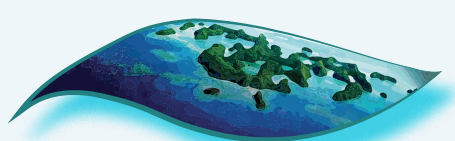


Population and Development in SIDS 2014



Total population. In 2014, the population of the small island developing states (SIDS) is estimated to be 66 million, which represents nearly 1 per cent of the world's population. Between 1995 and 2014, the total population of SIDS increased by 14 million, or 26 per cent. The population of SIDS varies greatly among countries or territories, from less than 10,000 persons (Montserrat, Niue and Tuvalu) to more than 10 million (Cuba, The Dominican Republic and Haiti).

Population growth rate. Annual population growth rates also vary over time and across countries, but, overall, the average annual population growth rate has declined from 1.6 per cent in 1990-1995 to 1.1 per cent in 2010-2015. In 2010-2015, 17 of the 52 SIDS have population growth rates higher than 1.2 per cent per year, the world average population growth rate. At the other extreme, four countries or territories (American Samoa, Cuba, Niue and Puerto Rico) are currently experiencing negative growth rates.

Total fertility rate. The total fertility rate (TFR) in SIDS has declined from 3.2 children per woman in 1990-1995 to 2.5 children per woman in 2010-2015. The number of countries or territories with total fertility of 4 children per woman or greater declined from 15 countries or territories in 1990-1995 to 6 countries in 2010-2015. Eleven countries had a TFR below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman in 2010-2015.

Life expectancy at birth. Life expectancy at birth has increased from 65.9 years in 1990-1995 to 71.5 years in 2010-2015. During 2010-2015, only 13 countries or territories had achieved life expectancy at birth greater than 75 years, and 13 countries had life expectancy between 70 and 75 years. For the remaining 12 countries, life expectancy at birth remained at 70 years or below in 2010-2015, including 4 countries where it was 65 years or lower.

Percentage of population under 15 years of age. Except for Singapore and Cuba, SIDS have relatively young populations. In 2014, 27.4 per cent of SIDS' total population was under 15 years of age. This is due to low life expectancy, relatively high fertility and high rates of emigration of the working-age population in some SIDS. The majority of SIDS with high fertility (average of four or more children per woman) had young population aged structures with over 40 per cent of their population below the age of 15 years.

Percentage of population aged 60 years or over. The share of older persons (the population aged 60 years or over) in SIDS has risen from 8.1 per cent in 1990 to 11.3 per cent in 2014. Almost half of SIDS has a share of older persons below 10 per cent. Aruba, Bar-

bados, Curacao, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Singapore and the United States Virgin Islands are the most aged SIDS, with more than 15 per cent of their population aged 60 years or over.

Net migration rate. Migration is an important phenomenon in most SIDS. In the Caribbean and Pacific regions, the emigration from SIDS exceeded immigration. People from the Pacific Islands traditionally migrated in large numbers to Australia and New Zealand, while nationals from the Caribbean migrated to Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. While emigration can boost remittances and alleviate local labour market pressures, it can pose particular challenges because of the emigration of highly skilled workers.

GDP per capita at PPP (international dollars per capita). GDP per capita varies greatly among SIDS, from as high as \$51,709 (Singapore) to as low as \$494 (Guinea-Bissau). The average GDP for SIDS is \$9,852; however, only 10 countries or territories (Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Palau, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago) have GDP per capita higher than this amount.

Total unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in SIDS varies from 1.1 per cent in Tonga to 20.6 per cent in Saint Lucia. Eleven of the 26 countries with available data had unemployment rates above 11 per cent. The unemployment rate is higher in the Caribbean than in the Pacific and Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIMS).

Personal remittances received (as a percentage of GDP). The aggregate amount of remittances received by SIDS in 2012 was \$8.9 billion. Among countries with available data, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Jamaica received the largest absolute amount of remittances. However, Haiti, Guyana and Samoa received the highest contribution of the remittances as a share of their GDP.

Net Official Development Assistance (ODA) received (as percentage of GNI). Many SIDS rely on ODA. In 2011, 10 SIDS—Haiti, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Fed. States of), Palau, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu—were among the world's top 20 recipients of ODA as a percentage of GNI. In several of these countries, ODA received was well in excess of 30 per cent of their GNI. With the notable exception of Haiti, Caribbean SIDS rely much less on ODA; Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago receive less than 1 per cent of their GNI.

Proportion of the population using improved drinking-water sources. Access to safe drinking water is a critical development issue for SIDS, with profound implications for economic growth, human rights, public health and the environment. In 2011, 80 per cent of SIDS used an improved drinking-water source. The Caribbean and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIMS) regions had the highest percentage of population using improved drinking water sources, while access was more limited in Papua New Guinea, Haiti and Kiribati, where less than two thirds of the population used improved drinking-water.

