

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: SEPTEMBER 2025

Factsheet on the situation of children in the Solomon Islands

Data Brief: September 2025

This country factsheet provides a snapshot of the situation of children, adolescents and youth in the Solomon Islands focusing on UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific regional accelerators.

The factsheet gives an overview of the most recent child-related statistics, drawing on internationally comparable indicators available through global databases. Indicators have been chosen based on the availability of historical data and geographic coverage, with priority to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

Highlights

The Solomon Islands is a lower-middle income economy. Economic growth increased by 3.0% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024. Growth is forecasted to improve by 2.9% in 2025.

Children represent 43% of the projected 838,600 population in 2025. Children between the ages of 0 to 4 years represent 13% of the population.

The suicide rate amongst adolescents (15-19 years) is 17 deaths per 100,000 persons. Males are more disproportionately affected compared to females (31 vs 2).

Less than one in five newborns have contact with a health provider within 2 days of delivery. While nutrition and health indicators show that the Solomon Islands has one of the highest rates of stunting (30%) and underweight (16%) in the Pacific.

Net enrolment remains extremely low (32% ECE; 55% primary; below 17% at secondary levels). Yet learning

The factsheet contains six sections:

- 1) Demographic and Economic Overview
- 2) Primary Health Care
- 3) Adolescent girls' and boys' skills, learning, and employability
- 4) Violence against children
- 5) National Social Protection Systems
- 6) Water, disaster, and climate vulnerability

outcomes among those enrolled are relatively strong, with over 90% meeting minimum numeracy standards and 60–70% meeting reading benchmarks in 2021.

Around 18% of children between the ages of 5 to 11 have experienced child labour with girls being more disadvantaged compared to boys (19% vs. 17%). While child marriage is common with one in five women (20 to 24 years of age) married before the age of 18.

Public spending in social sectors as a per cent of total national budget is 11% for Health, 25% for Education, and 0.3% for Social Protection.

Social protection coverage is low with only 17% of people covered by at least one benefit. Coverage for children is not adequately known.

Water and sanitation in schools is dismal with 31% having access to drinking water and 19% to basic sanitation. The status of hygiene services is low at 8%.

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Children in the Solomon Islands

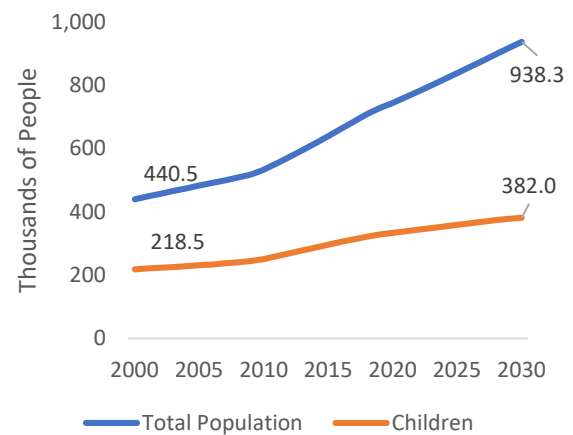


Demographic and Economic Overview

Demography¹

	Value	Year
Total Population (in thousands)	838.6	2025
% of Total population		
Children 0-4	13	2025
Children 0-17	43	2025
Children and Adolescents 0-19	47	2025
Number of births (in thousands)	22.2	2025
Population growth rate (% annual change)	2.3	2025
Urban population (%)	26	2024
Rural population (%)	74	2024

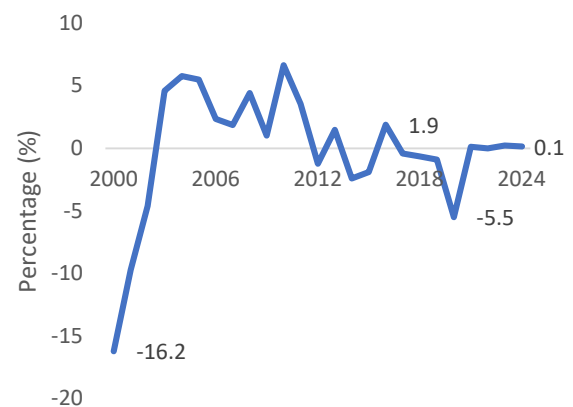
Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Economy²

