SDG16 IN THE PACIFIC

STRENGTHENING AND LEGITIMISING INSTITUTIONS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS & PEACE

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The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable, and tangible measure of human well-being and progress.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strengthening and increasing the legitimacy of institutions and the rule of law is fundamental for development outcomes in the Pacific region. This is especially true with significant changes projected relating to the environment, demographics and socio-economics. Strong institutions are essential to respond to these changes. However, institution building can be slow and challenging and resources are limited. Measurement of progress will help guide decision making and prioritisation. There are challenges to measurement in the region including vast geographic spreads, high cultural and linguistic diversity, small and sometimes remote populations and relatively low internal capacity. This necessitates innovative approaches to measurement. One such approach is the development of a regional index based on expert interviews.

The Pacific region faces both unique structural and societal challenges. The pace of change is expected to increase through shifts in demographics, urbanisation, migration and socio-economics.. This is on top of shifts in the international order, increasing transnational organised crime, cyberattacks and changes in the environment including climate change. Accordingly, Pacific Island leaders have adopted an expanded concept of security reflecting the diverse threats the Pacific faces today and will face tomorrow.[1]

This report outlines challenges and recommendations for Pacific Island countries and territories in measuring Sustainable Development Goal 16 addressing peace, justice and strong institutions. It is part of a larger research project by the Institute for Economics and Peace supported by the Australian Government and builds on previous work presented in *Measuring Peace in the Pacific - Addressing SDG16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions.*[2]

Building on the expertise from The Institute for Economics and Peace in understanding the drivers of peace, as well as data measurements relevant to Sustainable Development Goal 16, this report aims to be a resource for the Pacific community. This report hopes to contribute to the development of evidence-based policy as it relates to the Sustainable Development Goals by outlining the need for further institution strengthening and potential opportunities for innovation given current data availability. The Sustainable Development Goals outline goals, targets and indicators which have been agreed upon by all countries to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. Access to quality and timely information, whilst obviously no panacea, can help

inform, direct and inform policymaking and communal action towards a common goal.

This report is not a conclusive document outlining the next steps in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals across the incredibly diverse Pacific region. The Sustainable Development Goals are designed to be locally contextualised and realised with support from partners and the international community. This report looks at an important complementary issue: the availability and access to relevant data to help inform and influence policy decisions in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific.

The World Bank and the United Nations state in their joint publication Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict that the best way to prevent societies from descending into crisis is to ensure that they are resilient, through investment in inclusive and sustainable development.[3] Sustainable Development Goal 16 aims to achieve this through strengthening institutions and governance, while addressing the drivers of peace. Its inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals reflects international consensus that development cannot occur without inclusive institutions, peace and justice.

Variations in geography, population density and urbanisation present enormous challenges in the Pacific region. Combined with the increased pace of change, there is immense pressure on institutions across the Pacific. Institutional development is very difficult and can take a long time. There can often be significant delays between improvements in economic and human development indicators and institutional development. Sustainable Development Goal 16 provides opportunities

to prioritise and plan human security responses as well as highlighting where further investments and institutional building is necessary to achieve other development goals.

An assessment of progress across the Sustainable Development Goals, and especially Sustainable Development Goal 16 given its cross-cutting perspective, requires an innovative approach. This report proposes that using innovative data collection and analysis tools will enable the Pacific region to have a greater evidence base for responding to challenges.

Outlined within this report is an explanation of why Sustainable Development Goal 16 is important and relevant to the Pacific, what data is currently available, what opportunities the Pacific has to measure progress and how countries and territories in the region can be supported in localising, measuring and actioning progress towards the targets.

The report features four sections:

- **I – Achieving SDG16 in the Pacific** examines why Sustainable Development Goal 16 has particular importance across the Pacific with current and emerging challenges to human security;

- **II – Data availability across the Pacific** outlines some of the difficulties that need to be overcome for measuring Sustainable Development Goal 16 in the Pacific, as well as across the world;

- **III – Opportunities for the Pacific** discusses how the region can continue being proactive in contextualising international measures for the Pacific context as well as engage in innovative data collections. The Pacific region has advocated for localised measures and can continue to do this through regional measures;

