

Pacific Heads of Health

Réunion des directeurs de la santé du Pacifique

Strengthening collaboration UNICEF & Pacific Island Countries and Territories

Heads of Health Meeting, October 2022

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UNICEF Pacific Islands Multi-Country Office

UNICEF Pacific serves the populations of **14 PICTs** through one multi-country office in Fiji and five field offices:

- Solomon Islands
- Kiribati
- Vanuatu
- North Pacific (FSM)
- Samoa



Multi-country office



Field office

Findings from Situation Analysis

- High levels of child mortality in six countries (Kiribati, Nauru, RMI, Tuvalu, FSM, & Vanuatu)
- The high burden of pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, and sepsis contributing to the unacceptable levels of child morbidity in at least six PICTs (Kiribati, Nauru, RMI, Tuvalu, FSM, & Vanuatu)
- High levels of all forms of malnutrition amongst children 0-18 years, particularly childhood stunting in at least five (RMI, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Nauru & Kiribati) PICTs, anaemia among children 0-59 months and women (aged 15-49) as well as overweight and obesity among children 5-19 years across the Pacific.

Mortality rates among children (data source: IGME 2021)

		IMR		NMR			U5MR			
		1990	2020	1990	2000	2020	1990	2000	2020	ARR %
1	Cooks	20	6	13	10	4	24	18	7	3.9%
2	Tonga	19	10	10	7	5	22	17	11	2.2%
3	Samoa	25	15	13	9	7	30	21	17	1.9%
4	Palau	30	16	19	15	9	35	28	17	2.5%
5	Solomon	31	17	15	13	8	38	31	19	2.3%
6	Tuvalu	41	19	28	24	10	53	42	22	2.9%
7	Vanuatu	29	21	16	12	11	35	28	25	1.2%
8	FSM	39	21	24	20	13	49	38	25	2.3%
9	Nieu	21	21	13	17	13	25	32	25	0.0%
10	Fiji	24	23	14	10	12	29	22	27	0.2%
11	RMI	38	26	18	19	14	47	42	31	1.4%
12	Nauru	51	24	32	26	18	67	43	28	2.9%
13	Kiribati	67	39	35	28	21	92	68	50	2.1%
14	Tokelau	No data								

SDG Target 2030:

**Reduce NMR to
At least as low as
12/1,000 live births**

**Reduce U5MR to
at least as low as
25/1,000 live births**

WUENIC Coverage Estimates 2021

DTP3 Coverage (%), EAPR, 2019-2021

name	2019	2020	2021	change-from-2019	↑ change-from-2020
DPRK	97	97	41	-56	-56
Myanmar	90	84	37	-53	-47
Vanuatu	90	78	62	-28	-16
Philippines	71	71	57	-14	-14
Micronesia	78	83	72	-6	-11
Viet Nam	89	94	83	-6	-11
Indonesia	85	77	67	-18	-10
PNG	35	39	31	-4	-8
Solomon Isla...	94	94	87	-7	-7
EAPR	92	90	83	-9	-7
Laos	80	79	75	-5	-4
Samoa	68	89	85	+17	-4
Malaysia	98	98	95	-3	-3
Nauru	96	95	98	+2	+3
Marshall Isla...	79	82	86	+7	+4

DTP3

- **EAPR 2021 coverage was 83%** a decline from 90% in 2020 and 92% in 2019
- **3.9m un- and undervaccinated children** in 2021 an increase from 2.3m in 2020 and 2m in 2019
- **Notable country declines in coverage from 2020:**
 - DPRK Myanmar Philippines Viet Nam Indonesia
- **Largest country increases in un- and undervaccinated children from 2020:**
 - Indonesia +436k; Myanmar +419k; Philippines +345k; DPRK +190k; Viet Nam +157k


Regional trends impacting children in the Pacific

- Increase and frequency of **natural disasters**. The World Risk Index ranks 5 PICTs among the top 20 most at-risk (Vanuatu #1, Solomon Islands #2, Tonga #3, Fiji #14 & Kiribati #19).
- Slow economic growth and **increasing poverty rates**, exacerbated by impacts of COVID-19 and natural disasters.
- **Climate change induced migration**, often irregular
- Challenge of **non-communicable diseases** and **mental health issues**.
- Widespread prevalence of **gender-based violence**
- Increasing **youth unemployment** – impact on **poverty** due to their high representation among the population



UNICEF 2022-25 Health Strategic Plan

1. Strengthen PHC + high-impact interventions to accelerate end of preventable maternal, neonatal and child deaths, and stillbirths
2. Access to quality immunization services as part of PHC
3. Access to interventions that fast-track the end of HIV/AIDS
4. Access to nutritious diets, quality primary health care
5. Health and development in early childhood and adolescence
6. Access to quality programmes to improve mental health and psychosocial well-being



GOAL AREA 1

Every child survives and thrives - Health programme

2022-25 Strategic Plan

Areas of focus in the Multi-Country Programme 2023-2027

- In line with the Pacific Head of Health 2021 deliberation ‘to attain resilient health systems by 2031’ particularly in implementing ‘on plan, on budget’, and focus on PHC
- Support strengthening capacities for evidence-based PHC and nutrition policy, planning and financing
- Engage in the provision of improved, affordable and equitable quality PHC services and practices, including in emergencies
- Facilitate multi-sectoral coordinated actions to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition, improve ECD and NCD, including in emergencies