



Tonga's Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals 2020



Tonga Statistics Department

Foreword

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals 2020 Report measures whether the country is on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides an overview of Tonga's implementation efforts to date, highlighting areas of progress and areas where more action needs to be taken to ensure no one is left behind.

It is important to note that the number of consolidated indicators with sufficient data to measure progress in Tonga as identified by the National Planning were not fully captured due to data gaps and other challenges. Some indicators are baseline and therefore comparability will be available once data is available. This progress report is aimed to be updated consistently to capture progress and to access changes over time.

Now, in only a short period of time, the COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed an unprecedented crisis, causing further disruption to SDG progress, with the expectation that Tonga's most vulnerable groups are being affected the most.

While Tonga is achieving its target for international poverty as measured for those living on less than \$1.90 a day, the new SDG measurement according to multi-dimensional poverty is still a challenge. Multi-dimensional poverty measurement is an approach to measure poverty that is contextually appropriate and relevant for Tonga. Using the Consensual Approach, the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD) was able to separate poverty of adults from that of children. Those in rural areas (rural Tongatapu and the outer islands) have higher rate of multidimensionally poverty (affecting 29%) compared to the Urban areas (20%). Further, using small area estimation enabled the identification of those who are poor in lower geographical areas such as island divisions, districts and constituencies, hence addressing the big call of leaving no one behind.

I call for renewed ambition, mobilization, leadership and collective action with greater support needed to strengthen the means of implementing the 2030 Agenda. I hope this report makes a compelling case for greater action across the SDGs and that it contributes to our collective push to achieve sustainable development in Tonga.



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Malo 'aupito e tokoni and may you all enjoy the 2020 Statistics Day.

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Abbreviations

DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
HIES	Household and Income Expenditure Survey
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
NP	National Planning
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSS	National Statistics System
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TSD	Tonga Statistics Department
UN	United Nation
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Introduction

Rationale for the report

Lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era showed a need for consistent and constant monitoring of Tonga's progress throughout the life time of the Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To reflect this the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD), in its capacity as one of the principal agencies in the implementation of the SDGs, and the leading and coordinating agency in the production, management, and usage of statistical information have produced this report as a statistical snapshot of where Tonga is in 2020 with its progress towards the SDGs.

Objective of the report

The report will focus on reporting on the SDGs indicators that through collaborative work between the Statistics Department and the National Planning (NP) Division, have been identified by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to be crucial to the development of Tonga.

It will also highlight other indicators that whilst not identified by the process above, the Department had through their own collaborations with other partners (international, regional and within Tonga), consider of importance to be disseminated.

Scope

Furthering the collaborative relationship between TSD and NP from the Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2019, TSD adopted a systematic approach to SDG indicators reported within. NP's streamlining of the SDGs into Tonga's development framework and their *One process system* identified indicators the MDAs find relevant (70+), 50+ of which are reportable. These will be the ones focused on in the report with the addition of other indicators that TSD had through

Who should read the report?

All the Department's reports are for public consumption and should be read by all members of the National Statistical System. This report is intended to provide:

Stakeholders such as International Development Partners, Heads of MDAs (Ministers and CEOs), National Policy Analysts, and all members of the NSS that are involved in high-level policy dialogues on the 2030 Agenda, a report on Tonga's progress towards the SDGs, to complement its 2019 VNR.

Executive Summary

In the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Tonga's national report on progress was done at the end of the MDGs era hence there was no opportunity for the country to know of its progress, if any, during the Millennium Era.

However, for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD), with support from the UN and its regional office, is planning to produce a progress report every five years, on where Tonga is with respect to the SDGs. This report is the first of such progress reports.

This can be an ongoing report as updating is ongoing when data arrives, and can be finalized within many months from today, 2020 Statistics Day, 20 October.

This report is mainly on the SDG Indicators where data is available and can be shared by members of the Tonga National Statistical System.

The report is divided into four sections on Social, Economics and Environment sectors and then followed by the role of TSD as the main provider of official statistics, and the main coordinator of the National Statistical System, for the SDGs.

Each sector is further divided into its respective SD Goals and their respective indicators as follows:

1. Social Sector
 - Goal 1 No Poverty
 - Goal 2 Zero Hunger
 - Goal 3 Good Health and Well-being
 - Goal 4 Quality Education
 - Goal 5 Gender Equality
 - Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
2. Economics Sector
 - Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
 - Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - Goal 9 Industry, innovation and Infrastructure
 - Goal 10 Reduced Inequalities
 - Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals
3. Environment Sector
 - Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
 - Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
 - Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Productions
 - Goal 13 Climate Action
 - Goal 14 Life Below Water
 - Goal 15 Life On Land

This report was initially aimed to focus on the 79 SDG Indicators relevant to Tonga as provided by the National Planning Division of the Prime Minister's Office. Due to data challenges with data sources, TSD included other relevant indicators from new data sources such as the MICS 2019 and the SPC data hub.

Social Sector



Goal 1 No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Table 1 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 1

Indicator short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Available Data
International poverty	1.1.1 ¹ Proportion of population living on less than \$1.90 a day, % of employment [by sex, age and employment status]	0	0	YES ²
National poverty	1.2.1 ¹ Percentage of population living below the national poverty line [by urbanization]	13.50%	27%	YES ²
Social protection	1.3.1 ¹ Population covered by, % of population– Social assistance programmes [by quintile]– Social insurance programmes [by quintile]– Unemployment benefit– Pension	100%	100%	Partial ²
Access to basic water and sanitation services	1.4.1 ¹ Population using basic drinking water and sanitation services, Percentage [by urbanization]	100%	100%	YES ²
Deaths/missing/affected from disasters	1.5.1 ¹ Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters, Per 100,000 population	0	0	YES ³
Economic loss from disasters	1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters, Million USD		\$356 Million (pa'anga)	Yes ⁴
Government spending on education and health	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services, % of government expenditure– Health		11%	Yes ⁴
	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services, % of government expenditure– Education		12%	Yes ⁴

Table 1 provides a summary of the status of all main indicators of SDG 1. Tonga has available data for all possible indicators. Yet, for the case of social assistance the data is not disaggregated by income quintiles. Tonga has already met several of the targets: Eradication of extreme poverty, access to health care, access to basic services, and it is a successful story facing a category five cyclone in 2018 with no casualties at all. According to the Ministry of Finance (2020), the expenditure on both education and health is around 12% and 11%, respectively in 2020.

¹ One of the 79 SDG Indicators that is relevant to Tonga, National Planning

² HIES, 2016

³ Post-disaster assessment survey, TSD, 2018

⁴ Ministry of Finance [Finance (2020)]

UN definition: "By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.90 a day."



1.1.1: Eradicate extreme poverty

According to the first recorded figures of extreme income poverty in Tonga (2001) -using the updated \$1.90 a day-, only around 3% of the population had an income below the international poverty line (Figure 1³). The trend in the last 15 years indicates that extreme poverty has been virtually eradicated in Tonga. The last available figure from the Household's Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES, 2016) indicates that the SDG 1.1 Target has already been met.

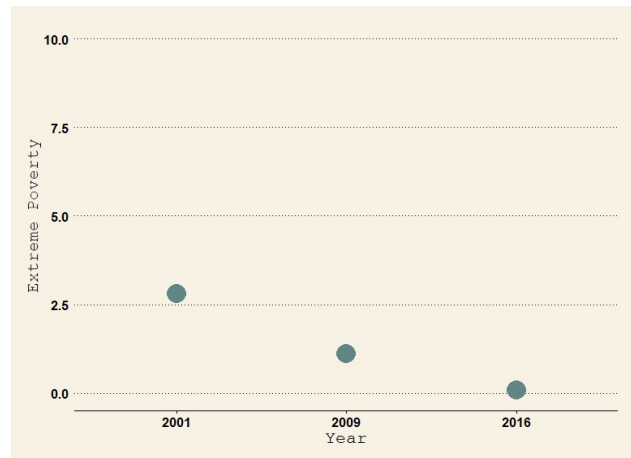
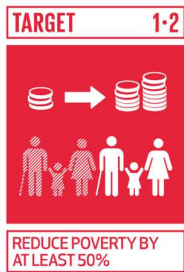


Figure 1 Target 1.1: eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.90



UN definition: "By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions."

1.2.1: Halve population below national poverty line

The baseline figure for the indicator 1.2.1 (the proportion of population living below the national poverty line) is from 2016 (HIES 2016). The official indicator in Tonga is a multidimensional poverty measure based upon the consensual deprivation method (Fifita et al. 2018). This measure combines per capita income and deprivation to identify the poor.

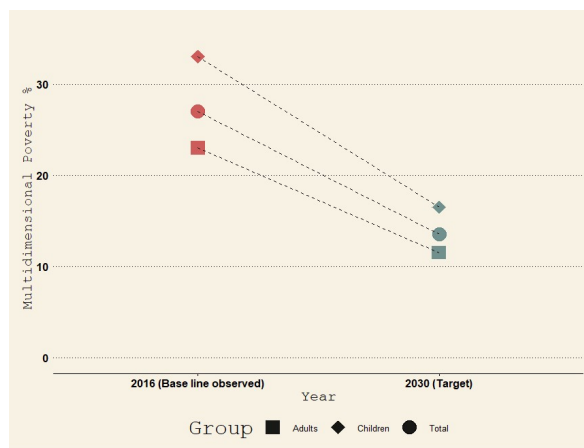


Figure 2 Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

People with an income below the optimal monetary poverty line (944 adjusted 2 Pa'anga per month for children and 970 Pa'anga per month for adults) and suffer from multiple deprivation (Adults are categorized as poor when they experience 3 or more forms of deprivation. Children if they experience 2 or more. See Fifita et al. 2018).

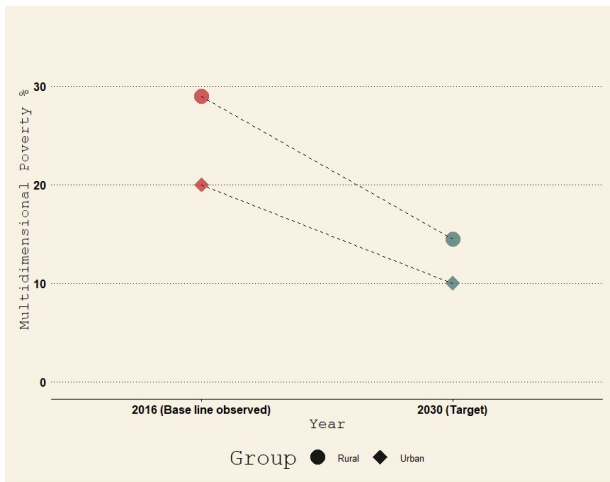


Figure 3 Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

The official multidimensional poverty measure can be disaggregated by populations groups. Figure 2⁶ shows the baseline observed value for 2016 for adults, children and the total population. The right side of the plot displays the values to meet the 2030 target (reduce at least by half the prevalence of poverty). These values are 13.5% for the whole population, 11.5 for adults and 16.5 for children.

Figure 3⁶ shows the proportion of people living in multidimensional poverty for urban and rural areas. In 2016, 20% of people lived in multidimensional poverty in Urban areas. In rural areas poverty is higher, affecting 29% of the population. By 2030, to meet the target the reduction should lead to observed values of at least 10 and 14.5 (urban and rural areas respectively).



UN definition: "Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable."

1.3.1: Population covered by social protection floors/systems

The Tonga Ministry of Health reports a health care coverage of 100% (WHO 2015). To assess the target 1.3, data from the HIES 2016 was used to estimate the coverage of health services for the poor population.

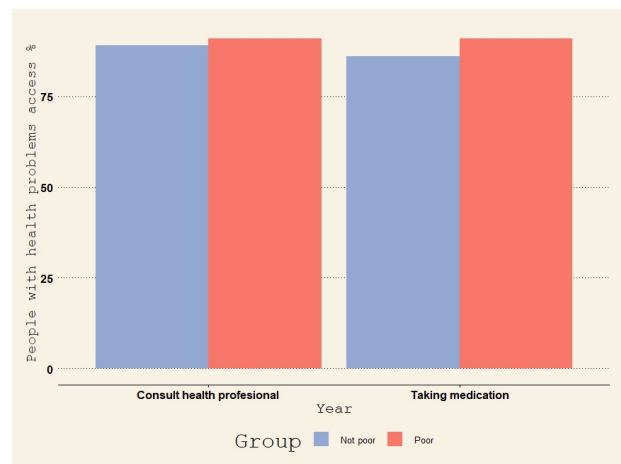


Figure 4 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Figure 4⁷ shows the percentage of people (that declared having health problems) with access to medications and professional health care by their poverty status. The plot suggests that not only coverage is extremely high (>90%) but that the gaps between the two populations are small.

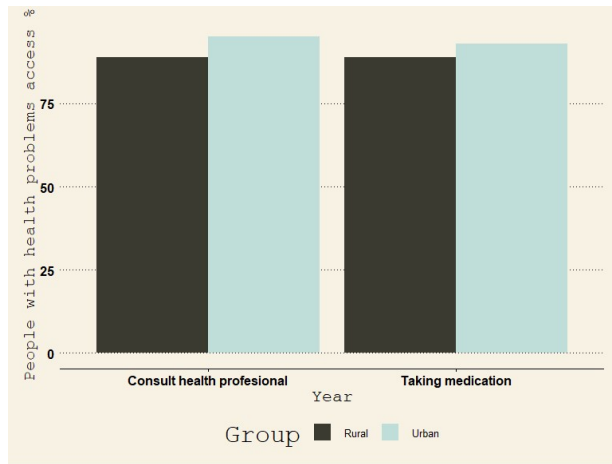


Figure 5⁸ displays access to medications and professional health care by rural and urban areas. The gap between both areas is very small, although is possible to appreciate a bit of a gap that disfavors rural areas.

Figure 5 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable



UN definition: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property,

inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

1.4.1: Access to basic services

The proposed data for the SDG 1.4 is information about access to services are: access to water, sanitation, and power grid connection. For the dimension of ownership and control over land, the proposed information for this section is the following: indicators about land ownership, and house ownership.

With regard access to appropriate new technology indicators on access to mobile phones and internet are put forward. Because the focus is on the poor and vulnerable, all these indicators are disaggregated by multidimensional poverty, following the national definition.

Figure 8⁹ shows the access to different sources of water by poverty status. Access to safe sources of water in Tonga is virtually guaranteed for all. The main differences lie on the type of source. The not poor have higher access to household tanks than the poor populations.

⁷ Source: HIES 2016. TSD

⁸ Source: HIES 2016. TSD.

⁹ Source: HIES 2016. TSD (Department 2016).