- **IV – Applications of data in the Pacific** discusses the benefits of a regional measure, which could be used to determine progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16. This includes a guide for how a regional measure could be developed and provides examples using available data.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations offer practical advice for the Pacific region to measure and implement changes in levels of governance, risks to security and instability and gaps in access to justice. The recommendations are relevant for three audiences: national governments; regional efforts; and for donors and the international community. These recommendations should be understood in the context of the variations in geography, population density and culture across the region. Furthermore, many of the recommendations highlight activity that is already underway particularly under the leadership of the Pacific Island Forum and the Pacific Community. As the 2030 Global Agenda is an extensive and ambitious agenda, there is a requirement for continual diligence in ensuring progress towards the goals are made. For Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16), the partnership between governments, civil society, regional partners and international organisations is essential. The Pacific can continue to strengthen institutions to respond to the increased pace of change the region is facing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

1. **Prioritise measures of institutional capacity.**

   Strong and legitimate institutions are at the heart of SDG16 and, as an enabling goal, can lead to support for all other Sustainable Development Goals. National governments are advised to prioritise strengthening institutions, especially given environmental vulnerability and coming socio-economic challenges across the region. Increases in institutional strength and legitimacy will pay dividends by enabling greater capacity to respond to other development goals.

2. **Expand sources of data, including non-official sources.**

   Given the high costs associated with measuring the Sustainable Development Goals, innovative solutions that are lower in cost will be necessary. National Statistics Offices alone cannot bear the data collection and reporting burden. Governments can consider embracing third party data initiatives and using alternate data collections. This would require stocktaking what data is currently being measured across government, civil society and business and developing a plan for accessing and including this data in reporting and decision making.

3. **Increase involvement of civil society.**

   In order to align the actions of civil society and government on action for the Sustainable Development Goals and national development plans, governments should consider better training and support for civil society and businesses. Civil society organisations and businesses may have an important role in monitoring as well as delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. Significantly, further involvement of civil society is fundamental to promote and elevate marginalised voices such as women, children and disabled to ensure that no one is left behind.

4. **Engage the relevant governmental ministries in the process of collection and analysis.**

   Relevant ministries should be engaged in what is collected and ideally, this data will be used during annual budget negotiations. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) indicators aren't always useful if they are overly burdensome to acquire and have little influence on the activity of the ministries. Data is only useful if it is used.

5. **Continue to make available data more accessible to all citizens.**

   Part of the process of increasing legitimacy of institutions includes increasing accountability and transparency. The Sustainable Development Goals provide an opportunity to make data and decisions more available to all citizens. This could be in the form of a poster, a graphic in newspapers, through mobile phones and notices in meeting areas. This process can be used to ensure no one is left behind, through providing information accessible to disabled and vulnerable communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL ACTORS

1. **Continue to prioritise institutional capacity, including through shared resources.**

   Strengthening and increasing legitimacy for institutions is key across the Pacific region and will support achievement of other goals. There are precedents for shared resources with regional actors, such as the Pacific Community and Pacific Islands Forum, already promoting and housing initiatives to expand capacity. In recognising the enabling function of strong and legitimate institutions, shared initiatives and resources could consider including a governance component.

2. **Further promote information sharing to address current and future security threats.**

   Whilst the threats for each country and territory are unique, it would be beneficial for the region to share information on threats in order to shore-up domestic stability, maintain the rule of law and enable the protection of sovereignty. Continuing to share lessons across the region in responding to changing dynamics could assist in developing informed policies and directing collective responses.

3. **Develop capacity to strengthen security institutions and develop a regional network of security decision makers.**

   Invest in training programs and initiatives for relevant Pacific stakeholders and provide a networking platform for security decision-makers. Strengthened capacity in Pacific security-related institutions can contribute to improved societal stability, thereby creating the foundations for sustainable development to take place at the country level. Enhanced networking activity between decision-makers can assist in developing institutional linkages between countries and regional organisations, strengthening security cooperation across the region more broadly.

4. **Continue to advocate for more regional measures.**

   Adapting measurements, as well as the agenda, to suit national and local contexts is fundamental. This means recognising the role of different stakeholders involving and including local government, civil society organisations and traditional governance. Focusing on SDG16 targets over explicit indicators will encourage measurements, which will impact the enabling environment for other goals, and may be more readily available. One example includes prioritising traditional governance and how it interacts with formal governance. When improving access to justice and the strength of institutions, traditional mechanisms and structures of the Pacific need to be considered. The Pacific as a region is advised to maintain its advocacy for indigenous knowledge systems and can provide insights to the international community about including traditional governance in measures of peace, justice and institutions. This promotion of regional measures is to be understood from the perspective of improving current measures of governance rather than justifying inaction on particular aspects of the Global Agenda, particularly as it relates to women, children and other marginalised voices.

