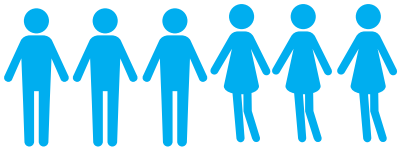
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CHILDREN IN THE COOK ISLANDS

Cook Islands consists of 15 islands and atolls, the largest of which is Rarotonga, home to 75 per cent of the population and site of the capital, Avarua. The total population is approximately 17,100 – less than 30 per cent of whom are children under 18 years of age.

The Cook Islands is the first Pacific Island nation to have achievedthe status of high middle-income economy.

The New Zealand Dollar is the official currency. The service sector accounts for almost 86 per cent of all employment on Cook Islands, with tourism generating around 70 per cent of GDP. Other industries include marine resources, particularly fish and pearls, and agriculture.



4,769

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

88%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before official primary age

81%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

100%[3]
schools with access to basic sanitation services

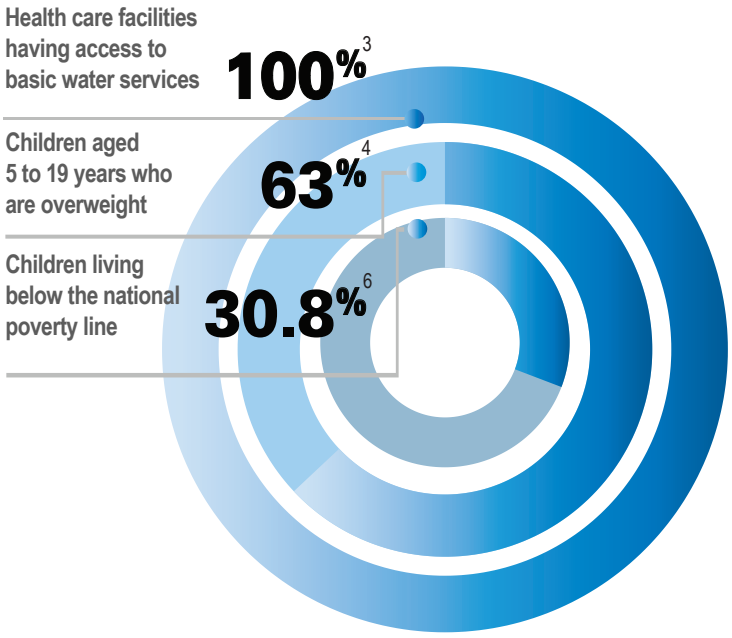
100%[3]
households with at least basic drinking water

85%[3]
households with at least basic sanitation services



7[5]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

7%[4]
women who reported having experienced sexual abuse before age 15



EMERGING ISSUES

- While the Cook Islands have higher elevation than other Pacific Island countries, rising sea levels – and rising temperatures – pose potential issues. In addition to being highly exposed to cyclones, which are set to increase in intensity and frequency, the intensifying impacts of climate change have implications for public health and the country's future economy.
- While 100 per cent of health care facilities in the Cook Islands have access to basic water services, only 60 per cent have access to basic sanitation. There is a lack of credible data on the status of hygiene, waste management and environmental cleaning. Data relating to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), especially WASH in schools and health care facilities, remains a challenge.
- Of concern is the rate of domestic violence, with 33 per cent of women in the Cook Islands having experienced physical and/or sexual violence from a partner in their lifetime. Women living in the outer islands – which are remote – face notable challenges with limited access to public services, employment and opportunities for decision making.

[1] World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2] EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3] JMP 2023 [4] Cook Islands Family Health and Support Study (FHSS) 2014
[5] State of the Worlds Children 2023 [6] HIES 2019-20



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2023-2027
UNICEF IN ACTION IN COOK ISLANDS

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Cook Islands, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Advocate for increased investment in evidence based child and maternal health and nutrition.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, vaccine supply chain and management systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Child Protection

- Develop and implement the National Child Protection Policy and Action Plan.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.

Education

- To help develop resilient and engaged young learners, improve the skills and resources needed to deliver quality early childhood education to all children, including those with disability.
- Research and analyze findings relating to children who are not learning optimally.
- Evaluate and address the barriers to education for children who are out of school.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

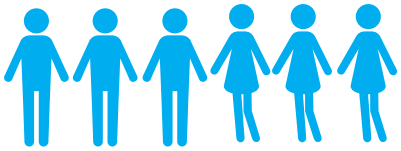
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CHILDREN IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Of the 607 small islands that make up the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), only 65 are inhabited. A lower middle-income country, approximately 41 per cent of the population live below the national poverty line. The country is home to 41,409 children with a total population of 106,200.

The services sector accounts for almost 67 per cent of FSM's GDP, followed by agriculture and industry. Although agriculture is a notable sector, the intensifying impacts of climate change have seen a growing reliance on imported food.

At 35 per cent, FSM has one of the lowest rates of internet accessin the Pacific region and was among the last few countries in the world to remain COVID-19 free. However, COVID-19 infections were detected from July 2022.



41,409

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

30%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

70%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

87%[2]
primary schools with access to basic drinking water and sanitation

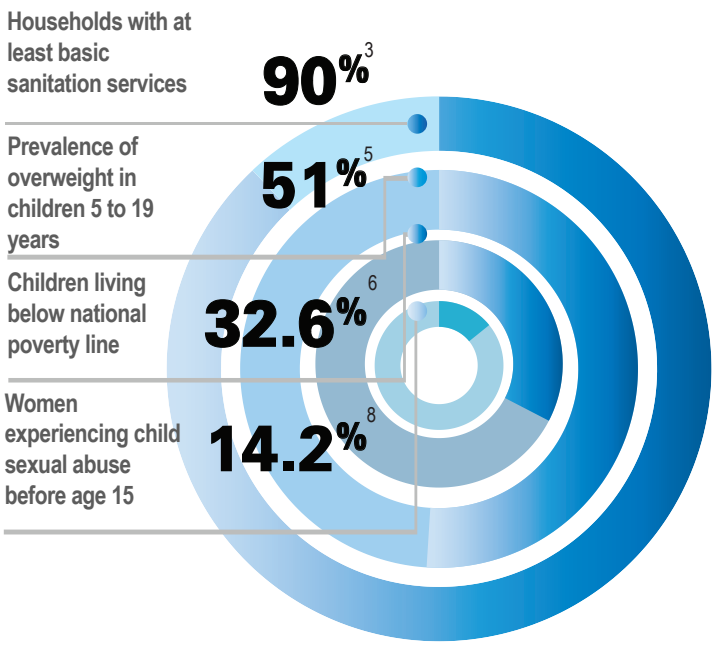
88%[3]
households currently have access to basic water services

36.7%[4]
children under 5 who are anaemic



25[5]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

13[5]
neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)



EMERGING ISSUES

- FSM lies within the Pacific Ring of Fire, where 90 per cent of the world's earthquakes occur, and is vulnerable to climate-related risks including coastal erosion, rising sea levels, cyclones, floods, droughts and landslides. As the main sources of fresh water are rainwater, groundwater and surface water, FSM is also vulnerable to food security issues.
- Child abuse, trafficking, sexual exploitation of girls, child marriage and violence against children and women are prevalent, often exaggerated by harmful social norms and practices.
- The quality of education and child health services are issues that impact the sustainable development of the country. A World Bank study found that when one factors in what children actually learn in school, the learning-adjusted period of education for children in FSM is only 7.2 years – compared to 13 years of actual primary and secondary schooling. Similar gaps exist in child health and survival.
- The high incidence of non-communicable diseases poses a risk to learning and the lives of children. Diets low in nutritional value and high levels of anaemia and obesity are common in FSM, with a 50 per cent rate of overweight amongst adolescents.