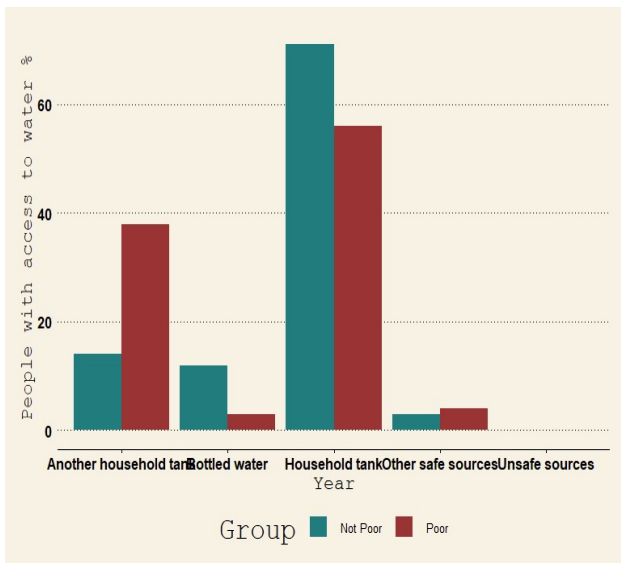


Figure 8 Access to safe sources of water by poverty status

Access to power grid is high in Tonga but there are substantive differences between the

poor and the not poor populations. The not poor have guaranteed connected to the main infrastructure. However, only 8 out of every 10 people in Tonga is not connected to the power grid (Figure 6⁹).

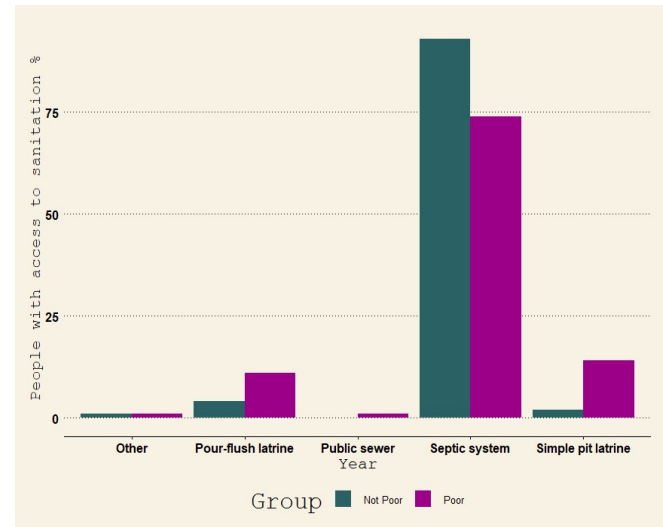


Figure 7 Access to sanitation by poverty status

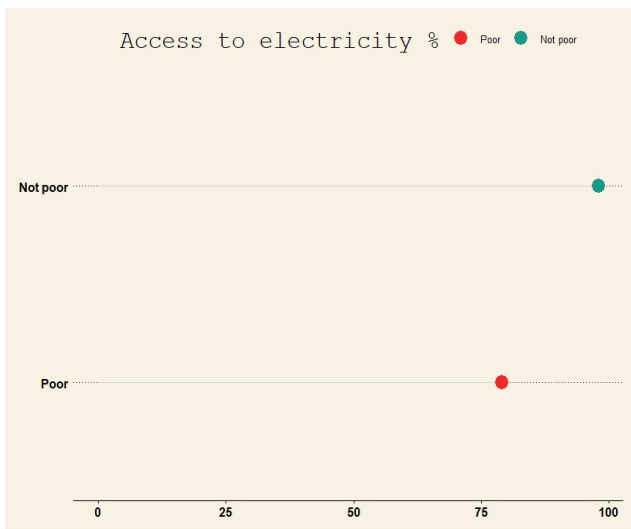


Figure 6 Access to electricity by poverty status

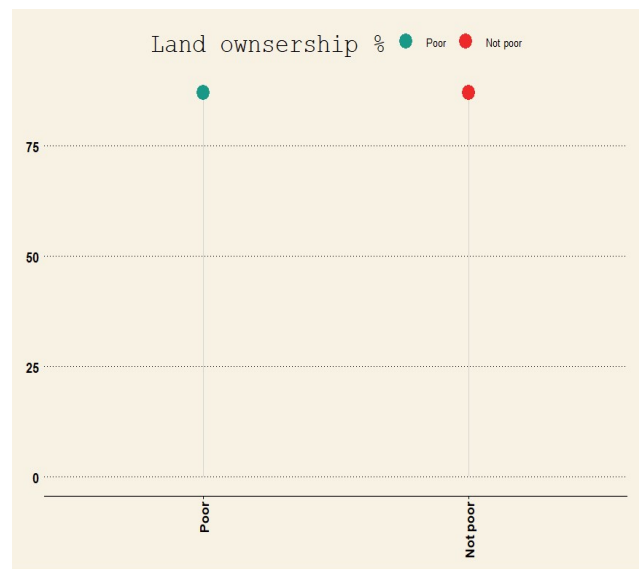


Figure 9 Land ownership by poverty status

Land ownership is widespread in Tonga, around 9 out of every 10 people in Tonga owns a land. There are no differences in ownership between the poor and not poor populations (Figure 9⁹).



In Tonga 80% of the population owns their house (Figure 10¹¹). The prevalence of house ownership does not vary across the poor and not poor groups.

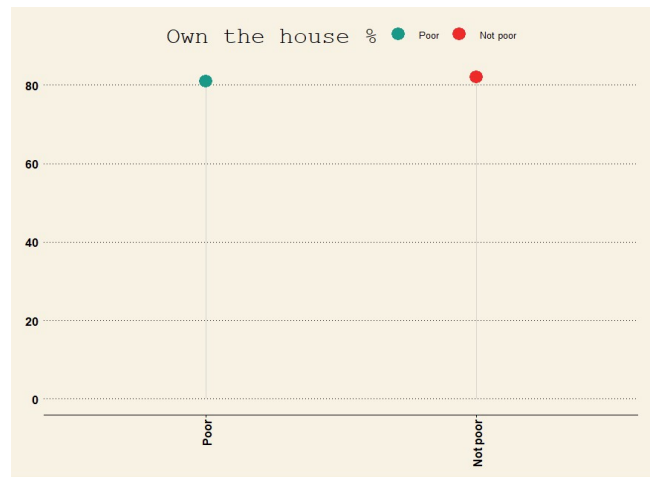


Figure 10 House ownership by poverty status

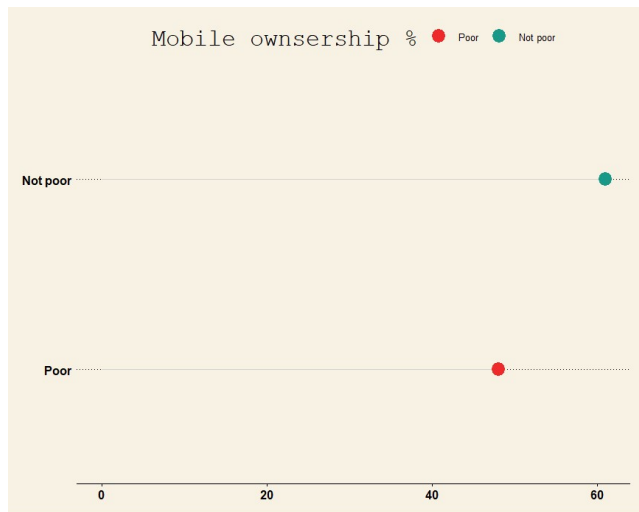


Figure 11 Access to mobile phones by poverty status

With regard access to new technologies, mobile ownership is relatively low among the adult population. The not poor have wider access to mobile phones than the poor. Around 50% of adult people living in poverty has a mobile phone. The access to mobile phones is 10% higher for the not poor (Figure 11¹¹).

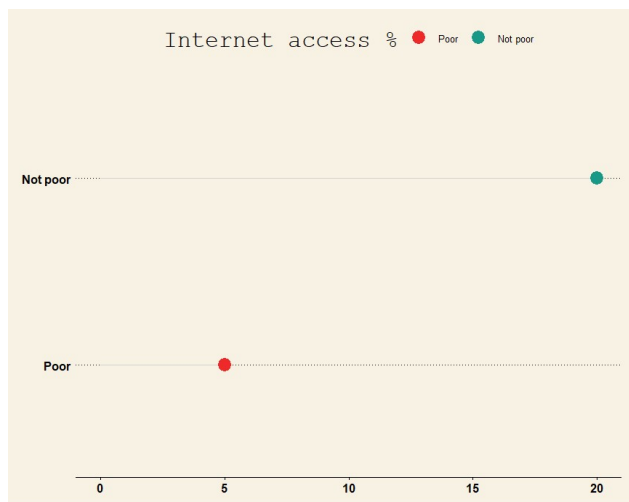


Figure 12 Access to internet by poverty status

Internet access is quite low in Tonga. Only two out of every ten people that are not poor in Tonga has internet at home. The percentage drops dramatically to 5% for the poor populations (Figure 12¹¹).



UN definition: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

environmental shocks and disasters.

1.5.1: Deaths and affected persons from natural disasters

In 2018 Tonga was hit by a Category 5 Cyclone (“Gita”). It was the most intense cyclone since the records began in Tonga in modern history. The casualty rate of this major natural disaster was 0%. The experience of Tonga has been one of the most successful stories in recent history. Below, some indicators are provided to describe the situation before and after the cyclone to understand the potential vulnerabilities and strengths of Tonga.

In the aftermath of the Cyclone, the Tonga Statistics Department conducted a post-disaster assessment survey that covered around 70% of its total population. According to these data almost 90% of household suffered no or minor damage to their houses (Figure 13). Only 3% of houses were destroyed and 8% had major damages.

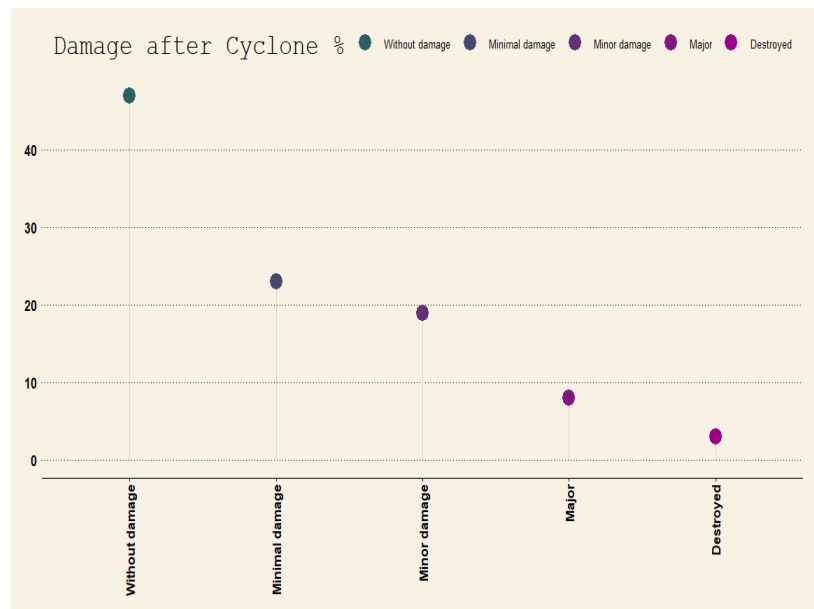


Figure 13 % Households reporting damage after Cyclone Gita

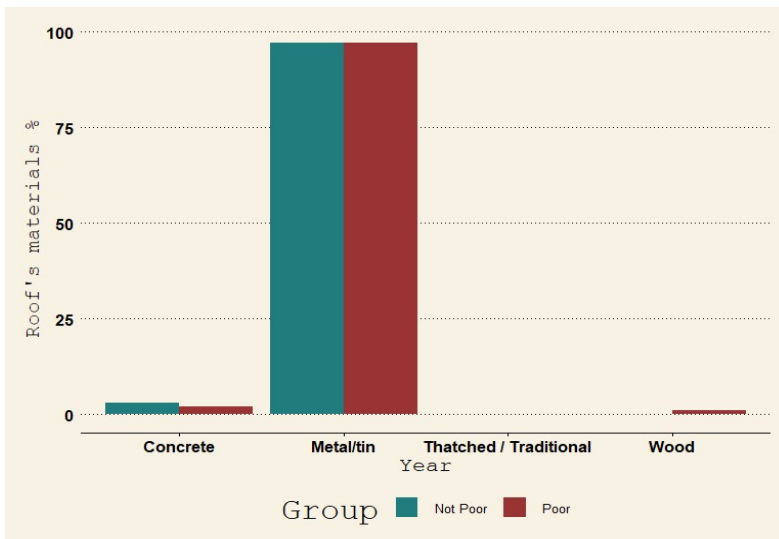


Figure 14 Materials of the room by poverty status

In Tonga 48% of the reported damaged happened to the roofing structures of the houses (Department 2018). The rest was a mixture of damage to the foundations of the houses, walls, and water and sanitation services. The following set of figures shows the distribution of materials (roof, walls, and floor) of the houses in Tonga by poverty and Urban and Rural status using data from the HIES 2016.



Figure 14¹² shows that most of the roofs of the houses in Tonga were made from Tin/Metal in 2016. Therefore, the high proportion of households reporting damage to this part of their house after the cyclone in 2018.

Figure 16¹³ and Figure 15 show the distribution of the materials of the walls by poverty and Urban and Rural status, respectively. The poor tend to rely more on wood for their properties than the not poor. The difference rests on the use of walls made from concrete by some not poor households. There are no major differences in the types of materials across Urban and Rural areas. It seems that the differences in construction materials are due to differences in resources.

