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for every child

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN SAMOA

COUNTRY FACTSHEET: SEPTEMBER 2025

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Factsheet on the situation of children in Samoa
Data Brief: September 2025

This country factsheet provides a snapshot of the situation of children, adolescents and youth in Samoa 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.

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

Highlights

Samoa is an upper-middle income economy. Economic growth improved by 15.2% in 2023 and 4.6% in 2024. Growth is projected to rise further by 4.0% in 2025.

Children represent 45% of the projected 219,300 population in 2025. Children between the ages of 0 to 4 years represent 12% of the population.

Health and Nutrition indicators show that Samoa is performing well amongst Pacific countries. However, it has one of the highest rates of Under-5 obesity with 9% of children overweight compared to the global average of 5.6%.

Most children received three doses of the DTP vaccine (85%) and two doses of the measles vaccine (60%).

Net attendance for pre-primary is 55%. The upper secondary school completion rate is 56%.

Around 14% of children between the ages of 5 to 11 have experienced child labour with boys being more disadvantaged compared to girls (16% vs. 11%).

Birth registration for children under-5 is 67%.

Public spending in social sectors as a percent of total national budget has improved. Both Health and Education increased from 11% in 2017 to 16% in 2023. Spending on Social Protection was 3% in 2021 compared to 1% in 2017.

Around 20% of the population is covered by at least one benefit. While coverage of children needs improvement.

Water and sanitation in schools is sufficient with 99% having access to both drinking water and basic sanitation. Further investment would be beneficial to improve basic hygiene services which is currently 78%.

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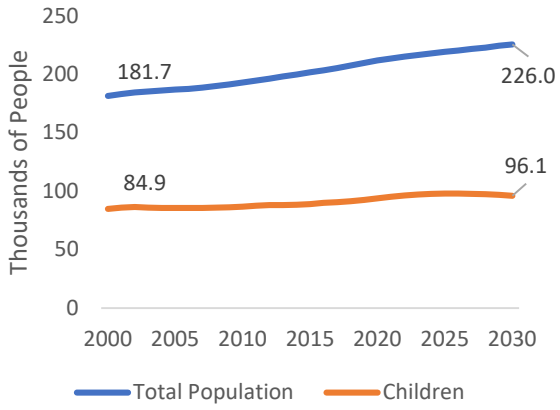
Children in Samoa

Demographic and Economic Overview

Demography[1]

	Value	Year
Total Population (in thousands)	219.3	2025
% of Total population		
Children 0-4	12	2025
Children 0-17	45	2025
Children and Adolescents 0-19	49	2025
Number of births (in thousands)	5.4	2025
Population growth rate (% annual change)	0.6	2025
Urban population (%)	17	2024
Rural population (%)	83	2024

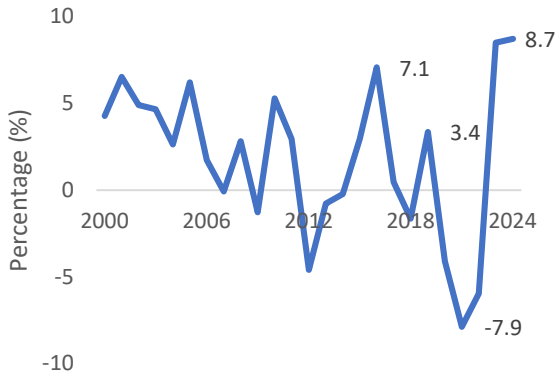
Population Trends and Projections (2000-2030)



Economy[2]

	Value	Year
Classification of the economy by income	Upper-Middle-Income Economy[1]	2025
GDP per capita nominal (in USD)	4,898.8	2024
Inflation (%)	3.6	2024

Annual GDP and GDP Per Capita Growth (2000-2024)



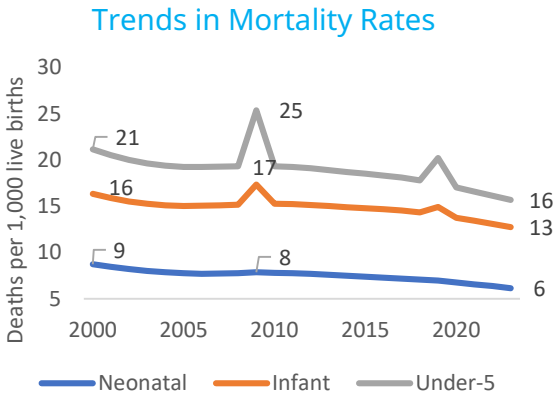
[1] Samoa graduated from the lower-middle income to the upper-middle income category in 2025 (World Bank Group's 2025-2026 income classifications)