	Value	Year
Classification of the economy by income	Lower-Middle-Income Economy	2025
GDP per capita nominal (in USD)	2,149.4	2024
Inflation (%)	4.2	2024

GDP Per Capita Growth (2000-2024)



Children in the Solomon Islands

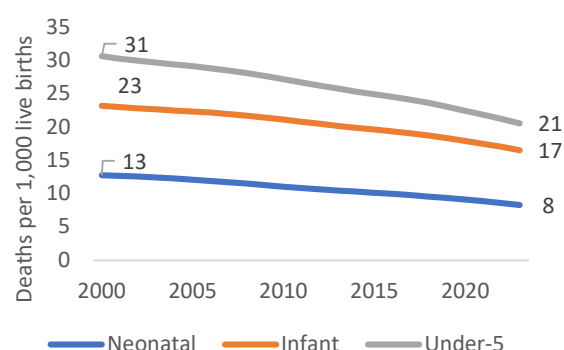


Primary Health Care and Nutrition

Mortality³

	Value	Year
Mortality rates (per 1,000 live births)		
Neonatal	8	2023
Infant	17	2023
Under-5	21	2023
Under-5 deaths	437	2023
Crude suicide rate per 100,000 population, among adolescents 15-19 years		
Total	17	2019
Female	2	2019
Male	31	2019

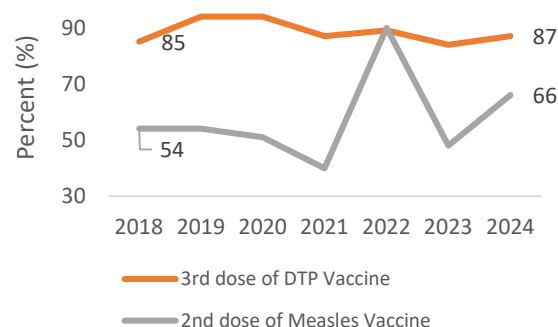
Trends in Mortality Rates



Maternal and Child Health⁴

	Value	Year
% of Women (15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years)		
(4+) Antenatal care visits	69	2015
Postnatal care for newborns	16	2015
Skilled attendant at birth	86	2015
Deliveries in health facilities	85	2015
% of Children (0-2 years)		
received 3 doses of DTP vaccine	87	2024
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	66	2024

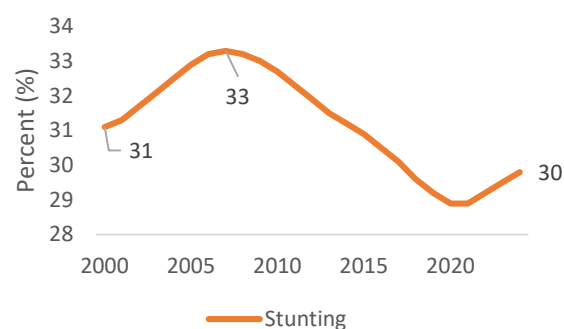
Trends in Immunization, by Vaccine



Nutrition⁴

	Value	Year
% of Children (under 5 years)		
Stunting	30	2024
Wasting	9	2015
Underweight	16	2015
Overweight	6	2024
Minimum dietary diversity (6-23 months)	Data Not Available	
Exclusive Breastfeeding (first 6 months)	76	2015