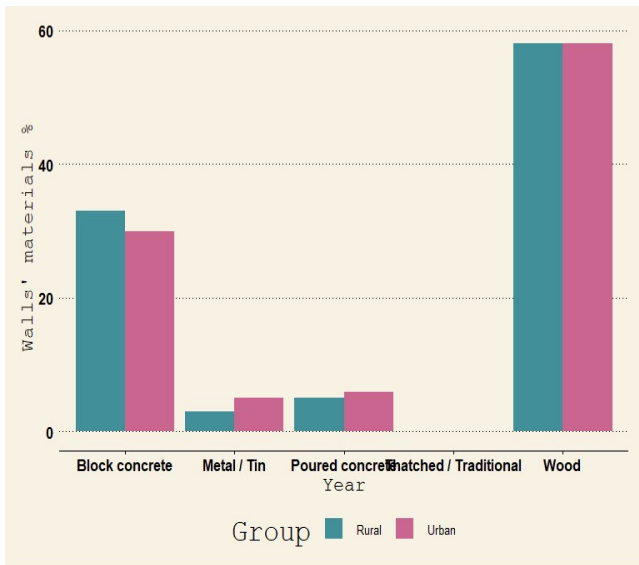


Figure 15 Material of the walls by Urban/Rural area

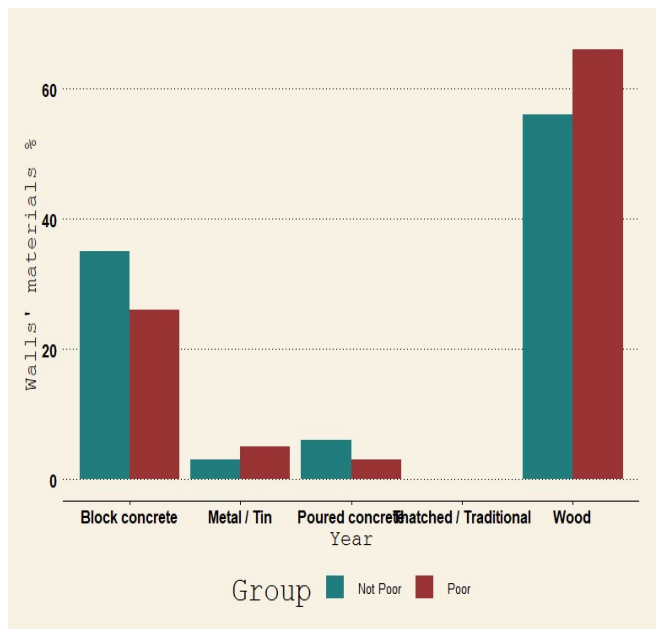


Figure 16 Material of the walls by poverty status

¹² Source: Post-disaster survey. TSD (Department 2018)

¹³ Source: HIES 2016. TSD (Department 2016).



Figure 17¹³ and Figure 18¹³ display the distribution of the materials of the floor by poverty and Urban and Rural status, respectively. The poor tend to rely more on wood for their properties than the not poor. The difference rests on the use of floors made from concrete by some not poor households. There are little differences in the types of materials across Urban and Rural areas.

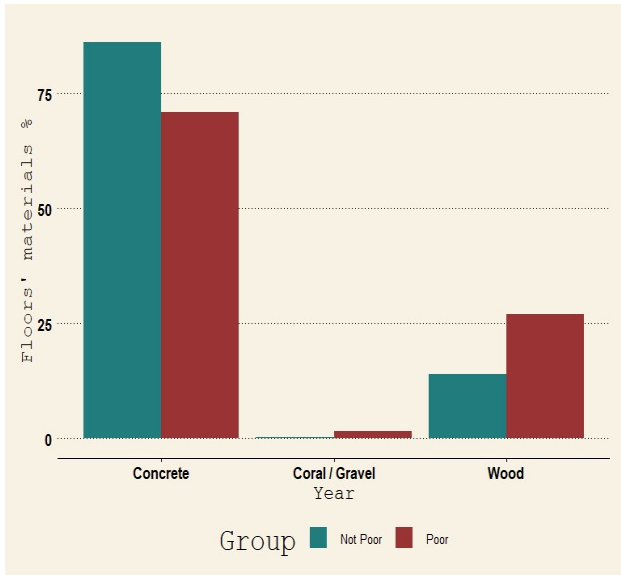


Figure 17 Materials of the floor by poverty status

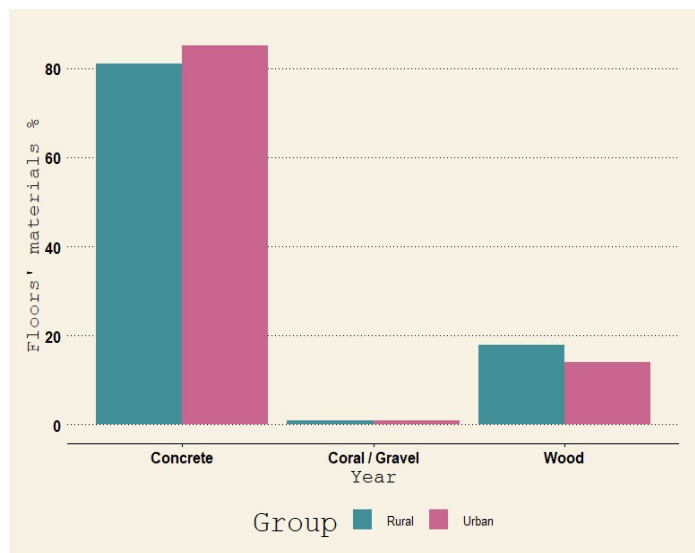


Figure 18 Materials of the floor by poverty status by Urban/Rural area



Goal 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Table 2 provides a brief overview of the progress of ending hunger in Tonga. Although the majority of all indicators were not available due to lack of data, 3 out of 13 possible indicators were available. There are 8 targets defining the goals to be achieved by each indicator where only targets 2.2 and 2.5 have available measures. Tonga is approaching targets regarding eradicating prevalence of childhood stunting and childhood malnutrition.

Goal 2 has 4 out of the 79 SDG Indicators that are relevant to Tonga, with only 2 has data available.

Table 2 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 2

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Prevalence of undernourishment	2.1.1 ¹ Prevalence of undernourishment	0%	NA	No
Prevalence of food insecurity	2.1.2 ¹ prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	0%	NA	No
Prevalence of childhood stunting	2.2.1 ¹ Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	0	2.2	Yes ¹⁴
Prevalence of childhood malnutrition (wasting or overweight)	2.2.2 ¹ Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	0	1.1 (Wasting) 11.2 (Overweight)	Yes ¹⁴
Genetic resources in conservation facilities	2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities		26	Yes ¹⁵

¹⁴ TSD, Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019

¹⁵ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – SDGs Tonga, 2015



UN definition: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of

adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating women and older persons.

2.2.1 Prevalence of childhood stunting

Indicator 2.2.1 reports on the status of stunting which signifies children under 5 years of age severe undernourishment which is defined by the child is too height-for-age to below standards (2 or more standard deviation below median WHO Child Growth Standards. According to MICS 2019, 2.2% of children under 5 years of age were experiencing stunting (Table 2).

2.2.2 Prevalence of childhood malnutrition (wasting or overweight)

Indicator 2.2.2 measure malnutrition according to wasting (underweight) and overweight aspect of children. Wasting is when a child's weight-for-height is below median (2 or more standard deviations below) according to WHO Child Growth Standards. Overweight occurs when a child's weight-for-height is above (more than 2 standard deviations above) the WHO Child Growth Standards. As of 2019, the prevalence of wasting and overweight were 1.1 and 11.2 respectively.

The target is to simply “end all forms of malnutrition” and to address the nutritional needs by 2030. With regards to status of malnutrition, Tonga is closely approaching target since figures for stunting, wasting and overweight are very low.



UN definition: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the

national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

2.5.1 Genetic resources in conservation facilities

Indicator 2.5.1 measures the storage of genetic from animals. This is to maintain the genetic resources help ensure future diversification of food sources. Unlike other indicators the target is set to 2020. In 2013, 26% of animal breeds for which sufficient resources are stored for reconstitution.



Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Majority of the indicators were available (17 of 27) and almost all of them were generated from Multi Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 (Table 3). Tonga has met targets for lessening maternal, under-5 years of age and neonatal mortality. Other aspects such as skilled birth attendance and coverage of essential services seem to be closely nearing its targets. The rest of the available measures indicates much progress is still required.

Table 3 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 3

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Maternal mortality ratio	3.1.1 ¹ Maternal mortality ratio	<140 per 100,000 live births	0	Yes ¹⁶
Skilled birth attendance	3.1.2 ¹ Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	100	98.3	Yes ¹⁷
Under-5 mortality rate	3.2.1 ¹ Under-5 mortality rate	<25 deaths per 1000 live births	16	Yes ¹⁷
Neonatal mortality rate	3.2.2 ¹ Neonatal mortality rate	12 per 1000 live births	7	Yes ¹⁷
Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	3.3.1 ¹ Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	0	NA	No
Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	3.3.2 ¹ Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	0	10	Yes ¹⁸
Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	3.3.4 ¹ Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	0	NA	No
Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	3.3.5 ¹ Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases		37,131	Yes ¹⁸

¹⁶ MOH, TSD & MOH, NCRVS Vital Statistics (Provisionals), 2013-2018.

¹⁷ Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019, TSD

¹⁸ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – SDGs Tonga, 2020

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Mortality from NCD	3.4.1 ¹ Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease		23.3	Yes ¹⁸
Suicide mortality rate	3.4.2 ¹ Suicide mortality rate	0	NA	No
Alcohol consumption per capita	3.5.2 ¹ Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol		NA	No
Halve the number of road traffic deaths	3.6.1 ¹ Death rate due to road traffic injuries		2.9	Yes ²⁰
Women in reproductive age	3.7.1 ¹ Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	100	49.3	Yes ¹⁸
Adolescent birth rate	3.7.2 ¹ Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group		32	Yes ²¹
Coverage of essential health services	3.8.1 ¹ Coverage of essential health services			
	Percentage of women age 15-49 years with live birth in the last 2 years who during the pregnancy of the recent live birth were attended			
	a) at least once by skilled health personnel	100	97.7	
	b) at least four times by any provider		88.5	
	c) at least eight times by any provide		40	
	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of DTP containing vaccine (DTP3) at any time before the survey	100	71.9	Partial ²¹
	Percentage of children under age 5 with ARI symptoms in the last 2 weeks for whom advice or treatment was sought from a health facility or provider	100	90.9	
Percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared	100	91.8		
Percentage of women age 15-49 years who did not smoke cigarettes or any other smoked tobacco product during the last one month.	100			
a) Women		83.4		
b) Men		46.3		

²⁰ Ministry of Police and Fire Emergency Services, 2019

²¹ Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019, Tonga Statistics Department

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Mortality rate from unsafe water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH)	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)		1.4	Yes ¹⁸
Prevalence of tobacco use	3.a.1 ¹ Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who smoked cigarettes or used smoked or smokeless tobacco products at any time during the last one month a) Women b) Men		16.1 52.9	Yes ²¹
Vaccine coverage	3.b.1 ¹ Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme			
	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of DTP containing vaccine (DTP3) at any time before the survey		71.9	Yes ²¹
	Percentage of children age 24-35 months who received rubella containing vaccine at any time before the survey		67.9	
Health worker density	3.c.1 ¹ Health worker density and distribution		NA	No
Health emergency preparedness	3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness		73.9	Yes



UN definition: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. In addition, all countries should reduce the maternal

mortality ratio to less than 140 per 100,000 live births.

3.1.1 Maternal Mortality

Tonga’s maternal mortality has always been below the set target – less than 140 per 100,000 live births. as shown in Figure 19, maternal mortality has declined over the years. There were zero maternal deaths in 2016 as shown in figure 20, and the overall trend of maternal mortality has declined since 2011. Maternal death is expected to continue to improve if this trend continues.

The progress in maternal mortality may have contributed to by the high antenatal care coverage which according to MICS 2019 97.7% of women aged 14 – 49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years were attended to at least once by a skilled health personal. In addition, 98.3% of births were attended by skilled health personnel (Table 3). In 2016, 98.2% of births were attended by skilled health personnel as stated by the Ministry of Health Annual Report 2016. Figure 20 shows that births attended by skilled workers have fluctuated at between 95 to 99 per cent in recent years.

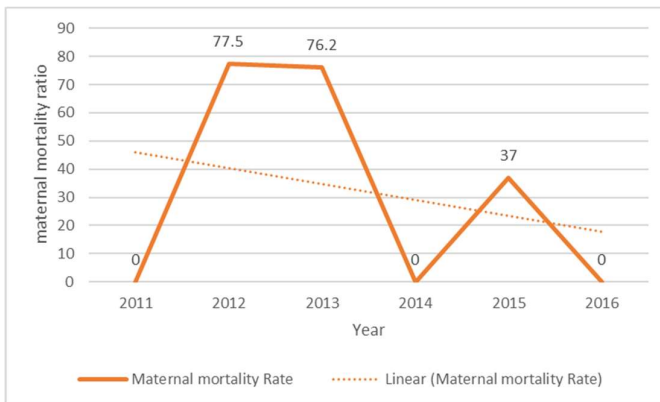


Figure 19 Maternal mortality ratio 2011-2016. Source: Ministry of Health, Annual Report January – December 2016

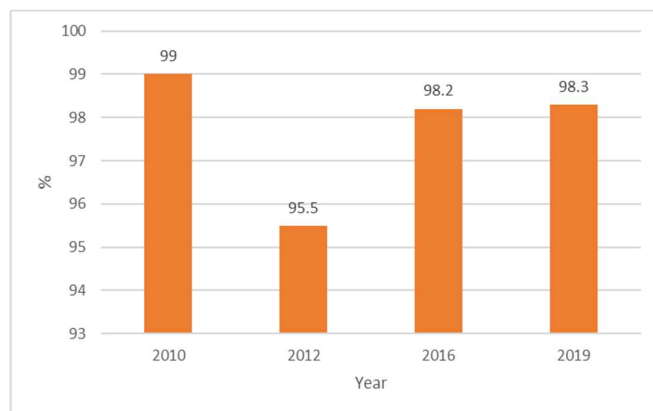


Figure 20 Percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel 2010 – 2019. Source: SPC, Pacific Data Hub – Sustainable Development Goals Tonga, Ministry of Health, Annual Report January – December 2016, Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019,



UN definition: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at

least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.2.1 Under-five mortality

Children’s deaths have always remained below target since 2015. Figure 21²³ shows under-5 mortality has always been well below target (25 deaths per 1,000 live births). This is similar to the neonatal mortality rate shown in Figure 22²³.

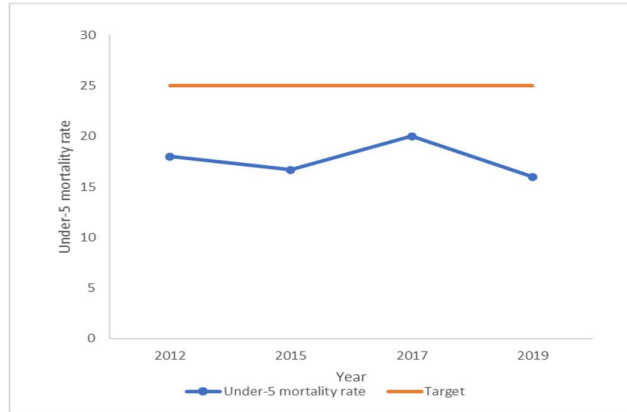


Figure 21 Under-5 mortality rate for Tonga 2015-2019.

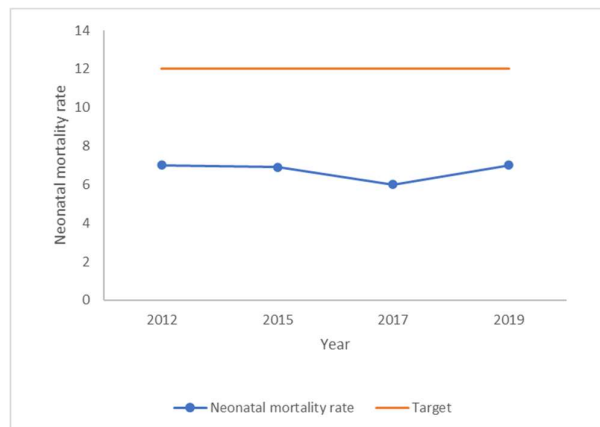


Figure 22 Neonatal mortality rate for Tonga 2015-2019.