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[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2020 [4]WHO-GHO-2019 [5]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023 [6]HIES 2019-20 [7]FHSS 2014



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of FSM, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative and strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the capacity of Government and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of disasters and adapt to climate-induced effects on water availability and WASH services.
- Support the Government and communities to provide adequate safe drinking water and improve sanitation and hygiene practices.
- Strengthen data, policies, planning and budget allocation for WASH.
- Improve the capacity of communities, schools and healthcare providers to manage and sustain water and sanitation facilities.

Child Protection

- Develop and implement a national child protection policy and budgeted roll-out plans.
- Develop and operationalize comprehensive child protection and juvenile justice legislation, and relevant regulatory frameworks.
- Establish child protection social welfare work forces in Government, civil society and communities.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.

Education

- Strengthen the resilience of the education system to adapt to environmental challenges and humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive, quality, early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop.
- Generate and analyze research regarding children who are not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Analyze child poverty, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction and other emerging issues affecting children.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

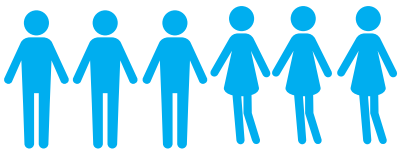
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CHILDREN IN FIJI

Fiji's population of 895,000 is young, with a median age of almost 28 years, with approximately 305,000 children. In contrast to other island nations, a higher percentage of the country's population live in urban areas.

Comprised of 332 islands, Fiji is the largest population hub among the Pacific Island countries and territories and is considered to be the economic and educational centre of the region. The country's most populous area is the capital, Suva, which is home to over 11 per cent of the population.

Sugar cane farming is a key industry, alongside tourism, gold mining, fishing and timber production – all of which stand to be adversely affected by climate change.



315,365

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

89%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before official primary age

99%[2]
total primary net enrolment rate

77%[2]
upper secondary net enrolment rate

96%[3]
households with at least basic drinking water

98%[3]
households with at least basic sanitation services



28[5]
under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

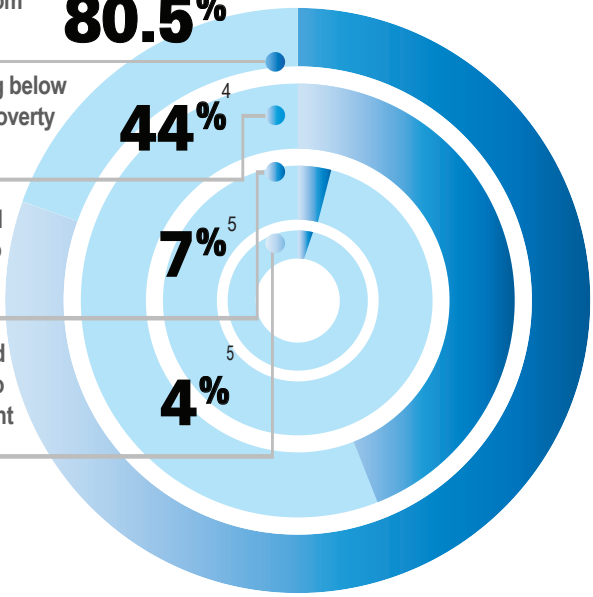
14[5]
neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **80.5%**[4]

Children living below the national poverty line **44%**[4]

Children aged 0-4 years who are stunted **7%**[5]

Children aged 0-4 years who are overweight **4%**[5]



EMERGING ISSUES

- Ranked in the upper echelon of countries in terms of climate-related risks, Fiji has more than a 70 per cent likelihood of experiencing a natural disaster in any given year.
- Environmental vulnerability affects all aspects of Fijian life and poses a grave threat to the development of children. Rising sea levels are expected to hasten saltwater intrusion into arable lands and water sources, which could potentially cause widespread displacement – in addition to overwhelming groundwater tables and affecting sewerage systems.
- Fiji faces water, sanitation and hygiene challenges because of its small size, large geographic spread and vulnerability to environmental events including earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones. The availability of quality data on WASH, in schools and health care facilities, remains a challenge.
- Fijian children and women experience high rates of anaemia, alongside micronutrient deficiencies and the increasing challenge of overweight and obesity. The mental health of children and adolescents is of growing concern, with increases in psycho- social health issues, including suicide.

[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]Status of Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2023 [4]Fiji Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2021
[5]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023



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2023-2027
UNICEF IN ACTION IN FIJI

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Fiji, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand environmental and climate-induced challenges.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.
- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.

Child Protection

- Build capacity for child protection in emergencies, disaster preparedness and response, including ensuring children's rights are safeguarded during climate change-induced relocation.
- Develop a professional child protection training curriculum, standard operational procedures and pilot service delivery mechanisms.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors, such as Police, to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.
- Support child protection system development, including through legislative reform and establishment of Department for Children.
- Work with Government, civil society, and faith based organizations to reach parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize non-violent discipline and develop positive and nurturing parent/child relationships.
- Address emerging issues, such as children left behind with decreased care and supervision due to labour mobility.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Increase the capacity of Government and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of disasters and adapt to climate-induced effects on water availability and WASH services.
- Strengthen the adoption of safe hygiene practices and systems and capacities for improved climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services.
- Strengthen the capacity of Government to improve the coverage, quality and resilience of WASH services in schools and health care facilities, including during emergencies.
- Improve the data and evidence around financing strategies and climate-resilient WASH policy, planning and standards development.

Education

- Strengthen the resilience of the education system to adapt to environmental challenges and humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop skills.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Analyze child poverty, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction and other issues affecting children.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

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CHILDREN IN KIRIBATI

One of the most remote and geographically dispersed countries in the world, Kiribati has approximately 56,364 children, consists of 33 coral islands, spread across 3.5 million km2. Most of the population of 135,800 lives on the Gilbert Islands, where the capital of Tarawa is situated.

Kiribati's economy is highly dependent on the fishing industry, for its economic progress. However, climate change has the potential to disrupt the country's largest resource by affecting fish migration and spawning patterns. Climate change also affects daily life in Kiribati through challenges such as storm surges, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, as well as longer, more intense and more frequent drought events.

Rising sea levels mean that Kiribati faces increasingly severe environmental threats with most islands above sea level, the safety and livelihoods of communities are at risk, and may require them to relocate in the future.