5. **Continue conversations around regional localising and regional measures.**

   A regional measure, possibly in the form of an index, is useful for contextualising SDG16 in the Pacific. It allows for prioritising indicators into a measure that can be tracked over time. The benefits of a composite index for the Pacific include, but are not limited to:

   - Highlighting strengths and weaknesses of each country;
   - Allowing clear communication of priority areas for the region and each country;
   - Allowing country comparisons to be made so each can learn from the other;
   - Offering a standardised evidence base for progress on SDG16 in the Pacific.

   All states around the world face challenges over allocation of finite resources. This is particularly true in the Pacific region where there are small and microstates. A regional measure could assist countries and territories to focus activity and highlight where assistance is required, as well as ensuring there are not gaps in knowledge due to capacity constraints.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DONORS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

1. **Continue longstanding support to national efforts to build institutional strength.**

   SDG16 is an enabling, transformational goal that focuses on institutional strength and legitimacy, and can highlight where support is required for implementing other SDGs. Institutional development needs a long-term approach. Often changes happen gradually and act as a virtuous or vicious cycle in conjunction with other goals. Donors and the international community are advised to continue with a long-term approach to institution building through encouraging internal structures and processes that emphasise human rights, the rule of law, effective and accountable institutions. The process of institution building can support other aspects of the 2030 Global Agenda, but is likely to continue to be relevant post 2030.

2. **Focus on innovative approaches to collect relevant data.**

   At this relatively early stage of the 2030 Global Agenda, donors are encouraged to embrace riskier initiatives. Similar to start-up company culture, many lessons can be learned from projects that fail quickly. This means promoting pilot projects, feasibility studies and expanding proxy sources. Innovation does not require technology or expensive projects.

3. **Encourage programs to include gathering data that can be relevant for measuring SDG16.**

   Monitoring and evaluation for funded projects could include comparable baselines or proxy data using new methodologies, which could be useful for measuring progress across the SDGs. An important component of this would be developing guidelines in order to make comparable methodologies to allow for cross-time and cross-country evaluation.

4. **Continue sharing of best practices as well as unsuccessful approaches from around the world.**

   Share lessons from the Pacific region across different international forum, as well as disseminating lessons from other regions to the Pacific. Provide greater coordination across the different country and regional offices to prevent duplication of efforts. The United Nations and Asian Development Bank led Asia-Pacific SDG Partnership as well as the emerging Core Statistics platform from the Pacific Community could be such a resource. Emphasis could be expanded from data availability towards tools and resources to support implementation and policy decisions.

5. **Encourage implementation over copious data collection.**

   The focus should not be on data gathering alone. Where possible, donors and international actors should continue to encourage data to be integrated as part of normal activity of government. This may include promoting interim goals for 2020 and reprioritising after this time based on measures of progress or stagnation against goals. This would help ensure data is viewed correctly: as a tool to inform policy decisions rather than the end goal.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABOUT

THE PROJECT

This project aims to assist in developing measures of SDG16 in Pacific Island countries and territories. SDG16 is a transformative and necessary goal for achieving the 2030 Global Agenda. This initiative aims to complement the activity occurring at the regional and national level for localising the SDGs and improving measurement capacity.

This report builds off the report '*Measuring Peace in the Pacific - Addressing SDG16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions*',[5] which identified the data currently available and the data challenges faced in the Pacific. It also looked at what statistical capacity currently exists in each Pacific Island country and territory. To supplement this previous work, this study addresses what SDG16 indicators are currently available and highlights the need for additional measures for the Pacific region. The Pacific region faces unique challenges in data collection. Pacific Island countries and territories countries also face specific peace and security challenges not fully addressed through the Sustainable Development Goal framework. All countries and regions are required to contextualise the Sustainable Development Goals, and this report provides recommendations on how the Pacific region can continue working towards this.

In measuring Goal 16, this project contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to build transparency in both formal and informal governance. It is also intended to assist enhance local capacity to measure and monitor Goal 16. Measuring Goal 16 can help guide evidence-based policy and resource allocation, as well as assist with the early warning and anticipation of instability. Further, it will help direct advocacy for change by prioritising performance against regional benchmarks. The 2030 Global Agenda is designed to direct and unite local and global action to achieve common goals.

This project also contributes to the objective of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's aid to the Pacific regarding fostering effective regional institutions by strengthening initiatives for building transparency and accountability across the region. By tracking progress in Goal 16 across Pacific Island countries and territories, this project can bolster evidence-based public policy debate and decision-making in the region. Measuring Goal 16 is explicitly focused on building human rights capacity through state institutions and civil society organisations, promoting justice and access to the law, as well as contributing to meaningful public debate through easily accessible data and reports.