Children in Samoa

Primary Health Care and Nutrition

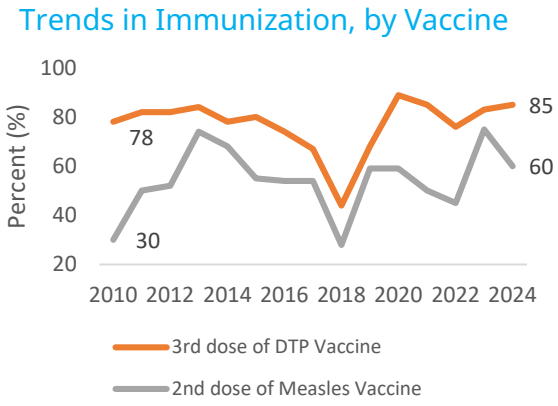
Mortality[3]

	Value	Year
Mortality rates (per 1,000 live births)		
Neonatal	6	2023
Infant	13	2023
Under-5	16	2023
Under-5 deaths	88	2023
Crude suicide rate per 100,000 population, among adolescents 15-19 years		
Total	18	2019
Female	13	2019
Male	23	2019



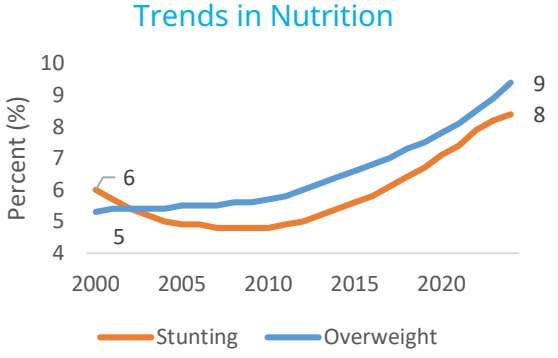
Maternal and Child Health[4]

	Value	Year
% of Women (15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years)		
(4+) Antenatal care visits	70	2020
Skilled attendant at birth	89	2020
Deliveries in health facilities	89	2020
% of Children (0-2 years) received 3 doses of DTP vaccine	85	2024
Received 2 doses of measles vaccine	60	2024



Nutrition[4]

	Value	Year
% of Children (under 5 years)		
Stunting	8	2024
Wasting	3	2019
Underweight	3	2019
Overweight	9	2024
Minimum dietary diversity (6-23 months)	20	2019
Exclusive Breastfeeding (first 6 months)	52	2019



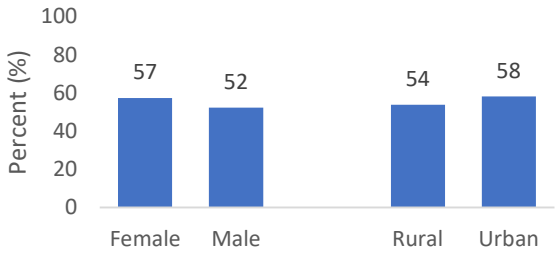
Children in Samoa

Learning, Skills, and Employability

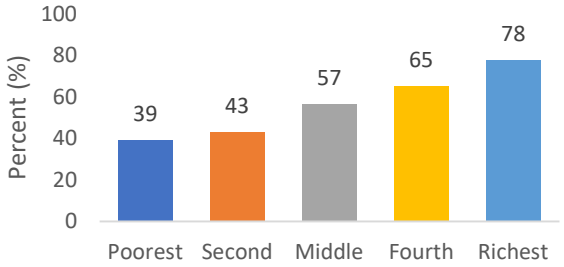
Learning[5]

	Value	Year
School net attendance (% of children of the relevant age groups for the education level)		
Pre-Primary	55	2020
Primary	91	2020
Lower Secondary	81	2020
Upper Secondary	73	2020
School completion (% of children of the relevant age groups for the education level)		
Primary	97	2020
Lower Secondary	97	2020
Upper Secondary	56	2020
Out-of-school children (% of children of the relevant age groups for the education level)		
Primary	7	2020
Lower Secondary	5	2020
Upper Secondary	20	2020