56,364

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

98%[2]
participation rate in organized learning one year before primary

97%[2]
total primary net enrolment rate

54.7%[3]
attendance at upper secondary school or higher

75%[4]
population using basic drinking water services

44%[4]
population using basic sanitation services



21[7]
neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live birth)

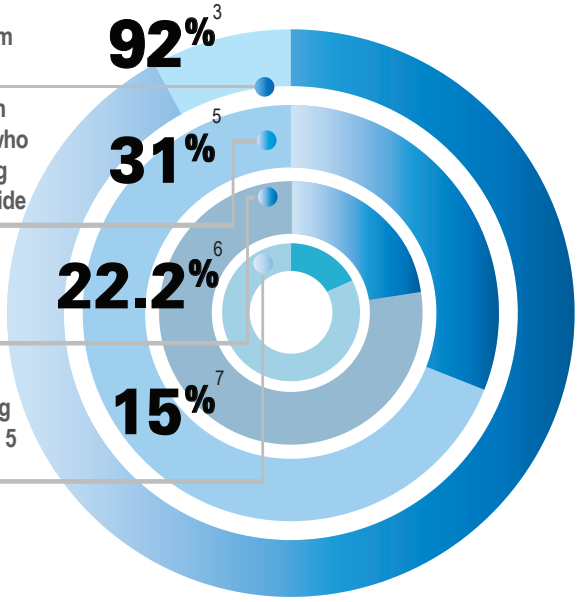
48[7]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live birth)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **92%**[3]

School children aged 13 to 15 who reported having attempted suicide **31%**[5]

Children living below national poverty line **22.2%**[6]

Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 **15%**[7]



EMERGING ISSUES

- The increase in natural disasters and climate change threats – including rising sea levels – pose a severe threat to Kiribati, undermining the country's sustainable development and the wellbeing of its people.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene challenges are aggravated by Kiribati's small size and high population density in some areas.
- The country has one of the highest rates of neonatal and child mortality in the Pacific, while mental illness, suicides and gender-based violence are growing health concerns.

[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]Kiribati Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2018 – 2019 [4]JMP 2023 [5]UNICEF 2017 Kiribati SitAn [6]HIES 2019-20 [7]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023



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2023-2027
UNICEF IN ACTION IN KIRIBATI

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Kiribati, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative and strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.
- Build local capacity to manage essential services such as immunization and integrate health and nutrition into primary health care services.

Child Protection

- Build capacity for child protection in emergencies, disaster preparedness and response, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children and families.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Update and implement the national child protection policy and costed plan and support the implementation of the Child Safe Schools Policy and its related child protection policies.
- Establish local/outer-island child protection inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, and roll-out the child protection referral pathway training for service providers.
- Advocate for the passage of the Juvenile Justice Bill.
- Promote child-friendly justice by developing regulatory frameworks and mechanisms to implement the new Juvenile Justice Law and train the justice and social service sectors to operationalize this law.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the capacity of Government and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of disasters and adapt to climate-induced effects on water availability and WASH services.
- Support the provision of adequate and affordable drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene services, ending open defecation in the country, as well as promote adequate hygiene behaviours.
- Strengthen data, policies, planning and budget allocation for WASH.
- Improve the capacity of communities, schools and health care providers to manage and sustain water and sanitation facilities.
- Improve data quality to advocate for scaling up and prioritizing WASH in schools and health care facilities.

Education

- Strengthen the resilience of the education system to adapt to environmental challenges and humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop.
- Generate and analyze research regarding children who are not learning optimally, and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Analyze child poverty, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction and other emerging issues affecting children.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

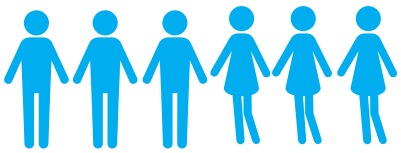
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CHILDREN IN NAURU

Nauru, an island of 21km2, is the smallest republic in the world with a population of 12,900, all of whom live in urban areas and around 43 per cent are children. Despite its classification as a high-income country, Nauru is economically vulnerable given its reliance on its tuna fishing industry and Australian funding for its regional migrant processing centre.

A century of intensive phosphate mining in Nauru has scarred the island, with 70 per cent of land unsuitable for settlement or agriculture.

Of note is the republic's modern and comprehensive laws that criminalize all forms of violence, abuse and child exploitation – including cybercrime legislation to combat the online solicitation of children, cyberbullying, and the online production, distribution, possession and accessing of child pornography.



5,770

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

96%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

94%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

93%[3]
schools with access to basic sanitation services

100%[4]
households with at least basic drinking water

66%[5]
households with at least basic sanitation services



18[6]
neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live birth)

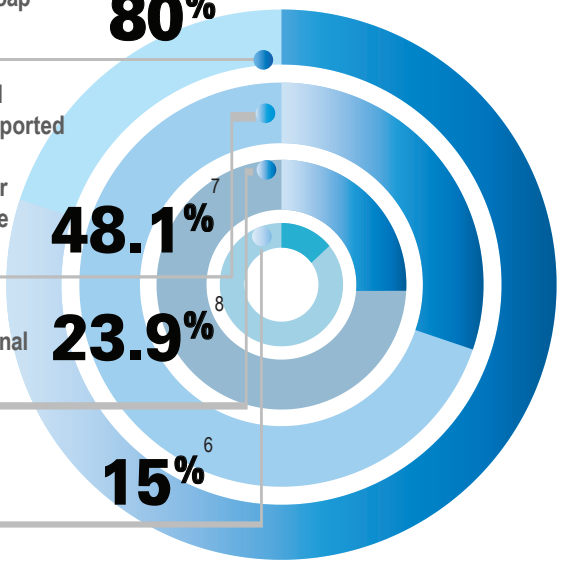
28[6]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Schools with access to handwashing facilities with soap and water **80%**[3]

Ever-partnered women who reported experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by a partner **48.1%**[7]

Children living below the national poverty line **23.9%**[8]

Children aged 0-4 years who are stunted **15%**[6]



EMERGING ISSUES

- As a single, raised coral atoll with insecure freshwater supplies, Nauru is vulnerable to drought, as well as the increasing potential for tidal surges and rising sea levels caused by climate change.
- In addition to the ecological degradation caused by phosphate mining, air pollution caused by phosphate dust is a serious issue.
- At 21 and 33 per 1,000 live births the country has one of the highest neonatal and child mortality rates in the region.
- Limited groundwater resources see rainwater harvesting as a crucial water source – but dry periods and drought pose a severe threat to water security. Waste management is also of concern as there is currently no wastewater or sewage treatment facility on Nauru.
- Despite its progressive child protection legislation, child marriage remains a challenge.

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[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2022 [4]JMP 2021 [5]JMP 2020 [6]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023 [7]Nauru Family Health and Support Study (FHSS), 2014 [8]HIES 2019-20



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2023-2027
UNICEF IN ACTION IN NAURU

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Nauru, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services as a critical child health intervention.
- Enhance the efficacy of vaccine supply chain and management systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Child Protection

- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Support relevant research and analysis to better inform child protection policy and programming.

Education

- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive, quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Research and analyze findings relating to children who are not learning optimally.
- Evaluate and address the barriers to education for children who are out of school.

Social Policy

- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

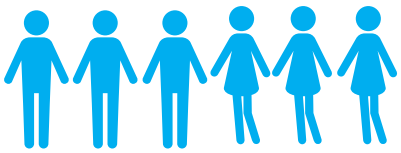
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CHILDREN IN NIUE

At approximately 260 km2, Niue is one of the largest coral atoll nations in the world. The country's population with a population of approximately 1,900 including 592 children, one-third of whom are under 18.

Only 17 per cent of Niue's population is between 15 and 24 years of age. Outward migration, particularly among working age citizens, is a major reason for this. Niue citizens possess New Zealand citizenship as the country is a self-governing state that has been in free association with New Zealand since 1974.