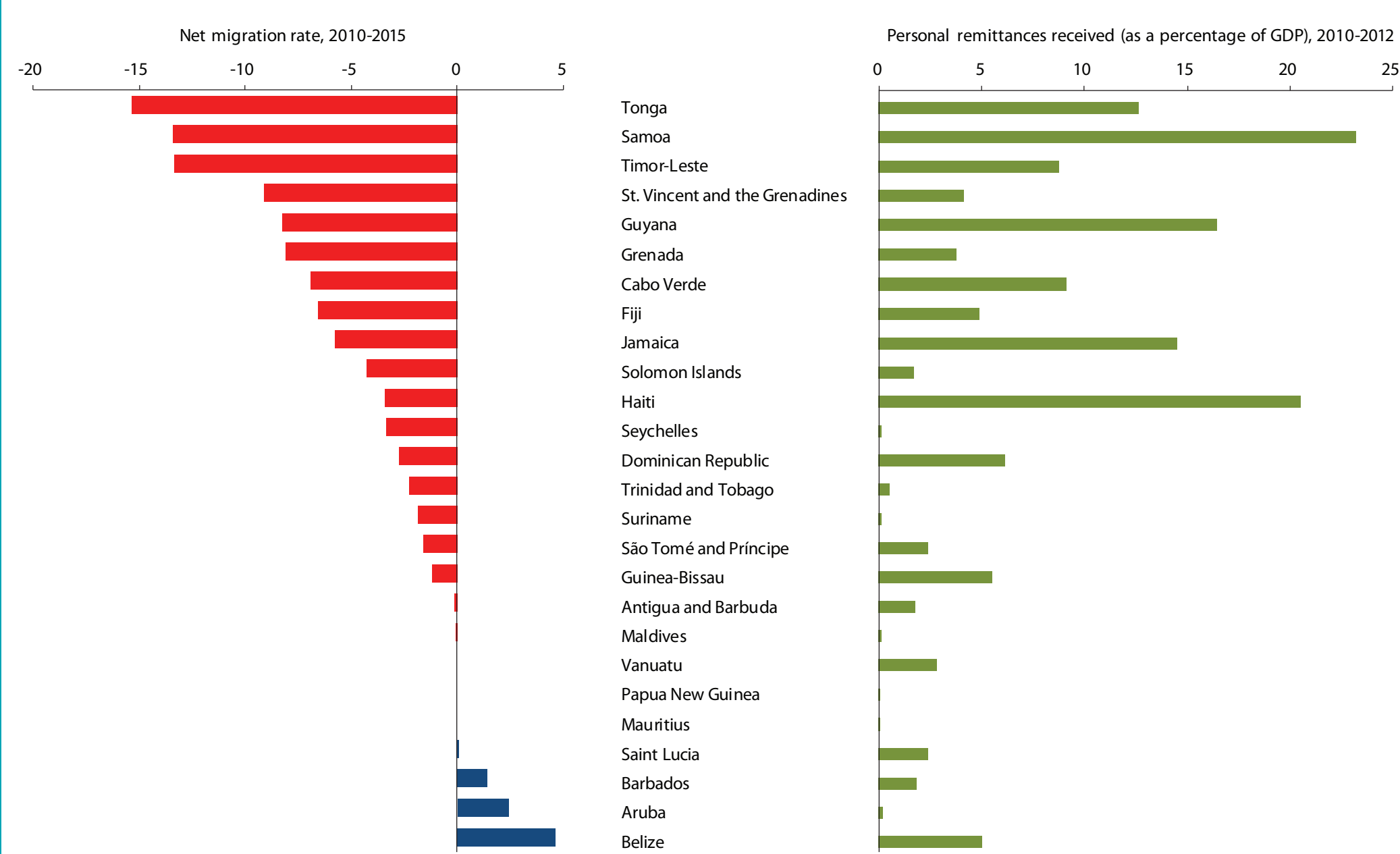
Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities. In 2011, 67 per cent of SIDS population relied on improved sanitation facilities. The greatest progress had been made in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIMS) region, where sanitation coverage had increased from 72 per cent in 1995 to 78 per cent in 2011. However, there was significant disparity among countries; in Haiti, Guinea-Bissau and Papua New Guinea, less than a quarter of the population had access to improved sanitation facilities.