Trends in Nutrition



Children in the Solomon Islands

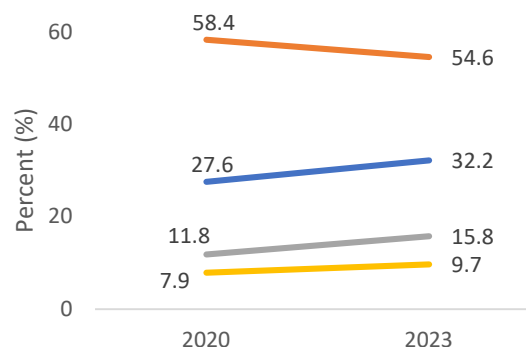


Learning, Skills, and Employability

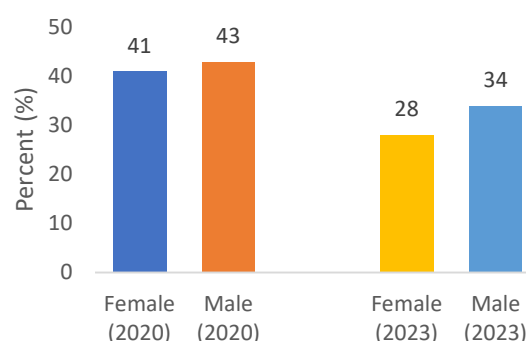
Learning⁵

	Value	Year
School net enrolment (% of children of the relevant age groups for the education level)		
Early Childhood Education (ECE)	32	2023
Primary School	55	2023
Junior Secondary School	16	2023
Senior Secondary School	10	2023
School completion (% of children of the relevant age groups for the education level)		
Primary	80	2023
Junior Secondary	54	2023
Senior Secondary	12	2023
Out-of-school children (% of children of the relevant age groups for the education level)		
Primary	29	2023
Secondary	31	2023
Educational Attainment (% of students who are meeting the minimum expected standard)		
Grade 4 Numeracy	93	2021
Grade 4 Reading	60	2021
Grade 6 Numeracy	94	2021
Grade 6 Reading	70	2021

School Enrolment Rates



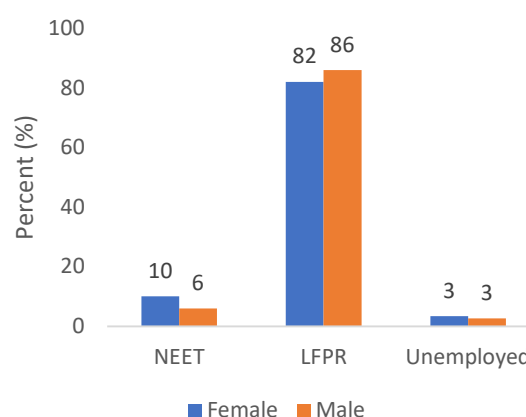
Senior Secondary Out of School Children, by Gender



Employment, Education and Training⁶

	Value	Year
Not in education, employment, or training (NEET) (15-19 years)		
Female	10	2024
Male	6	2024
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (15+)		
Female	82	2024
Male	86	2024
Youth Unemployment rate (15-24 years)		
Female	3	2024
Male	3	2024

NEET, LFPR, and Youth Unemployment



Children in the Solomon Islands



Violence Against Children

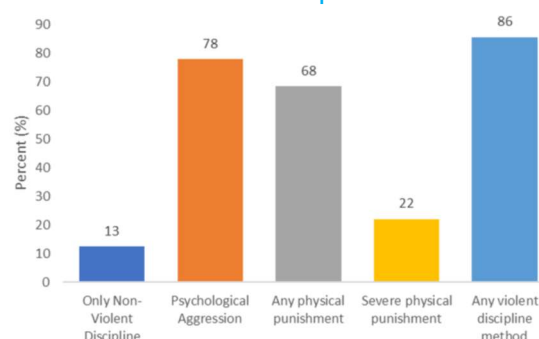
Violence⁷

	Value	Year
Violent child discipline (% of Children aged 2-14)		
Any form of violent discipline	86	2015
Female	85	2015
Male	86	2015

