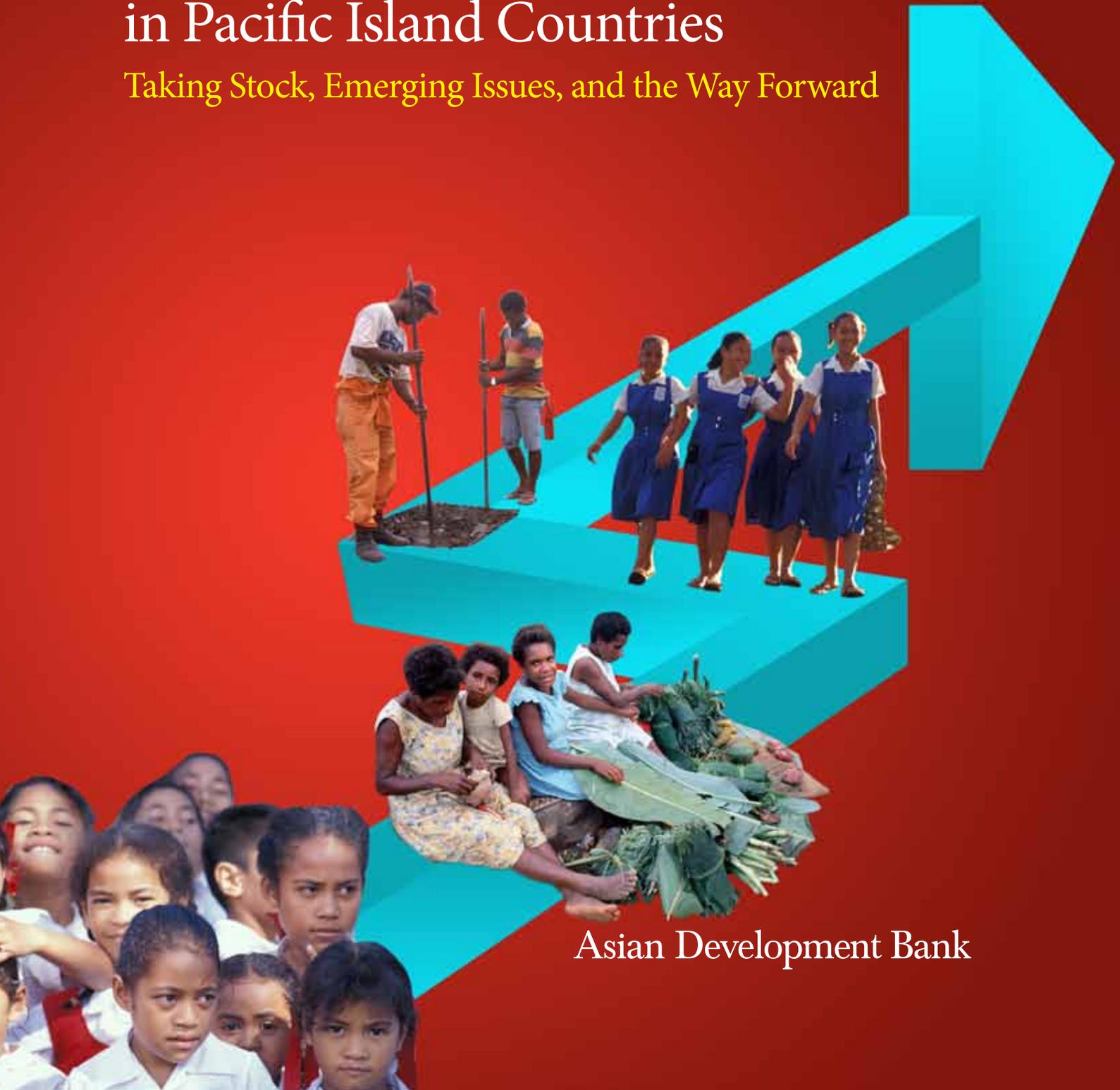


Workshop Report

The Millennium Development Goals in Pacific Island Countries

Taking Stock, Emerging Issues, and the Way Forward



Workshop Report

The Millennium Development Goals in Pacific Island Countries

Taking Stock, Emerging Issues, and the Way Forward

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Abbreviations

ADB	– Asian Development Bank
CEDAW	– Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
FSM	– Federated States of Micronesia
MDG	– Millennium Development Goal
NCD	– noncommunicable disease
ODA	– official development assistance
PACER	– Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations
PICs	– Pacific island countries
SPC	– Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UN	– United Nations
UNDP	– United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	– United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
WHO	– World Health Organization

Executive Summary

This report provides a regional perspective on the progress made by Pacific island countries (PICs)¹ in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It also discusses the implications of climate change, rising food and fuel prices, the 2008 financial crisis, and emerging trade agreements.

Most PICs face considerable challenges in achieving the MDGs, largely because of stagnant economic growth, a lack of employment opportunities in the formal sector, and the subsistence nature of the informal sector. The Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga are “on track” toward achieving the MDGs. Fiji, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu are exhibiting “mixed progress” in realizing the goals by 2015. Conversely, Kiribati, Nauru, and Papua New Guinea are “off track” in achieving the MDGs.

The Pacific region as a whole is unlikely to achieve the target of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (Millennium Development Goal 1, Target 1a) by 2015. Preliminary estimates by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) suggest that poverty incidence has increased by as much as 5 percentage points in certain PICs. The proportion of underweight children and malnutrition also remains prevalent.² In addition, about 27% of the population in the region is undernourished.³

On a more positive note, the region is on track to achieve the MDGs on access to primary education (Goal 2), gender equality in education (Goal 3), and reduction of infant and child mortality (Goal 4). Of the 13 PICs covered by this report, 12 have recorded more than 90% enrollment in primary education, and women make up 30%–55% of the labor force, although gender inequality persists in terms of wages and working conditions. Maternal mortality remains a major problem in most island states. Nevertheless, many countries are on track to improving maternal health (Goal 5).

Progress is slow in stopping the spread of infectious and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). The incidence of NCDs such as diabetes, ischemic heart disease, and other cardiovascular diseases among the PICs is the highest in the world and accounts for 75% of all deaths in the Pacific. With the exception of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu, most PICs are likely to achieve the targets on HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases (Goal 6).

The prospect of achieving environmental sustainability (Goal 7) is unclear. Global warming and climate change pose significant threats to the PICs. The Regional Framework on Climate Change, Climate Variability, and Sea-Level Rise⁴ has been incorporated into the Pacific Plan.⁵ Climate change has made most Pacific island nations more vulnerable to rising sea levels, but monitoring mechanisms in the Pacific remain weak.

¹ The PICs included in the report are Pacific Islands Forum members, i.e., the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu, as well as non-Forum member Tokelau.

² ADB. 2004. *Poverty and Hardship in the Pacific*. Manila.

³ All MDG data contained in this report were based on the 25 June 2010 database of the Pacific Regional Information System.

⁴ Pacific Regional Environment Programme. 2005. *Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015*.

⁵ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. 2005. *The Pacific Plan*. www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/about-us/the-pacific-plan/

The Pacific region's share of official development assistance (ODA) is declining but remains a major source of development financing. In this light, the PICs must use more efficiently what assistance they do receive if they are to achieve the MDGs.

The food, fuel, and financial crises have exerted considerable impacts on the PICs. Poor people in the urban areas have been severely affected by rising food and fuel prices, leading to increases in urban poverty. The global financial crisis led to the reduction in the market value of offshore investments held by the region's trust funds, sovereign wealth funds, and superannuation funds in the Pacific.

To improve the PICs' performance in achieving the MDGs, strong leadership and governance reforms are crucial. Integrating traditional and modern governance systems is both necessary and feasible. The implementation of "pro-poor" policies that focus on infrastructure development is also vital. The PICs should ensure that key ministries are carefully monitoring MDG progress. To enable this, the capacity of national statistical institutions to collect, compile, and analyze household-level data must be improved.

The PICs need to be proactive in finding ways to integrate MDGs into their national budgets and development strategies, as links between MDGs and national economic policies are insufficient at present. Finally, a region wide MDG network should be strengthened so that the PICs can share information and good practices.

Introduction

During the Millennium Summit of 2000, leaders of 189 United Nations (UN) member states, including those from the Pacific island countries (PICs), endorsed the Millennium Declaration and adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The workshop on “The Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific Island Countries: Taking Stock, Emerging Issues, and the Way Forward” was jointly organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).⁶ As the output document, this report provides a regional perspective on the MDGs in the PICs by taking stock of the progress made to date and making recommendations going forward. This report also explores why some MDGs will likely not be achieved by 2015, and looks at how factors such as climate change; trade agreements; and global food, fuel, and financial crises have affected the achievement of the MDGs in the Pacific islands.

The Millennium Development Goals

The eight MDGs (Table 1) are supported by time-bound targets with quantifiable indicators to be reached by 2015. There are currently 22 targets and 60 indicators. The MDGs address extreme poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion, while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They also reflect basic human rights as pledged in the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Millennium Declaration.

The first seven goals are measures that developing countries need to take to improve the well-being

Table 1 The Millennium Development Goals

Goals	Number of Targets	Number of Indicators
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	3	9
2. Achieve universal primary education	1	3
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	1	3
4. Reduce child mortality	1	3
5. Improve maternal health	2	6
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	3	10
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	4	10
8. Develop a global partnership for development	6	16

Source: www.undp.org

of their citizens. The last goal is a social, political, and economic compact between developed and developing countries, confirming the commitment of developed countries to increase their share of official development assistance (ODA) to help developing countries reach the other seven goals.

At the global level, the world has made significant progress in achieving many of the MDGs since 2000. However, at the national level, many countries remain “off track.” At a high-level meeting held in 2008 to mark the MDG halfway point, world leaders expressed grave concerns that the world was falling behind most of the MDGs, with shortfalls in human development.⁷

⁶ The workshop was held on 16–20 March 2009 in Nadi, Fiji.

⁷ World Bank. 2009. *Global Monitoring Report 2009: A Development Emergency*. Washington, DC.

2 The Millennium Development Goals in Pacific Island Countries

In the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2009*, launched in Geneva on 6 July 2009, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated that the global picture of MDG achievement was mixed. Major advances that had previously been recorded in the fight against poverty and hunger had begun to slow or even reverse as a result of the global economic and food crises. The UN Secretary General concluded that with strong political commitment and sufficient sustained funding, the unfavorable economic climate should not deter progress toward the MDGs.

Asia and the Pacific is recognized as a global economic powerhouse, and has been making progress on the MDGs. The area of poverty reduction has seen the most progress with the region on track to meet the Goal 1 target of halving the number of people living in absolute poverty (less than \$1.25 per day). However, progress among the PICs varies, with some countries unlikely to meet Goal 1 and other MDGs.⁸

Tracking the progress in the Pacific as a whole has proved difficult mainly because of the uneven performance of PICs and because there is a lack of consistent time-series data. Despite data limitations, efforts to document the MDG progress in the Pacific continue. Regional MDG reports were produced by ADB in 2003, and UNDP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in 2004. Several national reports have also either been completed or are being drafted.

In 2005, Pacific Islands Forum leaders launched the Pacific Plan⁹ to strengthen and deepen regional cooperation and integration. Covering an initial 10-year period, it envisions a Pacific region that is “respected for the quality of its governance,

the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values, and for its defense and promotion of human rights.” The MDGs were captured in the plan through the national sustainable development strategies.

In the 2008 Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué,¹⁰ Pacific leaders noted that the region had made mixed progress in achieving the MDGs, and that Australia had redefined its commitment to helping the PICs achieve the MDGs through a major program of Pacific Partnerships for Development. These concerns were reiterated in the 2009 Pacific Islands Forum Communiqué,¹¹ which cited that the Pacific region remained on average “off track” in achieving the MDGs by 2015, despite continued high levels of development assistance. They called for a new development compact for the Pacific: The Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific.¹² The main objective of this agreement is to increase effective coordination and utilization of development resources, with the aim of making progress toward national development priorities and the MDGs.

At the country level, all PICs have taken up the challenge of tackling the MDGs. Various task forces or committees have been formed to establish institutional mechanisms to monitor progress toward achieving the MDGs. Two PICs have embraced an additional goal (MDG 9) to reflect specific national priorities: the Cook Islands has adopted “improved governance” as its ninth goal, while Niue has adopted “population developments” as its ninth goal. The UNDP Pacific Centre, in conjunction with UNDP country offices and other key development partners, has provided leadership and assistance to PICs in compiling national MDG reports and organizing various workshops on

⁸ Other MDGs include under-5 mortality and infant mortality (Goal 4), carbon dioxide emissions (Goal 7), and water and sanitation (Goal 7).