Tourism is central to the economy, with fishing licenses and the international lease of four-digit telephone numbers being two other key sources of income. It is the first country with plans to become fully organic.



592

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

91%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

100%[2]
total primary net enrolment rate

46%[2]
schools with basic sanitation services

97%[3]
households with at least basic drinking water'

97%[3]
households with at least basic sanitation services



13[4]
neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

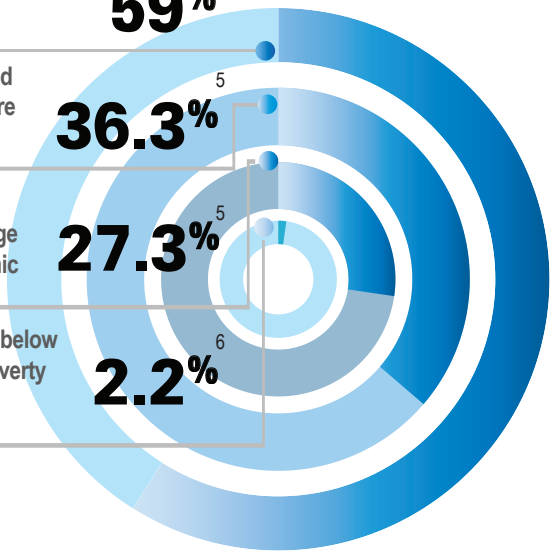
24[4]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Young people aged 5 to 19 who are overweight **59%**[4]

Pre-school aged children who are anaemic **36.3%**[5]

Women of reproductive age who are anaemic **27.3%**[5]

Children living below the national poverty line **2.2%**[6]



EMERGING ISSUES

- Niue has a fragile economy with many constraints including a small population, costly and limited transport options, poor land quality and vulnerability to natural disasters.
- Niue has the second-highest obesity rate among children in the Pacific Island countries, with 59 per cent of young people aged 5 to 19 years considered overweight. Based on a 2014 World Bank report, it also has the fifth-highest rates of premature death and associated disability with high risk of developing a non-communicable disease.
- Niue does not have any surface water and relies on rainfall and underground sources of water. As a result, the effects of drought are acute and are likely to lead to food and water security issues and affect WASH.
- Given the concerns related to domestic violence, including children experiencing and witnessing physical and psychological abuse at home, there is a pressing need to enact child protection legislation and policy.

[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2023 [4]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023
[5]WHO-Global Health Observatory 2019 [6]HIES 2019-20



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2023-2027
UNICEF IN ACTION IN NIUE

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Niue, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative and strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce childhood overweight and obesity.

Child Protection

- Support evidence generation activities to better inform child protection policy and programming.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Education

- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Generate and analyze evidence around children who are not learning optimally and the barriers to education for out-of-school children.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

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CHILDREN IN PALAU

Palau has a population of approximately 18,100 including 4,555 children and consists of over 300 islands, nine of which are inhabited. The country is divided into 16 states, with almost 65 per cent of the population concentrated in the State of Koror.

An upper-middle income country, Palau's economy is driven by tourism, subsistence agriculture and fishing, although the country relies heavily on US aid in the form of the Compact of Free Association.

Palau is a matrilineal society in which women have traditionally held positions of power, with lineage and titles being inherited from the mother's side.

4,555

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

89%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

98%[2]
total primary net enrolment rate

89%[3]
schools with access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services

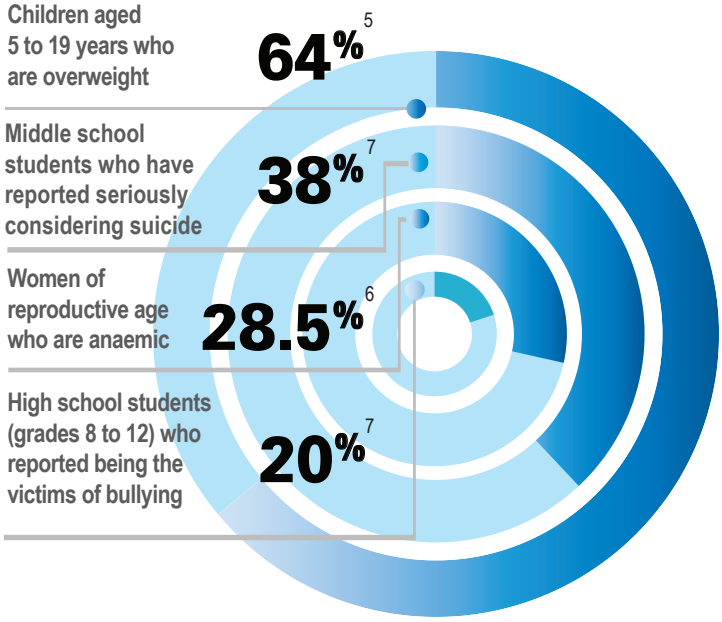
99%[4]
households with at least basic drinking water

99%[4]
households with at least basic sanitation services



16[5]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

33.5%[6]
children aged 6 to 59 months are anaemic



EMERGING ISSUES

- Like other Pacific Island countries with low elevation, Palau is highly vulnerable to rising sea levels, coastal erosion and the inundation of salt water, which are a threat to settlements, subsistence and commercial agriculture. The wet and dry season cycle is expected to intensify, bringing increased risk of drought. Water and food security may potentially become issues. Palau has scarce resources, and poverty and inequality are of concern.
- Current public health issues that could be aggravated by environmental pressures on resources include anaemia and non-communicable diseases.
- Reports of child abuse may signal an unmet need for care. Rates of bullying are high in Palau's schools. In one survey, 60 per cent of middle school students admitted to being bullied.
- Research shows that children's digital safety is an emerging risk in Palau, with increasing numbers of children going online. The hacking of social media accounts to share compromising images and videos amongst school networks is a concern.

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[1] World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2] EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3] JMP 2022 [4] JMP 2023 [5] UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023
[6] WHO-Global Health Observatory 2019 [7] The Youth Risk Behavior Survey series 2009-2017



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UNICEF IN ACTION IN PALAU

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Palau, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.

Child Protection

- Develop and implement a national child protection policy and budgeted roll-out plan.
- Develop and operationalize child protection legislation, and relevant regulatory frameworks.
- Support the establishment of a child protection social welfare work force and build the capacity of relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Education

- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.

Social Policy

- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

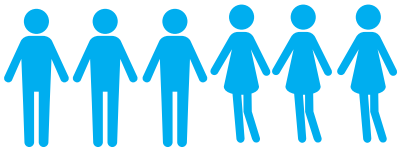
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CHILDREN IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) consists of about 1,200 islands, islets and atolls with a population of approximately 42,400 including 15,741 children. Most islands are less than 200 metres wide and less than two metres above sea level.

78 per cent of people live in urban areas, the most populous of which is the capital, Majuro. Main industries include wholesale and retail trades, general business services, commercial fisheries, construction, tourism and light manufacturing, while primary exports include tuna, ornamental clams and corals, coconut and copra cake and crafts.

RMI has limited natural resources and relies on support from the US as part of the Compact of Free Association.



