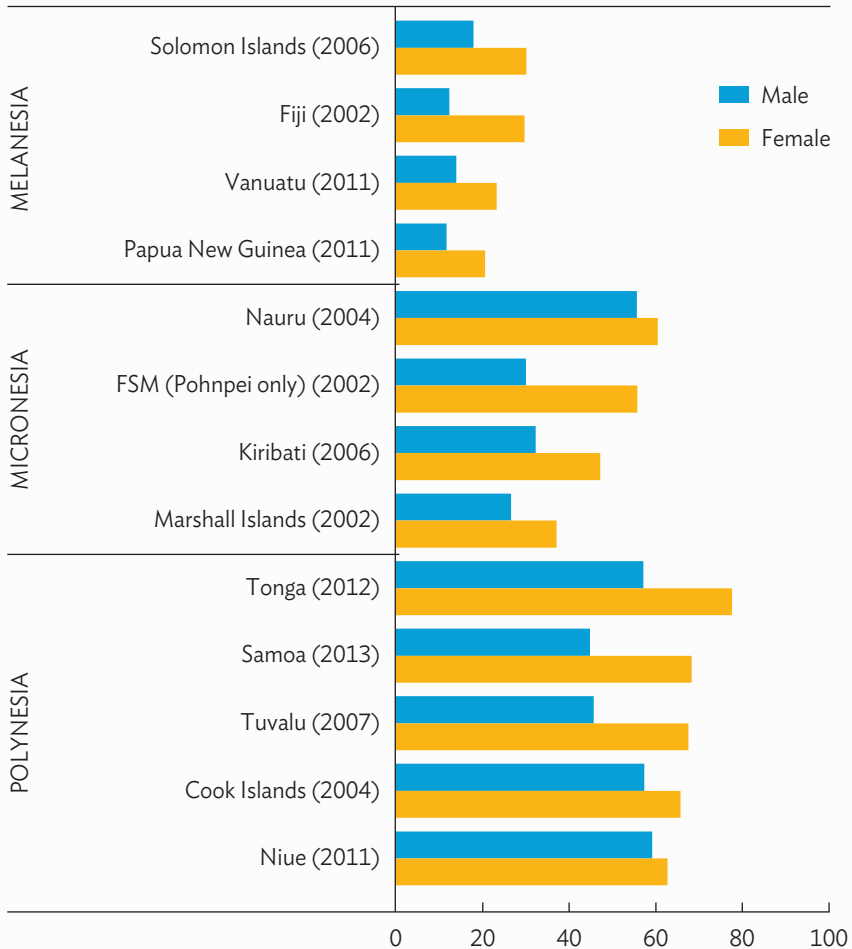


FSM = Federated States of Micronesia.
Source: Data are from ministry of health publications, national Millennium Development Goals reports, or demographic and health surveys (various years as indicated in Table 6).

Another emerging health priority for the Pacific region is to reduce the risk of premature death for both men and women from preventable causes, such as diabetes and other noncommunicable diseases. Obesity among adults is a key risk factor and available data show generally higher rates among women than men (Figure 9). In Timor-Leste, nutrition is a major concern and chronic malnutrition is affecting the health of women and children.

Obesity Increases the Risk of Premature Death from Noncommunicable Diseases, Especially for Women

Figure 9: Prevalence of Obesity (Body Mass Index of 30 or Higher) Among Adults Aged 25–64



Note: Age range for Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Solomon Islands is 15–64 years; for Niue and Tuvalu it is age 15 and above.

Source: Data are from STEPS surveys, demographic and health surveys, and World Health Organization noncommunicable disease profiles, as compiled by SPC in the National Minimum Indicators Database.

Life expectancy at birth (Table 7) is highest in the Cook Islands, where men are expected to live until age 71.7 and women until age 79.8. Life expectancy is also relatively high in Samoa, the Marshall Islands, and Niue. It is lowest in Papua New Guinea where men are expected to live until age 53.7 and women to 54.8. Life expectancy is also low in Timor-Leste, Nauru, and Kiribati.