⁹ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. 2005. *The Pacific Plan*. www.forumsec.org.fj/pages.cfm/about-us/the-pacific-plan/

¹⁰ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. 2008. *Forum Communiqué*. www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2008%20Forum%20Communique,%20Alofi,%20Niue,%2019-20%20Aug.pdf

¹¹ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. 2009. *Forum Communiqué*. Cairns.

¹² Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. 2009. Briefing Paper on the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific. Rarotonga. www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/FEMM%2009%20Paper%20on%20Cairns%20Compact.pdf

MDG-based planning, costing, and budgeting. These activities are illustrative of a growing commitment to MDGs in the Pacific.

The Pacific Islands Region

The Pacific region, for the purpose of this report, comprises 15 PICs (footnote 1). Table 2 shows that PICs are dispersed over a very large geographical area and differ in size, population, resource base, and development constraints and prospects.

However, PICs do share one thing in common: rising economic and geographic vulnerability over the last decade. Countries with small populations tend to have a limited skills base and natural resources. These conditions result in inadequate domestic markets and dependence on international trade, which in turn create vulnerability to external shocks. In addition, people tend to congregate in densely populated urban centers, putting more pressure

on natural resources and leading to environmental problems like overfishing, freshwater depletion, and pollution.

Other problems that the PICs must contend with include a relatively high cost of public administration and infrastructure, particularly transport and communication, along with limited institutional capacity. Export costs are disproportionately high because of limited volumes and the general remoteness of the PICs.

Fortunately, these problems and risks are mitigated by the preservation of traditional social structures and cultural norms, such as strong family units and a highly localized economy where rural livelihoods can be sustained at the subsistence level. However, these indigenous systems of ensuring social safety are gradually being eroded.

Natural disasters can devastate Pacific island nations, wiping out decades of development

Table 2 Selected Socioeconomic Indicators in the Pacific

	Land Area (sq km)	Population (mid-2008)	GDP/ Capita 2007 (\$)	GDP Growth Rate 2007	Human Development Index
Cook Islands	237	15,537	10,007	0.40	0.83
FSM	701	110,443	2,183	0.10	0.72
Fiji	18,272	839,324	3,182	(3.9)	0.72
Kiribati	811	97,231	656	...	0.60
Marshall Islands	181	53,236	2,851	2.00	0.71
Nauru	21	10,163	2,820	0.20	0.64
Niue	259	1,549	5,854		0.82
Palau	444	20,279	8,423	5.50	0.81
Papua New Guinea	462,840	6,473,910	1,062	6.20	0.44
Samoa	2,935	179,645	2,860	4.70	0.76
Solomon Islands	28,370	517,455	1,100	6.30	0.58
Tokelau	12	1,170	...	...	...
Tonga	650	102,724	1,874	(3.50)	0.74
Tuvalu	26	9,729	1,563	3.00	0.69
Vanuatu	12190	233,026	1,908	4.70	0.64
Total	527,949	8,665,421	—	—	—

— = data not applicable, ... = data not available, FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, GDP = gross domestic product.
Note: Numbers may not sum precisely because of rounding.

Sources: SPC and SOPAC databases; UN Statistics Division National Accounts Main Aggregates Database.

4 The Millennium Development Goals in Pacific Island Countries

progress in a matter of hours, as demonstrated in 2004 by cyclone Heta in Niue and the 2009 Samoa and Tonga tsunami.

Despite an intimate understanding of the environment, many Pacific island citizens do not realize their increasing geophysical vulnerability, especially longer-term changes, including global warming. People living on small islands generally

understand their own island, its characteristics, and how to build resilience, yet lack the adaptive capability or resources to cope with significant environmental changes. In recent years, the people, governments, and other agencies have worked to strengthen community resilience to natural disasters by building on traditional knowledge and systems, taking into account the role and contribution of women.

Millennium Development Goal Progress in Pacific Island Countries

This section is drawn from data presented at the regional workshop and compiled by the UNDP Pacific Centre. Data constraints in the Pacific island countries (PICs) limit presentations in some tables to a few countries only. The primary data sources are national and regional Millennium Development Goal (MDG) reports produced during 2004–2008, national statistics offices, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Regional Information System (SPC/PRISM), and the work program of the UNDP Pacific Centre. Data for Tokelau is scarce. Statistics for Nauru¹³ are available but they have not been consolidated with MDG targets and indicators, making it difficult to analyze whether the country is on track, slightly off track, or off track.



1 Goal 1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Target 1a Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

The Pacific region as a whole is unlikely to meet the target of halving the proportion of people living in income poverty by 2015 (as measured by the individual national basic needs poverty lines). It is difficult to measure the poverty headcount using the \$1.25 poverty line because few PICs have estimates of purchasing power parities. Furthermore, accurate and complete reporting

of poverty incidence over time is scarce. For most countries, only one or two data points are available.

The poverty lines are based on the basic consumption needs of individuals and/or households. However, defining poverty in the Pacific remains problematic because consumption is highly dependent on subsistence fishing and farming. Consequently, and as identified in the 2003 ADB report on MDGs in the Pacific, the concept of poverty in the Pacific has been replaced by the concept of “hardship.” A working definition of Pacific poverty reflects the lack of

- (i) access to basic services such as health care, education, and clean water;
- (ii) opportunities to participate fully in the socioeconomic life of the community; and
- (iii) access to productive resources and income-generation support systems (rural credit, markets, and skills) to meet the basic household needs and/or customary obligations to the extended family, village community, and/or the church.

The incidence of absolute poverty is thought to be low in PICs (less than 5% region wide). However, as much as one-quarter of the population is experiencing basic needs poverty.¹⁴ Only in Papua New Guinea and Fiji is absolute poverty becoming a serious issue. Although cases of extreme poverty are not widespread, available evidence suggests

¹³ Nauru Bureau of Statistics webpage (www.spc.int/prism/country/nr/stats/index.htm) and the ADB website (www.adb.org/Nauru/default.asp).

¹⁴ The basic needs poverty line measures the incidence of basic needs hardship. It includes not only food but also a basket of other essential nonfood expenditures (goods and services) that each household and/or individual needs to maintain a basic standard of living. The poverty gap index is a measure that captures the magnitude of poverty, considering both the number of poor people and how poor they are. It is the combined measurement of incidence of poverty and depth of poverty.

that hardship, hunger, and malnutrition not only exist but also are increasing.¹⁵

There is little data on the percentage of the population living below the basic needs poverty line (Table 3). In the 10 countries for which post-2000 data is available, the average is close to 25%. In the three states for which pre-2000 data is available—Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Papua New Guinea—poverty incidence has increased. Only in Tuvalu did poverty incidence decline from 1994 to 2004/05. However, this decline may have since been reversed because of poor economic fundamentals and multiple economic crises in the late 2000s.

Slow and uneven economic growth in most PICs keeps many households below the national poverty line. Preliminary estimates by UNDP suggest that the decline in real incomes of already-poor and vulnerable households may have increased the rate of national poverty incidence by up to 5 percentage points in many PICs over 2007–2008.

Across all PICs, the average depth of poverty, as measured by the poverty gap ratio,¹⁶ is estimated at 8%. This indicates that the average income and/or expenditure of poor households is about 8% below the level of the basic needs poverty line. Thus, it would take an increase in real income of at least 8% on average to enable poor households to rise out of poverty. The highest figure was recorded in Fiji at 11.2% (2002–2003), while Tuvalu (2004–2005) and Vanuatu (2006) had the lowest figure at 5.6%. Since the beginning of 2008, the real incomes of the poor in PICs have fallen sharply, bringing more households under the basic needs poverty line.

For countries that have data available, the share of the poorest quintile in national consumption has risen. Although this suggests a reduction in the

general level of inequality, these figures need to be treated with caution as there may be inconsistencies in data compilation methodologies.

Target 1b Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Data for indicators 1.4 (growth rate of gross domestic product [GDP] per person), 1.6 (proportion of employed people living below \$1 purchasing power parity per day), and 1.7 (proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment) are insufficient to gauge trends, although reasonably complete “latest data” is quoted for post-2000. For indicator 1.4 (Table 4), the average growth rate of GDP per person employed is less than 10% for the 14 countries for which a single data point for the post-2000 period is available. For indicator 1.7, the proportion of own account and contributing family workers in total employment is close to 30% for the seven countries for which a single data point for the post-2000 period is available.

For most countries, pre-2000 or post-2000 data are available on employment-to-population ratio (%). However, only four countries have figures for both time periods. For each of these countries (Kiribati, Niue, Palau, and Samoa), the ratio has improved over time.

Target 1b (full and productive employment) is unlikely to be realized because of a lack of employment opportunities in the formal sectors of PIC economies and the difficulty of creating sustainable livelihoods in the small informal sectors. In almost all the PICs, population growth and new entrants into the labor market effectively negate any increases in the number of jobs being created. Many individuals wish to migrate from rural to urban areas, or to other countries. Some governments support such movement.

¹⁵ Secretariat of the Pacific Community, in cooperation with United Nations and UN/CROP MDG Working Group. 2004. *Pacific Islands Regional Millennium Development Goals Report*; Pacific Human Development Report (draft provided by author). 2009. Improving Services and Living Conditions Through Better Governance.

¹⁶ The poverty gap ratio is defined as the mean income or consumption shortfall relative to the poverty line, averaged across the number of poor people.

Rising unemployment, particularly among youths, continues to be a major issue. With increasingly tight fiscal situations, public sector employment cannot provide jobs for all those entering the labor force. Governments need to deliver on promises to create more favorable environments for private sector investment and job creation. Structural reforms are required in labor markets and in public enterprises. Current policies and the prevailing business climate stifle both competition and private investment.

Target 1c Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Data on indicators 1.8 (under-5 underweight children) and 1.9 (minimum level of dietary

consumption) for individual countries are generally not available. However, for indicator 1.8, pre-2000 and post-2000 data are available for the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands. They showed reductions of more than 50% in the number of underweight children under 5 years of age (Table 5). A 2004 study by ADB reported that in 12 of 13 countries under consideration, approximately 27% of children were undernourished.¹⁷ Analysis by the UNDP of food consumption data from recent household surveys indicates that for many poor households, especially those in urban centers, food purchases were concentrated on a very narrow range of basic foods, including rice, flour, sugar, cabin biscuits, bread, noodles, and frozen chicken.

Table 3 Progress on Target 1a

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger										
Target 1A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day										
Indicator	1.1 % of population below basic needs poverty line*				1.2 Poverty gap ratio ^a		1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (%)			
	1990		Latest Year		Latest Year ^b		1990		Latest Year	
Cook Islands	...		28.4 ^P	(2008)	8.5 ^P	(2008)	...		9.0 ^P	(2008)
Fiji	25.5	(1996)	34.3 ^P	(2007)	11.2 ^P	(2007)	2.0	(1996)	8.5 ^P	(2007)
Kiribati	...		38.0	(1996)	...		...		6.0	(1996)
Marshall Islands	...		20.0	(1999)	...		1.6	(1999)	3.3	(2002)
Micronesia, Federated States of	...		36.7 ^P	(2007)	12.8 ^P	(2007)	...		8.5 ^P	(2007)
Nauru	...		...		...		...		...
Niue	...		13.0	(2004)	...		...		6.6	(2004)
Palau	...		24.9 ^P	(2008)	6.6 ^P	(2008)	...		10.2 ^P	(2006)
Papua New Guinea	24.0		39.6	(2002)	12.4	(1996)	...		4.5	(1996)
Samoa	15.0	(1997)	20.3	(2004)	6.6	(2004)	...		6.2	(2004)
Solomon Islands	...		22.7 ^P	(2007)	7.5 ^P	(2007)	...		6.7 ^P	(2007)
Tokelau	...		...		...		...		...
Tonga	...		22.3	(2004)	7.7	(2004)	...		7.7	(2004)
Tuvalu	17.2	(1994)	25.9 ^P	(2006)	...		7.4	(1994)	14.0 ^P	(2006)
Vanuatu	...		15.9 ^P	(2008)	5.6 ^P	(2008)	...		5.7 ^P	(2008)

... = not available.

* The proportion of the population living on less than \$1/day serves as a proxy for this indicator.

^a For Fiji, the poverty gap ratio for 1996 is 0.3.

^b Values refer to Poverty Gap Index.

^P Provisional.

Sources: National censuses and surveys (household income and expenditure survey), administrative databases; Pacific Islands Regional Millennium Development Goals Report 2004, national MDG and poverty reports; reports of the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, and the World Bank.

¹⁷ ADB 2004. *Poverty and Hardship in the Pacific*. Manila.