UN definition: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases

and other communicable diseases.

3.3.2 Tuberculosis

Total cases of tuberculosis (TB) have fluctuated around 12 incidences per 100,000 people in recent years (Figure 23). According to the World Health Organization’s Stop TB Partnership target of fewer than 20 cases per 100,000 by 2030²⁴, Tonga has already met this target with fewer cases since 2010. Population requiring intervention against tropical diseases has been maintained at about 0.37 persons per 100,000 population over the recent years (Figure 24).

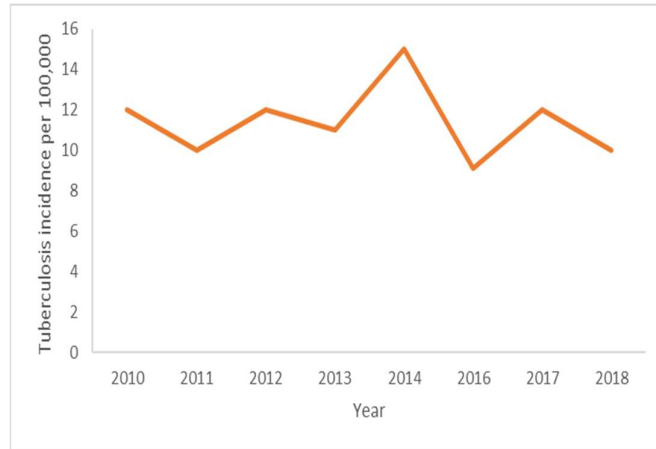


Figure 23 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population.

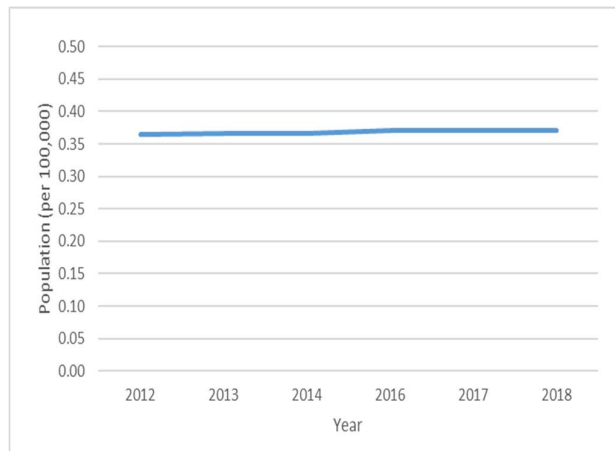


Figure 24 Proportion of population per 100,000 requiring interventions against tropical diseases, 2010-2016.



UN definition: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

3.4.1 Cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease

This target requires two indicators to be able to completely report on its progress. Due to limited data available, only one indicator was captured – indicator 3.4.1 (Table 3). The indicator suggests the probability of 30-year-old people who would die before their 70th birthday from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease, assuming that they would experience the current mortality rates at every age and would not die from any other form of cause of death. The latest figure states that in 2016 23.3% of people 30-year-old would most likely die before turning 70 years old due to non-communicable diseases assuming they conform to current mortality rates. Figure 23 shows that this rate was slightly similar in 2010 and 2015.

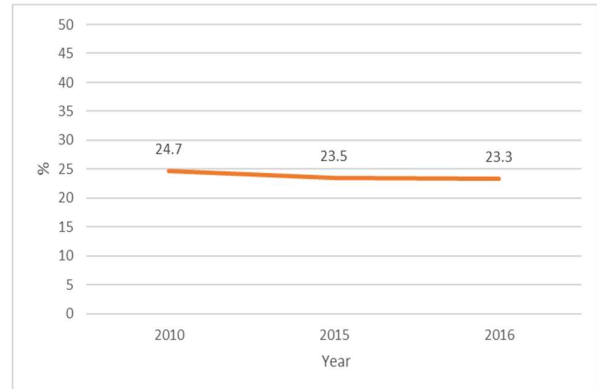


Figure 25 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease, 2010-2016.



UN definition: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

3.6.1 Road traffic deaths

Road injuries and deaths data are collected by the Ministry of Police and Fire Emergency Services system upon reported cases of road accidents. In 2019, approximately 2.9 persons per 100,000 people died due to road accidents which include cases of fatal drivers, passengers and pedestrian. This was a significant decline from 16.8 persons per 100,000 people in 2018. These rates were computed using the 2016 population as the base.



UN definition: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of

reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.7.1 Family planning satisfied with modern methods

The usage of contraception in Tonga is currently low and having a large family is the norm. Most likely women who are married are most likely to use contraception according to DHS 2012. In 2012, 42% of women aged 35-39 years are most likely to use contraception if they are married with the most common method as female sterilization²⁵. Currently, 49.3% of women aged 15-49 who are currently married use modern contraception to satisfy to meet family planning needs²⁶. According to TSD census 2016, the average household size in Tonga was 5.5 people per household.

The use of contraception by women aged 15-19 is also low estimated at 2.5²⁷. Births by teenage girls aged 15-19 years are low compared to the number of births by women of older ages²⁷. In 2016, the mean age of childbearing was estimated at 28 years old. Adolescents birth rate has slightly declined over the years (Figure 26²⁸) indicating teenage pregnancy may have declined.

Based on available tracer indicators (Table 3) early pregnancy and delivery care is high in Tonga, and child immunization still requires actions for progress to reach complete coverage especially when children 12-23 months that have received DTP3 vaccine is 71.9% in 2019. Hence only 67.9% of children 24-35 months received rubella vaccine in 2019. According to MICS 2019, full immunization coverage for children 12-23 months who had received all basic vaccinations at any time before the survey was 93.5%, whereas children 24-35 months who had received all vaccinations recommended in the national immunization schedule was 77.4%.

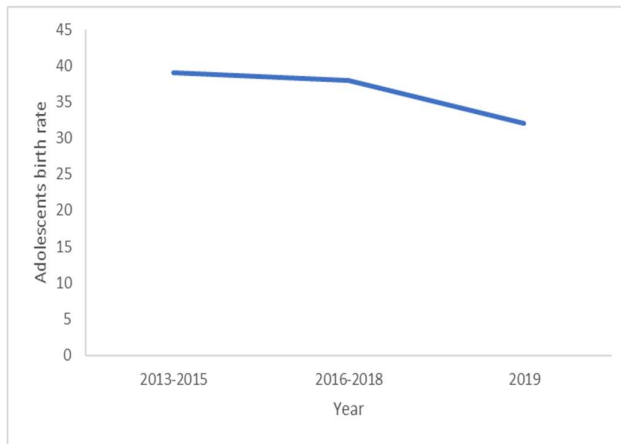


Figure 26 Adolescents birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19, 2013-2019.



UN definition: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality

and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services

Over recent years, essential health services coverage has slightly increased from 54 in 2010 to 58 in 2017 and has remained in the 50s (Error! Reference source not found.). This signifies that much improvement is required to reach universal and complete health services coverage.

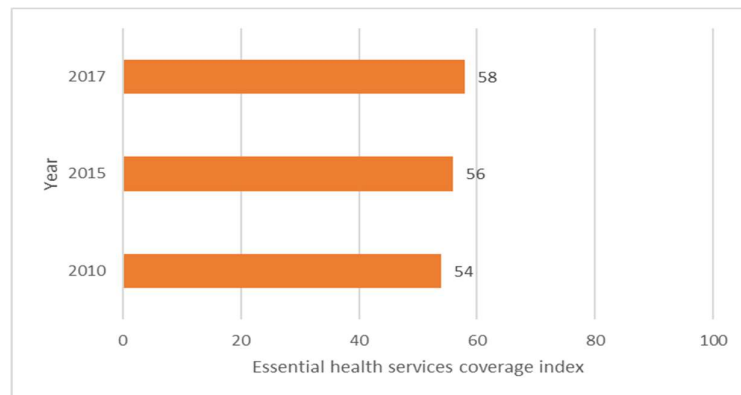


Figure 27 Coverage of essential health coverage in Tonga, 2010-2017. Source: SPC, Pacific Data Hub – Sustainable Development Goals Tonga, 2020

²⁵ DHS 2012, TSD
²⁶ MICS 2019, TSD

²⁷ Vital Statistics Report 2013-2018 (provisional), TSD, MOH & MOJ
²⁸ Vital Statistics Report 2013-2018 (provisional), TSD, MOH & MOJ; MICS 2019



UN definition: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

3.a.1 Tobacco use

Tobacco use is significantly higher for men than women. MICS 2019 states that 52.9% of men aged 15-49 smoked or use tobacco products while only 16.1% of women that smoke (Table 3, 3.a.1). This pattern is vice versa for non-smokers (Table 3, 3.8.1).

There are significantly more women (83.4%) who do not smoke cigarettes or any other tobacco product as opposed to men (46.3%). Note these indicators are also indicative of target 3.a: Implement the WHO framework convention on tobacco control.



UN definition: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

3.9.2 Mortality rate from unsafe water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH)

In 2012, the number of deaths attributed to unsafe water, sanitation and lack of hygiene was 4.8 deaths per 100,000 people²⁹. In 2016, the rate of mortality due to similar causes declined to 1.4 deaths per 100,000 people in Tonga (Table 3, 3.9.2). This decrease aligns with the goal to reduce the number of deaths attributed to pollution and contamination.



UN definition: Strengthens the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health

3.d.1 Health emergency preparedness

As of 2013, Tonga scored an International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity of 73.9% according to the 13 core capacities. These capacities include: national legislation, policy and financing; coordination and national focal point communications; surveillance; response; preparedness; risk communication; human resources; laboratory; points of entry; zoonotic events; food safety; chemical events; radio nuclear emergencies.

risks.



Goal 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

Goal 4 has a total of 10 targets that defines the goals to which collective contribution to inclusive and quality education for all. Altogether there are 12 indicators where 5 of 12 possible indicators were available (Table 4). All of which were retrieved through the MICS 2019 survey.

Table 4 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 4

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Achieving proficiency in reading and mathematics	4.1.1 ¹ Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex Percentage of children who successfully completed three foundational reading tasks			
	Age 7-14	100	62.9	Yes ³⁰
	Age for grade 2/3		60.6	
	Attending grade 2/3		46.9	
	Percentage of children who successfully completed four foundational number tasks			
	Age 7-14		52.4	
	Age for grade 2/3		40.3	
Attending grade 2/3		25.4		
Completion rate	4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	100	98.2 91.9 44.1	Yes ³⁰
Ensuring children are developmentally on track	4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	100	78.6	Yes ³⁰
Participation in pre-primary education	4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	100	96.7	Yes ³⁰
Equal access to further education	4.3.1 ¹ Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex		NA	No
Information and communications technology (ICT) skills	4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill			
	a) Women age 15-24		51.7	Yes ³⁰
	b) Women age 15-49		39.6	
	a) Men age 15-24		24.8	
	b) Men age 15-49		25.4	

³⁰ Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019, Tonga Statistics Department

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Universal literacy and numeracy	4.6.1 ¹ Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex		NA	No
Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Scholarships for developing countries	4.b.1 ¹ Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships		NA	No
Supply of qualified teachers	4.c.1 ¹ Proportion of teachers in (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country		NA	No



UN definition: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

4.1.1 Achieving proficiency in reading and mathematics

Effect and relevant learning as an outcome of free and quality education is the focus of this target. Achieving minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics (indicator 4.1.1) is the metrics used to indicate the level of effectiveness of learning as well as the school completion rate of children at primary and secondary education (indicator 4.1.2). In 2019, the proportion of children aged 7-14 years old that were able to complete three foundation reading task was 62.9% (Table 4). Majority of children (60.6%) aged for grade 2 and 3 completed three foundational reading and 46.9% for children attending grade 2 and 3 in the same year. 52% of children aged 7-14 completed four foundation number tasks in 2019 (Table 4). Children at a suitable age for grade 2 and 3 that completed four foundational reading activities was 40.3%, while children attending grade 2 and 3 was only 25.4% in the same year. Reading and mathematics proficiency was measured in the survey using three reading and four number activities followed by a series of questions to test the child's understanding.

The rate of students completing primary and lower secondary education (form 1- 4) was very high in 2019 (98.2% and 91.9% respectively) as opposed to the much lower proportion of students completing upper secondary which was 44.1% (Table4). These high completion rates may be due to the compulsory education for all aged 4-18 years old and free primary education provided by the government. However, despite the very high completion rate for primary and lower secondary, reading and math proficiency level of such children (aged 7-14 years) is at average.



UN definition: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for

primary education.

4.2.1 Ensuring children are developmentally on track

4.2.2 Participation in pre-primary education

The target is to “ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education” by 2030. The representative metrics consist of indicators 4.2.1 and 4.2.2. The former tracks childhood development in the domains of health, learning and psychosocial well-being for children under 5 years, however, this was collected specifically for only those 2 to under 5 years of age where Tonga has a high 78.6% in 2019 (Table 4).

The later indicator represents the number of children enrolled in pre-primary education considering they are of relevant age group a year before primary entry age (3-4 years old). Here, Tonga also has a very high 97.6% (Table 4) close to full coverage of the target population which signifies pre-primary education is accessible.



UN definition: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and

entrepreneurship.

4.4.1 Information and communications technology (ICT) skills

Relevant skills are crucial to employment and entrepreneurship. Information and communication technology (ICT) skills are amongst the most applicable to this era. This is focused on increasing the proportion of youth and adults (aged 15-24 years old) with a type of skill. Table 4 indicator 4.4.1 shows that 51.7% of women and 24.8% of men aged 15-24 years old have relevant ICT skills. This was determined from those who carried out at least one of nine specific computer activities in the previous 3 months from the survey date. Thus, more women than men utilized their ICT skills.



Goal 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

There are 9 targets and 14 indicators with the purpose of tracking gender equality progress. Only 3 out of 14 possible indicators that are currently available (Table 5). Based on available data, effort is still needed to close the gap between men and women through avoiding early marriage and progressing to empowering women through technology.