Under the new sustainable development goals, countries are aiming to end preventable deaths of newborns and children, and achieve an under-5 mortality rate that is at least as low as 25 per 1,000. Latest data show the rate is above 25 in eight of the 15 countries in the region. The rate is especially high in Papua New Guinea (75), Timor-Leste (64), and Kiribati (59), whereas Palau, the Cook Islands, Niue, and Fiji have the lowest rates in the region, all below 20 deaths per 1,000 live births. Nutrition is closely related to child survival, and children being underweight is a key indicator of risk to child health. Malnutrition is most evident in Timor-Leste, where more than one-third (38%) of young children are underweight. The prevalence of malnutrition is also high in Papua New Guinea (27%) and Kiribati (23%).

The adult mortality rate provides an indicator of early death (between ages 15 and 60). The male mortality rate is highest in Kiribati (426 deaths per 1,000 alive at 15) where the gender gap is also the greatest (rate for women is 222). The adult mortality rate for men exceeds that of women in all countries. The gender gap in adult mortality is negligible in Nauru, the Cook Islands, and Niue, which have the lowest rates in the region.

Table 7: Key Health Status Indicators

REGION	Country	Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)			Under-5 Mortality Rate (probability of dying before age 5 per 1,000 live births)		Children Underweight (prevalence of underweight children under 5 years old)		Adult Mortality Rate (deaths under age 60 per 1,000 alive at age 15)		
		Male	Female	Year and source	Total	Year and source	Percent (%)	Year and source	Male	Female	Year and source
MELANESIA	Fiji	66.3	70.7	2014 MOH	18.0	2014 MOH	—	—	281	205	2001 census
	Papua New Guinea	53.7	54.8	2000 census	74.7	2006 DHS	27.2	2010 HIES	395	380	2000 census
	Solomon Islands	66.2	73.1	2009 census	28.0	2009 census	11.8	2007 DHS	267	240	1999 census
	Vanuatu	69.6	72.7	2009 census	31.0	2013 DHS	10.7	2013 DHS	172	121	2009 census
MICRONESIA	FSM	68.5	72.0	2010 census	36.0	2010 census	15.0	2005 MOH	184	140	2010 census
	Kiribati	58.0	66.3	2010 census	59.0	2010 census	23.1	2009 DHS	426	222	2010 census
	Marshall Islands	71.3	72.5	2011 census	31.4	2011 SPC	12.8	2007 DHS	—	—	—
	Nauru	57.8	63.2	2013 VS	22.7	2013 VS	5.6	2007 DHS	41	36	2014 VS
	Palau	66.3	72.1	2005 census	12.2	2010 VS	2.2	2010 MOH	202	128	2005 census
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	71.7	79.8	2013 VS	13.4	2011 census	—	—	16	9	2013 VS
	Niue	70.1	72.8	2011 VS	16.1	2011 VS	0.0	2005 MOH	16	7	2011 VS
	Samoa	72.7	75.6	2011 census	20.0	2014 DHS	1.9	1999 MDG	141	121	2011 census
	Tonga	68.6	72.7	2011 census	23.0	2012 DHS	1.8	2012 DHS	221	140	2006 census
	Tuvalu	61.7	65.1	2002 census	36.0	2007 DHS	1.6	2007 DHS	321	251	2002 census
	Timor-Leste	58.7	60.4	2010 census	64.0	2009–10 DHS	38.1	2013 MOH	291	257	2010 census

— = not available, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia.

Sources: As indicated in the year and source columns, data are from population and housing censuses (census), demographic and health surveys (DHS), household income and expenditure surveys (HIES), national Millennium Development Goals reports (MDG), vital statistics systems (VS), information compiled by the ministry of health (MOH), and calculations produced by SPC using national data.