Table 4 Progress on Target 1b

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger								
Target 1B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people								
Indicator	1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed (%)		1.5 Employment-to-population ratio ^c			1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment ^d		
	Latest Year		2000		Latest Year		Latest Year	
Cook Islands	1.7	(2007)	...		60.0	(2001)	20.8	(2001)
Fiji	7.5	(2006)	...		42.5	(2007)	...	
FSM	19.1	(2007)	21.9		...		...
Kiribati	1.9	(2007)	18.6		22.6	(2005)	62.2	(2005)
Marshall Islands	-4.8 ^a	(2007)	29.0 ^b	(1999)	35.0	(2008)	16.5	(2006)
Nauru	3.7 ^a	(2006)	...		53.9	(2002)	...	
Niue	6.8 ^a	(2003)	51.9	(2001)	85.6	(2006)	19.5	(2006)
Palau	7.3	(2007)	65.9		66.3	(2005)	...	
PNG	8.3	(2006)	18.5		...		...
Samoa	6.8	(2006)	25.3	(2001)	25.7	(2006)	47.7	(2006)
Solomon Islands	15.1	(2006)	24.0	(1999)	...		...
Tokelau	...		...		53.1	(2006)	4.2	(2006)
Tonga	6.0	(2004)	...		37.2	(2006)	33.6	(2006)
Tuvalu	3.6	(2002)	...		33.2	(2002)	38.9	(2002)
Vanuatu	11.1	(2006)	19.9	(1999)	...		...

FSM = Federated States of Micronesia, GDP = gross domestic product, PNG = Papua New Guinea.

... = not available; data also not available for Goal 1.6: Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day.

^a Estimates based on labor force statistics.

^b Value derived with 377 records missing.

^c Values for Fiji and Tonga are 43.8 and 50.7 in 1996, respectively.

^d Values for the Marshall Islands are 32.0 in 1990 and 29.0 in 2000.

Sources: National censuses and surveys (household income and expenditure survey), administrative databases, and the Regional MDG Report 2004.

A regional plan of action is being developed by the PICs and regional organizations to address nutritional challenges. Many PICs are also developing national noncommunicable diseases (NCD) plans. Furthermore, the PICs are receiving assistance from international agencies, multilateral institutions, and regional organizations in fighting poverty. In 2003, Pacific Islands Forum economic ministers agreed to address economic disparities, improve opportunities, and reduce the number of people in poverty. The SPC, through the ADB-funded Pacific Regional Poverty Programme and the UNDP Pacific Centre, has launched efforts to better understand the extent and characteristics of poverty in the Pacific. The PICs are also carrying out national household income and expenditure surveys to provide estimates of national poverty lines and poverty incidence.

In general, poor urban households rely on imported or shop-purchased items for about two-thirds to three-quarters of their food. By contrast, the rural poor produce between two-thirds and three-quarters of their own food, and thus enjoy a healthier diet and more food security.



Goal 2 Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 2a Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

Most PICs are likely to achieve the goal of universal primary education. As far as indicator 2.1 (net

Table 5 Progress on Target 1c

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger						
Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger						
Indicator	1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age (%)				1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (%) [*]	
	1990		Latest		Latest	
Cook Islands	...		10.0	(1997)	2.0 ^P	(2008)
Fiji	15.0	(1993)	...		6.9 ^P	(2007)
Kiribati	5.1		13.0	(1999)	...	
Marshall Islands	19.0	(1991)	13.0	(2007)	...	
Micronesia, Federated States of	...		15.0	(1997)	11.1 ^P	(2007)
Nauru	...		4.8	(2007)	...	
Niue	...		0.0	(2002)	0.0	(2004)
Palau	...		...		...
Papua New Guinea	29.0	(1996)	24.9	(2000)	...	
Samoa	...		17.0	(1997)	5.5	(2004)
Solomon Islands	23.0		11.8	(2007)	10.6 ^P	(2007)
Tokelau	...		...		...
Tonga	1.6	(1986)	...		4.0	(2004)
Tuvalu	...		1.6 ^P	(2007)	...	
Vanuatu	21.1	(1996)	15.9	(2007)	7.4 ^P	(2008)

... = not available.

^{*} The percentage of the population below the food poverty line serves as a proxy for this indicator; value for Fiji is 9.9 in 1990; for Niue is 0.0 (2002); for Papua New Guinea are 25.0 (1991), and 30.2 (1996).

^P Provisional.

Sources: National censuses and surveys (household income and expenditure survey and demographic and health survey); Regional MDG Report 2004, administrative databases.

enrollment ratio in primary education) is concerned, there has been net overall increase in enrollment in primary education. Of the 13 countries for which post-2000 data are available, 12 recorded more than 90% enrollment. Papua New Guinea was the exception, with only 77% enrollment in 2003. On indicator 2.2 (primary completion rate), in 9 of the 12 countries for which data is available, more than 80% of students who started grade 1 completed their primary education. Papua New Guinea (68%), Solomon Islands (79%), and Vanuatu (72%) were the exceptions. On indicator 2.3 (literacy rate 15–24 years old), 9 of the 12 countries (the exceptions again being Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) have improved literacy rates for 15–24 year olds.

Despite PIC efforts to ensure universal primary education, a large number of early school leavers lack basic literary and numeracy skills. However, this is not measured through education-related MDG indicators.

In March 2009, Pacific Islands Forum education ministers endorsed the Pacific Education Development Framework, which highlights both access to and quality of primary education. The framework was developed after a comprehensive consultation process with the Pacific Islands Forum countries. The PICs are exploring the extension of the Pacific Regional Initiatives for the Delivery of Basic Education project, which seeks to improve the quality of basic education planning and implementation.

Table 6 Progress on Target 2a (2.1)

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education						
Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling						
Indicator	2.1 Net enrollment ratio in primary education (%) [*]					
	1990		2000		Latest	
Cook Islands	...		92.3	(2001)	100.0	(2007)
Fiji	92.0	(1986)	94.7		94.0	(2005)
Kiribati	76.2		93.5		97.0	(2005)
Marshall Islands	86.5	(1988)	75.6	(1999)	83.2 ^a	(2007)
Micronesia, Federated States of	93.7	(1994)	92.3		100.0	(2006)
Nauru	75.2	(1992)	60.3	(2002)	...	
Niue	...		90.2	(2002)	100.0	(2006)
Palau	81.8		76.2		93.0	(2005)
Papua New Guinea	66.3		77.4		77.0	(2003)
Samoa	...		...		90.0	(2004)
Solomon Islands	39.0	(1986)	56.0	(1999)	65.4 ^a	(2007)
Tokelau	...		...		100.0	(2004)
Tonga	91.6	(1986)	89.4	(1996)	95.0	(2005)
Tuvalu	98.2	(1991)	100.0	(2002)	...	
Vanuatu	74.5	(1989)	78.2	(1999)	72.7 ^a	(2007)

... = not available.

^{*} For some countries, proxies are used for literacy based on proportion of adults who have had less than 4 years of formal education.

^a Value refers to net attendance ratio.

^b Value is for year 2007.

Sources: Pacific Regional Information System; SPC Population Estimates, 2008; UNESCO Institute of Statistics; PIC population census reports; National Millennium Development Progress Reports; Ministry/Department of Education Statistical Reports, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Goal 3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target 3a Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

The PICs have shown varied levels of commitment to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. In some instances, significant progress has been made, particularly in the area of equal access to education opportunities for women and girls.

On indicator 3.1 (ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary education), the latest data shows that the girls-to-boys ratio is rarely below 0.8, and in a few instances is more than 1.0 (Table 8). At the primary and secondary levels, most countries

are showing signs of improvement. Women seem to be well represented in tertiary education in PICs for which data is available. Furthermore, census data on the ratio of literate females to males aged 15–24 does not suggest gender discrimination.

On indicator 3.2, the share of women in the labor force varies from 30% to 58% (Table 9), indicating that large gender gaps remain in terms of women's participation in formal employment. The Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu have shown progress. Nevertheless, inequality remains in terms of wages, working conditions, and overall opportunities, and the significant economic contribution of women to the informal sector remains undervalued. To address the gender wage gap, the United Nations Development Fund for Women has recently completed initial scoping studies of women in the informal sector in Papua New

Table 7 Progress on Target 2a (2.2–2.3)

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education												
Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling												
Indicator	2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary education (%)						2.3 Literacy rate of 15–24 year olds; women and men (%) ^a					
	1990	2000	2000	Latest	1990	2000	2000	Latest	Latest	Latest	Latest	Latest
Cook Islands	100.0 (1986)	98.2 (1996)	85.0 (2007)	...	...	93.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)	99.0 (2001)	99.0 (2001)	99.0 (2001)	99.0 (2001)	99.0 (2001)
Fiji	91.4 (1996)	88.4	99.0 (2003)	...	...	93.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)	99.0 (1996)
Kiribati	98.0	...	82.0 (2003)	92.0 (2003)	92.0	...	96.0	97.0 (2005)	97.0 (2005)	97.0 (2005)	97.0 (2005)	97.0 (2005)
Marshall Islands	88.0 (1988)	86.1 (1999)	89.0 (2005)	74.0 (2005)	74.0	(1989)	98.0 (1999)	97.8 (1999)	98.8 (1999)	98.3 (1999)	98.3 (1999)	98.3 (1999)
Micronesia, Federated States of	...	67.0	...	71.0 (1994)	71.0	(1994)	95.0	94.0	96.0 (2000)	95.0 (2000)	95.0 (2000)	95.0 (2000)
Nauru	...	92.0 (2002)	...	...	...	(2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)
Niue	...	90.5 (1998)	100.0 (2005)	95.0 (2005)	95.0	(1992)	...	99.0	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)
Palau	...	...	80.0 (2007)	...	...	(1995)	91.0 (1995)	99.0	99.0 (2005)	99.0 (2005)	99.0 (2005)	99.0 (2005)
Papua New Guinea	58.1	56.8	68.0 (2002)	60.6 (2002)	60.6	(2002)	61.7	64.0	59.0 (2000)	62.0 (2000)	62.0 (2000)	62.0 (2000)
Samoa	...	94.0	...	96.0 (1991)	96.0	(1991)	...	99.0	99.0 (2004)	99.0 (2004)	99.0 (2004)	99.0 (2004)
Solomon Islands	85.0 (1991)	...	79.0 (2005)	62.0 (2005)	62.0	(1992)	85.0 (1999)	87.0 (1999)	81.0 (1999)	85.0 (1999)	85.0 (1999)	85.0 (1999)
Tokelau	...	...	100.0 (2006)	...	...	(2006)	...	99.0	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)
Tonga	84.0	...	89.0 (2004)	98.8 (2004)	98.8	(1986)	99.3 (1996)	98.0 (1996)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)	99.0 (2006)
Tuvalu	95.8 (1993)	...	100.0 (2002)	95.0 (2002)	95.0	(1991)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)	99.0 (2002)
Vanuatu	90.2 (1991)	91.2	88.5 (2007)	34.0 (2007)	34.0	(1989)	87.0 (1999)	88.0 (1999)	76.6 ^b	87.0 (1999)	87.0 (1999)	87.0 (1999)

... = not available.

^a For some countries, proxies are used for literacy based on proportion of adults who had less than 4 years of formal education.

^b Value refers to net attendance ratio.

^c Value is for year 2007.

Sources: Pacific Regional Information System; SPC Population Estimates, 2008; UNESCO Institute of Statistics; PIC population census reports; National Millennium Development Progress Reports; Ministry/Department of Education Statistical Reports, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, with plans in place to use these findings to inform the development of informal sector policies and the local government bylaws that control the earnings of women market producers in rural and urban areas.

The proportion of women elected to public office is extremely low in the PICs (a regional average of 4.2%). Indeed, the proportion of women in parliaments is lower in the Pacific than in any other global region. Only the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, and Tonga have shown signs of improvement. However, it is encouraging that women's political participation has gained some attention in recent years due in part to development partner policy engagement and recognition of the issue in the Pacific Plan and by Pacific Island Forum leaders. For example, the United Nations Development Fund for Women Regional Gender Equality in Political Governance Programme has undertaken varied actions to support the increased participation of women in politics, with a particular focus on the need for the introduction of temporary special measures. Some PICs (the Cook Islands, the FSM, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Tonga) are subsequently considering the introduction of such measures.¹⁸

All the PICs have endorsed the Revised Pacific Platform of Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (RPPA 2005–2015),¹⁹ which highlights 13 critical areas²⁰ for attention and calls for Pacific-wide endorsement and implementation of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)²¹ and the Beijing Platform for Action.²² However, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga have yet to ratify CEDAW. All

the PICs have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which addresses gender equality and nondiscrimination in education. Furthermore, the PICs have committed to other international and regional frameworks on gender equality,²³ recognizing that equality is a proven way of accelerating human development.