15,741

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

59%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

59%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

78%[3]
schools with access to basic sanitation services

85%[4]
households with at least basic drinking water

81%[4]
households with at least basic sanitation services



14[5]
neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live birth)

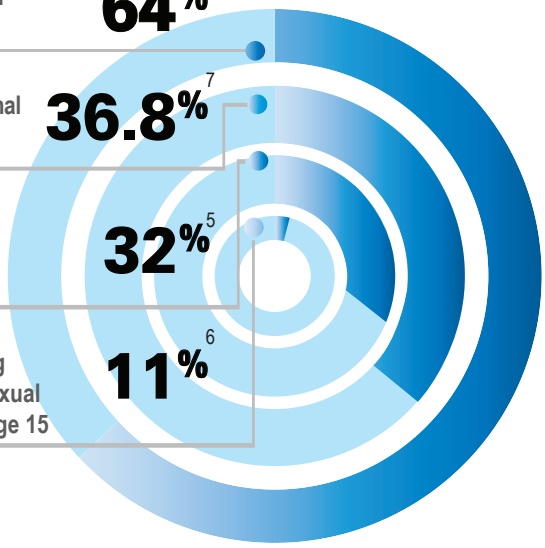
30[5]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **64%**[6]

Children living below the national poverty line **36.8%**[7]

Children aged 0-4 years who are stunted **32%**[5]

Women who reported having experienced sexual abuse before age 15 **11%**[6]



EMERGING ISSUES

- Rising sea levels and storm surges that cause flooding are major threats in RMI, with shoreline erosion caused by rising sea levels already visible. Climate change is the most serious challenge to RMI's sustainable development, as are epidemics that are highly sensitive to environmental factors including temperature and humidity.
- Children are the most vulnerable to disease outbreaks – as was the case with the dengue outbreak of May 2019, when more than 59 per cent of infections involved young people under 19 years.
- Levels of access to basic drinking water have been stagnant over the past year at 95 per cent in rural population and 87 per cent in the urban areas respectively, however they are potentially at risk from droughts or floods due to climate change.
- Access and retention in school appear to be an issue with the gross and net enrolment rates (GER and NER) at primary-school level having steadily decreased from 92 and 82 per cent in 2017 to 79 per cent and 70 per cent in 2020.

[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2022 [4]JMP 2023 [5]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023 [6]RMI ICHNS [7]HIES 2019-20



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced and health emergency challenges, and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Strengthen health information management structure for policy development, planning, resource allocation and research.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative, and strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.
- Integrate health and nutrition services into the delivery of primary health care, which includes immunization, and maternal, newborn and adolescent health and nutrition services.

Child Protection

- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Develop and implement RMI's child protection policy and costed plan.
- Support the activation of the revised Child Rights Protection Act and new child protection regulatory frameworks.
- Develop andv revise juvenile justice legislation and regulatory frameworks and help to operationalize the new frameworks.
- Enhance the proficiency of the social welfare, justice and civil society sectors to provide quality violence prevention and response services.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Education

- Strengthen resilience of the education system to adapt to environmental challenges and humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

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CHILDREN IN SAMOA

One of 43 nations on the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Polynesian Pacific Island country of Samoa consists of 10 islands, with its capital of Apia located on the main island of Upolu. The country's population of 229,000 includes approximately 99,482 children.

Most of the country's population live in rural areas, with only 18.9 per cent concentrated in urban areas. Agriculture is the main industry in Samoa, followed by fisheries, tourism and small scale manufacturing, all of which are under increasing threat from natural disasters.

A significant number of Samoans leave the country to work abroad, with the result that remittances are a key source of household income.

99,482

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

35%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

84%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

99%[3]
schools with access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services

97%[5]
households with at least basic drinking water

97%[5]
households with at least basic sanitation services



14[7]
infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

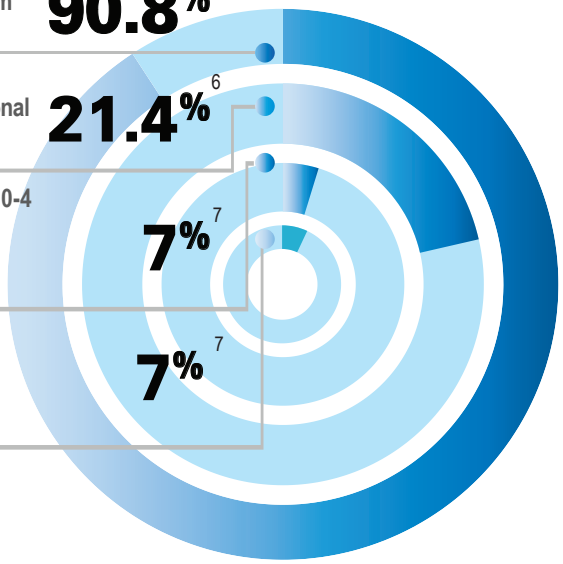
17[7]
under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **90.8%**[4]

Children living below the national poverty line **21.4%**[6]

Children aged 0-4 years who are overweight **7%**[7]

Children aged 0-4 years who are stunted **7%**[7]



EMERGING ISSUES

- While Samoa is already frequently affected by tropical cyclones, these are predicted to increase in frequency and severity because of climate change. Like many of the Pacific islands, environmental vulnerability is the country's top challenge to sustainable development.
- Sea levels in Samoa are rising faster than the global average, which greatly increases the country's vulnerability to adverse climate-related risks, as more than 70 per cent of the population live in low-lying coastal areas.
- Environmental degradation including coastal erosion, is likely to result in loss of land, property and dislocation and affect Samoa's water supply, food security and the health of its people, especially children.
- High rates of violence against children remains of concern, with approximately 90 per cent of girls and boys subjected to violence in their lifetime, while mental health is a serious problem among Samoan adolescents.

[1] World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2] EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3] JMP 2021 [4] Samoa Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 – 2020 [5] JMP 2023
[6] HIES 2019-20 [7] UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN SAMOA

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Samoa, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Child Protection

- Build capacity for child protection in emergencies, disaster preparedness and response, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children and families.
- Develop a professional child protection training curriculum, standard operational procedures and pilot service delivery mechanisms.
- In conjunction with Government and other partners, implement child protection policies and legislative reform.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and legislative reform and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Work with Government, civil society, and faith based organizations to reach parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize non-violent discipline and develop positive and nurturing parent/child relationships.
- Address emerging issues, such as children left behind with decreased care and supervision due to labour mobility.

Education

- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop skills.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Analyze child poverty, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction and other issues affecting children.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

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CHILDREN IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

An island group of 997 islands and atolls, and is home to 340,242 children, with a total population of 756,700. At least three quarters of the population resides in rural areas, with rural villages often comprising fewer than 20 households. The distance and remoteness of inhabited areas as well as the lack of infrastructure represent an enormous challenge to public service delivery.

Ranked as the 2nd most at risk country in the world in terms of natural hazards, the country is highly vulnerable to tropical storms, extreme rainfall, floods and droughts, and has more than 50 per cent probability of experiencing a natural disaster in any given year.

Agriculture, fishing and forestry are the Solomon Islands' leading industries, all of which are negatively affected by extreme weather events.