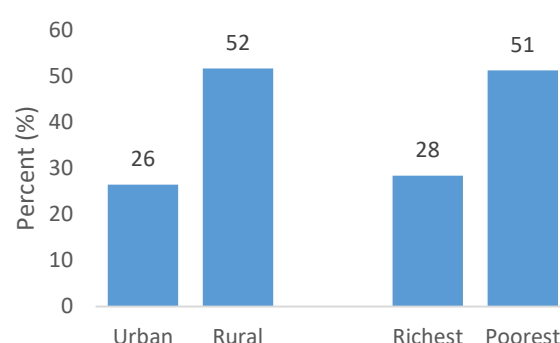
Child marriage (% of women and men aged 20-24)		
Women –		
Married before 18	21	2015
Married before 15	6	2015
Men –		
Married before 18	4	2015

Child labour (% of Children aged 5-14)		
Total	18	2015
Female	19	2015
Male	17	2015

Child Discipline



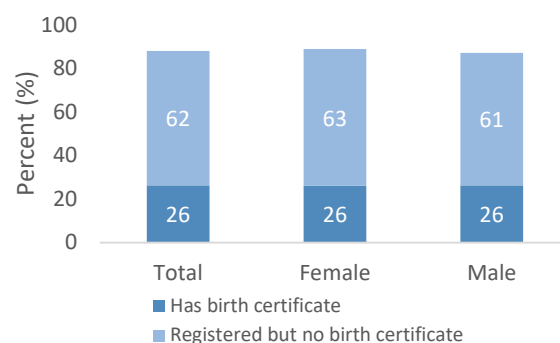
Disaggregated Child Labour



Birth Registration⁷

	Value	Year
Birth registration (% of Children under 5 years)		
Total	88	2021
Female	89	2021
Male	87	2021

Birth Registration by Gender



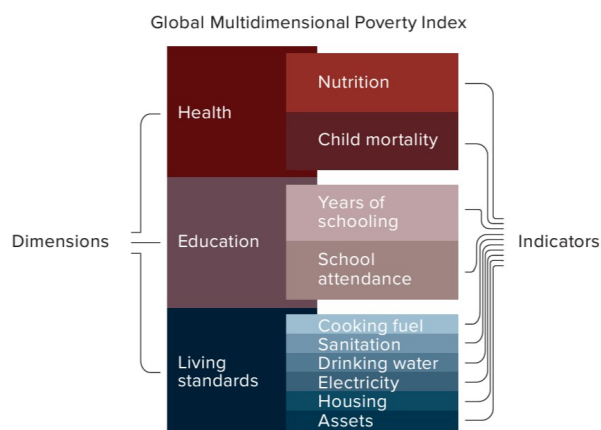
Children in the Solomon Islands



Social Protection Systems

Poverty⁸

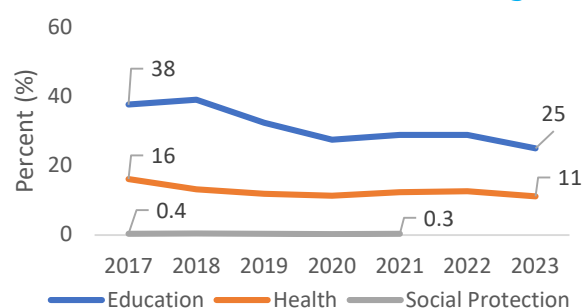
	Value	Year
Monetary Poverty		
International extreme poverty line \$3.00/day	40.3	2012
National Poverty Rate		
	12.7	2012
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index		
Population in multidimensional poverty (%)	Data Not Available	



Public Expenditure on Essential Services⁹

	Value	Year
Public Expenditure as % of GDP		
Education	8	2023
Health	4	2023
Social Protection	0.1	2023