Population affected by natural disasters. Ninety per cent of SIDS are in the tropics. Due to their geographic location and the patterns of oceanic circulation, precipitation varies greatly from one year to the next, leading to various forms of extreme rainfall events, such as droughts and floods. SIDS are also affected by seasonal extreme weather events such as tropical storms, cyclones and hurricanes. Between 1990 and 2013, 554 natural disasters were registered in SIDS. Tropical storms were the most common natural disaster accounting for an estimated 47 per cent of all natural disaster in this period, which affected about 17 million people. The second most common natural disaster was floods, affecting 3.3 million people. The top five countries for the number of people affected by natural disasters during this period were Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Papua New Guinea and Jamaica.

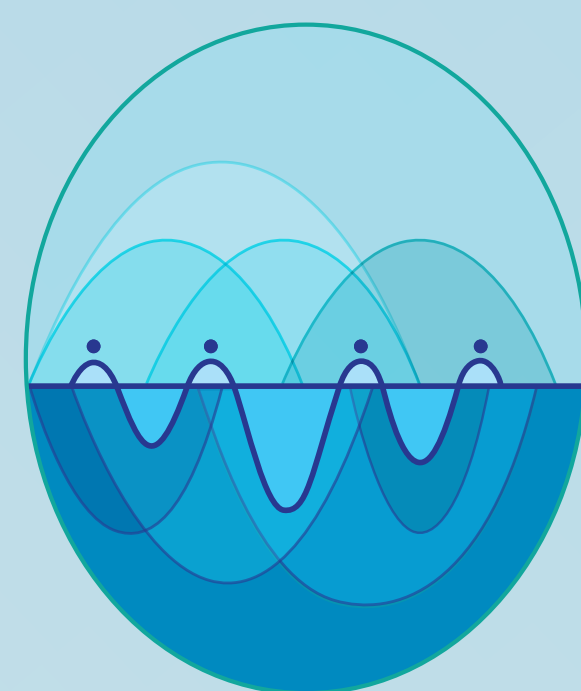
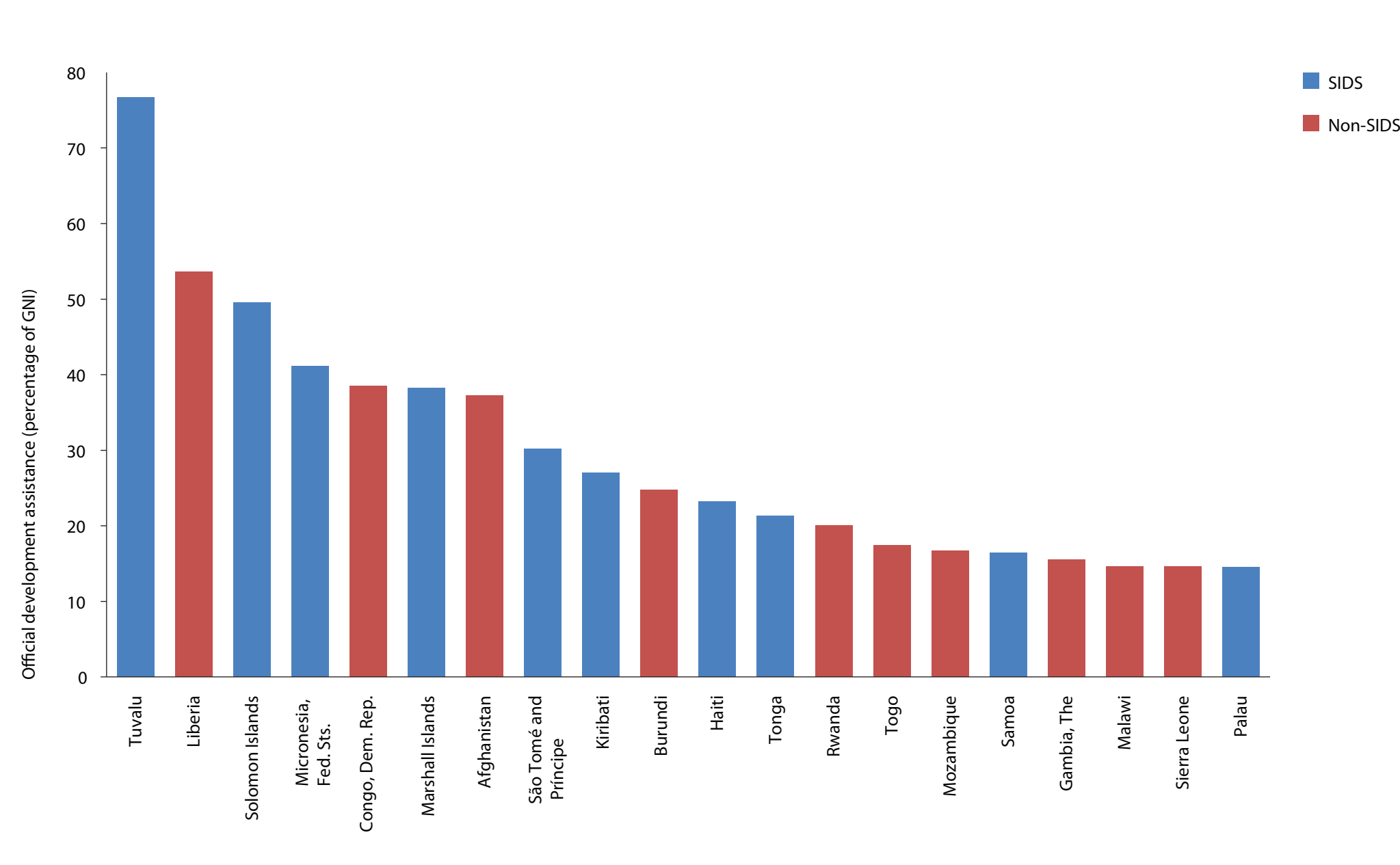
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita (cubic meters). The availability of freshwater is a major limiting factor for economic and social development in SIDS. Many of these countries relied entirely on a single source of water supply, making them highly vulnerable to climatic and other environmental changes. According to the Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator, a country or region is said to experience "water stress" when annual water supplies drop below 1,700 cubic metres per person per year. Eight out of 24 SIDS (33 per cent) have water stress. When water supplies drop below 1,000 cubic metres per person per year, the country is said to experience "water scarcity". Seven out of 24 SIDS (29 per cent) have chronically limited fresh water resources (absolute water scarcity).