This report was originally designed to be a regional measure of peace and security across the Pacific using Goal 16 indicators to create an index. However, due to the lack of timely comparable data across the region, a meaningful index could not be developed. This report is an interim step in developing a Pacific Index and to this end further regional activity is planned.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMICS & PEACE

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research institute focused on the measurement of peace and conflict. It assesses the economic costs and benefits of peace in understanding its drivers.

IEP achieves its goals by:

- **Developing new conceptual frameworks to define peacefulness;**

- **Providing metrics for measuring peace;**

- **Uncovering the relationships between business, peace and prosperity as well as promoting a better understanding of the cultural, economic and political factors that create peace.**

Every year IEP produces the Global Peace Index, which is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness. IEP also has extensive expertise in measuring SDG16 and is a member of the SDG16 Data Initiative, which is a consortium that compiles existing global data to assist in tracking progress towards achieving SDG16. IEP has also worked on a variety of data driven consulting projects on research issues related to peace, fragility and development for inter-government agencies such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as well as other NGOs and think tanks.

THE PACIFIC REGION

The Pacific Islands are grouped into three major subregions: Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia. Melanesia is the most populated subregion and is comprised of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia. This sub-region is geographically closest to Australia's north-east border. Micronesia is located just north of Melanesia and includes Guam, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru and the Mariana Islands. Polynesia is geographically the largest of the three subregions and includes Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

The Pacific Island countries and territories included in this report are:

American Samoa	Nauru	Solomon Islands	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Cook Islands	New Caledonia	Tokelau	Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji	Niue	Tonga	Republic of the Marshall Islands
French Polynesia	Palau	Tuvalu	
Guam	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu	
Kiribati	Samoa	Wallis and Futuna	

Pitcairn Island, with a population under 60 people, is not required to report the Sustainable Development Goals.

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an opportunity for the Pacific region to showcase its strengths, whilst also encouraging data driven policy and informed decision making. The region has been proactive in promoting and contextualising the targets most aligned to its internal priorities including through the Pacific Headline SDG Indicators. In order for the SDGs to move beyond an accounting exercise and provide meaningful change, there needs to be local ownership of the processes. This cannot happen without buy-in. This study is designed to be a resource to assist with discussions and decisions already being made at the regional, country and local level. Drawing from the experience of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Pacific, this study includes an audit of SDG16 data that is currently available to begin monitoring and evaluation.[6]

Countries and territories in the Pacific region are able to continue shaping how SDG16 is implemented and understood both in the region, and around the world. In September 2019, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the United Nations in New York will prioritise: SDG4 quality education: SDG8 decent work and economic growth; SDG10 reduced inequalities; SDG13 climate action; and SDG16 peace, justice and strong institutions. These goals have been similarly prioritised in the Pacific region. Complementing this process is voluntary national reviews of the SDGs across the region. Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu are all undertaking reviews in 2019, adding to the reviews by Samoa in 2016 and Kiribati in 2018.

A key focus of SDG16 is on inclusive institutions and building peace and security within nations. Peace in the Pacific region is of upmost interest not only to the region itself, but also to the international community. There is renewed commitment from the major aid donors to fostering stability within the region. The 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper of the Australian government highlights a shared agenda with the Pacific that focuses on security and prosperity.[7] Similarly, the New Zealand government has pledged to improve the prosperity, stability and resilience of the Pacific region.[8]

SDG16 is particularly important to the diverse Pacific region as it confronts many emerging challenges. The Pacific region generally has low levels of sustained armed violent conflicts, but high levels of interpersonal violence, particularly against women as well as intercommunal violence. There are emerging potential threats to the region of urbanisation, increased population size,

migration, forced displacement, water resource issues, agricultural production decline, inequality and exclusion. These challenges will be exacerbated by climate change and the increasing severity of natural hazards. There are also external challenges that will heavily impact the Pacific region, with shifts in the international order, increasing transnational organised crime, cyberattacks and changes in the environment. These issues are reflected in the expanded concept of security adopted by regional leaders through the Boe Declaration on Regional Security.[9]

This report is composed of four parts:

I – Achieving the SDGs in the Pacific explores why the SDGs and SDG16 in particular are relevant to the Pacific region. They are a tool to foster resilience, safeguard development gains and ultimately to a more lasting peace. Sustained peace requires more than an end to poverty and discrimination, it also necessitates a shift towards more inclusive forms of decision making and stronger accountability mechanisms across public institutions – at all levels of government. This means there will need to be contextually relevant measures that are gathered and presented in a way conducive to sustaining peace. As the SDGs are meant to be contextualised and localised, further data gathering will be required to respond to particular challenges. This requirement for further measures provides an opportunity for the Pacific to showcase some innovative data gathering techniques. Similarly, the Pacific can highlight the importance of informal governance not merely as an interim measure, but as something with intrinsic value that can be measured along similar lines as the SDGs;