Pre-Primary
Net Attendance Rates



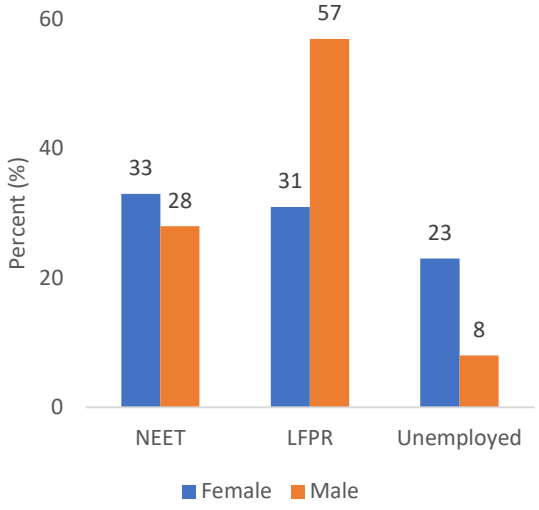
Income Inequalities in Upper Secondary
School Completion Rates



Employment, Education and Training[6]

	Value	Year
Not in education, employment, or training (NEET) (15-19 years)	30	2022
Female	33	2022
Male	28	2022
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (15+)	44	2022
Female	31	2022
Male	57	2022
Youth Unemployment rate (15-24 years)	14	2022
Female	23	2022
Male	8	2022

NEET, LFPR, and Youth Unemployment



Children in Samoa

Violence Against Children

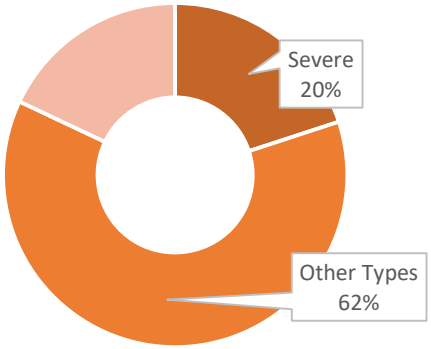
Violence[7]

	Value	Year
Violent child discipline (% of Children aged 1-14)		
Any form of violent discipline	91	2020
Female	89	2020
Male	92	2020

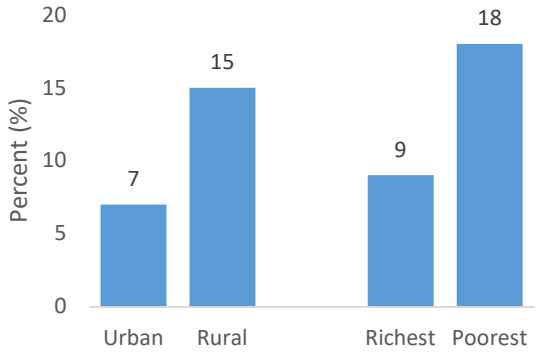
Child marriage (% of women and men aged 20-24)		
Women –		
Married before 18	7	2020
Married before 15	1	2020
Men –		
Married before 18	2	2020

Child labour (% of Children aged 5-17)		
Total	14	2020
Female	11	2020
Male	16	2020

Physical Punishment



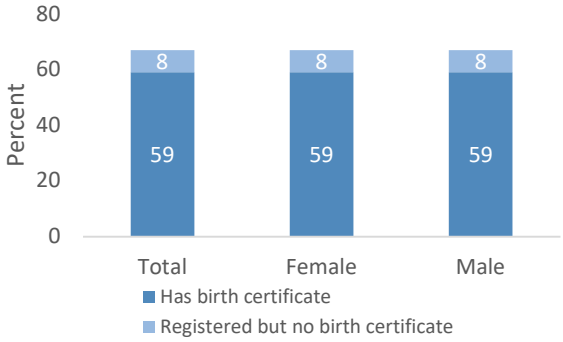
Disaggregated Child Labour



Birth Registration[7]

	Value	Year
Birth registration (% of Children under 5 years)		
Total	67	2021
Female	67	2021
Male	67	2021

Birth Registration by Gender



Children in Samoa

Social Protection Systems

Poverty[8]

	Value	Year
Monetary Poverty		
International extreme poverty line $3.00/day	4.5	2013
National Poverty Rate	21.9	2018
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	0.025	2020
Population in multidimensional poverty (%)	6.3	2020
Multidimensional Child Poverty (%)	29.8	2025