Environment Performance Index (EPI). The 2014 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranked 178 countries on how well they performed on high-priority environmental issues in two broad policy areas: protection of human health from environmental harm and protection of ecosystems. Singapore was among the top five global positions of this index, while Haiti had a very low EPI, ranking 176th at the world scale. Overall, SIDS ranked high on air quality but fared poorly on water resources (access to clean drinking water and access to improved sanitation) and on the climate and energy indicators (carbon dioxide emissions and access to electricity).

Net migration rate and personal remittances received in selected SIDS, 2010-2015

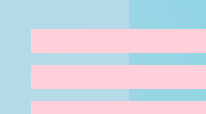


Top 20 recipients of net official development assistance received, 2005-2012



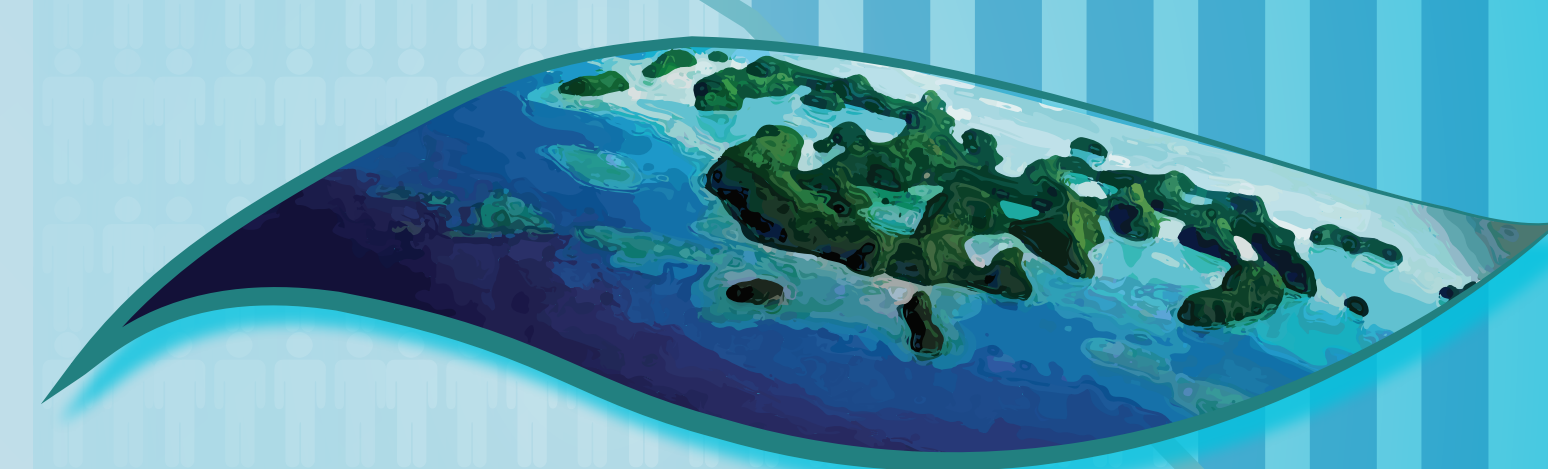
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