Table 5 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 5

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Legal frameworks for gender equality and non-discrimination	5.1.1 ¹ Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex.		NA	No
Women married before age 15 or 18	5.3.1 ¹ Percentage of women and men age 20-24 years who were first married or in union Women (a) before age 15 (b) before age 18 Men (a) before age 15 (b) before age 18*		0.4 10.1 0.0 2.8	Yes ³¹
Women in political positions	5.5.1 ¹ Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments		NA	No
Women in managerial positions	5.5.2 ¹ Proportion of women in managerial positions		NA	No
Guarantee of equal access to sexual and reproductive health care	5.6.2 ¹ Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education		NA	No
Equal rights to land ownership	5.a.2 ¹ Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control.		100	Yes ³²
Mobile telephone ownership	5.b.1 ¹ Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who own a mobile phone Women Men		84.4 88.3	Yes ³³

³¹ Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019, Tonga Statistics Department

³² Pacific data hub 2016, SPC

³³ Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019, Tonga Statistics Department



UN definition:
Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilate

on.



UN definition:
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property,

financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.



UN definition:
Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5.3.1 Women married before age 15 or 18

There are legal conditions to marriage to Tonga which includes that parties must be 18 years old or in other cases provide consent from parents to marry. Generally, the proportion of early age marriage is low in 2019. However, the gender disparity amongst those who were married before age 18 is significantly higher for girls which is 10.1% compared to boys with 2.8%. This indicates that more girls are married at earlier ages despite the legal limitation on age 18 or above. Thus, attention is required towards young girls between the age of 15-18 years of age as they are prone to early childhood marriage since female marriage before 15 years old is very low compared to marriage before 18 years old (Table 5).

5.a.2 Equal rights to land ownership

Indicator 5.a.2 states Tonga has a legal framework (100 = yes) in place that allows women to lease land according to revised land act 2016. However, the data on the proportion of women to men who solely own land is unavailable for Tonga (indicator 5.a.1). Thus, the complete status of this target is unable to be fully determined.

5.B.1 Mobile telephone ownership

Use of mobile phones is used as a metric of enabling technology. The overall share of adults aged 15-49 years old as of 2019 who own a mobile phone is high (Table 5). The proportion of women owning a mobile phone is 4% fewer as opposed to men which may indicate that the gap of technology usage amongst men and women is small in the same year (Figure 0.24). Thus, women may be equally equipped with regards to ICT skills.

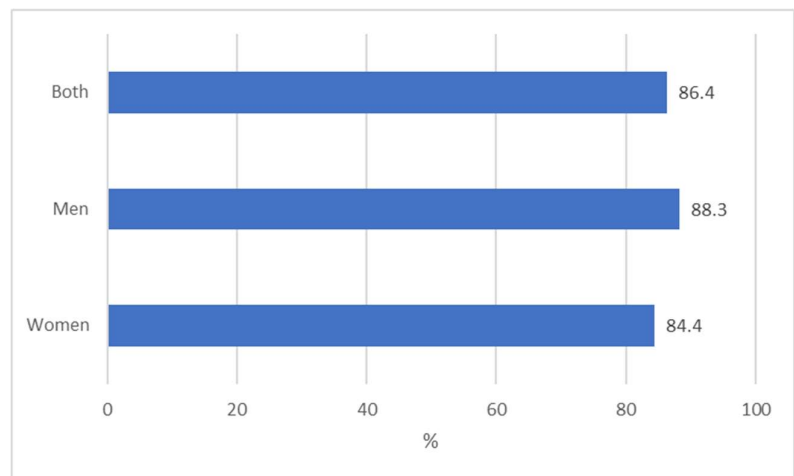
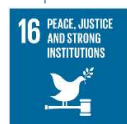


Figure 28 Percentage of adults 15-49 years old who own a mobile phone in 2019



Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

There are 12 targets and 24 indicators all together for goal 16. 5 out of 24 were available to date were all were captured in MICS 2019 (Table 6). Tonga has shown much progress in the public safety of the people and high coverage of birth registration. However, actions are required to lessen victims of crimes (robber and assault) and discrimination and/or harassment especially the alarming proportion of children experiencing physical punishment and/or psychological aggression.

Table 6 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 16

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Intentional homicides	16.1.1 ¹ Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age		NA	No
Public safety	16.1.4 Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	100		
	Women		84.4	Yes ³⁴
	Men		98.3	
Violence against children	16.2.1 Percentage of children age 1-14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past one month		86.6	Yes ³⁴
Victim reports of crime	16.3.1 Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years experiencing physical violence of robbery and/or assault in the last 12 months and reporting the last incidences of robber and/or assault experienced to the police			
	Women		35.8	Yes ³⁴
	Men		14.6	
Unsentenced detainees	16.3.2 ¹ Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population		NA	No
Governmental expenditures within budgets	16.6.1 ¹ Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)		NA	No
Representation in public institutions	16.7.1 ¹ Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions		NA	No
Birth registration	16.9.1 ¹ Percentage of children under 5 whose births are reported registered with a civil authority	100	97.7	Yes ³⁴
Public discrimination	16.b.1 Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law			
	Women		24.3	Yes ³⁴
	Men		18.4	

³⁴ Fact Sheet – Tonga MICS (Preliminary Results), 2019, Tonga Statistics Department



UN definition: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

16.1.4 Public safety

The target focus on violence and death related cases as the goal mentioned above states. Altogether 4 indicators collectively contribute to reporting the progress on this target. Though, due to limited data availability, only 1 out of 4 were available (indicator 16.1.4). Therefore, only the progress according to such a metric can be portrayed.

A high proportion of adults (15-39 years of age) feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night (Table 6). Although, significantly more men feel safe in their neighbourhood as opposed to women which may be a result of women being accustomed to the culture.



UN definition: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

16.2.1 Violence against children

Similar to the previous target only part of the total indicators (1 out of 3) was available for reporting. Indicator 16.2.1 suggest that 86.6% of children aged 1-14 years old experience physical punishment or psychological aggression by the caregiver in the previous month in 2019. This is an alarmingly high proportion of children; however, this may be to the accustomed method of discipline in Tonga. Physical punishment is referred to as shaking, hitting or slapping a child on any part of the body with a hard object or with a bare hand hard or repeatedly. Whereas psychological aggression includes actions of shouting, yelling, screaming, or calling the child with offensive names.



UN definition: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

16.3.1 Victim reports of crime

This target consists of 2 indicators, however, reporting fully on the progress on this target is limited to available data hence only 1 indicator is available for the target.

There is a significant proportion of adults (15-49 years of age) who experienced physical violence of robbery and/or assault and reported the previous incidence to the police in 2019 (Table 6). This data was collected based on the time reference of the previous 12 months from the point of the survey. The gap between men and women who were victims of physical violence of these reported crimes is substantial. About 21% more women than men experienced physical violence in 2019.



UN definition: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.

16.9.1 Birth registration

Here the focus is providing universal access to legal identity for all where completeness of birth registration of children below the age of 5 years old (16.9.1) to indicate its status. There is a high (97.7%) proportion of children under 5 years old that have registered their births in 2019, hence this is near complete registration coverage. This is a slight increase from 96% in 2016 according to the Tonga Census and Population Housing Census 2016.



UN definition: Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

16.B.1 Public discrimination

Findings according to MICS 2019 showed that 24.3% of women aged 15-49 years old experienced discrimination or harassment based on discrimination prohibited under international human rights law in the previous 12 months, while 18.4% of men had a similar experience (Table 6). As a result, more women experienced discrimination or harassment than men which may indicate women being more prone to being victimized by such incidence. Although the figures may be relatively low, consistent enforcement and promotion of related laws and policies are required to further improve.

Economics Sector



Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 7 offers 4 out of the 79 SDG Indicators that has been identified to be relevant to Tonga. MEIDECC Energy Division has supplied the following data as summarized in Table 7.

Table 7 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 7

Indicator short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data Availability
Access to electricity	7.1.1 ¹ Proportion of population with access to electricity	100%	98.4%	YES ³⁵
			(2017) 97.02%	
			(2016) 97% Urban 98.7% Rural 96.6%	
Access to clean fuels for cooking	7.1.2 ¹ Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	100%	83.7%	YES ³⁶
Renewable Energy	7.2.1 ¹ Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption		15%	YES ³⁷
			(2017) 5.5%	
			(2014) 1.64%	
Energy efficiency	7.3.1 ¹ Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP			YES

³⁵ MICS 2019, SR.1

³⁶ MICS 2019, TC.18

³⁷ MEIDECC – Energy Division



UN definition: "By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services."

7.1.1 Access to electricity

Before 2015, below 95% of the population of Tonga have access to electricity. Since 2015, the access to electricity has improved to more than 95%. This has been due to various factors but mainly to new improvement in the Tonga Power Limited distribution network being upgraded through various projects funded mainly by New Zealand and Australia.

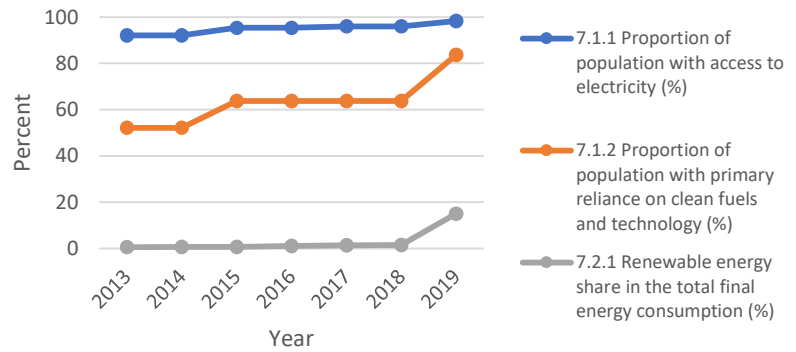


Figure 30 Access to electricity, clean fuels and renewable energy

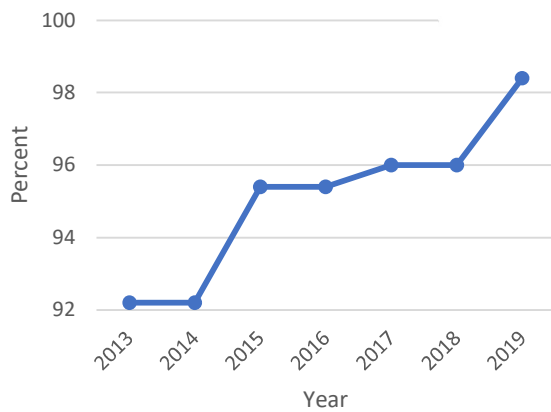


Figure 29 Proportion of population with access to electricity

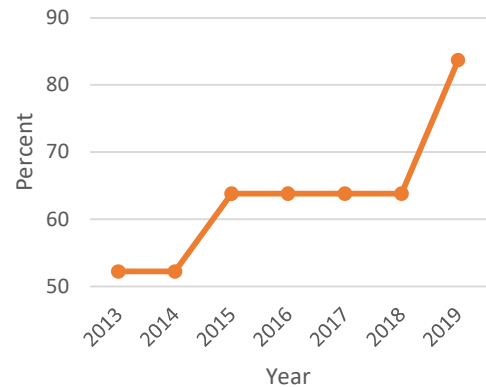


Figure 31 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology



UN definition: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.



UN definition: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

7.1.2 Access to clean fuels for cooking

The proportion of reliance in clean fuels and technology has improved in 2015 from below 60% to more than 60%, and has remained constant since then.

The sharp increase from 2018 to 2019 was due to the results of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) at the end of 2019, which is a jump of about 20%. MEIDECC Energy Division have yet to publish their figures for 2019 and 2020. See Figure 31 in the previous page.

7.2.1 Renewable energy

According to the news media on the 7th January 2020, it is estimated that about 10 projects will be launched in 2020 to achieve the 50% renewable energy target by the end of the year and 70% by 2030. The percentage of renewable energy then in Tonga is at 14-16 percent. Hence the sharp increase from 2018 to 2019, Figure 32.

According to data from the Energy Division, MEIDECC, renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption has been steadily increasing since 2013, but at a very slow rate and has reached 1.5% in 2018. The goal of achieving a 50% in 2020 and 70% in 2030 is a very ambitious one.

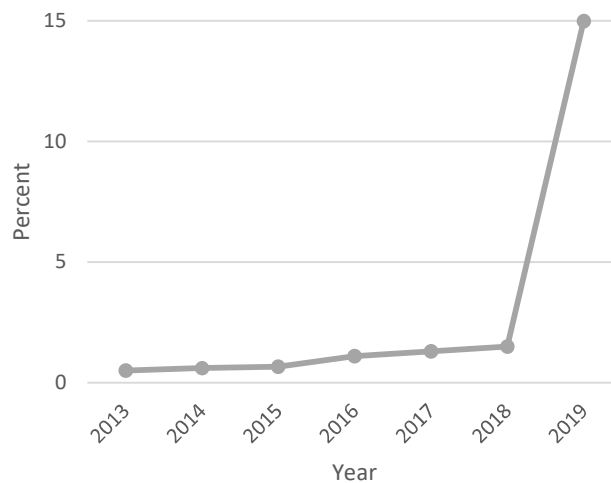


Figure 32 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption



UN definition: "By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency."

7.3.1 Energy efficiency

Tonga energy efficiency has been declining at a very slow rate since 2008 as in Figure 33. This is a good sign that energy efficiency has been improving gradually during the last decade.

A lower ratio indicates that less energy is used to produce one unit of output.

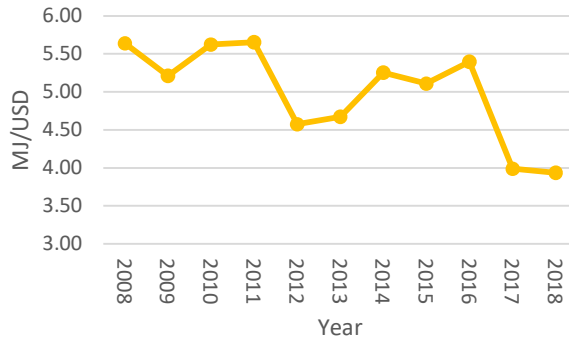


Figure 33 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP



Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Of the 79 SDG indicators that are relevant to Tonga, there are 3 SDG indicators from Goal 8, Table 8.

Table 8 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 8

Indicator short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data Availability
GDP per capita growth rate	8.1.1 ¹ Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita		3.1% (2015)	Yes
GDP per capita growth rate per employed person	8.2.1 ¹ Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person		0.3% (2018)	Yes
Access to financial services	8.10.1 ¹ (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults		(a) 100 (b) 40	Yes



UN definition: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth

per annum in the least developed countries.

8.1.1 GDP per capita growth rate

Tonga Statistics Department is responsible for the compilation of Tonga National Account Statistics. This provide a comprehensive accounting framework within which economic data can be compiled and presented in a format that is designed for the purposes of economic analysis, decision-taking and policy making. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the most frequently used indicator in the national accounts and is a headline figure published by most countries including Tonga.