In summary, with the exception of Solomon Islands, the FSM (weak data), and Tokelau (weak data), all PICs are expected to meet MDG 3. In the case of Solomon Islands, progress in addressing gender inequalities was hampered by the 2000 Guadalcanal crisis, but prospects for achieving gender equality seem hopeful under the current government.

To complement MDG 3, it is important to ensure a strong voice for women in all development work. Additional indicators of gender equality have been suggested. These include addressing violence against women and girls, increasing access to vocational training for women and girls, improving infrastructure to remove women's and girls' time poverty, and enhancing access to economic assets and resources.



Goal 4 Reduce Child Mortality

Target 4a Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among under-5 children

Child and infant mortality is falling overall in the Asia and Pacific region, but significant disparities exist within and across subregions. Though several countries are on target to achieve Goal 4,

¹⁸ In May 2010, the Government of Papua New Guinea gave notice of its intention to table a constitutional amendment providing for 22 reserved seats for women in Parliament (see www.wunrn.com/news/2010/05_10/05_10_10/051010_papua.htm).

¹⁹ The original Pacific Platform of Action for the Advancement of Women (PPA) was endorsed in 1994.

²⁰ Health, education and training, economic empowerment, agriculture and fishing, legal and human rights, shared decision making, environment, culture and the family, mechanisms to promote the advancement of women, violence against women, peace building, poverty, and indigenous women.

²¹ CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. See www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm

²² The Beijing Platform for Action is an internationally agreed plan for achieving equality for women across 12 critical areas. See www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/

²³ Examples include Pacific Plan Strategic Objective 8 on Improved Gender Equality; Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005–2015; UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

Table 8 Progress on Target 3a (3.1)

Goal 3.A: Promote gender equality and empower women												
Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015												
Indicator 3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary, and tertiary schools												
Indicator	Primary			Secondary			Tertiary ^a					
	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	
Cook Islands	0.98	0.89 (2003)	0.88 (2007)	1.12	0.94 (2003)	1.01 (2007)	0.9	1.0 (2001)	1.01 (2007)	0.9	1.0 (2001)	
Fiji	0.94 (1992)	0.98	0.95 (2005)	1.05 (1992)	1.07	1.06 (2005)	0.8	1.0 (1995)	1.06 (2005)	0.8	1.0 (1995)	
Kiribati	0.98	0.93	0.98 (2005)	1.16	1.14	1.01 (2005)	1.0	1.0 (1995)	1.01 (2005)	1.0	1.0 (1995)	
Marshall Islands	0.85 (1988)	0.80 (2002–2003)	0.93 (2006)	0.91 (1988)	1.04 (2002–2003)	0.95 (2006)	0.5	0.9 (2002–2003)	0.95 (2006)	0.5	0.9 (2002–2003)	
Micronesia, Federated States of	0.92 (1994)	0.94	0.96 (2006)	0.98 (1994)	1.04	0.99 (2006)	0.8	1.1 (1994)	0.99 (2006)	0.8	1.1 (1994)	
Nauru	1.03 (1992)	1.15	0.94 (2007)	0.75 (1992)	0.84	1.06 (2007)	0.6	2.2 (1995)	1.06 (2007)	0.6	2.2 (1995)	
Niue	...	0.90 (2001)	1.06 (2007)	...	0.83 (2001)	0.87 (2007)	1.6	2.5 (1995)	0.87 (2007)	1.6	2.5 (1995)	
Palau	0.89	0.97	0.92 (2005)	1.08	0.88	1.05 (2005)	0.7	1.3	1.05 (2005)	0.7	1.3	
Papua New Guinea	...	0.86	0.80 (2000)	...	0.67	...	...	0.6	...	...	0.6
Samoa	...	...	0.93 (2005)	...	...	1.06 (2005)	1.2	1.1 (1995)	1.06 (2005)	1.2	1.1 (1995)
Solomon Islands	0.80 (1986)	0.86 (1999)	0.89 (2005)	0.57 (1986)	0.70 (1999)	0.77 (2005)	0.3	0.3 (1995)	0.77 (2005)	0.3	0.3 (1995)	
Tokelau	...	0.96 (2003)	0.96 (2003)	...	1.12 (2003)	...	1.3	0.7 (1995)	...	1.3	0.7 (1995)	
Tonga	...	0.90 (2001)	0.90 (2005)	...	0.99 (2001)	0.98 (2005)	0.8	0.7 (2001)	0.98 (2005)	0.8	0.7 (1995)	
Tuvalu	0.87 (1991)	0.93 (2002)	0.88 (2006)	1.05 (1991)	0.86 (2002)	1.21 (2006)	0.4	0.9 (2002)	1.21 (2006)	0.4	0.9 (1991)	
Vanuatu	0.88 (1991)	0.91 (1999)	0.99 (2007)	0.84 (1994)	0.93 (1999)	0.98 (2007)	0.4	0.5 (1999)	0.98 (2007)	0.4	0.5 (1999)	

... = not available.

^a Latest value for the Marshall Islands is 1.03 (2008).

Sources: Pacific Regional Information System; SPC Population Estimates, 2008; UNESCO Institute of Statistics; PIC population census reports; National Millennium Development Progress Reports; Ministry/Department of Education Statistical Reports, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Table 9 Progress on Target 3a

Goal 3.B: Promote gender equality and empower women										
Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015										
Indicator	3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the nonagricultural sector (%)				3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (%)					
	2000		Latest		1990		2000		Latest	
Cook Islands	44.6		...		6.0	(1995)	8.0	(1999)	12.5	(2008)
Fiji	38.1	(1999)	...		0.0		15.5		8.5	(2008)
Kiribati	37.6		36.6	(2005)	...		4.8	(1998)	6.3	(2008)
Marshall Islands	35.9	(1999)	...		3.0	(1983)	3.0	(2003)	3.0	(2008)
Micronesia, Federated States of	33.6		...		...		7.1	(1998)	7.1	(2008)
Nauru	...		...		6.0		6.0		0.0	(2008)
Niue	42.8	(2001)	44.9	(2006)	...		10.0	(2002)	20.0	(2008)
Palau	40.1		36.5	(2005)	3.7		3.7		0.0	(2008)
Papua New Guinea	15.2		...		...		0.9	(2004)	0.9	(2008)
Samoa	...		29.5	(2006)	...		6.1	(2001)	8.2	(2008)
Solomon Islands	29.6	(1999)	...		2.0	(1995)	0.0	(2003)	0.0	(2008)
Tokelau	...		...		...		14.3	(1999)	15.0	(2009)
Tonga	35.6	(1996)	42.3	(2006)	0.0		0.0		0.0	(2009)
Tuvalu	44.1	(2002)	...		8.0		0.0	(2002)	0.0	(2008)
Vanuatu	40.3	(1999)	...		1.9	(2002)	3.8	(2004)	3.8	(2008)

... = not available.

Sources: Pacific Regional Information System; SPC Population Estimates, 2008; UNESCO Institute of Statistics; PIC population census reports; National Millennium Development Progress Reports; Ministry/Department of Education Statistical Reports, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

no country has yet achieved the target of a two-thirds reduction in the child (under 5 years of age) mortality rate. Nonetheless, the United Nations Children's Fund currently ranks the PICs well below the average for developing countries in terms of under-5 mortality rates (90 per 1,000 live births in 2002), and most of the PICs also rank below the average for East Asia and the Pacific (40 per 1,000 live births in 2002).

In the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, the under-5 mortality rate declined by almost 50% between 1990 and the early to mid-2000s when the latest data was compiled (Table 10). All of the PICs except the FSM and Palau have shown some reduction. Looking at

infant mortality, the Cook Islands, the FSM, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have shown improvement. Looking at indicator 4.3 (proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles), the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, and Vanuatu have shown progress in increasing the percentage of babies immunized against measles.

In several PICs, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Programme²⁴ and the Expanded Programme on Immunization of the World Health Organization (WHO) are helping eliminate measles and maternal and neonatal tetanus, and controlling hepatitis B. Furthermore, work is also progressing on expanding early childhood care and education programs in the PICs.

²⁴ MCI strategy seeks to reduce childhood mortality and morbidity by adopting a broad and crosscutting three-pronged approach. See www.icatttraining.org/IMCI/AboutIMCI/tabid/84/Default.aspx

Table 10 Progress on Target 4a

Indicator	Target 4A: Reduce the under-5 mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015											
	4.1 Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)				4.2 Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)				4.3 Proportion of 1 year old children immunized against measles (%)			
	1990	2000	Latest	Latest	1990	2000	Latest	Latest	1990	2000	2000	Latest
Cook Islands	31.2	25.4 (1996)	26.1 (2001)	24.9	24.0	11.9 (2001-2005)	70.0 (1988)	98.0 (2001)	...	...	...
Fiji	27.8	21.8	22.4 (2002)	16.8	16.2	17.8 (2002)	86.0 (1991)	73.6 (2002)	76.4 (2002)	...	...
Kiribati	88.0	69.0	69.0 (2005)	65.0	42.8	52.0 (2005)	67.0	76.0 (2001)	...	...	...
Marshall Islands	93.0 (1988)	48.0 (1999)	46.0 (2007)	63.0 (1988)	29.0 (2002)	33.0 (2007)	...	80.0 (2001)	54.1 (2007)	...	...
Micronesia, Federated States of	16.0 (1994)	12.0	47.0 (2001)	46.0 (1994)	40.0 (2001)	...	...	84.0 (2001)	...	...	...
Nauru	...	...	38.0 (2007)	13.0 (1992)	42.3	38.0 (2007)	...	...	80.0 (2007)	...	...
Niue	...	...	19.0 (2006)	16.0 (1991)	29.4 (1999)	7.8 (2001-2006)	...	99.0 (2002)	...	...	...
Palau	34.0	29.0 (2002)	38.9 (2005)	24.5	17.0	20.0 (2003-2005)	...	99.0 (2002)	...	...	...
Papua New Guinea	133.0 (1996)	88.0	...	82.0	64.0 (2001)	...	42.0 (1995)	53.0	...	...	...
Samoa	42.0	25.0 (2002)	24.7 (2006)	33.0	17.8	20.4 (2006)	89.0	99.0 (2002)	...	...	...
Solomon Islands	...	73.0 (1999)	37.2 (2007)	96.0 (1989)	66.0 (1999)	24.3 (2007)	92.0	77.0	80.6 (2007)	...	...
Tokelau	...	...	...	...	33.0 (1997-2000)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tonga	27.0	20.0 (2001)	21.9 (2006)	23.0 (1986)	7.1 (2001)	19.0 (2006)	81.0	95.8 (2002)	...	...	...
Tuvalu	59.0 (1991)	32.4 (2003)	36.0 ^P (2007)	41.0 (1991)	21.6 (2003)	31.0 ^P (2007)	90.0	99.0 (2002)	74.0 ^P (2007)	...	...
Vanuatu	79.0 (1989)	33.0 (1999)	30.0 (2007)	45.0 (1989)	27.0 (1999)	25.0 (2007)	66.0	94.0 (2001)	37.1 (2007)	...	...

... = not available.

^P Provisional.

Sources: National Censuses and MDG Reports; SPC 2008 Population Estimates and Demographic Health Survey 2007; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

In summary, all of the PICs except Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (weak data) are likely to achieve Goal 4. The under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) remains high in Papua New Guinea. Available data in Solomon Islands seem to indicate that access to basic maternal and child health services varies significantly. Countries making slow progress in reducing child mortality (for example, Tonga and the Marshall Islands) should focus on infant (under 1 year of age) mortality to avoid falling “off track.”



5 Goal 5 Improve Maternal Health

Target 5a Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters

Notwithstanding data shortages, available information on maternal health shows that many

countries appear to be on track, with uneven progress across the region. Rural and outer-island women face more risks during childbirth. It is worth noting that measuring maternal mortality across the Pacific is difficult because no standard definition of maternal death exists.

When indicator 5.1 (Maternal mortality ratio) is viewed in conjunction with indicator 5.2 (Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel), the picture is promising for most countries, except Papua New Guinea and Kiribati.²⁵ Recent data show that the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Palau, Tonga, and Tuvalu reported a 95% or higher proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. The rates are between 85% and 90% in Kiribati, the FSM, and Vanuatu (Table 11). In contrast, only 39% of births in Papua New Guinea are attended by skilled personnel; this low rate partly explains the high maternal mortality rates in the country.