Free and compulsory schooling has been effective in improving access to education and narrowing the gender gap. In many countries, concerns remain about gender disparities in participation in secondary and tertiary education and training.⁸

Some countries of the region are close to achieving universal primary education. However, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, in 2012 or later, all reported net primary school enrollment rates below 90%.⁹

At the secondary school level, gross enrollments are still low in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu (Figure 10). Female enrollment exceeds male enrollment in many countries, except for Papua New Guinea. Across the region, gender gaps are more likely to favor girls, particularly in Kiribati and Tuvalu, where the gender parity index (GPI) for secondary school is 130 (Table 8).

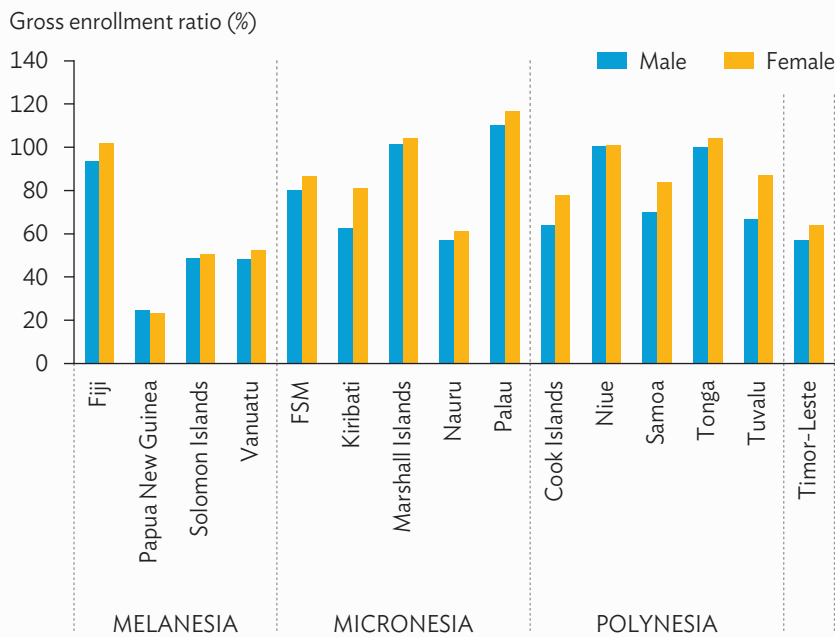
Data on women's share of bachelor's and master's students at the tertiary level is difficult to obtain directly from national sources. The UNESCO Institute for Statistics publishes data for some countries, which show that women occupy the majority of university places in the Cook Islands (74% of tertiary students), Fiji (59%), Palau (58%), and the Marshall Islands (57%). Women's representation in tertiary studies is lowest in Tonga (31%), although these data are from 1999.

⁸ SPC. 2015. *Beijing +20: Review of Progress in Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in Pacific Island Countries and Territories*.

⁹ SPC National Minimum Indicators Database (accessed 2 October 2015); Asian Development Bank. 2014. *Timor-Leste 2013 Country Gender Assessment*. Manila.

Gender Gaps in Secondary School Enrollment Mainly Favor Girls

Figure 10: Gross Secondary School Enrollment Ratios, Latest Year Available



Source: National education management information systems and UNESCO Institute for Statistics online database (data.uis.unesco.org); various years as indicated in Table 8.

Youth literacy is high in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga, where it is around 95% or higher. Youth literacy is lowest in Papua New Guinea, with a significant gender gap in favor of women. Elsewhere, gender gaps in youth literacy are minimal. Adult literacy is also high across most of the countries, with rates above 90%. Adult literacy is lowest in Timor-Leste at 63% for men and 53% for women; yet literacy rates among Timorese youth are improving given increased access to education.