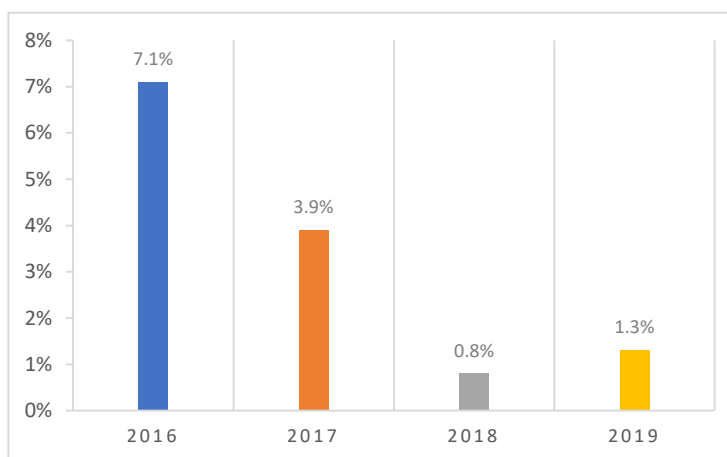


Figure 34 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Three approaches can be used to calculate GDP:

1. GDP by production (GDP(P)) calculates what each separate producer adds to the value of final output (value added) by deduction intermediate consumption from output. Value added is summed for all producers.
2. GDP by Expenditure (GDP(E)) sums the values of all final demands – the final consumption expenditures (of household, government and private non-profit institutions serving households), changes in inventories, gross capital formation and net exports
3. GDP by Income (GDP(I)) directly measure the incomes received by the owners of the factors of production. These represent the returns to the labour and capital employed such as wages and salaries, and profits.

Only the production and expenditure approach are produced and the production-based measure is the preferred measure.

Since 2015-16, the GDP has been in decline despite a slide increase in the 2018-19 financial year (Figure 34), which we hope is a positive one as we now have COVID-19 to live through.

8.2.1 GDP per capita growth rate per employed person

The only data available was on the 2017-18 financial year which stood at 0.3%.

8.10.1 Access to financial services

Figure 35³⁸ shows that the number of commercial bank branches has remained at 100 per 100,000 adults since 2019 as well as number of ATMs per 100,000 has remained at 40 since 2018.



TARGET 8.2
UN definition: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus

on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.



TARGET 8.10
UN definition: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

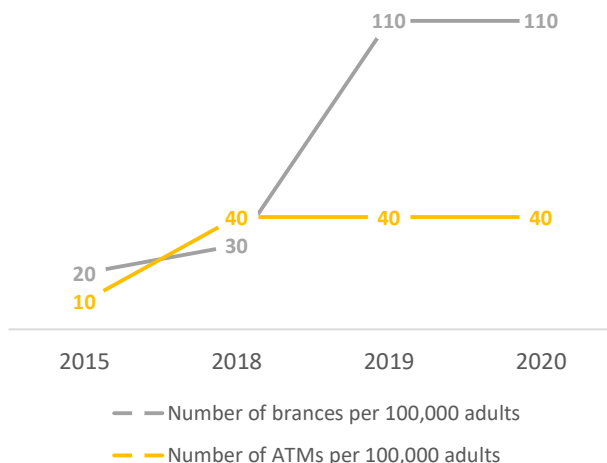


Figure 35 SDG Indicator 8.10.1 Access to financial services

³⁸ Source: <http://www.reservebank.to/index.php/financials/financial-access/access-to-finance-reports.html>



Goal 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The list of 79 SDG indicators relevant to Tonga includes the following 5 SDG indicators from Goal 9, Table 9. Only one indicator has data available.

Table 9 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 9

Indicator short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data Availability
Passenger and freight volumes	9.1.2 ¹ Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport		NA	No
Manufacturing value	9.2.1 ¹ Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita		NA	No
Small-scale industries with affordable credit	9.3.2 ¹ Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit		NA	No
Development assistance for infrastructure	9.a.1 ¹ Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure		NA	No
Development assistance for infrastructure	9.c.1 ¹ Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology		2016: 3G=95, 4G=41.1 2015:2G=92	Yes

TARGET 9-2



UN definition:
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030,

significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

9.2.1 Manufacturing Value

The manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita has been decreasing sharply since the 2016-17 financial year, Figure 36. This is expected to be worse in the 2019-20 financial year and beyond with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic with the delay of having a vaccine yet.

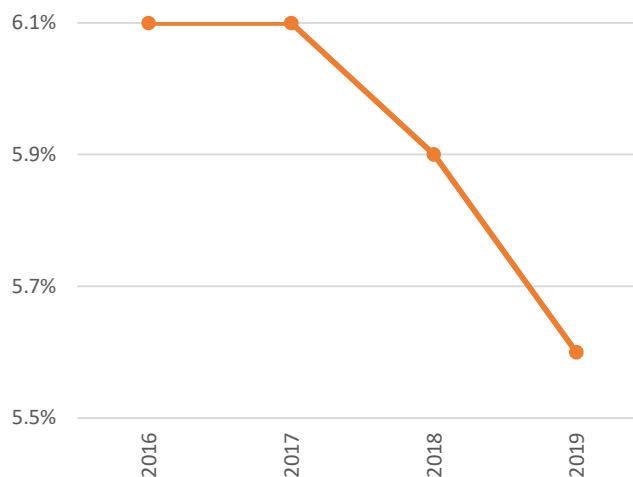


Figure 36 SDG Indicator 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita



Goal 10 Reduce Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Table 10 list the 3 Goal 10 SDG Indicators out of the 79 SDG indicators that are relevant to Tonga. Only 1 has data available.

Table 10 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 10

Indicator short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data Availability
Income growth inequalities	10.1.1 ¹ Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population		0.40 ³⁹	Yes
Development assistance and investment	10.b.1 ¹ Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow		NA	No
Remittance costs	10.c.1 ¹ Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted		NA	No



UN definition: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

10.1.1 Income growth inequalities

The value of the Gini for the income per capita (adjusted by OCDE equivalence scales) is .40.



UN definition: By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

10.c.1 Remittance costs

The remittance cost⁴⁰ has been decreasing from 11.9% in 2011, to less than 10% from 2015 to 2018, Figure 37. Although there have been some missing data but from 2011 to 2018 there was about a decrease of at a rate of 0.35% per year.

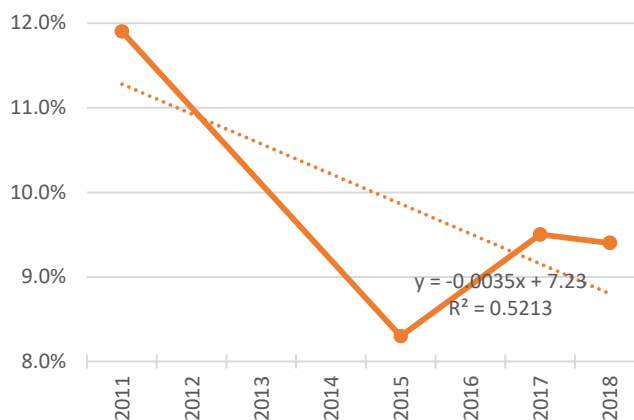


Figure 37 SDG Indicator 10.c.1 Remittance costs

³⁹ HIES, 2016

⁴⁰ <http://remittances.worldbank.org>



Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Goal 17 has 10 out of the 79 SDG Indicators that are relevant to Tonga, Table 11. Only 2 indicators do not have any data.

Table 11 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 17

Indicator short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data Availability
Government revenue	17.1.1 ¹ Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP		25.4% (2017)	Yes
Domestic taxes	17.1.2 ¹ Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes		75% (2018 forecast)	Yes
Foreign direct investment	17.3.2 ¹ Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget		28% (2017)	Yes
Debt service	17.4.1 ¹ Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services		20.24% (2015)	Yes
Fixed broadband subscriptions	17.6.2 ¹ Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants		Total 2.8 (2016)	
	(2015) 256K-2Mbit/s		1.6	Yes
	2M-10Mbit/s		0.6	
	Above 10Mbit/s		0	
Individuals using the Internet	17.8.1 ¹ Proportion of individuals using the Internet		30.7% (2016)	Yes
	Urban		43.9%	
	Rural		26.7%	
Macroeconomic Dashboard	17.13.1 ¹ Macroeconomic Dashboard			Yes
Statistical Capacity	17.18.1 ¹ Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics		NA	No
National statistical legislation	17.18.2 ¹ Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics		NA	No
Resources for statistical capacity	17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries		15,702 (2014)	



UN definition: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to

improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.1.1 Government revenue

Since 2015 the total government revenue has been below 35% of the GDP until 2019, Figure 38.

Revenue from taxes has been gradually increasing since 2015 to about 24% at the end of the 2018-19 financial year.

Grants revenue has been decreasing since 2015 from below 15% and now rest below 10% of the GDP.

Other revenue has been consistently below 4%. It has been decreasing since 2015 and now rest below 3%.

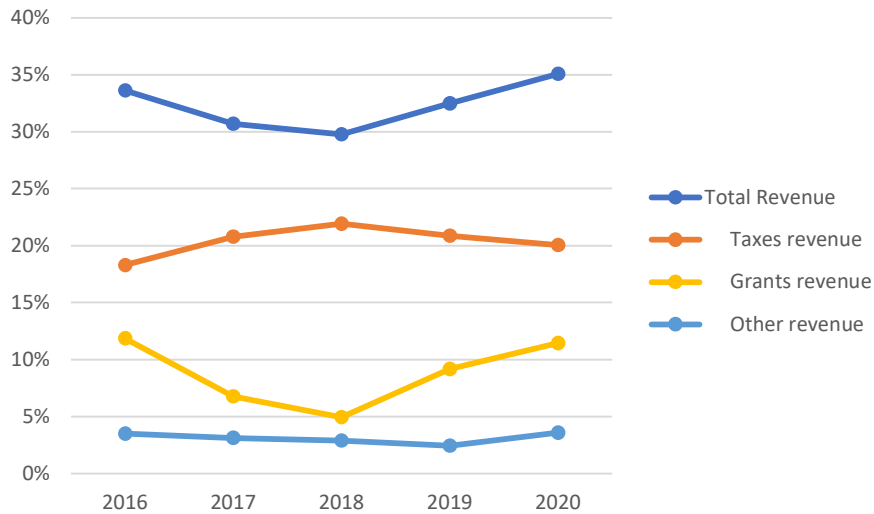


Figure 38 Revenue as proportion of GDP



UN definition:
Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

17.3.2 Volume of remittances

In the past 5 years remittances constituted between 25% (a quarter) and 33.3% (a third) of the Tonga's GDP, Figure 39⁴¹. It reached a high value of 32.2% in 2017.

Based on this data there was an expectation that remittances will be decreasing due to the COVID-19 pandemic but this is not the case. According to the National Reserve Bank of Tonga (NRBT)⁴² report for July 2020, the total remittances to Tonga in the year ended in July 2020 has surpassed same period in 2019.

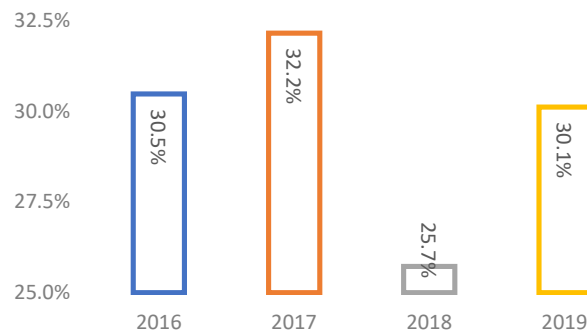


Figure 39 Volume of remittances as proportion of total GDP

⁴¹ Source: TSD, Economics Division

⁴² <http://www.reservebank.to/index.php/economic/rem.html>

Environment Sector



Goal 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

With the current COVID-19, pandemic emphasis on safe water and sanitation has become more important than ever. 3 out of 11 possible indicators were available for Goal 6, Table 12.

Table 12 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 6

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Safe drinking water	6.1.1 ¹ Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services		26.2	Yes ⁴³
Safe sanitation and hygiene	6.2.1 ¹ Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water			
	Percentage of household members with handwashing facility where water and soap or detergent are present		77.8	
	Percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared		91.8	Yes ⁴³
	Percentage of household members with an improved sanitation facility that does not flush to a sewer and with waste never emptied and buried in a cover pit		63.8	
Percentage of household members with an improved sanitation facility that does not flush to a sewer and with waste removed by a service provider for treatment off-site.		33.4		
Safe sanitation and hygiene	6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated		99.5	Yes ⁴⁴

⁴³ MICS 2019 preliminary, Tonga Statistics Department

⁴⁴ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – Sustainable Development Goals Tonga, 2015



UN definition: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

6.1.1 Safe drinking water

Safely drinking water comprises three aspects: Drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination. Improved access to water (piped household water connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, rainwater collection). in Tonga widely accessible but not accessible to all (Figure 35). Around 10% of households rely on bottled water (Unimproved access) and 20% rely on community/neighbours' supply and it is not clear how this access fits the WHO classification (Figure 40⁴⁵).

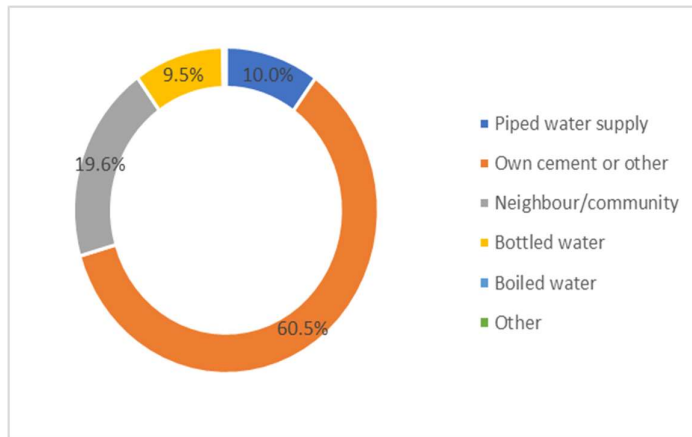


Figure 40 Proportion of main source of households drinking water, 2016

There is a low percentage of (26.2%) the population with access to safely managed drinking water services as of 2019 (Table 12). Here safely managed drinking water services comprise of the drinking water source to be *on-premises, tested and free of E. coli and available when needed*. Therefore, all three conditions must be met to be considered safe. According to MICS 2019 people whose source of drinking water that was contaminated with *E. coli* was 78.1%. Extra measures need to be taken to improve the safety of drinking water systems.



UN definition: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women

and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

6.2.1 Safe sanitation and hygiene

According to the WHO safely manage sanitation services are those that use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite

Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all is progressing in Tonga. Data from the HIES 2016 suggests that access to improved sanitation facilities was quite high in Tonga. Around 90% of households have access to improved sanitation facilities. Because the simple pit latrine was not disaggregated when asked is not possible to know what percentage would fall into the unimproved category.

In 2019, there is a high proportion of people with access to handwashing and sanitation facilities with 77.8 and 91.8, respectively.