Table 11 Progress on Target 5a

Goal 5: Improve maternal health										
Target 5A: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio										
Indicator	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio ^a				5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)					
	1990		2000		1990		2000		Latest	
Cook Islands					70.0	(1988)	98.0	(2001)	...	
Fiji	41.1	(1988)	57.6		98.0		99.0		...	
Kiribati	10.0		56.0	(1995–2000)	60.0	(1988)	85.0	(1999)	...	
Marshall Islands	...		73.8	(2002)	...		...		94.1	(2007)
Micronesia, Federated States of	83.0	(1992)	...		...		87.7	(2001)	...	
Nauru	...		...		...		...		97.4	(2007)
Niue	...		...		...		100.0	(2002)	...	
Palau	...		...		...		100.0	(2002)	...	
Papua New Guinea	345.0		328.0		42.0	(1995)	39.0	(2001)	...	
Samoa	...		...		...		...		...
Solomon Islands	550.0	(1992)	135.0	(1999)	85.4	(1994)	...		85.5	(2007)
Tokelau	...		...		...		...		...
Tonga	39.0		78.2		93.9	(1995)	95.3	(2001)	...	
Tuvalu	...		...		> 95		100.0	(2002)	97.9 ^p	(2007)
Vanuatu	89.1	(1995)	96.3	(1998)	79.0	(1990–1995)	88.0	(1999)	74.0	(2007)

... = not available.

^a Latest value for Kiribati is 158 (2001–2004).

^p Provisional.

Sources: National health reports; MDG progress reports; Demographic and Health Survey; SPC 2007 Population Poster; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

²⁵ United Nations Population Fund. 2008. *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Pacific Islands: Policies and Strategies in Population and Reproductive Health*. Suva.

Between 1990 and 2007, progress on improving maternal health was very slow in the Pacific as a whole.²⁶ More effort must be dedicated to achieving Goal 5.

Target 5b Achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015

Indicator 5.3 on contraceptive prevalence is low, averaging well below 50% for 10 of the 15 countries for which data are reported (Table 12). Teenage pregnancy is generally high in the region (averaging 55 births per 1,000 teenage women for the 15 PICs), and mortality linked to teenage pregnancy is a serious problem. Little data on access to antenatal care and on unmet needs for family planning has been reported. Data has been

reported for only four countries, with no time series indicating trends.

Improvement is needed in the areas of adequate reproductive health services, including family planning, skilled care at delivery, and emergency services. To strengthen the health information system for maternal and child care services, four PICs have drafted national plans of action on maternal health and neonatal mortality reduction for 2005–2010, with implementation supported by WHO. The PICs have also agreed to a Plan of Action on Reproductive Health Commodities to improve access to quality contraceptives.²⁷ Other activities to improve access to quality family planning are being conducted by WHO in association with United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF. Furthermore,

Table 12 Progress on Target 5b

Goal 5: Improve maternal health						
Target 5B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health						
Indicator	5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate (%)				5.4 Adolescent birth rate (%)*	
	2000		Latest		Latest	
Cook Islands	...		40.0	(2005)	68.0	(2000–2002)
Fiji	...		43.1	(2007)	43.0	(2003)
Kiribati	...		21.5	(2004)	39.0	(2004–2005)
Marshall Islands	...		42.4	(2007)	138.0	(2007)
Micronesia, Federated States of	...		23.0	(2004)	48.0	(2000)
Nauru	...		25.1	(2007)	69.0	(2007)
Niue	...		...		28.0	(2001–2006)
Palau	17.2		...		35.0	(2003–2005)
Papua New Guinea			24.3	(2006)	70.0	(2000)
Samoa	42.6	(1996)	...		45.0	(2001)
Solomon Islands	...		27.3	(2007)	67.0	(2007)
Tokelau	...		...		43.0	(1997–2001)
Tonga	...		23.9 ^P	(2006)	24.0	(2005)
Tuvalu	...		22.4 ^P	(2007)	42.0 ^P	(2007)
Vanuatu	28.0	(1999)	38.4	(2007)	59.0	(1999)

... = not available.

* Figures equivalent to teenage fertility rate reported by SPC 2007 Population Poster. Figures refer to number of births/1,000 women in age group.

^P Provisional.

Sources: National health reports; MDG reports; Demographic and Health Survey; SPC 2007 Population Poster; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

²⁶ United Nations Children's Fund. 2009. *The State of the World's Children*. New York.

²⁷ The action plan, developed with support from the United Nations Population Fund, calls for people in the region to be able to choose, obtain, and use reproductive health commodities whenever they need them. See www.unescap.org/esid/psis/population/popheadline/300/art8.asp

Table 13 Progress on Target 5b

Goal 5: Improve maternal health				
Target 5B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health				
Indicator	5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) (%)*		5.6 Unmet need for family planning (%)**	
	Latest		Latest	
Marshall Islands	94.8	(2007)	8.1	(2007)
Nauru	94.5	(2007)	23.5	(2007)
Papua New Guinea	...		45.9	(1996)
Solomon Islands	95.1	(2007)	11.1	(2007)
Tuvalu	97.4	(2007)	24.2 ^P	(2007)
Vanuatu	84.3	(2004)	...	

... = not available.

* Values refer to percentage receiving antenatal care from a skilled provider (doctor, nurse, midwife, and health assistant and/or personnel).

** Values refer to all currently married women.

^P Provisional.

Sources: National health reports; MDG reports; Demographic and Health Survey; SPC 2007 Population Poster; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

the UNFPA/SPC Adolescent Reproductive Health Programme addresses reproductive health issues in nine PICs.

In summary, all the PICs are likely to achieve universal access to reproductive health except Papua New Guinea, which has an excessively high rate of maternal deaths.

6 Goal 6 Combat HIV/Aids, Malaria, and Other Diseases

Target 6a Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

The PICs are dealing with a double burden of both infectious diseases, like HIV/AIDS, and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) that have directly impacted individual health and possibly economic development by increasing the burden on budgets and public health systems.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the HIV prevalence rate in the Pacific is rising, although little data exists on HIV among 15–24 year olds or on their knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Between 1983 and 1989, more men than women were infected (75% vs. 25%).²⁸ Now, however, women and girls represent 50% of new infections, with women increasingly being affected at a younger

age. This is due to the presence of sexually transmitted infections and the prevalence of gender-based violence, which greatly increases the vulnerability and risk of infection among women and girls.

Most PICs suffer from a high incidence of NCDs such as diabetes, ischemic heart disease, and cardiovascular disease. The incidence of these NCDs is among the highest in the world and accounts for approximately 75% of all deaths in the PICs. There is a need to develop NCD targets and indicators that are compatible with national NCD plans. Although awareness campaigns have shown some success, the biggest challenge is to promote healthy lifestyles (Tables 14 and 15).

On indicator 6.2 (Condom use at last high-risk sex), available data indicates alarmingly low rates of condom use in the region—less than 30% on average.

Target 6b Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Table 16 shows the proportion of the population with advanced HIV infection that has access to antiretroviral drugs is high for about half of the PICs. But the access rate in Papua New Guinea is very low (23%).

²⁸ SPC surveillance data. See www.spc.int/hiv/downloads/hiv-sti-surveillance

Table 14 Progress on Target 6a (6.1–6.2)

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases				
Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS				
Indicator	6.1 HIV prevalence among population 15–24 years ^a		6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex (%) ^{b*}	
	Latest		Latest	
Fiji	0	(2006)	12.5	(2006)
Kiribati	0	(2006)	32.7	(2006)
Marshall Islands	...		8.9/21.7	(2007)
Nauru	...		8.6/14.4	(2007)
Samoa	0	(2006)	14.0	(2006)
Solomon Islands	0	(2006)	18/26	(2007)
Tokelau	...		30.0	(2007)
Tuvalu	...		n.a./43.4 ^P	(2007)
Vanuatu	0	(2006)	37.3	(2006)

... = not available, n.a. = not applicable.

* Where two figures are provided separated by forward slash, the first refers to females, the second to males.

^a Values for Fiji are 0 and <0.1 in 1990 and 2001, respectively.

^b Values for Fiji are 9.8 (2008) and 14.6 (2000); Solomon Islands is 2.4 (2001).

^P Provisional.

Sources: SPC HIV/AIDS Section (Second Generation Surveillance Surveys); Demographic Health Survey; SPC TB Programme; national health reports; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Table 15 Progress on Target 6a

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases						
Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS						
Indicator	6.3 Proportion of population aged 15–24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS (%) [*]					
	1990		2000		Latest	
Cook Islands	45.8	(1991)	43.8		...	
Fiji	31.0	(1991)	44.0		24.4	(2006)
Kiribati	...		...		23.2	(2006)
Marshall Islands	30.6	(1995)	34.0	(2001)	26.6/39.4	(2007)
Nauru	...		...		70.3	(2007)
Niue	35.9	(1991)	...		...
Palau	...		17.2		...	
Papua New Guinea	...		25.9	(1996)	...	
Samoa	...		...		14.3	(2006)
Solomon Islands	...		6.8	(2001)	96.2	(2007)
Tokelau	...		...		17.9	(2006)
Tonga	...		32.8	(1999)	...	
Tuvalu	39.0		31.6	(2002)	97.8 ^P	(2007)
Vanuatu	15.0	(1991)	28.0	(1999)	16.3	(2007)

... = not available.

^P Provisional.

* Where two figures are provided separated by forward slash, the first refers to females, the second to males.

Sources: SPC HIV/AIDS Section (Second Generation Surveillance Surveys); Demographic Health Survey; SPC TB Programme; National health reports; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Table 16 Progress on Target 6b

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases		
Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it		
Indicator	6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs (%)	
	Latest	
Cook Islands	100.0	(2007)
Fiji	100.0	(2007)
Marshall Islands	100.0	(2007)
Micronesia, Federated States of	100.0	(2007)
Palau	100.0	(2007)
Papua New Guinea	23.0	(2006)
Samoa	80.0	(2007)
Solomon Islands	83.0	(2007)
Tuvalu	100.0	(2007)
Vanuatu	100.0	(2007)

[a] Data not available for Kiribati, and [b] Not applicable for Nauru, Niue, Tokelau, and Tonga.

Sources: All sources of data are SPC, except Papua New Guinea data, which is from UNGASS 2008 Country Progress Report.

Target 6c Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Malaria is endemic in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, although progress has been recorded in Solomon Islands. Data on incidence and death associated with malaria is only available for Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu (Table 17). MDG indicator 6.8 is the proportion of children under-5 with fever that is treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs. Data on this indicator are absent except for Solomon Islands

(19% in 2007) and Vanuatu (35.8% in 2007). On indicators 6.9 and 6.10 on tuberculosis, reasonable data on death rates exist (Tables 18 and 19), but comparisons over time for many PICs show rising death rates between 2002 and 2006. Notably, the cured rate for detected cases is greater than 50% (with more than half of the countries over 75%) for 13 PICs for which data exists.

The PICs and most development agencies are showing strong political will to prevent an HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Pacific. The main mode of transmission appears to be through unsafe

Table 17 Progress on Target 6c (6.6–6.7)

Table 17 Progress on Target 6c (6.6–6.7)									
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases									
Target 6C: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases									
Indicator	6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria					6.7 Proportion of children under-5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets			
	Incidence 1992	Incidence 2002	Death 1992	Death 2002	1990s		2000s		Latest
	Papua New Guinea	2,132	1,430	12.96	12.51
Solomon Islands	44,853	16,170	10.82	13.62	53	(1999)	42	(2002)	40.4 (2007)
Vanuatu	8,471	6,930	16.46	2.00	...	...	13	(2002)	55.7 (2007)

... = not available.

Notes: Indicators 6.6–6.8: Malaria is only prevalent (and thus reported) in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

Sources: SPC HIV/AIDS Section, Demographic Health Survey, SPC TB Programme and WHO, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Table 18 Progress on Target 6c (6.9)

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases										
Target 6C: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases										
Indicator	6.9 Incidence, prevalence, and death rates associated with tuberculosis									
	Notification 1990	Notification 2000	Notification Latest (2006)*	Latest Incidence rate 2006*	Latest Prevalence rate (2006)*	Death 1994	Death 2002	Latest Death rate (2006)*		
Cook Islands	5.9	6	7	16	24	5.3	5.7	3.0		
Fiji	34.1	17	14	22	30	1.3	5.0	3.0		
Kiribati	100.0	250	399	372	402	13.0	5.7	45.0		
Marshall Islands	17.5 (1989)	56	276	220	270-330 ^a	...	10.0	28.0		
Micronesia, Federated States of	71.6 (1989)	79	104	101	109	4.0	12.7	12.0		
Nauru	...	33	134	106	134	...	2.2	15.0		
Niue	...	100 (2002)	62	43	85	...	2.0	9.0		
Palau	...	178	85	51	51	...	10.0	4.0		
Papua New Guinea	67.5	236	218	250	513	4.0	56.0	48.0		
Samoa	27.2	22.3	17	19	25	5.9	1.1	3.0		
Solomon Islands	120.1	74	75	135	194	6.3	14.8	23.0		
Tokelau	50.0	67	...	56	112	...	6.3	12.0		
Tonga	23.2	23.2	18	25	34	2.0	3.0	3.0		
Tuvalu	287.5	130 (2002)	125	295	504	22.2	30.0	55.0		
Vanuatu	95.9	76	56	58	65	3.0	16.3	8.0		

... = not available.