II – Data Availability Across the Pacific outlines some of the challenges to overcome in order to measure SDG16 in the Pacific. These are common to some of the global measurement challenges. No Pacific Island countries or territories have data available to fully cover all the indicators required for measuring SDG16. An extensive data audit shows 57 per cent of indicators are either available, partially available or available through a proxy measure. The remaining 43 per cent of indicators are not available and further data generation efforts are required. This is broadly reflective of global trends: less than half of countries globally have any data for eight of the 23 SDG16 indicators.[10]   The Pacific is not unique in this and has the opportunity to implement innovative solutions to data challenges that can guide other regions in measuring SDG16;

III – Opportunities for the Pacific addresses how the region can be proactive in contextualising the SDGs to promote the priorities of the region. There are also opportunities for the Pacific region to proactively develop independent measures, which are more relevant to the region. The extensive data challenges that the Pacific faces with measuring the SDGs means innovative data solutions are required. One possible way of promoting regional priorities, as well as highlighting different data collection techniques, is to develop a regional measure of SDG16.

Such a measure can be developed to assist the Pacific to determine what is significant to the region within the broader view of human security outlined in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security;

IV – Creating a Regional Measure discusses the benefits of a regional measure which could be used to determine progress towards SDG16. It provides a guide for a regional measure and provides examples of what is possible using the data available.

The Pacific region can establish itself as a leader in tangible efforts to improve data, monitoring, transparency, advocacy and policy efforts to achieving SDG16. By doing so, it can make long-term strides to strengthen resilience, safeguard hard fought development gains and prevent conflict, instability and violence.

This report was initially conceived as a regional measure of an index using SDG16 indicators. However, due to the lack of comparable recent data, it was not possible to develop a meaningful index. A regional measure, like an index, would be an innovative and relatively cheap approach to overcoming measurement gaps for institutional strength. This report is an interim step for a regional measure of SDG16 to localise the targets into the Pacific context.

SECTION I:
ACHIEVING SDG16 IN THE PACIFIC

SDGS AND THE PACIFIC

The SDGs are a set of 17 goals to target poverty, inequality, injustice and climate change by 2030. They expand the development agenda beyond the MDGs. The goals call on all countries at all stages of development to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They also recognise that an integrated approach is crucial for progress across the multiple goals, with a focus on tackling the root causes of poverty. The SDGs were developed through comprehensive consultation with various stakeholders, including Pacific actors.

The SDGs are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda is to be country-led with each country developing their own sustainable development policies, plans and programs guided by the SDGs. This enhances the focus on nationally owned and country-led sustainable development strategies. Countries are encouraged to determine a range of complementary national indicators that suit their specific needs and statistical capacity.[11]

As a region, the Pacific has expressed support for the SDGs throughout the deliberations and adoption process.[12] This support has contributed to the more holistic view offered through the SDGs towards development, including many measures that are particularly significant for Pacific and other small island developing states. For example, the advocacy and support of Pacific Small Island Developing States was pivotal in ensuring the inclusion of SDG14 within the 2030 Agenda. This goal specifically focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans.[13] The Pacific region was also heavily involved in the development and negotiation of other goals. For example, through the g7+, a group of fragile and conflict-affected countries that includes Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, Pacific voices were influential in the discussions to include SDG16.

SDG16 specifically addresses "peace, justice, and strong institutions." Creating peaceful and inclusive societies requires a respect for human rights, the rule of law and good governance, overseen by accountable and transparent institutions.[14] Peace and the elimination of violent conflict are essential to development. Threats to stability and peace impedes economic growth and can create grievances, which last for generations, impacting affected countries long after the violence has ended.[15] The inclusion of SDG16 reflects the fact that conflict and instability are significant impediments and can undermine previous development gains.

THE PACIFIC & THE MDGS

The experience of the Pacific with the MDGs is highly useful in guiding the SDGs. Only two Pacific countries achieved all the MDG goals: Cook Islands and Niue. The remaining countries varied in their progress. A majority achieved MDG4 reducing child mortality. Three countries, Fiji, Palau and Tonga, achieved at least half of the MDGs. Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands failed to fully achieve any of the MDGs. Two of these countries, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, are considered conflict-affected or fragile states.