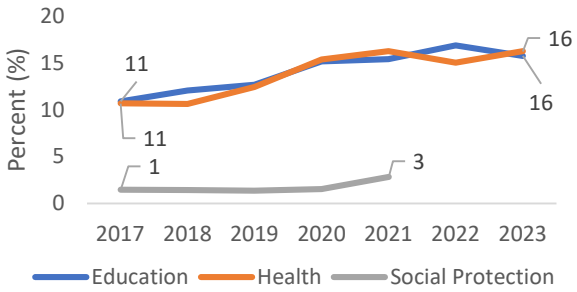
Dimensions of Multidimensional Poverty



Public Expenditure on Essential Services[9]

	Value	Year
Public Expenditure as % of GDP		
Education	6	2023
Health	6	2023
Social Protection	1	2023

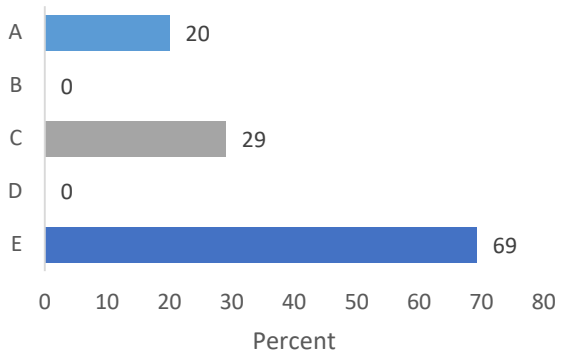
Sector as Percent of National Budget



Social Protection Coverage[9]

	Value	Year
% Coverage		
Population covered by at least one benefit **(A)**	20	2023
Proportion of children covered by social protection **(B)**	0	2023
Mothers with newborns receiving cash benefit **(C)**	29	2023
Children/HHs receiving Child/Family cash benefits **(D)**	0	2023
Proportion of Poor Population receiving Social Assistance Cash Benefit **(E)**	69	2018
Persons with severe disabilities receiving benefits **(F)**	Data Not Available	

Social Protection Coverage

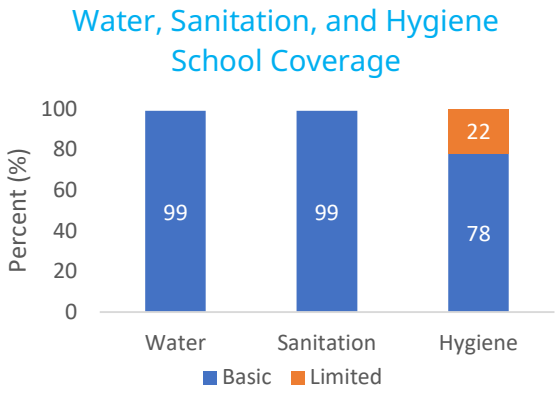


Children in Samoa

Water Security and Climate

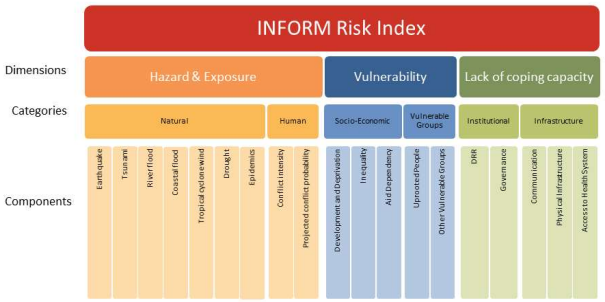
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene[10]

	Value	Year
Household Coverage (%)		
Basic drinking water	>99	2024
Basic sanitation	97	2024
Basic hygiene	72	2024
School Coverage (%)		
Basic drinking water	>99	2023
Basic sanitation	>99	2023
Basic hygiene	78	2023



Disaster and Climate Vulnerability[11]

	Value	Year
INFORM Risk Index*	2.9	2025
Risk Class	Low	2025
Country Rank	119th	2025
Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)**	Data Not Available	



Child-sensitive climate policies	1) Samoa Climate Change Policy 2020-2030

**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 2025. **The CCRI ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks.*

Data Sources

1 Demography Data: UN Population Div, and World Bank Data 2025
2 Economic Data: ADB Outlook September 2025, and World Bank 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: UNICEF Data 2025
6 Employment Data: ILO Data 2025
7 VAC Data: UNICEF Data 2025, and National Sources
8 Poverty Data: 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), and National Sources 2025

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