Progress on Human Development for Pacific Island States

Bakhodir Burkhanov, Head of Pacific Regional Programme and Policy, and Country Director, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji
Pacific countries included cover almost the full spectrum of HDI categories...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HDI Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>HDI</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth</th>
<th>Expected Years of Schooling</th>
<th>Mean Years of Schooling</th>
<th>GNI Per Capita</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Very High Human Development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>0.939</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>43,560</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>0.917</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<td><strong>High Human Development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>0.798</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>12,831</td>
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<td>Fiji</td>
<td>0.741</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>8,324</td>
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<td>98</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>0.726</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>5,547</td>
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<td>Samoa</td>
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<td>75.2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>5,909</td>
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<td>106</td>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
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<td>73.6</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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<td><strong>Medium Human Development</strong></td>
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<td>131</td>
<td>Fed. Sts. Micronesia</td>
<td>0.627</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>3,843</td>
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<td>134</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>0.612</td>
<td>66.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>3,042</td>
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<td>138</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>0.603</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>2,995</td>
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<td><strong>Low Human Development</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>0.546</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1,872</td>
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<td>153</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>0.544</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>3,403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...but steady progress is seen across the board

Human Development Index

Very High

High

Medium

Low

Palau
Tonga
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Vanuatu
Papua New Guinea
Fiji
Samoa
Kiribati
Solomon Islands
People in the Pacific are living longer…

Life Expectancy at Birth

- Palau
- Tonga
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Vanuatu
- Papua New Guinea
- World Average
- Fiji
- Samoa
- Kiribati
- Solomon Islands
- Pacific Average

Year:
- 1990
- 1995
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010
- 2015
...although expenditure on health is highly variable
Young Pacific Islanders have received more years of education...

Mean Years of Schooling
..and those entering school now can expect even more
Yet consistent economic growth remains elusive...

GNI Per Capita

- Palau
- Tonga
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Vanuatu
- Papua New Guinea
- Fiji
- Samoa
- Kiribati
- Solomon Islands
- Pacific Average
- World Average
...with a high share of those stuck in vulnerable employment
...female labour force participation is lower across the board...

Female-Male Labour Force Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Fiji</th>
<th>Tonga</th>
<th>World Average</th>
<th>Pacific Average</th>
<th>SIDS</th>
<th>Vanuatu</th>
<th>Solomon Islands</th>
<th>Samoa</th>
<th>Papua New Guinea</th>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Source: [UNDP](https://www.undp.org))
...and women make up a small share of Parliamentarians

Female Parliamentarians

- Palau: 13.8%
- Fiji: 16%
- Tonga: 7.7%
- Samoa: 10%
- Marshall Islands: 9.1%
- FSM: 0.1%
- Kiribati: 6.5%
- Vanuatu: 0.1%
- Solomon Islands: 2%
- Papua New Guinea: 0.1%
- Pacific Average: 6.5%
- SIDS: 23.4%
- World Average: 23.5%
Key Take-Aways

- Smallness and remoteness set PICs apart, but HDI shows that **progress is attainable** despite challenges of geography.

- Substantial challenges remain, including narrowing persistent **gender gaps** and finding economic models that deliver **sustainable, inclusive growth and opportunities**.

- PICs are not homogenous: Differences in levels of development and the region’s diversity requires understanding of the **different contexts in each country**.

- Harnessing regional and south-south cooperation: Much scope for **learning within the region and broader SIDS**.

- Realizing potential for SDG progress: Need to **leverage and match policies, investments and capacities** (demography, oceans stewardship, renewables, culture, tech).
Thank you