Research has demonstrated that conflict-affected and fragile states disproportionately underperformed against the MDGs.[16] Development gains can be undermined by conflict or fragility. Studies have shown that half of all countries that experienced a civil conflict since 1945 have relapsed into conflict.[17] This highlights that countries with a history of conflict, such as Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, need to remain diligent to ensure violent conflict does not flare up again. Furthermore, countries with history of violent conflict are at greater risk of fragility.

FIGURE 1.1
COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC BY MDG ACHIEVEMENT

COUNTRIES & TERRITORIES	MDG1	MDG2	MDG3	MDG4	MDG5	MDG6	MDG7
Cook Islands	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Niue	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Palau	Mixed	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Tonga	Mixed	Achieved	Mixed	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Fiji	Mixed	Achieved	Mixed	Achieved	Achieved	Mixed	Achieved
Samoa	Mixed	Achieved	Mixed	Achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Achieved
Marshall Islands	Not achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Achieved	Achieved	Mixed	Mixed
Tuvalu	Not achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Achieved	Achieved	Mixed	Mixed
FSM	Not achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Achieved	Not achieved	Mixed	Achieved
Nauru	Not achieved	Achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Achieved	Not achieved
Vanuatu	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Achieved	Not achieved
Solomon Islands	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Not achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Not achieved
Kiribati	Not achieved	Not achieved	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed
Papua New Guinea	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

Source: PIFS

LESSONS FROM THE MDGS

The Pacific as a region did not quickly adopt the goals as part of national programing.[18] Many countries only began focusing on MDG outcomes in the build-up to the MDG Review Summit in 2010. This was in part due to limited donor focus. Regionally, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat first committed to tracking MDG progress each year at the 2009 Forum Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination.[19] Assessments across the regions have highlighted some of the reasons for mixed performance across the Pacific for the SDGs including:

- **Late adoption of the agenda:** While embracing the MDGs, the Pacific as a region did not quickly adopt the goals as part of national programing. Many countries only began focusing on MDG outcomes in the build-up to the MDG Review Summit in 2010. Regionally, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat first committed to tracking MDG progress each year at the 2009 Forum Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination;[20]

- **Limited data availability:** Only three countries in the Pacific had baseline measurements for four or more of the indicators used to measure progress in the MDGs. This is part includes challenges in data collection across the region which are summarised in Part II of this report;

- **Localisation:** Adapting measurements, as well as the agenda, to suit national and local contexts is fundamental. This means recognising the role of different stakeholders and including local government, civil society organisations and traditional governance. There are also challenges associated with determining the appropriate tool for collections;

- **Limited ownership:** Late adoption was in part a reflection of the lack of ownership felt by Pacific Island countries and territories. Ameliorating this challenge requires further involvement and education as to why the agenda is relevant and meaningful in the Pacific context;[21]

Some of the challenges that emerged from the MDGs have been recognised and integrated into the 2030 Global Agenda. The SDGs seek to identify the actions that will achieve progress on the broadest number of goals in the shortest time possible. The SDGs are broader in scope and explicitly interlinked, with deterioration in one target potentially undermining progress in another target. The SDGs also include an understanding of risk-informed development. This is in contrast to the MDGs, which did not take into account the impact on development from volatility, shocks and vulnerability despite research demonstrating that fragile and conflict-affected countries are less likely to achieve development gains.[22] Furthermore, even countries with high levels of development are at risk of reversing these gains if vulnerabilities are not addressed.

A focus on the SDGs presents the opportunity for the Pacific to prioritise and inform international support to foster resilience, safeguard development gains and ultimately transition from a peace defined solely by a lack of conflict to a more holistic and sustainable peace agenda. Furthermore, with the inclusion of oceans and the environment in the SDGs, the Pacific has an opportunity to showcase innovations from the region to the world and emphasise the priorities of the region.

REGIONAL ACTIVITY ON THE SDGS

The Pacific regional community has recognised the importance of the 2030 Global Agenda and regional support to ensure that the experiences of the MDGs are not repeated with the SDGs. Activities to promote the success of the SDGs in the Pacific include encouragement of localisation and alignment for every country, prioritisation of particular indicators across the region and development of regional frameworks for understanding the priorities for the Pacific. Figure 1.2 shows the different mechanisms for supporting the SDGs across Pacific Island countries and territories. International support is often through aid and program assistance from donors and international organisations.