340,242

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

66%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

93%[2]
total primary net enrolment rate

46%[2]
primary schools with access to basic drinking water and sanitation

67%[3]
households with at least basic drinking water

35%[3]
households with at least basic sanitation services



7%[2]
girls completing secondary school

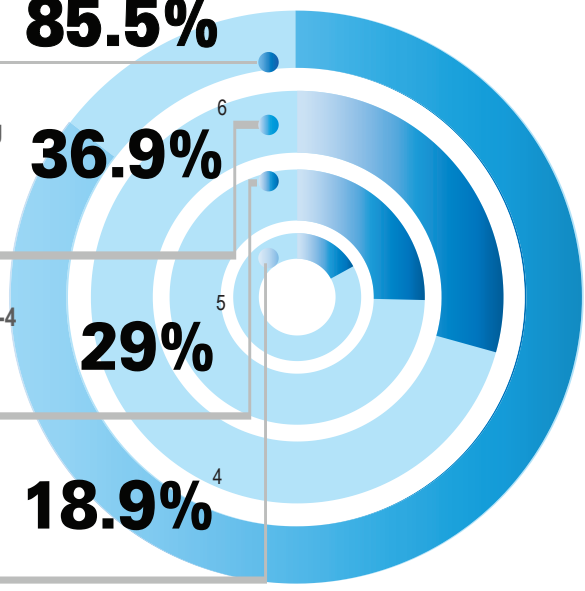
62%[2]
secondary schools with access to basic drinking water and sanitation

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported having experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **85.5%**[6]

Women who reported having experienced sexual abuse before age 15 **36.9%**[6]

Children aged 0-4 years who are stunted **29%**[5]

Children living below national poverty line **18.9%**[4]



EMERGING ISSUES

- Climate change is the most serious impediment to sustainable development in the Solomon Islands, with islands lost to rising sea levels, coastal erosion and soil salinization. As a result, displacement, migration or resettlement are expected to increase.
- The increased frequency of extreme temperature and rainfall place the islands at risk of food and water shortages, flooding and landslides, which threaten public health, ecosystems and infrastructure.
- Maternal mortality in the Solomon Islands remains high, while tribal customs and practices have strong social significance and reinforce gender inequality across society.
- Restrictive and harmful gender norms exacerbate inequalities throughout the lives of girls and women, particularly in rural areas.
- The National Youth Policy identifies the 82 per cent unemployment rate of youth as an absolute priority and concern for youth in the country, highlighting the ramification of the unemployment rate on law and order among other challenges.

[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2023 [4]HIES 2019-20 [5]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC) [6]DHS



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2023-2027
UNICEF IN ACTION IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

To help children to survive, thrive and develop to their full potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of the Solomon Islands, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative as well as strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.
- Integrate health and nutrition services into the delivery of primary health care, which includes immunization and maternal, newborn and adolescent health and nutrition services.
- Build local capacity to manage primary health care services.

Child Protection

- Build capacity for child protection in emergencies, disaster preparedness and response, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children and families.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Review and implement child protection policies and the costed plan to support inter-sectoral child protection and referral pathways.
- Develop a professional child protection training curriculum, standard operational procedures and pilot service delivery mechanisms.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.
- Revise juvenile justice legislation and regulatory frameworks, and support their operationalization.
- Support efforts to increase birth registration through decentralization and digitization of services.
- Work with Government, civil society, and faith based organizations to reach parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize non-violent discipline and develop positive and nurturing parent/child relationships.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the capacity of the Government and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of disasters and adapt to climate -induced effects on water availability and WASH services.
- Support the Government and communities to secure adequate, equitable, and affordable drinking water as well as improve sanitation systems and hygiene practices.
- Increase the capacity of communities, schools and health care providers to improve, manage and sustain water and sanitation facilities.
- Improve data quality to strengthen policies and planning as well as to advocate for increasing budget allocation for WASH. This includes prioritization and scaling up of WASH in schools and health care facilities.

Education

- Strengthen the resilience of the education system to adapt to environmental challenges and humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Analyze child poverty, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction and other issues affecting children.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting at both national and sub-national level.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

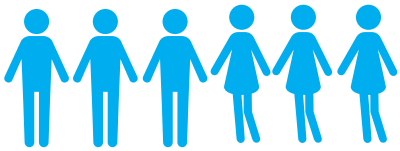
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CHILDREN IN TOKELAU

Tokelau consists of three coral atolls, with its population of under 2,000 including 645 children spread fairly evenly between them. It is a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand in the South Pacific Ocean. Tokelau's atolls cover 10 km2 of land, with an elevation of three to five metres above sea level.

Although classed as a lower middle-income country, Tokelau is heavily dependent on foreign aid.

The small and transitory nature of the population means economic trends are difficult to identify. Life expectancy in Tokelau is one of the highest in the Pacific region, and despite its geographic isolation, the overall health status of Tokelauans is better than some of their Pacific Island counterparts.



645

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

75%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

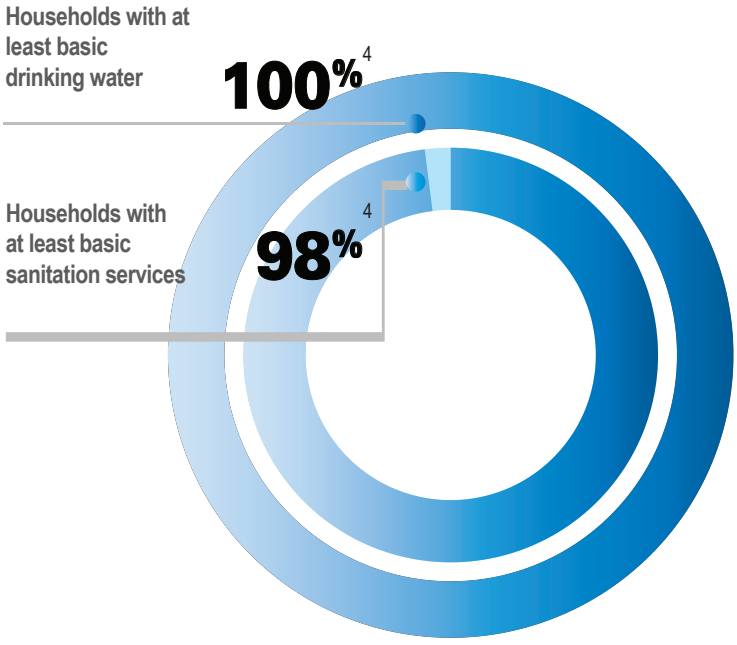
94%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

100%[3]
schools with access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene services

[5] There is no information about stunting, wasting, anaemia, overweight or infant and young child feeding practices in Tokelau



[6] Life expectancy is one of the highest in the Pacific region



EMERGING ISSUES

- Rising sea levels place the people of Tokelau in an especially vulnerable position, as smaller islets have already disappeared.
- Food security is of concern. Tokelau's soil, a mixture of coral and sand, is suitable for limited crops such as breadfruit, coconut and banana, but increasing salinity and erosion of the limited arable land is placing subsistence agriculture under threat. Climate change is also likely to exacerbate different forms of malnutrition.
- Rain water is the only source of fresh water in Tokelau. Other sources of water, such as groundwater, are avoided because of contamination and salt water intrusion. The fluctuation of rainwater and droughts make water security a priority in Tokelau.
- As there is no formal child protection system in the country, there is a pressing need to research child protection issues and current child care and protection practices.