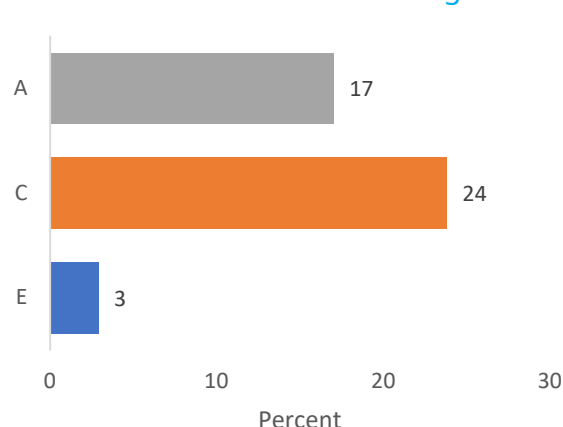
Sector as Percent of National Budget



Social Protection Coverage⁹

	Value	Year
% Coverage		
Population covered by at least one benefit (A)	17	2019
Proportion of children covered by social protection (B)	Data Not Available	
Mothers with newborns receiving cash benefit (C)	24	2023
Children/HHs receiving Child/Family cash benefits (D)	Data Not Available	
Proportion of Poor Population receiving Social Assistance Cash Benefit (E)	3	2018
Persons with severe disabilities receiving benefits (F)	Data Not Available	

Social Protection Coverage



Children in the Solomon Islands



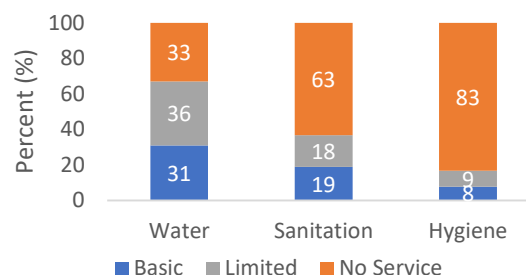
Water Security and Climate

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene¹⁰

	Value	Year
Household Coverage (%)		
Basic drinking water	72	2024
Basic sanitation	35	2024
Basic hygiene	38	2024

School Coverage (%)		
Basic drinking water	31	2023
Basic sanitation	19	2023
Basic hygiene	8	2022

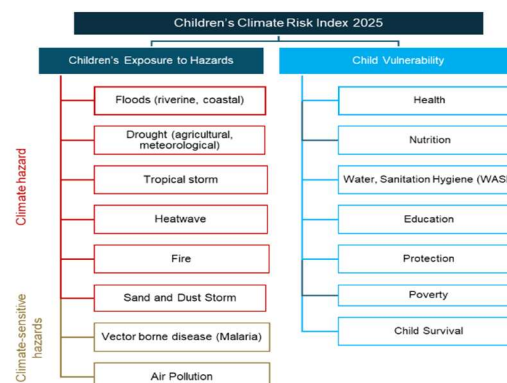
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene School Coverage



Multi-Hazard and Child Vulnerability¹¹

	Value	Year
INFORM Risk Index*	4.3	2025
Risk Class	Medium	2025
Country Rank	64 th	2025

Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)**		
Child vulnerability	Medium	2025
Percentage of children exposed to at-least 3 hazards	35%	2025



Child-sensitive climate policies

- 1) Solomon Islands National Climate Change Policy 2023-2032
- 2) Solomon Islands Third Nationally Determined Contribution 2025-2035

**The INFORM Risk Index identifies countries that are at a high risk of humanitarian crisis and therefore more likely to require international assistance. Released in 2024. **The CCRI ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks and child-specific vulnerabilities.*

Data Sources

- 1 Demography Data: UN Population Div, World Bank Data 2025
- 2 Economic Data: ADB Outlook September 2025, World Bank Data, and Brief 2025
- 3 Mortality Data: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, and WHO Data 2025
- 4 Maternal, Child Health, & Nutrition Data: UNICEF Data 2025
- 5 Learning/ Education Data: Solomon Islands Ministry of Education Performance Assessment Report 2023
- 6 Employment Data: ILO Country Profile for Solomon Islands, and World Bank Data 2025
- 7 VAC Data: Solomon Islands DHS 2015, and UNICEF Data 2025
- 8 Poverty Data: UNDP Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, World Bank Data, and ADB Data 2025
- 9 Essential Services and Social Protection Coverage Data: ADB Key Indicators, and UNICEF Data 2025
- 10 Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene Data: WHO/UNICEF JMP Data 2025
- 11 Climate Vulnerability: Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre (DRMKC), UNICEF Data, and National Sources 2025

For more information please visit

UNICEF data (data.unicef.org) or contact:

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