* per 100,000.

^a Estimated TB prevalence rate for 2006 to 2008.

Note: Indicators 6.6-6.8: Malaria is only prevalent (and thus reported) in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

Sources: SPC HIV/AIDS Section, Demographic Health Survey, SPC TB Programme and WHO, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

Table 19 Progress on Target 6c (6.10)

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases									
Target 6C: Have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases									
Indicator	6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course								
	Detected 1990		Detected 2000		Cured 1990		Cured 2000		Latest cured cases (2005)**
Cook Islands	31.0	(1998)	30.0	(2001)	50.0	(1997)	80.0	(1999)	100.0
Fiji	51.0	(1997)	49.0		83.0	(1997)	85.5		71.0
Kiribati	35.0	(1997)	167.0		83.0	(1998)	90.7		93.0
Marshall Islands	56.0	(1998)	55.0		51.0	(1998)	90.9		88.0
Micronesia, Federated States of	...		31.0		95.0	(1999)	92.9		98.0
Nauru	...		100.0		...		50.0		50.0
Palau	...		117.0	(1998)	...		75.0	(1997)	100.0
Papua New Guinea	1.0	(1997)	7.0		93.0	(1997)	62.8		53.0
Samoa	10.0	(1998)	53.0		86.0	(1998)	92.3		93.0
Solomon Islands	70.0	(1997)	62.0		82.9	(1997)	92.4		85.0
Tokelau	...		...		...		...		n.a
Tonga	74.0	(1997)	98.0		81.8	(1997)	93.3		73.0
Tuvalu	...		...		...		...		100.0
Vanuatu	32.0	(1999)	34.0		89.4	(1997)	88.5		77.0

... = not available, Niue and Tokelau have no available data.

** SPC, 2005. Figures refer to the proportion of smear positive pulmonary TB cases where treatment has been completed (i.e., cured and treatment completed).

WHO accepts this monitoring parameter.

^a Estimated TB prevalence rate for 2006 to 2008.

Sources: SPC HIV/AIDS Section; Demographic Health Survey; SPC TB Programme and WHO; Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey.

heterosexual sex. Most PICs have strategies to combat HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, and have national coordination mechanisms to ensure an effective multisectoral and rights-based response. The Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Coordinated Project²⁹ provides significant financial support (\$6.3 million) for the fight against HIV/AIDS. Support goes toward strengthening HIV/AIDS treatment and care, confidential and voluntary counseling, and testing, prevention, and surveillance in 11 PICs, with a focus on addressing stigma and discrimination among those affected and infected. There is also a strong awareness and commitment to addressing NCDs in the region. In 2003, health ministers from the region endorsed

the regional Commitment to Promote Healthy Lifestyles and Supportive Environments—a set of short-term actions in support of the long-term goal of reducing the burden of avoidable NCDs.

In summary, except for Fiji, the FSM (weak data), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands (weak data), Tokelau (weak data), Tuvalu, and Vanuatu (weak data), the PICs are likely to achieve MDG 6. Fiji is facing an epidemic-like rise in diabetes and hypertension. These diseases are related to a growing prevalence of obesity and sedentary lifestyles. In Papua New Guinea, malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS remain major causes of mortality, as do infectious diseases in Tuvalu.

²⁹ Funded by The Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.



Goal 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 7a Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources

Target 7b Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

The importance of environmental sustainability is recognized in PICs, but progress is uneven because of inadequate data on which to base management decisions. There is insufficient prioritization of environmental matters in national planning. There are no indicators for target 7a.

The Pacific Plan calls for integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies, and many PICs have integrated the principles of sustainable development into their latest development plans. In some PICs, these plans are referred to as national sustainable development strategies.

Target 7b carries seven indicators, but data is only available for the first three. On indicator 7.1 (on proportion of land area covered by forest), data is available for 2000 and 2005 (Table 20). The results are mixed, with some PICs showing signs of improvement. However, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands show a significant reduction in areas covered.

The Micronesia Challenge³⁰ was launched in 2005 to conserve 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of forest resources by 2020. The Micronesia Challenge represents a significant opportunity to deliver on MDG 7. Similarly, the

Coral Triangle Initiative in the western Pacific offers similar opportunities for participating PICs—Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

Forests and trees are being cleared at unsustainable rates in some PICs. Global warming and climate change are significant threats to the PICs because of their geographical nature. The Regional Framework on Climate Change, Climate Variability and Sea-Level Rise was endorsed by Forum Leaders in their 2005 Communiqué and is incorporated in the Pacific Plan. Similarly, PICs have committed to take action to address pressing water-related issues in the region through implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Water Management, which is also incorporated into the Pacific Plan. PICs have further committed themselves through the Pacific Wastewater Statement and the associated Pacific Wastewater Framework for Action.

No data is available on (i) the proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits (indicator 7.4), (ii) the proportion of total water resources used (indicator 7.5), (iii) the proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected (indicator 7.6), and (iv) the proportion of species threatened with extinction (indicator 7.7).

Target 7c Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

Data on Target 7c (Table 21) shows that the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water is generally high in both urban and rural areas. Sustainability of water resources is a major issue because of the prevalence of droughts, growing populations, and competing water usage. Of the seven PICs that have relatively recent data, only three can claim 100% access to improved sanitation (Table 22).

³⁰ The program is partly funded by the Nature Conservancy and Conservation International, which together have pledged \$6 million to leverage an additional \$12 million for the first phase of the Micronesia Challenge. The leaders and their partners are working to secure matching funds for this pledge and the additional funding to support the long-term expansion and effective management of protected area networks for each of the Micronesia Challenge jurisdictions. The Global Environment Facility has pledged \$6 million match as part of a new Pacific Alliance for Sustainability initiative. See <http://micronesiachallenge.org/>. Participating countries include the FSM, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Table 20 Progress on Target 7b

Goal 7: Ensure environment sustainability				
Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss				
Indicator	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest ^{a*}		7.2 CO ₂ emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP) ^{**}	7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances (metric tons) ^{***}
	2000	Latest (2005)	Latest (2004)	Latest (2005)
Cook Islands	60.8	66.5	2.04	0.045
Fiji	44.6	54.7	1.30	5.992
Kiribati	12.5	3.0	0.32	0.043
Marshall Islands	...	55.0	0.0092 ^b	4.99 ^c
Micronesia, Federated States of	50.0	...	n.a.	0.527
Nauru	17.0	...	14.17	0.018
Niue	78.8	54.2	2.19	0.000
Palau	87.6		11.90	0.230
Papua New Guinea	84.9	65.0	0.41	18.751
Samoa	35.2	60.4	0.82	0.207
Solomon Islands	88.2	77.6	0.38	1.158
Tonga	5.4	5.0	1.19	0.029
Tuvalu	43.0	33.3	n.a.	0.013
Vanuatu	36.3	36.1	0.42	0.000

... = not available, CO₂ = carbon dioxide, GDP = gross domestic product, n.a. = not applicable, PPP = purchasing power parity.

* Data references to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports; also in South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) country reports, and SPC reports.

** CO₂ emissions per capita only. References also in SPREP Country reports.

*** References also in SPREP Country Reports.

^a Value for Fiji is 48.9 in 1989.

^b Million tons of carbon dioxide.

^c Data is for 2007.

Sources: UNEP, FAO, and SPREP country reports; SPC reports; MDG national progress reports.

Target 7d Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020

Indicator 7.10 (Table 23) is the proportion of the urban population living in slums. Only five PICs reported their proportion for 2005–2006. While Kiribati reported a figure of 29.1% for 2005, Niue, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga reported figures of less than 1% for 2005–2006. The increase in squatter settlements in urban areas in a number of countries, including Fiji, Kiribati, and Vanuatu, is a concern both to authorities in terms of provision of services

to these areas and to the health of communities living under such conditions.

Overall on Goal 7, the region's prospects for achieving environmental sustainability are unclear. Despite the huge amount of resource input, monitoring mechanisms do not exist or are weak. The pressing issue of climate change has exacerbated the vulnerability of most PICs to rising sea levels. While some are looking at relocation as a viable option, other countries are looking to immediate adaptation and mitigation measures to reduce risks and strengthen resilience.

Table 21 Progress on Target 7c (7.8)

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability												
Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation												
7.8 Proportion of households using an improved drinking water source, urban and rural*												
Indicator	Urban			Rural			Total					
	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	Latest			
Cook Islands	100.0 (1991)	99.2 (2001)	...	70.9 (1991)	87.3 (2001)	...	...	95.1 (2001)	...	
Fiji	91.2 (1986)	97.5 (1996)	...	32.6 (1986)	88.5 (1996)	...	50.8 (1986)	92.7 (1996)	...			
Kiribati	54.4	60.4	70.1 (2005)	24.7	42.3	37.4 (2005)	35.1	49.1	53.1 (2005)			
Marshall Islands	96.7 (1998)	83.3 (1999)	97.8 ^p (2007)	84.8 (1988)	87.3 (1999)	99.7 ^p (2007)	92.5 (1988)	84.7 (1999)	98.4 ^p (2007)			
Micronesia, Federated States of	93.5 (1994)	94.4	...	87.9 (1994)	92.1	...	79.1 (1994)	92.6	...			
Nauru ^a	...	...	n.a.	...	...	n.a.	71.7 (1992)	81.7 (2002)	n.a.
Niue	98.8 (1991)	100.0 (2001)	100.0 (2006)	...	100.0 (2001)	100.0 (2006)	...	100.0 (2001)	99.0 (2006)			
Palau	84.4 (1995)	78.0	100.0 (2005)	97.0 (1995)	94.5	100.0 (2005)	88.7 (1995)	83.6	100.0 (2005)			
Papua New Guinea	...	70.0	...	...	29.5 (1996)	30.0	87.6	n.a.	...	
Samoa	98.7 (1991)	91.6 (2001)	96.3 (2006)	89.0 (1991)	87.7 (2001)	97.6 (2006)	90.9 (1991)	88.6 (2001)	97.3 (2006)			
Solomon Islands	...	80.9 (1999)	...	...	43.6 (1999)	...	...	29.8 (1999)	...
Tokelau ^a	...	n.a.	...	82.0 (1991)	89.5 (2001)	...	...	89.5 (2001)	...	
Tonga	96.6 (1986)	96.8 (1996)	99.0 (2006)	90.2 (1986)	98.1 (1996)	97.0 (2006)	91.5 (1986)	98.3 (1996)	98.0 (2006)			
Tuvalu	92.6 (1991)	93.9 (2001)	...	97.9 (1991)	97.6 (2002)	...	90.3 (1991)	92.5 (2002)	...			
Vanuatu	96.3 (1998)	90.5 (1999)	...	70.9 (1989)	70.8 (1999)	...	75.8 (1989)	75.3 (1999)	...			

... = not available, n.a. = not applicable.

Notes:

1. "Improved" water supply technologies are household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, and rainwater collection.
2. "Not improved" are unprotected well, unprotected spring, vendor-provided water, and bottled water.
3. Improved sanitation technologies are connection to a public sewer, connection to septic system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit latrine, and ventilated improved pit latrine.
4. The excreta disposal system is considered adequate if it is private or shared.

^a No urban and rural differentials available, with Nauru regarding itself as 100% urban, and Tokelau 100% rural.

* Unit of analysis in census-based and survey-based collections is household, not number of people.

^p Provisional.

Sources: UNEP, FAO, and SPREP country reports; SPC reports; MDG national progress reports.