Table 8: Key Gender and Education Indicators

REGION	Country	Secondary School Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) (as % of official secondary school age population)			Gender Parity Index (based on GER)	Female Share of Tertiary Students (% of all bachelor's or master's students)		Youth Literacy Rate (% of population aged 15–24)		Adult Literacy Rate (% of population aged 15 and above)		Year and source
		Male	Female	Year and source		% female	Year and source	Male	Female	Male	Female	
MELANESIA	Fiji	93.6	101.9	2014 EMIS	109	58.6	2014 UNESCO	—	—	—	—	—
	PNG	24.6	23.6	2014 EMIS	96	—	—	66.3	78.8	65.6	62.8	2015 UNESCO
	Solomon Islands	48.9	50.6	2014 EMIS	103	—	—	90.6	88.4	88.9	79.2	2009 census
	Vanuatu	48.2	52.3	2014 EMIS	109	36.2	2003 UNESCO	91.6	92.7	85.7	83.9	2009 census
MICRONESIA	FSM	80.1	86.7	2005 UNESCO	108	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Kiribati	62.4	81.0	2008 EMIS	130	—	—	97.4	98.0	96.9	96.9	2010 census
	Marshall Islands	101.4	104.4	2009 UNESCO	103	56.9	2002 UNESCO	94.2	96.1	95.0	95.9	2011 census
	Nauru	56.9	61.5	2014 EMIS	108	—	—	94.4	96.8	95.7	97.2	2011 census
	Palau	110.5	116.9	2014 EMIS	106	58.2	2013 UNESCO	99.8	99.8	99.5	99.6	2013 UNESCO
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	64.0	78.0	2014 EMIS	122	74.4	2012 UNESCO	95.1	96.9	92.9	93.6	2011 census
	Niue	100.5	101.0	2014 EMIS	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Samoa	70.0	84.0	2015 EMIS	120	39.7	2000 UNESCO	97.2	98.7	98.7	98.4	2011 census (youth) 2012 LFS (adult)
	Tonga	100.2	104.1	2013 UNESCO	104	30.9	1999 UNESCO	99.2	99.6	99.2	99.4	2011 census
	Tuvalu	67.0	87.0	2015 EMIS	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Timor-Leste	57.1	64.2	2014 EMIS	112	40.0	2009 UNESCO	80.0	78.1	63.1	52.5	2010 census

— = not available, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Source: Secondary school gross enrollment ratios and female share of tertiary students are from the national education management information system (EMIS), or the UNESCO Institute for Statistics database if national sex-disaggregated data were not available from EMIS; literacy rates are from population and housing censuses (census) or labor force surveys (LFS), except for Palau and Papua New Guinea where data are from UNESCO Institute for Statistics. 2013. *Adult and Youth Literacy: National, Regional and Global Trends 1985–2015*. Montreal.

7 Size and Structure of the Population

The Pacific region is diverse in terms of land and population sizes. The largest is Papua New Guinea with over seven million people and a land mass of more than 460,000 square kilometers (km²) (Table 9). Large populations are also found in Timor-Leste (around 1.1 million people), Fiji (860,000), and Solomon Islands (611,000). The smallest countries are Niue, with an estimated 1,500 people living on a single island of about 260 km², and Nauru and Tuvalu, both with estimated populations of around 10,500 people and small land areas (21 km² and 26 km², respectively).

Table 9: Population Size and Age Dependency Ratio

REGION	Country	Midyear Population Estimate 2013			Last Population Census (year)	Children (aged 0–14 as % of total population)	Youth (aged 15–24 as % of total population)	Age Dependency Ratio (based on ages 15–59)
		Total	Males	Females				
MELANESIA	Fiji	859,200	438,100	421,100	2007	28.2	17.8	58
	PNG	7,398,500	3,863,100	3,535,300	2011	39.4	20.1	78
	Solomon Islands	610,800	311,300	299,500	2009	39.3	19.0	80
	Vanuatu	264,700	135,200	129,500	2009	36.9	20.4	75
MICRONESIA	FSM	103,000	52,400	50,600	2010	33.8	21.0	67
	Kiribati	108,800	53,600	55,200	2010	35.3	20.4	69
	Marshall Islands	54,200	27,800	26,400	2011	40.2	17.8	81
	Nauru	10,500	5,300	5,200	2011	38.9	17.8	73
	Palau	17,800	9,400	8,400	2012	19.9	14.7	48
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	15,200	7,600	7,600	2011	28.5	16.1	71
	Niue	1,500	800	800	2011	24.7	12.9	74
	Samoa	187,400	97,000	90,400	2011	39.0	18.7	87
	Tonga	103,300	52,100	51,200	2011	37.6	19.1	85
	Tuvalu	10,900	5,600	5,400	2011	32.8	18.8	71
	Timor-Leste	1,180,069	602,525	577,544	2011	41.4	19.8	97

FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

Note: The total midyear population estimate may not add up to the sum of estimates for males and females due to rounding to the nearest 100s (except for Timor-Leste).