Tonga has progressed to nearly full coverage treatment of wastewater as of 2015. This indicates that progress has met target “halve untreated wastewater”.

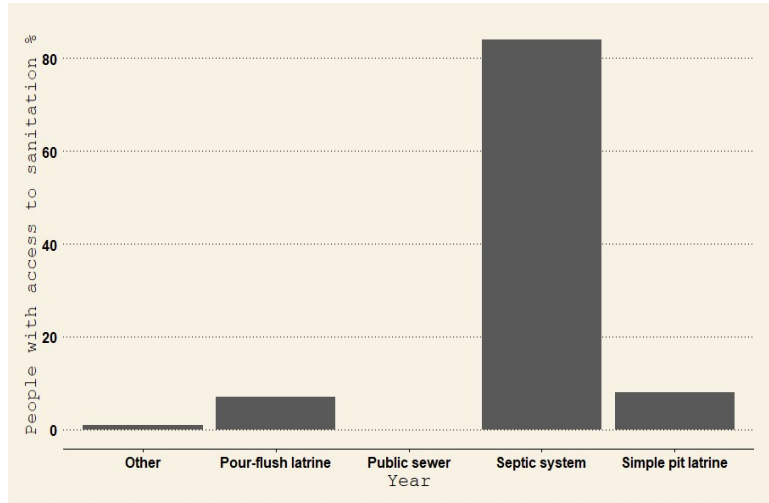


Figure 41 Access to improved sanitation facilities, HIES 2016



Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

There are 10 targets altogether in goal 11 and 15 indicators. Only 2 out of 15 possible indicators are currently available for Tonga were only target 11.5 could be reported on.

Table 13 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 11

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Urban population living in slums	11.1.1 ¹ Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing		NA	No
Urban planning management	11.3.2 ¹ Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically		NA	No
Protecting cultural heritage	11.4.1 ¹ Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage		NA	No
Death and injuries from natural disasters	11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population		0.84 (2018)	Yes ⁴⁶
Important biodiversity sites protected	11.5.2 ¹ Direct disaster economic loss, average annual loss		75.16 million USD (2016)	Yes ⁴⁶
Safe spaces in cities	11.7.2 ¹ Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months		NA	No

⁴⁶ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – SDG Tonga



UN definition: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including

water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

11.5.1 Deaths and injuries from natural disasters

Indicator 11.5.1 aims to measure the changes to the mortality rates of internally displaced persons, missing persons and directly affected by natural disasters. In 2018, 0.84 per 100,000 people were directly affected (Table 13). This was a major increase on the number of casualties in 2016 which may be due to Tropical Cyclone Gita with a category 5 intensity which struck Tonga in 2018 (Figure 42⁴⁷).

In 2016, aggregated direct economic loss due to disaster was estimated at 75.16 USD (Table 13). Due to lack of periodic data available we are unable to determine the trend for economic over the years.

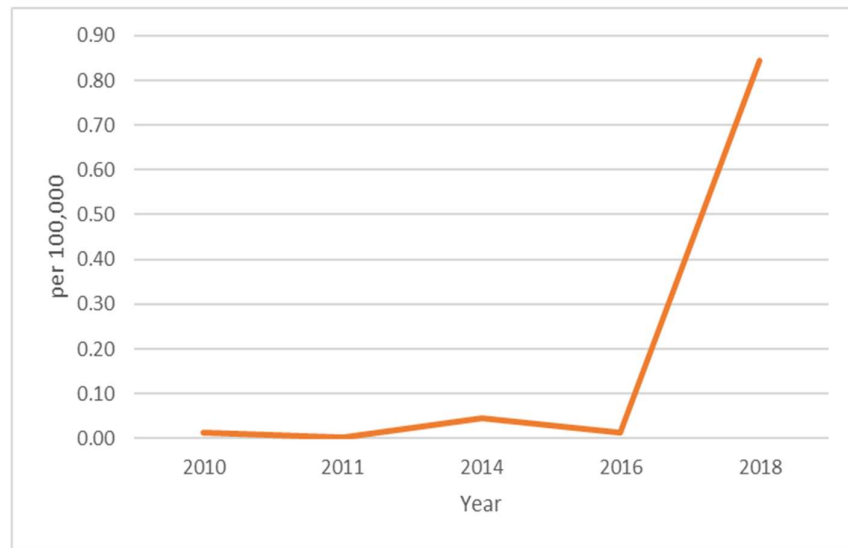


Figure 42 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population, 2010 – 2018



Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The UN designated 11 target and 13 possible indicators for SDG 12 track the trends of consumption and production in the economies. Only 1 complete indicator was available for Tonga. Indicators that track sustainable resource consumption is limited collectively for the world according to SDG tracker database⁴⁸.

TARGET 12.4



RESPONSIBLE
MANAGEMENT OF
CHEMICALS AND
WASTE

UN definition: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air,

water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

12.4.1 International agreements on hazardous waste

Indicator 12.4.1 is measured against the goal to soundly manage chemicals and waste according international frameworks and unlike other SDG's it is set to be achieved by 2020. To date, Tonga is 100% compliance with the Montreal Protocol, 62.07% compliance with the Rotterdam Convention, 25% compliance with the Stockholm Convention and 20% with the Basel Convention (Figure 43⁴⁹). Thus, Tonga is lacking behind with its commitments to Rotterdam Convention and especially with obligations to meet Stockholm and Basel Convention standards and perhaps requires attention in the future. However, Tonga has fully adhered to the Montreal Protocol.

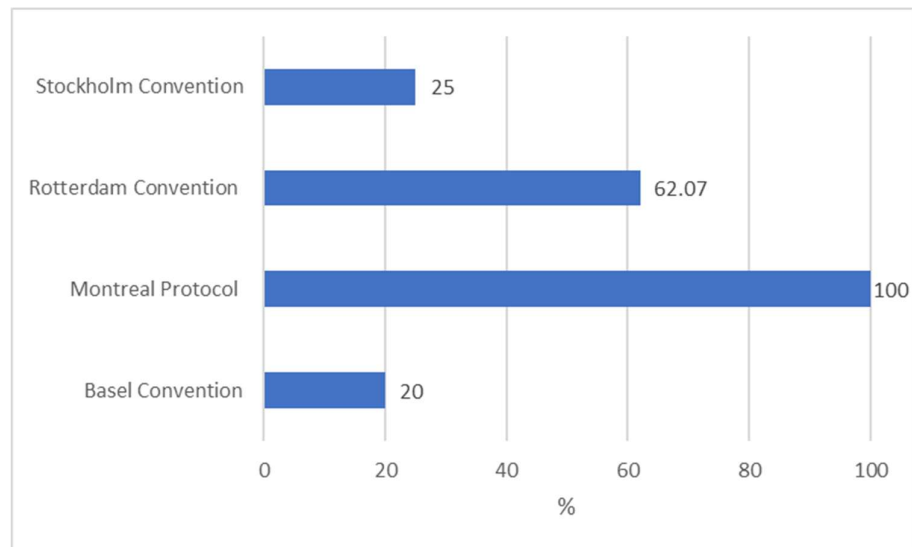


Figure 43 Share of compliance to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals, Tonga, 2020

⁴⁸ <https://sdg-tracker.org/sustainable-consumption-production>

⁴⁹ Source: SPC, Pacific Data Hub – SDG Tonga



Goal 13 Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Tonga remains one of the most at-risk small island developing states (SIDS) to climate change and has made actions to ensure a resilience Tonga and to reduce risk. The Sendai Framework was adopted in 2015 where the relevant Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster, Environment and Climate Change (MEIDECC) is responsible for adhering and implementation at levels (Table 14 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 13 indicator 13.1.2). Tonga has also established and implemented TERM 2010-2020 (Tonga Energy Road Map), JNAP I 2010-2015 (Joint National Action Plan) and JNAP II 2015-2020 where they include strategies that have been integrated to corporate plans of relevant ministries.

Table 14 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 13

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Death and injuries from natural disasters	13.1.1 ¹ Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population		0.04	Yes ⁵⁰
National disaster risk management	13.1.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies		1	Yes ⁵⁰
Integration of climate change into national policies	13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)		1	Yes ⁵⁰

⁵⁰ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – SDGTonga



UN definition: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.



UN definition: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.

13.1.1 Deaths and injuries from natural disasters

In 2018, about 84,311 people were directly affected (evacuated and injured). This is only 0.84 people per 100,000 population which is relatively low. Tonga a signatory in Paris Agreement, adheres to several initiatives at both international and regional level including the Sendai Framework, the Kyoto protocol and the Samoa Pathway⁵¹. The Sendai Framework was adopted in 2015 were the relevant Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster, Environment and Climate Change (MEIDECC) is responsible for adhering and implementation at levels (Table 14 indicator 13.1.2).

13.2.1 Integration of climate change into national policies

Tonga has also established and implemented TERM 2010-2020 (Tonga Energy Road Map), JNAPI 2010-2015 (Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change) and most recently JNAP II 2015-2020 where they include strategies that have been integrated to corporate plans of relevant ministries. In 2006, Tonga's established its first climate change policy and since then has not been revised. In 2016 the Tonga Climate Change Policy associated with the JNAP was developed which provides a guiding framework, objective when multi-sector coordination is required since climate change is a cross-cutting issue⁵². Thus, Tonga has met its target by integrating climate measures.

⁵¹ Prime Minister's Office, 2020. *In-Country Stakeholders Consultation on the Drivers of Change for the Blue Pacific Continent 2050 Strategy*, Nuku'alofa: PMO.

⁵² Department of Climate Change, 2016. *Tonga Climate Change Policy*, Nuku'alofa: MEIDECC.



Goal 14 Life below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

The marine ecosystem and the sea resources remains an essential providing for the people of Tonga. There are 10 targets with 10 relative indicators for SDG 14 all measuring the progress on sustainability and conservation of oceans, seas and marine resources. Only 5 out of 10 possible indicators were available for Tonga (Table 15). Unlike most SDG indicators, 14.2.1, 14.5.1 and 14.6.1 are target to be achieved by the current year 2020.

Table 15 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 14

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Protect and restore ecosystems	14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches		15	Yes ⁵³
Protected marine areas	14.5.1 ¹ Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	10	1.51	Yes ⁵⁴
Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	14.6.1 Progress by countries aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing		3	Yes ⁵⁶
Income from sustainable fisheries	14.7.1 ¹ Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries		1.9	Yes ⁵⁵
Research resources for marine technology	14.a.1 ¹ Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology		NA	No
Support small scale fishers	14.b.1 Progress by countries to recognize and protect access rights for small-scale fisheries		2	Yes ⁵⁶

⁵³ SPC

⁵⁴ Ministry of Fishery, 2016

⁵⁵ National Account System, Tonga Statistics Department, 2019

⁵⁶ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – Sustainable Development Goals Tonga, 2018



UN definition: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific

information.



UN definition: By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to

illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

14.5.1 Protected marine areas

In 2016, Tonga reserved about 1.51% of its marine areas as protected which is much less than the target to “conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas” by 2020. Tonga also has set national commitment to protect 30% of its EEZ by 2030. Due to the lack of up-to-date data the current status of this share of protected marine areas are unable to be determined.

14.6.1 Combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

This target comprises of a single indicator 14.6.1 (Table 15). The indicator score is measured against a scale of band 1 – 5 where 1 is lowest and 5 is the highest level of implementation of any form of global tool to fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. This target aims to simply protect against overfishing and IUU fishing by 2020. As of 2018, the degree of implementation of international instruments for combating IUU fishing for Tonga is at band 3. This means that there is a medium level of implementation to combat IUU fishing. Thus, Tonga is yet to be fully equipped and protected against overfishing and IUU fishing.



UN definition: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

14.7.1 Income from sustainable fisheries

The latest figure in 2018-19 financial year was 1.9%. This is a slight increase from the previous financial year. However, the income from sustainable fisheries has been declining since 2015-16 financial year.

Overall, the income from fisheries in Tonga is significantly low and has been below 3% of the GDP since 2015 and has been declining since despite a slight improvement in 2018-19.

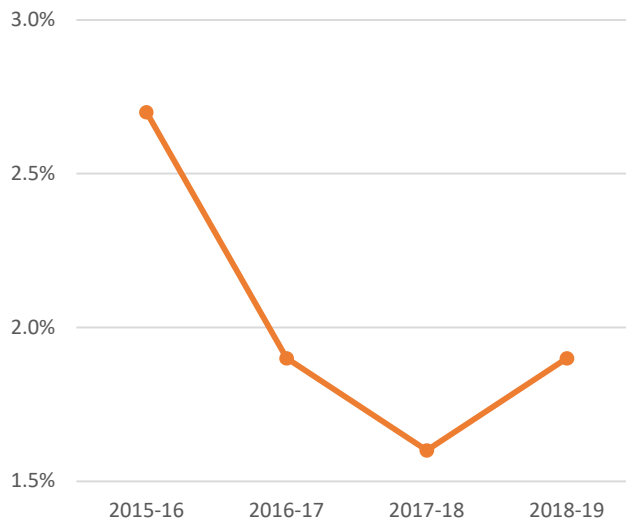
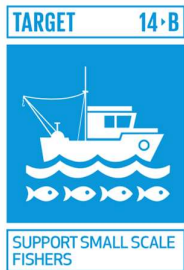


Figure 44 Sustainable Fisheries as a proportion of GDP



UN definition: Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

14.b.1 Support small scale fishers

Indicator 14.b.1 follows a similar scale as 14.6.1, however, band 1 represents the lowest and 5 is the highest degree of implementation of instruments for access to resources and markets for small-scale fisheries. As of 2018, Tonga’s level of implementation was 2 (Table 15) denoting a low implementation of tactics to enable access for small-scale fisheries. This indicates Tonga may still be lacking on this specific target hence “providing access to small scale fishers to marine resources”.



Goal 15 Life on Land

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss

Goal 15 consist of 12 targets and 14 indicators altogether which measures the progress of the sustainability of the ecosystem on land. Only 3 out of 14 indicators were available for Tonga (Table 16).

Table 16 Summary of SDG Indicators for Goal 15

Short name	Indicator	Target	Status	Data availability
Forest area*	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area		12.43 (2019)	Yes ⁵⁷
Important biodiversity sites protected*	15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type		26.07 (2019)	Yes ⁵⁷
Red list index	15.5.1 Red List Index		0.72 (2020)	Yes ⁵⁷

⁵⁷ SPC, Pacific Data Hub – Sustainable Development Goals Tonga



UN definition: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and

drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.



UN definition: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and

substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

15.1.1 Forest Area

15.1.2 Important biodiversity sites protected

Unlike most SDG target that is set for 2030, indicators 15.1.1 and 15.1.2 are set to be achieved by 2020. Both indicators target to measure progress in “ensuring the ecosystem, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services” by 2020.