Table 22 Progress on Target 7c

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability												
Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation												
7.9 Proportion of urban and rural households using an improved sanitation facility ^a												
Indicator	Urban ^a			Rural ^b			Total					
	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	Latest	1990	2000	Latest			
Cook Islands	...	100.0 (2001)	...		98.2	...		99.3	...		...
Fiji	99.1 (1986)	99.8 (1996)	...	97.5 (1986)	97.9 (1996)	...	98.2 (1986)	98.8 (1996)	...		...
Kiribati	32.9	54.4	61.4 (2005)	21.5	22.2	24.2 (2005)	24.4	31.1	36.5 (2005)			
Marshall Islands	87.2 (1998)	92.1 (1999)	82.4 ^p (2007)	49.5 (1988)	56.7 (1999)	52.6 ^p (2007)	73.8 (1988)	80.1 (1999)	70.7 ^p (2007)			
Micronesia, Federated States of	...	59.3	...		15.6	...	34.3 (1994)	44.0	...		...
Nauru	...	96.9 (2002)	81.7 (2002)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	...	96.9 (2002)	81.7 (2002)			
Niue	...	100.0 (2001)	100.0 (2006)		99.4 (2001)	100.0 (2006)		99.7 (2001)	100.0 (2006)			
Palau	98.5 (1995)	99.1	100.0 (2005)	97.4 (1995)	98.1	100.0 (2005)	98.2 (1995)	98.8	100.0 (2005)			
Papua New Guinea	...	90.0	...		78.5	...	...	...	...		...
Samoa	99.6 (1991)	100.0 (2001)	100.0 (2006)	98.1 (1991)	100.0 (2001)	100.0 (2006)	98.4 (1991)	100.0 (2001)	100.0 (2006)			
Solomon Islands	...	87.8 (1999)	...		15.1 (1999)	...	...	22.4 (1999)	...		...
Tokelau	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33.0 (1991)	69.4 (2001)	...	33.0 (1991)	69.4 (2001)	...		...
Tonga	...	99.3 (1996)	100.0 (2006)			99.5 (2006)	...		99.0 (2006)			
Tuvalu	83.8 (1991)	91.9 (2002)	...	73.6 (1991)	82.8 (2002)	...	76.9 (1991)	86.5 (2002)	...		...
Vanuatu	97.0 (1989)	96.9 (1999)	...	87.9 (1989)	94.7 (1999)	...	89.7 (1989)	95.2 (1999)	...		...

... = not available, n.a. = not applicable.

Notes:

1. "Improved" water supply technologies are household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, and rainwater collection.
2. "Not improved" are unprotected well, unprotected spring, vendor-provided water, and bottled water.
3. Improved sanitation technologies are connection to a public sewer, connection to septic system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit latrine, and ventilated improved pit latrine.
4. The excreta disposal system is considered adequate if it is private or shared.

^a Nauru classifies itself as 100% urban.

^b Tokelau classifies itself as 100% rural.

* Unit of analysis in census-based and survey-based collections is household, not number of people.

^p Provisional.

Sources: UNEP, FAO, and SPREP country reports; SPC reports; MDG national progress reports.

Table 23 Progress on Target 7c (7.10)

Goal 7: Ensure environment sustainability			
Target 7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers			
Indicator	7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums (%)		
	Latest		
Kiribati	29.1	[a]	2005
Niue	0.0		2006
Palau	0.0		2005
Samoa	0.6	[b]	2006
Tonga	0.2	[c]	2006

[a] Household's lack of access to improved water supply—main source as "open well."

[b] Household's main source of water supply "well and/or spring."

[c] Household's reporting "no toilet facility and other."

Sources: National population census reports.



Goal 8 Develop Global Partnership for Development

Goal 8 refers to the partnership between developing and developed countries to help the former achieve the first seven MDGs. Very limited data is available for five of this goal's six targets; consequently, they have not been included in Tables 24 and 25. Those targets are (i) develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, nondiscriminatory trading and financial system (target 8a); (ii) address the special needs of least developed countries (8b); (iii) address the special needs of (*inter alia*) small island developing states (target 8c); (iv) deal with debt problems of developing countries (target 8d); and (v) provide access to affordable essential drugs (8e). On target 8d, some PICs showed signs of improvement in terms of debt servicing between 1990 and 2000. As to target 8e, data from the FSM, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu indicate that more than 80% of their populations have access to affordable drugs.

Tables 24 and 25 presents limited data pertaining to target 8f. They indicate that there is vast room for improving access to communication technologies. Based on available post-2000 data:

Table 24 Progress on Targets 8e

Target 8E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries		
Indicator	8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis	
	Latest	
Kiribati	50–79	1999
Micronesia, Federated States of	95–100	2000
Nauru	95–100	1999
Papua New Guinea	80–94	1999
Tuvalu	80–94	1999

Sources: UNDP *Human Development Report 2003*; Regional MDG Report 2004.

- (i) Telephone lines per 100 population range from less than 10% to 81% in five countries surveyed (Kiribati, Niue, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga).
- (ii) Cellular phones per 100 population range from less than 10% to 43% in four countries surveyed (Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga).
- (iii) Internet users per 100 population are less than 10% in four countries surveyed (Kiribati, Niue, Samoa, and Tonga).

Development aid flow to PICs remains high and in per capita terms is seven times the average in the developing world. Data from the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that some of the smaller PICs, such as the FSM and the Marshall Islands, receive more aid as a proportion of GDP than larger countries like Papua New Guinea and Fiji. However, the Pacific region's share of global aid assistance is declining. The PICs also face significant trade deficits because of the small size of their economies, their remoteness, lack of infrastructure, and low levels of foreign direct investment.

Table 25 Progress on Targets 8f

Indicator	Target 8F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication					
	8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population ^a		8.15 Cellular phones per 100 population ^b		8.16 Internet users per 100 population ^c	
	2000	Latest	2000	Latest	2000	Latest
Cook Islands	17.46 (2001)	...	3.11 (2001)	...	...	...
Fiji	...	...	...	45.1 (2007)	...	...
Kiribati	...	10.5 (2005)	...	5.4 (2005)	...	0.29 (2005)
Marshall Islands	6.80 (2001)	6.7 (2008)	...	17.5 (2008)	0.86 (2001)	1.30 (2008)
Micronesia, Federated States of	9.44	...	1.70	...	5.09 (2002)	...
Nauru	7.10 (2002)	...	...	...	...	...
Niue	17.80 (2001)	21.5 (2006)	12.96 (2001)	...	52.75 (2002)	7.90 (2006)
Palau	15.94	81.0 (2005)	...	43.0 (2005)	...	...
Papua New Guinea	...	...	...	...	...	...
Samoa	...	22.6 (2006)	...	25.2 (2006)	...	2.40 (2006)
Solomon Islands	1.87 (2002)	20.1 (2005)	...	...	0.54 (2002)	...
Tokelau	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tonga	...	0.3 (2006)	...	0.4 (2006)	...	0.15 (2006)
Tuvalu	4.72 (2002)	...	...	...	...	...
Vanuatu	0.39 (2002)	...	1.67 (2002)	...	...	...

... = not available.

^a Value refers to subscribers; data for earlier years are only available for the Marshall Islands, 6.08 (1995) and Tuvalu, 3.79 (1991)

^b Data for earlier year is only available for the Marshall Islands, 0.7 (1998).

^c Data for earlier year is only available for the Marshall Islands, 0.53 (1998).

Sources: National population census reports, UNDP Human Development Report 2003, Regional MDG Report 2004, International Telecommunication Union estimates.

ADB is playing a key role in improving the regulatory environment for investment and business activities. Enhancing intellectual property rights and related laws in the PICs is a key priority. The in-country implementation of selected components of ADB's Private Sector Development Strategy³¹ is contributing to an improved investment environment in the Pacific.

The PICs are establishing mechanisms to implement the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement,³² which aims to create a common market for PICs and increase trade within the region. The Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement and the Cotonou Agreement³³ allow duty-free trade between the parties and nonreciprocal free right of access for goods. With respect to official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment, and trade, the PICs have met with their development partners to discuss the implications of implementing partnerships for development under the umbrella of improved aid cooperation frameworks.

Overall on Goal 8, given the already-high levels of ODA in the region, the priority is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of that assistance to help the PICs achieve the MDGs. In addition, PICs are carefully considering the impending trade negotiations under the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) with Australia and New Zealand. There are genuine fears about the adjustment costs of full trade liberalization under PACER-Plus.³⁴ In fact, much of the adjustment aid could be negotiated well before the actual

negotiations begin. Smaller PICs, in particular, may require adjustment support in the event of further trade liberalization.

Table 26, provided by the UNDP Pacific Centre, attempts to capture MDG progress to date for each PIC. The results highlight the "patchy" nature of the current data.

For monitoring progress being made by countries on MDGs, three categories are used: on track, slightly off track or "mixed progress," and off track (Table 27). While the table may reflect the current realities and expectations, caution is recommended given that analysis of MDGs in PICs is still very much a "work in progress."

According to Table 27, the Cook Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, and Tonga are "on track," while Fiji, the FSM, the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu demonstrate "mixed progress." Finally, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, and Nauru are "off track." Adding together those "on track" and those "slightly off track," 11 of the 15 countries (the Cook Islands, the FSM, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) could be regarded as making reasonable progress.

Notwithstanding some positive signs, there is no room for complacency. The two goals for which two or more countries appear to be "off track" are MDG 6 on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; and MDG 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability.

³¹ See www.adb.org/documents/policies/private_sector/private.pdf

³² See www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/PICTA.pdf

³³ See www.worldtradelaw.net/fta/agreements/msgfta.pdf, http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/development/african_caribbean_pacific_states/r12101_en.htm

³⁴ The PACER Plus negotiations will involve at the outset: Australia, the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. See www.dfat.gov.au/geo/spacific/pacer/index.html

Table 26 Summary of Progress toward Millennium Development Goals in Pacific Island Countries

Country	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Goal 7	Goal 8
	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Achieve universal primary education	Promote gender equality and empowerment of women	Reduce child mortality	Improve maternal health	Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases	Ensure environmental sustainability	Develop global partnership for development
Cook Islands	Low food poverty	On track	On track	On track	On track	On track	Mostly on track*	Data gaps, mostly on track
Fiji	Low food poverty	Slightly off track	On track	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Off track	Slightly off track*	Slightly off track*
Kiribati	Off track, lack of data	On track	Off track	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Off track	Generally off track*	Slightly off track*
Marshall Islands	Mixed progress	On track	Mixed progress	On track	On track	Off track	Mixed progress	Mixed progress
Micronesia, Federated States of	Low food poverty	Slightly off track	Weak data	Off track	Off track	Weak data	Mostly on track*	Slightly off track*
Nauru	No data	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	No data	Generally off track*	Generally off track*
Niue	Low food poverty	On track	On track	On track	On track	On track	Mostly on track*	Slightly off track*
Palau	Mixed progress	On track	On-track	On track	On track	On track	On track	On track
Papua New Guinea	Off track	Off track	Slightly off track	Off track	Off track	Off track	Generally off track*	Slightly off track*
Samoa	Low food poverty	On track	On track	On track	On track	On track	Mostly on track*	Mostly on track*
Tokelau	Low food poverty	On track	Weak data	On track	On track	Weak data	Weak data	Slightly off track*
Solomon Islands	Low food poverty	On track	Off track	Weak data	On track	Weak data	Slightly off track*	Slightly off track*
Tonga	Low food poverty	On track	On track	On track	On track	Slightly off track	Mostly on track*	Mostly on track*
Tuvalu	Low food poverty	On track	On track	Slightly off-track	On track	Off track	Slightly off track*	Slightly off track*
Vanuatu	Low food poverty	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Slightly off track	Weak data	Mostly on track*	Slightly off track*

* = With some data gaps.

Source: UNDP Pacific Centre.

Table 27 Progress on Millennium Development Goal Targets

Countries	Number of Goals			
	On Track	Slightly Off Track and/or Mixed Progress	Off Track	Weak Data
Cook Islands	8	0	0	0
Samoa	8	0	0	0
Niue	7	1	0	0
Palau	7	1	0	0
Tonga	7	1	0	0
Tuvalu	4	3	1	0
Marshall Islands	3	4	1	0
Solomon Islands	3	2	1	2
Tokelau	3	1	0	4
Fiji	2	5	1	0
Vanuatu	2	5	0	1
Micronesia, Federated States of	2	4	0	2
Kiribati	1	3	4	0
Nauru	0	4	2	2
Papua New Guinea	0	2	6	0

Source: Based on ADB staff estimates (refer to Table 26).

Implications of Emerging Issues on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The 2009 Pacific Millennium Development Goal (MDG) workshop highlighted several gaps in Pacific island country (PIC) efforts to achieve the MDGs. These include low levels of economic growth, a lack of coherent policies and strategies, and insufficient human and financial resources. PIC representatives at the workshop agreed that to achieve the MDGs, capacity building and more efficient utilization of available resources are essential. Furthermore, policies need to be holistic and gender sensitive. The workshop highlighted the key fact that most governments have not estimated the cost of delivering basic services. Workshop participants urged improved use of public expenditures to ensure better service delivery and achievement of the MDGs.