Sources: SPC. 2013. *Pacific Island Populations—Estimates and Projections of Demographic Indicators for Selected Years*. Noumea; General Directorate of Statistics, Timor-Leste. 2013. *Timor-Leste in Figures 2013*. Dili.

Given high fertility rates in many of the countries, there are significant child populations (aged 0–14). More than 41% of Timor-Leste's total population is aged below 15, and around 40% of the populations of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Solomon Islands are under age 15. By comparison, children under age 15 make up less than 20% of Palau's population, 25% of Niue's, and close to 30% in the Cook Islands and Fiji.

Another impact of high fertility rates is greater dependency on relatively fewer working-age people (aged 15–59) who can care for children and the elderly. In Timor-Leste, the dependency ratio is 97, meaning there are 97 children and elderly people for every 100 of working-age people. In contrast, Palau has a dependency ratio of 48, meaning there are two adults of working age for every dependent. A lower dependency ratio indicates a greater likelihood of working-age people—both women and men—participating in economic activities, as the burden of unpaid care work in the home is reduced.

Youth populations (age 15–24) are also significant in many countries of the region, increasing the demand for appropriate education and employment opportunities for young people. The Federated States of Micronesia has the largest relative youth population with 21%. Youth populations also exceed 20% in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu. Youth populations are relatively small in the Cook Islands, Niue, and Palau, where they account for 13%–16% of the total population.

Population dynamics is a major consideration not only for provision of infrastructure and services, but also for managing the environment. High population density is most apparent in Nauru, which is a small island with around 500 people per km² and no rural population (Table 10). Population density is also high in Tuvalu (420) and the Marshall Islands (300). In contrast, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have the lowest population densities on average.

Rural-to-urban migration is a concern for some countries, as it creates challenges in providing adequate housing and infrastructure for those moving to urban and surrounding areas. Six countries of the region are mostly urban: Nauru (100%), Palau (77%), the Cook Islands and the Marshall Islands (both 74%), Kiribati (54%), and Fiji (51%). Urban intercensal population growth is highest in Solomon Islands (4.7%), Kiribati (4.4%), and Vanuatu (3.5%), suggesting these countries will become

increasingly urbanized in the future. Intercensal growth shows the populations of the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia are shrinking overall, largely due to outmigration to the associated countries of New Zealand and the United States.

Table 10: Key Land and Population Indicators

REGION	Country	Land Area (km ²)	Population Density (people per km ²)	Last Intercensal Population Growth (%)		Urban Population (% of total population)	Average Household Size (people per household)
				Urban	Rural		
MELANESIA	Fiji	18,272	46	1.5	-0.1	51	4.8
	Papua New Guinea	462,840	16	2.8	2.7	13	5.5
	Solomon Islands	28,000	22	4.7	1.8	20	5.5
	Vanuatu	12,281	22	3.5	1.9	24	4.8
MICRONESIA	FSM	701	147	-2.2	1.0	22	6.1
	Kiribati	811	134	4.4	0.2	54	6.2
	Marshall Islands	181	299	1.4	-2.0	74	6.8
	Nauru	21	499	1.8	—	100	6.0
	Palau	444	40	0	3.9	77	3.9
POLYNESIA	Cook Islands	237	64	-1.2	-3.0	74	4.0
	Niue	259	6	—	—	—	3.4
	Samoa	2,934	64	-0.3	1.2	20	7.0
	Tonga	749	138	2.4	0.9	23	5.7
	Tuvalu	26	420	1.4	-0.2	47	6.0
	Timor-Leste	14,954	71	—	—	30	5.6

— = not available, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia.