DIFFERENT MECHANISMS FOR SDGS IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Global
Actors: International community
Mechanisms: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Small Island Developing States
Actors: 52 Small Island Developing States
Mechanisms: SAMOA Pathway

Regional
Actors: 18 member states (with associate and observers) of Pacific Islands Forum
Mechanisms: Framework for Pacific Regionalism; Pacific SDGs Taskforce

National
Actors: Government
Mechanisms: SDGs Taskforce
Sustainable Development and Sector Plans/ Frameworks

Local
Actors: Civil society, business and government
Mechanisms: In-country activity

Source: Author's assessment

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Pacific Islands are all Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and were participants of the Third International Conference on SIDS, which produced the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathways) in September 2014. This agreement focuses on the unique vulnerabilities SIDS face for sustainable development. Three goals have been stipulated in this agreement: "poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development."[23] The five thematic issues identified in SAMOA Pathways are:

- climate change;
- inequality;
- food security, natural resource and water resource management and biodiversity.
- the green economy and ocean-based economy;
- sustainable energy.

SAMOA Pathways also encourages support for SIDS across the SDG16 relevant areas of strengthened governance, legal, financial and administrative systems as well as security that ensures stable and safe human, environmental and political conditions for all. The SAMOA Pathways statement promotes peaceful societies and safe communities. Complemented by other decisions made by the SIDS community, SAMOA Pathways is a critical instrument for supporting the SDGs in the Pacific region.

Regional

The Pacific region, through facilitating groups such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC), has established the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development[24] to assist and support Pacific Islands in the 2030 Agenda. The Pacific SDG Taskforce, which was created to develop the roadmap, is also responsible for implementing the roadmap. The taskforce has facilitated a process of prioritising indicators across the region, as shown in Figure 1.3 and Figure 1.4. This includes five Pacific Proxy Indicators modified from the global definition. There were 132 indicators selected by the Pacific SDG Taskforce from the 244 indicators in the SDGs.[25] The goals

with the biggest proportional coverage include: SDG5, which relates to gender equality and empowering all women and girls; and SDG14, which relates to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. These are unsurprising priorities of the region given high rates of violence against women and the threat posed by climate change. The goals that have the least relative coverage include: SDG6 , concerned with clean water and sanitation; SDG9, focussed on industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG12 , which relates to responsible consumption and production; SDG16 , concerned with peace, justice and strong institutions.

FIGURE 1.3
PACIFIC PRIORITIES BY SDG
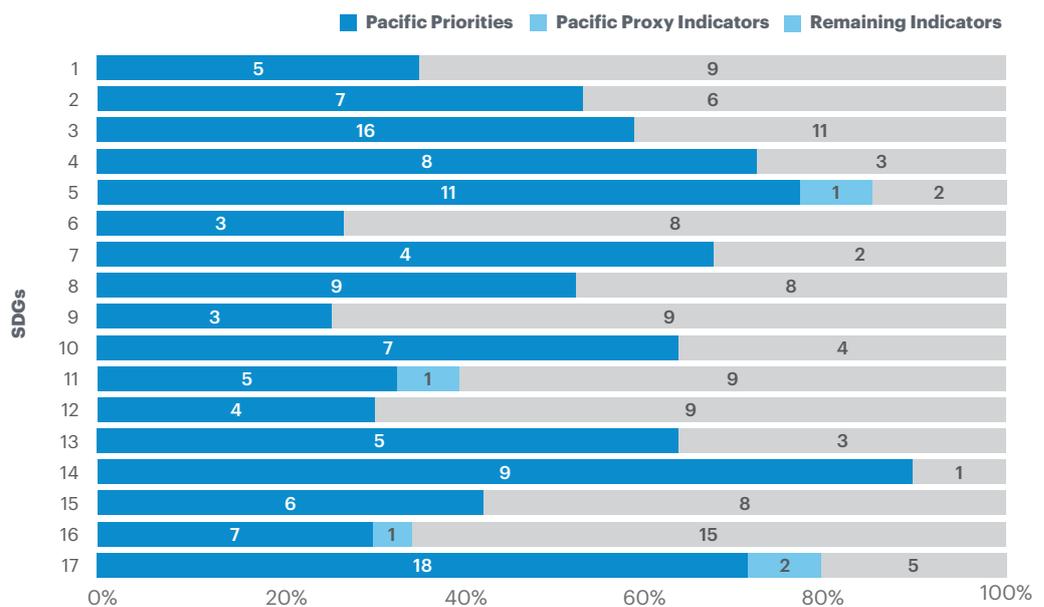
Source: SPC, Author's calculations

FIGURE 1.4
SDG16 PRIORITIES FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

SDG	Name
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimisation to competent authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age
16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information
(16.a.1)	Existence of implementation plan for the different UN Treaty Body recommendations and UPR recommendations which are fully or partially resourced (Pacific Proxy Indicator modified from the global definition)