12.43% of the land area of Tonga is classified as forest area in 2019 (Table 4). Forest area is defined by FAO as “land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and canopy cover of more than 10 per cent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use”. The total forest area in 2019 and 2020 was 8,950 hectares. The share of the forest area has been consistent over the years since 2010 which indicates the effective sustainability and conservation of the forest area.

Tonga has maintained its important terrestrials and freshwater sites over the years. As shown in Table 4, 26.07% of terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity sites are protected in 2019. This figure has been consistent over the years since 2010.

15.5.1 Red list index

Target 15.5 aims to “ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity” by 2030. The red list index (RLI) captures change to a group of species at risk of extinction categorized on The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red list of Threatened species as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. The index ranges from 0 – 1 with 0 meaning all species are extinct and 1 as species are of least concern.

Figure 45⁵⁷ shows a steady but slightly declining RLI over the year 2010 to 2020. Hence the value has always remained at about 0.7 indicating very small

change to aggregate groups of species, hence, little concern should be given to groups of species since change is little.

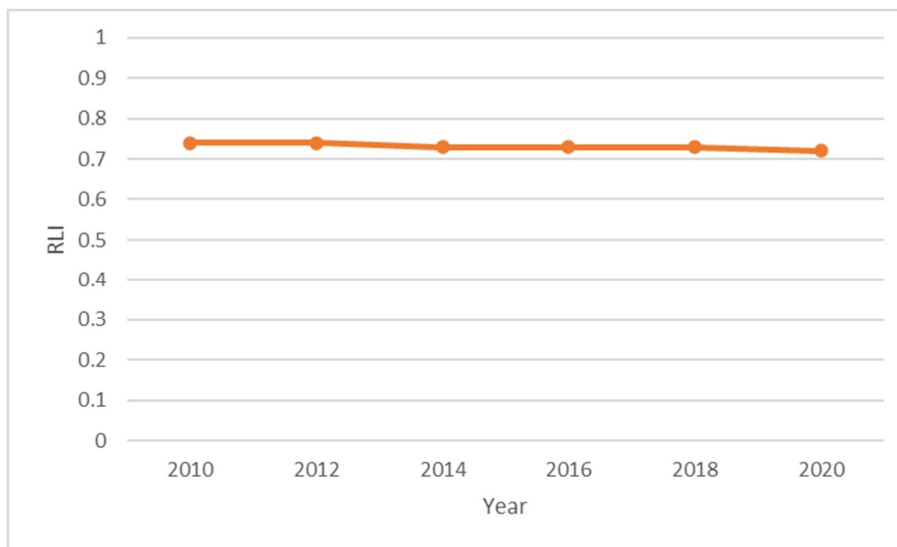


Figure 45 Red list index from 2010 – 2020

Strengthening the National Statistical System for the 2030 Agenda

Tonga's first review of its progress in the 2030 Agenda was its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the 2019 High Level Political Forum. Stated within the review is the importance of having available statistics for “informing policy and improved measurability of progress and effective monitoring and reporting”⁵⁸.

A common theme throughout all progress reports on the 2030 Agenda is the challenge of filling the data gaps as we advance, in-order to achieve the SDGs. For Tonga, the solution to this issue lies in its National Statistical System (NSS).

Governance

National development framework and the TSDS

Since 2015 Tonga has been running on the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II (TSDF II) which is the national overarching framework that should direct the Kingdom's developmental plans formulation, policy implementations and monitoring and evaluation until 2025. As a product of multiple-stakeholder consultations that were widely inclusive of all the main sectors of the economy and the Government MDAs, the TSDF II is a unified reflection of the Kingdom's development priorities.

In 2018, the Tonga Statistics Department (TSD) completed the Tonga Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2019 – 2023 (TSDS) which it began implementing the following year. Anchored to the TSDF II, the TSDS is Tonga's statistical framework to help develop and strengthen the statistical capacity of the Kingdom via the NSS.

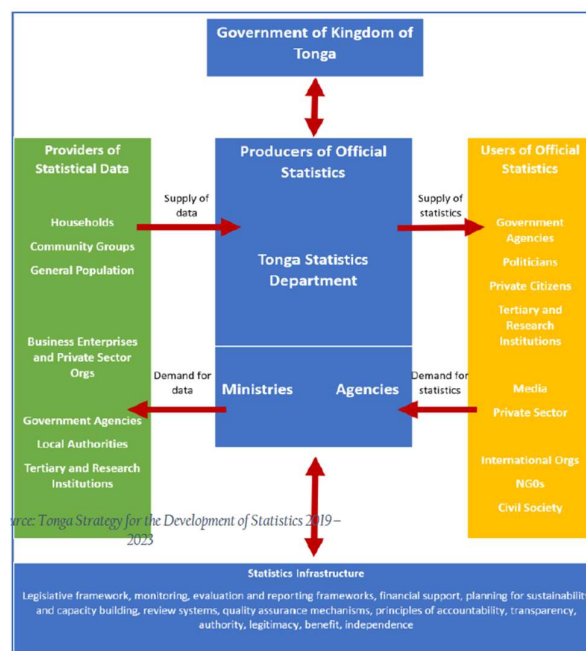


Figure 46 Source: Tonga Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2019-2023

The NSS as a whole are the statistical entities and units within a country that collect, process and disseminate official statistics and is crucial in responding to the ever increasing national and international data demands.

Tonga's NSS is a collaborative system which needs statistical producers, users and providers to work together to produce quality information that can be effectively used to further the Kingdom's development priorities and monitor the impacts. Being the principal authority for official statistics of Tonga⁵⁹, the Tonga Statistics Department is the appropriate agency to be at the heart of the NSS, coordinating all these official statistical activities.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and the NSS

Tonga is a part of multiple international and regional frameworks: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, SAMOA Pathway, Addis Ababa Agreement, SENDAI Framework, United Nations Pacific Strategy (UNPS) 2018-2022, the International Organization for Migration to name a few; and is currently contributing its part in the region to the development of the Blue Pacific Continent 2050 strategy.

As with the TSDF II, the NSS is needed to help inform on our progress on these international frameworks. While the National Planning division (under the Prime Minister's Office) has aligned the SDG Agenda 2030 with the national outcomes of the TSDF II, the Statistics Department is needed in the mobilization and coordination of the NSS in-order to provide quality information on the SDGs targets and indicators which will help effectively monitor and evaluate the progress we are making in each goal.

Governance structure for Tonga Sustainable Development agendas

Tonga's government plays a critical role in leading the overall sustainable development planning and implementation of the Kingdom. Approved by Cabinet on 17th May, 2019, the Tonga Sustainable Development Taskforce (TSDT) and the Tonga Sustainable Development Technical Committee (TSDTC) were formed. Underlying the two aforementioned groups are the three core agencies in the implementation of the SDGs who interact with the rest of the MDAs whom are responsible for their stakeholders.

Tonga Sustainable Development Taskforce (TSDT)

The role of the taskforce is to endorse and take note of national development reports and call on regular update meetings on the progress of SDG localization presented from the technical committee. The taskforce is composed of the Prime Minister and his Deputy, 12 Chief Executive Officers (CEO) from the MDAs (which include the three implementing agencies), the UNJPO Coordinator, the Director of CSO, the Chairperson of the Church Leaders Forum and the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Tonga Sustainable Development Technical Committee (TSDTC)

The role of the technical committee is to support the core role of the taskforce and to focus on data capacities including data collection system, monitoring and analysis amongst line ministries and key stakeholders. Its composed of the CEO for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CEO of the Statistics Department, 13 Deputies from MDAs and the Director of Civil Society Forum of Tonga.

Core agencies in the implementation of the SDG

There are three main agencies in the implementation process of the SDGs; National Planning Division (within the Prime Minister's Office), the Ministry of Finance and the Tonga Statistics Department.

While National Planning is the responsible agency for planning, oversight, reporting and coordination of SDGs implementation, Ministry of Finance for financing strategies and funding, Tonga Statistics Department is the leading and coordinating agency for the production, management and usage of the statistical information.

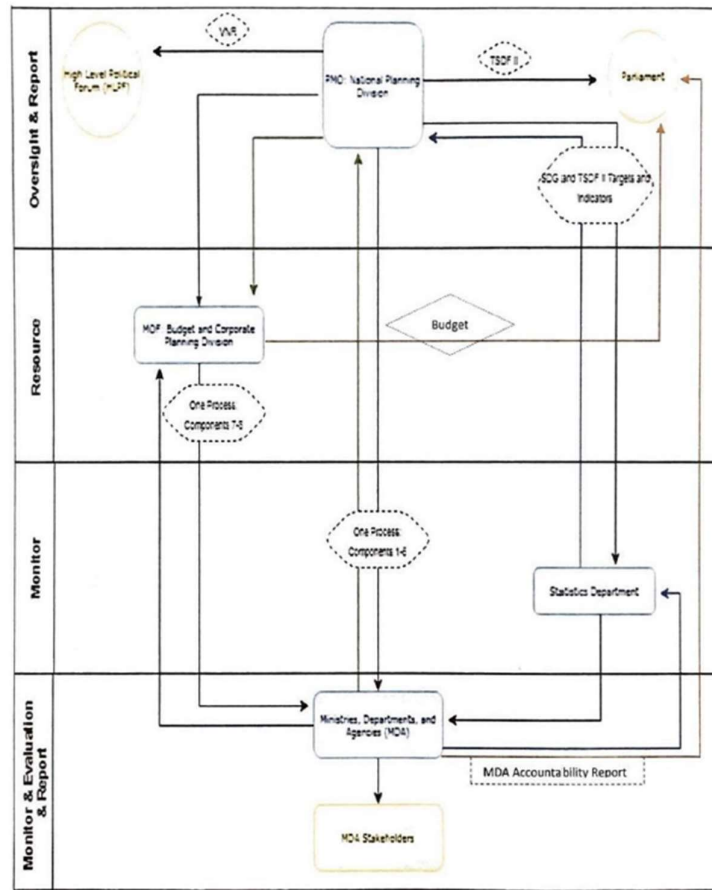


Figure 47 Tonga's Preparedness for Implementation of SDGs 2019 Audit Report

Snapshot of the status of the NSS

The monitoring process:

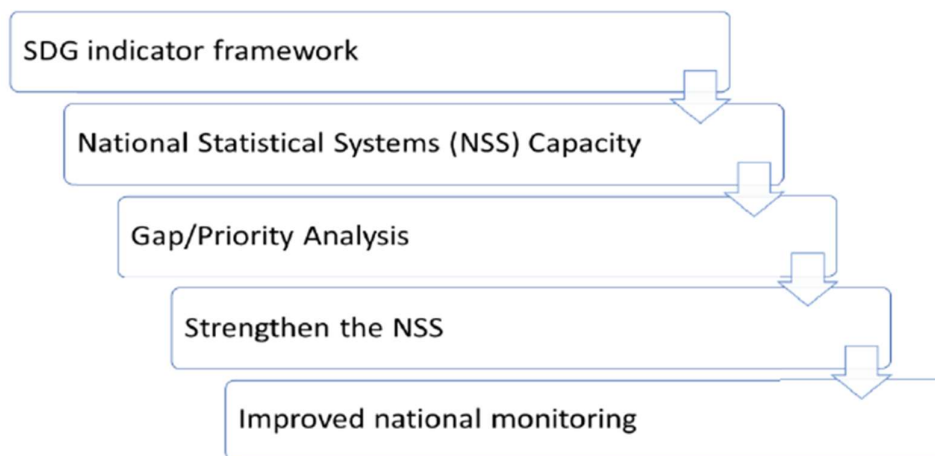


Figure 48 SDG National Monitoring Implementation

As reported in the 2019 VNR, the process of streamlining the SDG indicators into the TSCF II has been carried out, and through the One Process Tool, the budget has been aligned to the planning process of

the TSDF II as well. It is via the National Planning's "Tracker Database" that the Department joins the process to perform a data reality check on the data provided by the MDAs.

Before the presentation of the 2019 VNR, the reality check was carried out within the sectoral technical working groups identified in the TSDS; Sustainable Economic Development, Sustainable Human and Social Development, and Sustainable Natural Resources & Environment Management and Development.

Post-2019 VNR, the Department conducted onsite visits and meetings with MDAs to perform the reality check on their development indicators that they have defined to be important through their dialogue with NP.

TSD's objective, as the coordinator of the NSS in performing the data reality check is to;

- a) Ensure that the indicators from the MDAs follow the metadata and are scientifically accurate
- b) Ascertain the data needs of MDAs and assist in either production or facilitate the gathering of such data
- c) Build relationships between the users and producers of the NSS

The Challenges and Opportunities presented by the SDGs monitoring

While the streamlining of the SDG indicators into Tonga's context has been valuable as the scope of indicators is large (231), there is a need for the data to be disaggregated and coverage should be of all population groups to ensure the Agenda 2030 pledge of leaving no one behind.

These challenges though give rise to opportunities for the NSS to discover new data sources and form partnerships with new data communities. The Tonga Statistics Department can be given the opportunity to strengthen their basic data production and strengthen their role as the official statistics provider and coordinator of the NSS.

Arising issues for effective SDGs monitoring

Lack of meaningful dialogue between TSD and policy makers, and the high-level entities in the Tonga Sustainable Development governance structure. While the overall implementation process has identified the importance of data towards evidence-based decision making and monitoring of progress, and the important role TSD and the NSS plays in this, there is no commitment from Government to strengthen the NSS.

Lack of coordination among entities within the NSS creating weak inter-relationships / partnerships between users and producers in the NSS. The strengthening of partnerships between all actors involved in sustainable development and thus NSS begins from the top tier and flows down. While the governance for Sustainable Development has been established, there is no cohesion in activities within the structure as of yet.

There have been many activities carried by the implementing agencies of the Tonga SDGs, together and individually, in regards to the SDGs yet there is need for guidance from the taskforce and technical committee. Without overall guidance, users and producers in the NSS are not motivated to interact within the system.

Weak advocacy for Statistics finds that while TSD has been making headway in strengthening their public profile, their role in national SDG implementation is still under-valued. Often TSD finds that users use other MDAs' statistics in place of TSD with reasons being that the users were unaware of what the Department does, or that the MDAs themselves do not realize the role of TSD in the Government structure.

With many MDAs working in silos, the advocacy for official statistics, the TSD and the functionality of the NSS needs to be pushed strongly as it has been identified that MDAs are identifying data analysis as a big need within their own organization.

Way forward

- Statistical capacity building within TSD and MDAs is critical.
- Stronger collaboration of TSD and NSS activities with the 2 other main implementing agencies
- User and producer collaboration to fully utilize data and statistical information for informing policy
- Raise demand for accountability, using of evidence-based information within Government and in private sector
- From VNR, to promote the culture of evidence-based practice by empowering locally driven research to identify what are the barriers and facilitating factors that can address development challenges and inform evaluation of policy initiatives.

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