Source: SPC. 2013. *Pacific Island Populations—Estimates and Projections of Demographic Indicators for Selected Years*. Noumea; Data for Fiji are from Fiji Bureau of Statistics. *2007 Population and Housing Census*. Suva; and Data for Timor-Leste are from General Directorate of Statistics, Timor-Leste. 2013. *Timor-Leste in Figures 2013*. Dili and the *2010 Population and Housing Census*. Dili.

KEY INDICATORS FOR MONITORING GENDER CONCERNS

Statisticians and gender and development experts have been working together to test and agree on indicators for monitoring gender equality concerns. Work on this has been happening within the Pacific region, in Asia and the Pacific more broadly, and at the global level through the United Nations Statistical Commission. The results are two related frameworks of gender statistics indicators that countries can use to monitor progress towards internationally agreed goals.

As shown in Table A1, the global set of indicators has five domains. The Asia and the Pacific set is an extension of the global set that disaggregates Domain I and includes an additional domain on environment and climate change (VI) and five supplementary domains (VII–XI), as well as an additional target group of rural women.

Table A1: Global and Regional Gender Indicators Frameworks

Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators	Asia and the Pacific Core Set	
I: Economic structures, participation in productive activities, and access to resources II: Education III: Health and related services IV: Public life and decision making V: Human rights of women and girls	IA: Poverty IB: Participation in productive activities IC: Participation in unremunerated productive work II: Education III: Health and related services IV: Governance and public life and decision making V: Human rights of women and girls VI: Environment and climate change Supplementary domains: VII: International labor migration VIII: Refugees IX: Disaster risk reduction X: Social protection (Population ageing) XI: Postconflict and peace-building (Security Council Resolution 1325)	Priority target group: rural women
All have qualitative gender indicators related to national norms .		

Source: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). 2015. *Core Set of Indicators for Asia and the Pacific*. Note by the Secretariat (E/ESCAP/CST(4)/10). Fourth Session Committee on Statistics. Bangkok, March 2015.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON TERMS USED

Adolescent fertility rate

The adolescent fertility (birth) rate provides a measure of reproductive health focusing on the vulnerable group of adolescent women. Women who become pregnant and give birth very early in their reproductive lives are subject to higher risk of complication during pregnancy and birth, as well as higher risk to child health.

The adolescent fertility rate is the age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) for the age group 15–19. ASFRs are model-based computations using the current age of the mother, total number of children born, and the number she has had in the last 12 months. This produces an average number of births per age level (usually a single age group or 5-year age group) per 1,000 women.

Adult mortality rate

Adult mortality rate is the probability of dying between the ages of 15 and 60—that is, the probability of a 15-year-old dying before reaching age 60.

Age dependency ratio

The population of dependent age (ages 0–14 or age 60 and above) divided by the working-age population (ages 15–59) and then multiplied by 100. A number below 100 indicates there are more people of working-age than dependents, with 100 indicating there are 100 dependents for every 100 people of working-age (or 1:1). A high dependency ratio indicates a larger burden of care for children and the elderly and usually coincides with low participation in paid employment.

Body mass index (BMI)

BMI is a simple index of weight-for-height that is commonly used to classify underweight, overweight, and obesity in adults. It is defined as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters (kg/m^2). Commonly accepted BMI ranges are underweight, less than 18.5; normal range, 18.5 to 24.9; overweight, 25.0 to 29.9; and obese, greater than 30.

CEDAW signatory status

An indication of whether a country has adopted the United Nations Human Rights Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW) and in what capacity it has done so (signed, ratified, or acceded). Countries that have ratified or acceded to the convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They are obliged to submit national reports at least every 4 years on measures they have taken to comply with their treaty obligations.

Children underweight

Children underweight is a measure produced by comparisons of weight, height, and age of a child. Methods for producing this indicator may vary from country to country, but the international standard is to produce a weight-for-age composite index of height-for-age and weight-for-height. Children whose weight-for-age is below minus two standard deviations (-2 SD) from the median of the reference population are classified as underweight. Children whose weight-for-age is below minus three standard deviations (-3 SD) from the median of the reference population are considered severely underweight.