[1] World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2] EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3] JMP 2022 [4] JMP 2023 [5] UNICEF SitAn 2021
[6] WHO, 2013 Human resources for health country profiles: Tokelau



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN TOKELAU

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Tokelau, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Child Protection

- Support evidence generation activities to inform the development of child protection policy and programmes.

Education

- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

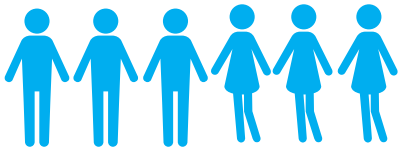
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CHILDREN IN TONGA

Tonga's total population is approximately 108,700, including 43,525 children. Most people live in rural areas.

Of the 170 islands that make up the Polynesian Kingdom of Tonga, 36 are inhabited. The four main island groups are Tongatapu – in which the capital, Nuku'alofa, is situated – Vava'u, Ha'apai, and Niuatoputapu and Niuafo'ou.

The economy relies on subsistence agriculture – a key source of income for many Tongans – in addition to financial aid and remittances. However, climate change and modernizing lifestyles are threatening the survival of Tonga's subsistence economy.



43,525

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

95%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

59%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

91.67%[3]
health care facilities with at least basic water service

99%[3]
households with at least basic drinking water

85%[3]
households with at least basic sanitation services



10[6]
infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

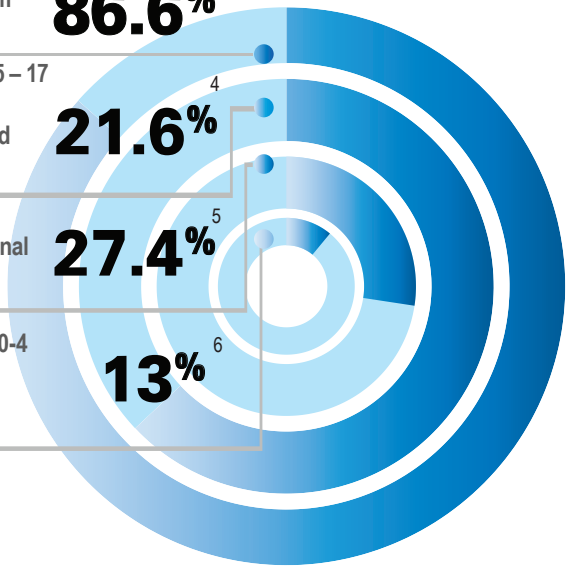
11[6]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported having experienced physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **86.6%**[4]

Children aged 5 – 17 years who are involved in child labour **21.6%**[4]

Children living below the national poverty line **27.4%**[5]

Children aged 0-4 years who are overweight **13%**[6]



EMERGING ISSUES

- The World Risk Report 2020 ranks Tonga as the second-most at risk country in the world from natural hazards. With 80 per cent of the country's population living on the coastlines, Tonga is vulnerable to the impacts of water and food security issues brought on by sea level rises, warming seas and changing rainfall patterns.
- With approximately 36 per cent of Tongans under the age of 18, primary prevention of obesity, inactivity and poor nutritional habits is critical for future population health.
- Bullying and peer violence in schools remain a concern in Tonga, as does child marriage and child labour. Children's vulnerability to harm is exacerbated by emerging social and economic issues affecting Tongan society, while significant gaps in policy and legislative frameworks, antiquated gender norms and high rates of poverty are of concern.

[1] World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2] EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3] JMP 2023 [4] Tonga Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 [5] HIES 2019-20
[6] UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC), 2023



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN TONGA

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Tonga, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through the Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, supply chain and management systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Child Protection

- Build the capacity of Government and other role players to prepare for and provide child protection in emergencies, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children and families.
- Support the development of national child protection laws and policies, including budgets to implement the new measures and capacity-building.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.

Education

- Strengthen the resilience of the education system to adapt to environmental challenges and humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide inclusive quality early education, to develop resilient and engaged young learners.
- Build teachers' capacity to deliver quality, relevant schooling to ensure that more children and adolescents learn and develop.
- Research and analyze the reasons for children not learning optimally and identify the barriers to education for out-of-school children.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Analyze child poverty, urbanization, climate change, disaster risk reduction and other issues affecting children.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting.
- Support child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

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CHILDREN IN TUVALU

Three metres above sea level, Tuvalu comprises nine small islands, including the main island and capital Funafuti.

The country has a population of 10,876, one third of whom is under 18 years of age, and half live in the capital.

Classified as a least developed country, Tuvalu's economic resources are limited, partly because of its small size. While the country is aid-dependent, its main sources of revenue include fishing licenses, small scale copra exports and overseas remittances.

4,280

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

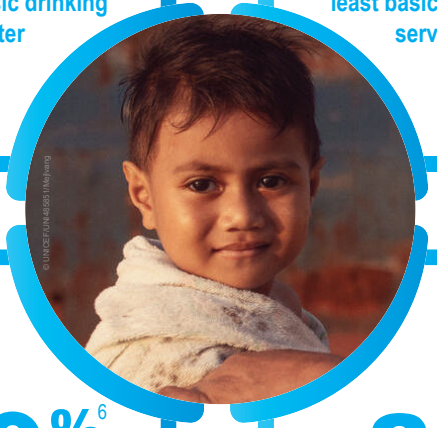
89%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

43%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

76%[3]
schools with access to basic water services

100%[3]
households with at least basic drinking water

91%[3]
households with at least basic sanitation services



10%[6]
children aged 0-4 years who are stunted

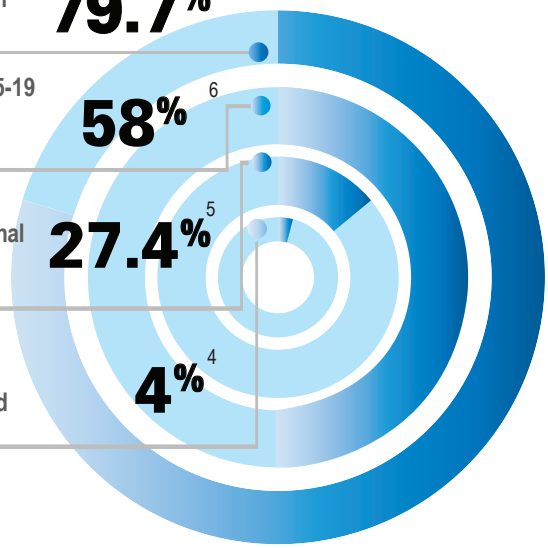
21[6]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **79.7%**[4]

Children aged 5-19 years who are overweight **58%**[6]

Children living below the national poverty line **27.4%**[5]

Children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in child labour **4%**[4]



EMERGING ISSUES

- Widely considered one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, rising sea levels may cause the islands of Tuvalu to gradually submerge.
- Loss of coastal lands, flooding and soil salinization are already evident, with crop failures, contamination of ground water sources and damage to land and marine biodiversity. Food scarcity is a concern, as is water availability given that rainfall is the primary source of supply.
- While the quality of children's diets is poor, with a high rate of anaemia among young children aged 6 to 59 months, there is an increasing dependence on imported food.