Consistent and internationally comparable data for all indicators make an important contribution to the development of appropriate policy responses. Yet policy data related to MDG achievement remains a concern.

The 2009 workshop further highlighted the critical role of governance in creating an enabling environment for progress. Particular attention should be given to approaches that can help integrate traditional and modern governance systems and advance principles of good governance, gender equality, and human rights.

Fiscal space must be created to enable allocation of additional resources to priority policy areas, such as social protection and provision of basic services, particularly health and education. Governments

need to undertake key structural reforms that target inefficient and costly public enterprises and wasteful public services. Development partners have a vital role to play in providing technical support to these programs and advising on mitigation of social impacts that may result from restructuring.

Climate Change (Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015)

Reducing the risks associated with global warming, including extreme weather and accelerated sea-level rise, is a huge challenge faced by all of the PICs. PIC governments must urgently address this challenge if they are to continue to improve livelihoods and health, foster economic growth, and maintain biodiversity and culture.

At the national level, the PICs are taking action to address climate change through national sustainable development strategies or their equivalent. These in turn are increasingly being linked to national budgetary and planning processes. At the regional level, the PICs' priorities and needs have been reiterated in relevant documents such as Forum Leaders Communiqués,³⁵ regional policy frameworks and related action plans, and strategic plans of regional intergovernment and nongovernment organizations.

The Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change 2006–2015 comprises six principles:

³⁵ See www.pif2009.org.au/docs/40th_cairns_communique.pdf

implementing adaptation measures; governance and decision making; improving our understanding of climate change; education, training, and awareness; contributing to global greenhouse gas reduction; and building partnerships and cooperation. The framework is intended to promote links with more specific regional and national instruments and plans dealing with weather and climate, including plans dealing with water, agriculture, energy, forestry and land use, health, coastal zone management, marine ecosystems, ocean management, tourism, and transport.

Food and Fuel Crises

High food and fuel prices³⁶ have undermined PIC poverty reduction efforts over the past decade, and will make the achievement of the MDGs more difficult. For the poor, expenditures on food and energy comprise more than 75% of total consumption cost. Food price inflation has eroded consumer purchasing power, increasing the severity of food deprivation and malnutrition. An important point is that a large section of the PIC population, including rural residents, are net buyers of food. Higher food prices thus squeeze spending on health, education, and agricultural inputs (e.g., fertilizers, fuels, and power) needed to expand food production in response to higher prices. As governments move to cushion the impact of higher food and fuel prices, direct and indirect subsidies are likely to increase recurrent public expenditures, worsening fiscal deficits.

Food prices have declined considerably since the height of the food crisis, yet in some PICs, prices have not returned to what they were before the crisis began. Given the large weight of food prices in the consumer price index of most PICs, rising food prices tend to lead to a disproportionate rise in inflation rates. If wages rise as a consequence, inflation rates could spiral out of control. Should interest rates rise in response to rising inflation, aggregate demand may be constrained, possibly leading to an economic slowdown.

The impact of rising food and fuel prices is particularly severe for the urban poor, as they lack land to plant food for their own use. Increased urban poverty could lead to social problems, such as rising crime or civil unrest, which in turn would make it more challenging for affected PICs to meet MDGs 1, 4, and 5.

The Global Economic and Financial Crisis

The 2007–2008 crisis³⁷ affected the Pacific by reducing the market value of offshore investments held by the region's trust funds, sovereign wealth funds, and superannuation funds. Commodity export income also declined. In Papua New Guinea, the pre-crisis price boom that triggered recent economic growth ended. Remittances and tourism activity slowed as economic growth rates declined in the PICs. Investment may slow down further as it may become more difficult to attract funds from abroad at a reasonable cost.

The Pacific banking system raises and invests most of its funds within the region, providing a shield against the effects of the international credit crunch. Local supervision and monitoring of the region's banking sector have improved considerably over time, reinforced by improved offshore supervision from overseas banks operating in the region. The banking system's generally sound health provides reassurance that it is well placed to cope with the immediate effects of the global financial crisis.

The global crisis nevertheless calls for a renewed look at finance sector surveillance in the Pacific. The crisis could provide an impetus to move toward more integrated and standardized approaches to finance sector surveillance. Opportunities for PICs to participate in certain global regulatory and prudential reforms are likely to arise.

Opportunities also exist for the region's finance sector to revisit approaches to managing offshore

³⁶ ADB. 2008a. *Soaring Food Prices: Response to the Crisis*. Manila.

³⁷ ADB. 2008b. *Navigating the Global Storm: A Policy Brief on the Global Financial Crisis*. Manila.

investments. These are mainly held in government trust funds and in national superannuation funds. As of October 2008, the FSM, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Palau, and Tuvalu are facing a 20%–30% fall in the local currency value of their trust funds relative to the pre-crisis situation. Some of the smaller superannuation funds could face a similarly large reduction in market value (most of the region's larger superannuation funds carry little offshore exposure).

The key response to the crisis should be to reinvigorate structural reforms, which are crucial to achieving sustained economic growth and provide a means of reducing vulnerability to external shocks. The priority continues to be the removal of constraints to private sector-led economic growth.

Efforts to improve rural productivity are vital to improving livelihoods for the bulk of the population involved in the agriculture sector. Actions are needed to improve transport and communication and basic public services. To promote growth of the tourism industry, it is important to improve the business climate by removing barriers to new entrants in the transport and communication sectors. Experience in the region has shown that adequate policy responses through internal reforms can more than offset the negative impact of external shocks on tourism. Hence, renewed reform efforts remain an essential step to tourism-led growth.

Trade Agreements

On 29 November 2007, the European Commission initiated an interim economic partnership agreement

with the two main economies and exporters in the Pacific region, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. This agreement enables both countries to benefit from significantly improved market access to the European Union from 1 January 2008. This interim agreement is also open to other interested PICs. It was signed by Papua New Guinea on July 2009 and Fiji, on December 2009.

While Australia supports the bilateral discussions between the PICs and the European Union over the economic partnership agreement, one article of the PACER agreement (para. 74) states that if the PICs start negotiations on a free trade agreement with any other developed trading partner or group of partners, they have to do the same with Australia and New Zealand. This article is in line with the World Trade Organization's most-favored-nation principle. Consequently, Australia has initiated preliminary negotiations with the PICs on the PACER-Plus agreement.

These two agreements, if implemented successfully, are likely to bring significant economic benefits to the PICs, particularly through increased trade and investment flows. These economic benefits would, in turn, potentially make it easier for the PICs to meet the MDGs. In March 2010, the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser³⁸ for the 14 Forum Island Countries was initiated to provide advice and support in the PACER-Plus trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand. This office is expected to play an important role in promoting regional economic integration and in creating opportunities for growth.

³⁸ Dr. Chris Noonan was appointed as Chief Trade Adviser in March 2010 (<http://octa.vu/>).

Policy Recommendations

Overall progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Pacific island countries (PICs) has been slow. Now is the time to accelerate MDG progress and acknowledge that, for many PICs, most MDGs are within reach by 2015—but only with strong political commitment and sufficient sustained resources. The PICs already receive high amounts of official development assistance (ODA) per capita, thus seeking more resources is not a priority. Rather, it is crucial to use existing aid resources more efficiently and to improve coordination between donor partners and PICs, and among the PICs themselves. The Paris Declaration, the Pacific Principles of Aid Effectiveness, and the Cairns Compact all provide a basis for achieving this.³⁹

One issue that has received less attention is the issue of changing demographics in the PICs. In some countries, high population growth rates continue to put pressure on services available to the poor. Rural-to-urban migration has taxed the urban infrastructure, while resources for rural social services have been reduced. The large number of young people joining the labor force each year is another issue of growing concern. A lack of employment opportunities has increased urban poverty in almost all the PICs. In addition, the loss of skilled health and education personnel to international migration has affected provision of services in some countries.

It is important for governments to implement a “strategy for change” tailored to the PICs. This report has highlighted some of the unique vulnerabilities and risks PICs face. A good strategy

for change should effectively address and manage these vulnerabilities and risks.

Improving the PICs’ performance in achieving the MDGs requires (i) leadership and direction from the Pacific leaders; (ii) economic growth and development, including the implementation of “pro-poor” policies; and (iii) good governance including conflict resolution. Underpinning all these is the need to strengthen regional cooperation.

Three specific policy recommendations to support the MDGs are (i) building capacity in government ministries, (ii) improving data collection and monitoring, and (iii) integrating the MDGs into the national budget and development processes.

Pacific Plan and Cairns Compact for Strengthening Development Coordination

Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, operating through the Pacific Plan and the 2009 Forum of the Cairns Compact for Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific, have echoed the recent sentiment expressed by the Secretary General of the United Nations (see paragraph 6 of this report). The present unfavorable economic climate must not prevent the PICs from realizing the commitments they made in 2000. The reporting and monitoring arrangements proposed by the forum should be strongly supported by all stakeholders to ensure annual updates to leaders. This, in turn, will ensure that there is strong

³⁹ The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness expresses the international community’s consensus on the direction for reforming aid delivery and management to achieve improved effectiveness and results. The Pacific Aid Effectiveness Principles are a set of aid effectiveness guidelines for Forum Island Countries and Development Partners in the Pacific, emphasizing the need to align development partners’ programs with existing country and regional programs and the use of national and regional mechanisms. The key objective of the Cairns Compact is to drive more effective coordination of available development resources from both Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and all development partners, centered on achieving real progress toward the MDGs.

political commitment and sufficient, sustained resources to meet the MDGs.

Economic Growth and Development, Including “Pro-Poor” Policies

One fundamental driver for achieving the MDGs is sustainable and pro-poor growth. The PICs should put more emphasis on sectors and activities that promote sustainable development and pro-poor growth, such as agriculture, tourism, improvement of infrastructure (roads, water supply, power supply, ports, airports, etc.), and facilitation of trade to support export-based agriculture. In many PICs, spending on infrastructure has been a low priority.

Good Governance and Leadership, Including Conflict Resolution

Many PICs have identified good governance and effective leadership as essential components to delivering cost-effective, efficient, high-quality public services. With this in mind, capacity-building programs at all levels of government need to be made more effective. The recent review by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) of capacity development initiatives in the region highlighted several areas where there is room for improvement. Many PICs suffer from poor governance despite receiving funding from various donors to support an array of capacity-building programs.

As to aid flows, there is scope for improved coordination for both traditional and emerging donors. In this context, as suggested at the Nadi workshop, the establishment of a regional MDG fund may be a timely option.

National Capacity Building in Millennium Development Goal Management and Implementation

Discussion about the MDG targets has not been matched by solid actions on the ground. The PICs

should set up specific departments in key ministries, such as health ministries and education ministries, to ensure that MDG targets are carefully monitored and met. More thorough monitoring of primary school enrollment and completion figures and various health indicators would allow governments to adopt better policies.

Improving National Data Collection and Establishing Regular Monitoring Systems

A major constraint to effective policy making has been a lack of consistent and reliable data on the MDG targets and indicators. The PICs have paid insufficient attention to the capacity of their national statistics offices, which have weak capacity and high staff turnover. Training personnel in national statistics offices is important not only for developing reliable MDG statistics but also for ensuring more informed policy responses to emerging development challenges. Support for a region-wide MDG network to share information resources and good practices could be considered. Both ADB and the UNDP Pacific Centre are already playing a facilitating role with other partners in this regard.

Integrating the Millennium Development Goals into the National Budget and Development Strategies

The PICs need to undertake a thorough analysis of service delivery costs in order to design effective policies to meet the MDGs. Annual budget planning process should take into account MDG priority areas and targets. This would ensure that relevant ministries and departments are putting enough focus on achieving the MDGs. At present, PICs' budgetary processes fail to take MDG targets and objectives into account, and there are no links between MDG targets and actual expenditure policies.

Nurturing Regional Cooperation

The Pacific Plan provides a mechanism for promoting regional cooperation and integration among the PICs to meet mutual objectives and increase economies of scale. Knowledge sharing in

the Pacific region on best practices in service delivery and natural resource utilization and management should be strengthened. By realizing the benefits of regional cooperation and demanding more of it, the PICs could be in a better position to meet MDG targets.

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Workshop Report: The Millennium Development Goals in Pacific Island Countries Taking Stock, Emerging Issues, and the Way Forward

This report is the output of the 2009 Subregional Workshop for Pacific on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It takes stock of progress made in Pacific island countries in consideration of factors such as climate change, trade agreements, and the global crises related to food, fuel, and finance. To accelerate progress in achieving the MDGs, strong leadership, governance reforms, pro-poor infrastructure policies, better data collection, and institutional coordination are crucial. The Pacific island countries also need to better integrate MDGs into their national budgets and development strategies.

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