Contraceptive prevalence rate

The percentage of currently married women aged 15–49 who are currently using any method of contraception. Usually measured through a demographic and health survey, or similar, the types of contraceptives used include modern methods (e.g., pill, injectables, male condoms, sterilization) and traditional methods (e.g., rhythm method).

Employment-to-population ratio

The employment-to-population ratio is the share of employed persons in the total working age population (usually age 15 and above but may vary from country to country). It is calculated by providing the percentage of men and/or women who are employed compared with the total number of working-age men and/or women.

Experiences with violence since age 15 (lifetime) and during last 12 months (current)

The indicators relating to experiences with violence give the percentage of ever-partnered women who have been subject to any of the following:

- (i) physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months (current),
- (ii) emotional violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months (current),

- (iii) physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at any time since age 15 (lifetime),
- (iv) emotional violence by an intimate partner at any time since age 15 (lifetime), or
- (v) physical violence by someone other than an intimate partner at any time since age 15 (lifetime).

Physical violence against women includes specific acts of violence, which may vary from country to country but generally include (i) being slapped or had something thrown at her that could hurt her; (ii) being pushed or shoved; (iii) being hit with a fist or something else that could hurt; (iv) being kicked, dragged, or beaten up; (v) being choked or burnt on purpose; or (vi) perpetrator threatened to use, or actually used, a gun, knife, or other weapon against her.

Sexual violence is any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behavior that is imposed on someone. Definitions may vary from country to country but generally include (i) being physically forced to have sexual intercourse when she did not want to, (ii) having sexual intercourse when she did not want to because she was afraid of what partner might do, or (iii) being forced to do something sexual that she found degrading or humiliating.

Emotional violence is a form of psychological violence that often coexists with acts of physical and sexual violence by intimate partners and are acts of violence in themselves. Definitions may vary from country to country but generally include (i) being insulted or made to feel bad about herself, (ii) being belittled or humiliated in front of other people, (iii) perpetrator did things to scare or intimidate her on purpose (e.g., by the way he looked at her or by yelling or smashing things), or (iv) perpetrator threatens to hurt her or someone she cares about.

Ever-partnered women are those who have had a relationship with a man, whether it is in marriage or out of marriage, such as cohabiting, separated, divorced, or widowed.

Intimate partner is a person with whom a woman maintains an intimate relationship, whether formally (marriage), through a cohabiting relationship, or by regular or steady dating.

Nonpartners are perpetrators of violence against a woman who are not a current or former partner of that women. They may be male or female and include relatives and nonrelatives.

Gender parity index

The gender parity index (GPI) is calculated for the secondary school level. It is the female gross (or net) enrollment ratio divided by the male gross (or net) enrollment ratio and multiplied by 100. A number below 100 indicates that boys are more likely to be enrolled in secondary school than girls, 100 indicates gender parity, and a number above 100 indicates girls are more likely to be enrolled than boys.

Gross enrollment ratio (GER) and net enrollment ratio (NER)

GER refers to the number of students of any age enrolled in a particular level of school (e.g., secondary school), divided by the population of official school age for that level and multiplied by 100. GER exceeding 100% indicates that students outside of the official age range are enrolled. NER refers to the number of students at a particular level of education (e.g., secondary school) who are in the official school age range, divided by the population in the official school age and multiplied by 100.

Labor force participation rate

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the total working age population in the labor force. The labor force comprises people of working age (usually aged 15 and above) that are either employed or unemployed. Employment includes wage and salary employees, employers, own-account workers, paid or contributing family workers, producers of food and goods mainly for sale, and producers of food and goods for own-use (subsistence). In some countries (e.g., Cook Islands and Timor-Leste), subsistence work is excluded from the definition of employment. The unemployed are those who are not employed, are available for employment, and are looking for employment.

Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the global average for life expectancy was 71 years in 2013, ranging from an average of 62 years in low-income countries to 79 years in high-income countries. Women live

longer than men all around the world with the average gap between the sexes remaining at around 5 years between 1990 and 2013.¹

Maternal mortality ratio

The maternal mortality ratio is the number of maternal deaths during a given time period per 100,000 live births. It indicates the risk of maternal death relative to the number of live births. A maternal death is a death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management (from direct or indirect obstetric death), but not from accidental or incidental causes.²

Midyear population estimate 2013

The Pacific Community (formerly Secretariat of the Pacific Community) produces midyear population estimates based on the most recent census and the last intercensal growth rate.

Total fertility rate

Also known as average number of children per woman. The total fertility rate (TFR) is calculated based on age-specific fertility rates (ASFR). The TFR is the total number of children a woman would have by age 50 if at each age she had the average number of children indicated by the ASFR. The total fertility rate is expressed as the number of children per woman.

Women's share of managerial positions

This is the percentage of managerial positions occupied by women. Managerial positions are those occupations that have been coded by the national statistics office as falling under the International Standard Classification for Occupations (ISCO) Major Group 1 (referred to as “Legislators, senior officials and managers” under ISCO-88 and “Managers” under ISCO-08). The indicator is calculated by dividing the total number of women in these occupations by all people in these occupations (men and women), then multiplying the result by 100 to get a percentage figure.

¹ WHO. 2015. Global Health Observatory (GHO) data, Life expectancy. http://www.who.int/gho/mortality_burden_disease/life_tables/situation_trends_text/en

² WHO. 2014. *United Nations Report on Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990–2013*. Geneva.

Data on occupations are usually gathered through the population and housing census, labor force survey, or other nationally representative household survey that collects information about the type of work people do.

Women's share of seats in national parliament

The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments is the number of seats held by women members in both chambers of national parliament (only Palau has a bicameral parliament, all others have only one chamber), expressed as a percentage of all occupied seats. Seats are usually won by members in general parliamentary elections. Seats may also be filled by nomination, appointment, indirect election, rotation of members, and by-election.

Women's share of wage employment in the nonagriculture sector

The share of female workers in wage employment in the nonagriculture sector expressed as a percentage of total wage employment in that same sector. The nonagriculture sector includes industry and services. "Industry" includes mining and quarrying (including oil production), manufacturing, construction, electricity, gas, and water, corresponding to divisions 2–5 in the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC-Rev.21) and to tabulation categories C–F in ISIC-Rev.31. "Services" include wholesale and retail trade and restaurants and hotels; transport, storage, and communications; financing, insurance, real estate, and business services; and community, social, and personal services, corresponding to divisions 6–9 in ISIC-Rev.2, and to tabulation categories G–Q in ISIC-Rev.3.

Under-5 mortality rate

The probability that a child born in a specific year will die before reaching the age of 5 years if subject to current age-specific mortality rates, expressed as a rate per 1,000 live births. Note that the under-5 mortality rate is the sum of the infant mortality rate (probability of dying between birth and age 1) and the child mortality rate (probability of dying between ages 1 and 5).

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Gender Statistics

The Pacific and Timor-Leste

The Pacific region has made good progress in conducting population and housing censuses and other national surveys, as well as in collecting administrative records by government agencies. By using key gender statistics available, the booklet provides a snapshot of major gender issues in the Pacific region and Timor-Leste. The key gender indicators illustrated here should encourage the countries to continue their investment in data collection and in strengthening technical capacity for analysis. The booklet is intended to promote the use of gender statistics for evidence-based policy making and rigorous monitoring of progress in gender equality issues.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to the majority of the world's poor. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

About the Pacific Community (formerly Secretariat of the Pacific Community)

The Pacific Community (SPC) is the principal scientific and technical organization in the Pacific region, proudly supporting development since 1947. It is an international development organization owned and governed by its 26 country and territory members. In pursuit of sustainable development for the benefit of Pacific people, SPC focuses on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, disaster risk management, food security, gender equality, noncommunicable diseases, and youth employment. SPC supports the empowerment of Pacific communities and sharing of expertise and skills between countries and territories. SPC has its headquarters in Noumea.



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