[1] World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2] EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3] JMP 2023 [4] Tuvalu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 – 2020 [5] HIES 2019-2020
[6] UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC)



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN TUVALU

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Tuvalu, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen the resilience of the primary health care system to withstand climate-induced challenges and support disaster preparedness planning.
- Advocate for increased investment in child and maternal health and nutrition through evidence.
- Facilitate the procurement and distribution of essential vaccines and supplies through Vaccine Independence Initiative.
- Strengthen immunization services, vaccine supply chain and management systems.
- Strengthen multi-sectoral action to reduce triple burden of malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the quality and availability of data on safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Support development of evidence-based policies, planning and standards for climate-resilient and safely managed WASH services in communities and institutions.
- Strengthen WASH stakeholder capacity in climate resilience, emergency preparedness and response.

Child Protection

- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.
- Implement child protection policies, develop a professional training curriculum and standard operational procedures.

Education

- Build the resilience of the education system to withstand environmental threats and adapt to humanitarian situations.
- To help develop resilient and engaged young learners, improve the skills and resources needed to deliver quality early childhood education to all children, including those with disability.
- Increase teaching capacity to ensure that more children and adolescents benefit from inclusive, quality and relevant schooling.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Support child rights, monitoring, reporting and engagement.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

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CHILDREN IN VANUATU

Comprising 83 islands and atolls, Vanuatu is home to 342,300 people,most of whom live in rural areas. More than one-third of the country's population are children and adolescents. Cash crops, subsistence farming and fishing, tourism, and construction account for the country's main industries – all of which remain vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters.

The World Risk Report 2020 affords Vanuatu the highest disaster risk in the world because of its high exposure to natural hazards, with the likelihood of a disaster in any given year estimated at almost 57 per cent.

Climate change is likely to increase the incidence and severity of natural disasters.

154,129

Children under 18 (2024)[1]

98%[2]
adjusted net enrolment rate for the year before the official primary age

44%[2]
total upper secondary net enrolment rate

50%[2]
primary schools with basic drinking water and sanitation

91%[4]
households with at least basic drinking water

47%[4]
households with at least basic sanitation services



29%[4]
children aged 0-4 years who are stunted

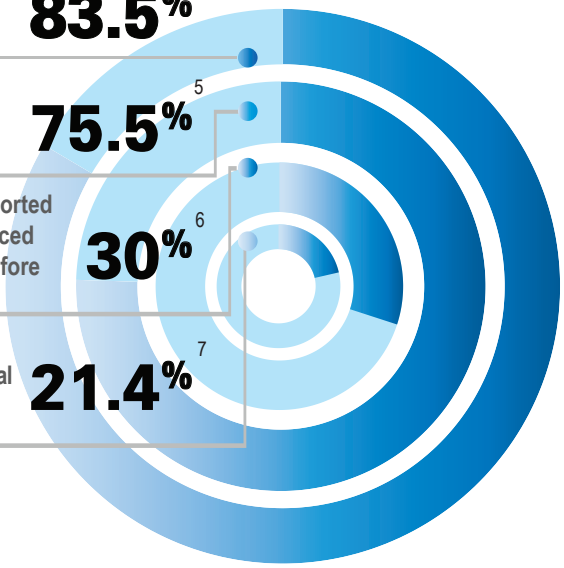
23[4]
under 5 mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Children aged 1 to 14 who reported experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression from caregivers **83.5%**[5]

Birth registration rate for children under 5 **75.5%**[5]

Women who reported having experienced sexual abuse before age 15 **30%**[6]

Children living below the national poverty line **21.4%**[7]



EMERGING ISSUES

- The occurrence and intensity of natural disasters is expected to increase as climate change worsens. The impact of increased environmental vulnerability would adversely affect Vanuatu's population, particularly children, whose health and wellbeing are most at risk.
- Efforts to further gender equality in Vanuatu are constrained by cultural norms, among other factors. The rate of violence against women and children remains high, with 72 per cent of women having experienced some form of physical or sexual violence.
- In addition to the direct and indirect effects of climate change on food systems, Vanuatu's increased population and limited availability of land for agriculture has implications for food security, nutrition, and health.

[1]World Childrens Population Prospects 2024 - population.un.org [2]EQAP Status of the Pacific Education Report 2022 [3]JMP 2023 [4]UNICEF, The State of the World's Children (SOWC) [5]DHS 2013
[6]Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships 2011 [7]HIES 2019-20



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2023-2027 UNICEF IN ACTION IN VANUATU

To help children to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential, UNICEF will focus on numerous key areas during the next five years in partnership with the Government of Vanuatu, civil society partners, private sector stakeholders and young people themselves.

Health and Nutrition

- Facilitate the sourcing and distributing of vaccines through the Vaccine Independence Initiative and provide technical support to ensure effective supply and cold chain management.
- Strengthen the immunization programme through the introduction of new routine vaccines and cold chain system rehabilitation.
- Improve technical, managerial and leadership skills of primary health care teams to deliver integrated quality services in health and nutrition.
- Promote inclusive maternal, neonatal and child health care, as well as high impact nutrition interventions in primary health care services.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health in policy formulation, provincial health planning, promoting digital information systems and the analysis of human resources and financial flows.
- Bolster health worker engagement with communities for better knowledge and behaviour in health and nutrition.
- Use evidence to advocate for increased investment in addressing stunting, anaemia and obesity. Support disaster preparedness efforts and coordinate stakeholders in nutrition to help strengthen capacity.

Child Protection

- Build capacity for child protection in emergencies, disaster preparedness and response, including provision of mental health and psychosocial support to children and families.
- Review and update the national child protection policy, and finalize child protection legislation, adoption and juvenile justice laws, and the regulatory framework.
- Build the capacity of social welfare and other relevant sectors to provide child protection prevention and response services throughout the country.
- Strengthen the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system.
- Activate social and behaviour change campaigns for children, adolescents, parents, caregivers and community influencers.
- Work with Government, civil society, and faith based organizations to reach parents and caregivers with the knowledge and skills necessary to utilize non-violent discipline and develop positive and nurturing parent/child relationships.
- Address emerging issues, such as children left behind with decreased care and supervision due to labour mobility.

UNICEF will leverage a range of strategic approaches that are gender transformative, also focusing on innovation, digital transformation, social and behaviour change, advocacy, communications and partnerships with adolescents and communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Strengthen the capacity of Government at national and provincial levels and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from the effects of natural disasters, and build resilience for climate changes that can affect water availability and WASH services.
- Support the Vanuatu Government and communities to access safe, equitable, affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services – including in emergency situations.
- Strengthen the ability of communities, schools, and healthcare providers to improve, manage and sustain their water and sanitation facilities.
- Advocate for WASH in schools and WASH in health care facilities to be prioritized and expanded through improved data quality.

Education

- Build the resilience of the education system to withstand environmental threats and adapt to humanitarian situations.
- Improve the skills and resources needed to provide quality early childhood education to all children, to help develop resilient, engaged young learners.
- Increase teaching capacity to ensure that more children and adolescents benefit from inclusive, quality, and relevant schooling.
- Research and analyze why children may not learn optimally and identify barriers to education for out-of-school children.
- Advance development of multi-sectoral ECD policies and ensure implementation of holistic services for young children and their families.

Social Policy

- Support the Government to expand shock-responsive social protection systems, including humanitarian cash transfers for emergencies.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national statistical system, and promote evidence generation.
- Analyze climate change, disaster risk reduction, child poverty and other emerging issues that affect children.
- Support evidence-based, child-sensitive policy, planning and budgeting, and child rights monitoring, reporting and engagement.