Along with specific support for SDG implementation, PIFS has also been engaging in regional security cooperation mechanisms. In 2000, following the coup in Fiji and the tensions in Solomon Islands, the Biketawa Declaration was adopted by member states of the Pacific Islands Forum.[26] This was the basis for the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, which concluded in 2017. This declaration was subsequently built upon and updated during the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in Nauru in September 2018. The new 'Biketawa Plus' declaration, known as the Boe Declaration, is an initiative to develop and update the Biketawa Declaration beyond a response mechanism for crisis or requests for assistance.[27]

The Boe Declaration includes an expanded concept of security, which includes human security, environment and resource security, transnational crime and cyber security, and includes commitments to strengthen information sharing, analysis and regional coordination, in addition to addressing traditional security issues. The anticipated Boe Declaration Action Plan to be finalised in 2019, would progress collective action for regional security cooperation, supporting efforts to progressing the vision for the Pacific under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, as a region of

"peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives". It also includes a commitment to strengthen the regional security architecture. To ensure that any changes in the regional security architecture are consistent with SDG16, it is advised that the process includes a review of the Human Security Framework for the Pacific, as shown in Figure 1.5, in the context of the 2030 Agenda, SDG16 and the Boe Declaration. The stated goal of the Human Security Framework is to develop a Pacific where communities, families and individuals are secure and safe from threats to their wellbeing, are guaranteed dignity and can enjoy political stability, sustainable economic development and social fulfilment in the unique context of the region.[28] By addressing human security, the framework emphasises the specific vulnerabilities that the Pacific region faces and how this impacts individual safety and wellbeing. There is a strong focus on prevention tactics, which require the tracking of changes in violent conflict along with establishing early warning strategies, facilitating community cooperation, proactively addressing emerging tensions and quickly resolving outbreaks of violent conflict. Violent conflict is addressed by determining root causes and providing justice responses as well as making conflict sensitive policy decisions.

FIGURE 1.5

THE HUMAN SECURITY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PACIFIC

INTERCONNECTED AND INTERDEPENDENT ELEMENTS FOR STRENGTHENING HUMAN SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC				
Political Security	Economic Security	Community, Family, Personal Security	Environmental Security	Social Fulfilment

Principles of Pacific human security

Preventative	Localised	Collaborative	People-centred	Inclusive
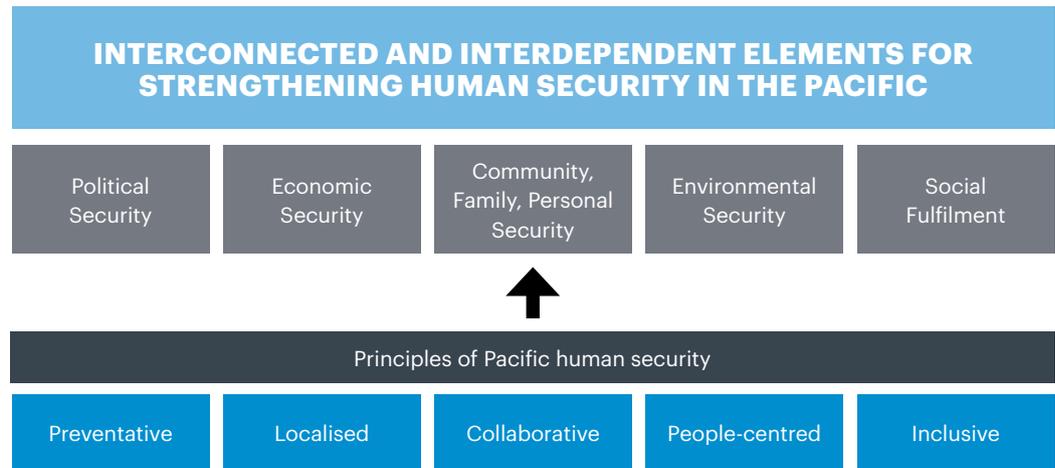
Source: PIFS

National

One of the most basic ways for a country to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is through formulating national strategies for development. The development of national strategies has been a longstanding ambition of the international community.The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation called for plans to be operational by 2005.[29] This commitment has been affirmed in the Pacific. In 2005, PIF member states through the Pacific Plan Initiative 5.1 committed to developing and implementing National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) within each country by 2008.

These plans reflected and complemented existing planning and strategies.[30] While many of these plans have been developed outside the scope of the 2030 Agenda, they demonstrate the selected priorities and indicators for each country. There has also been a process of aligning these NSDS and the subsequent National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) or Framework with the SDGs. This process has also been supported by the UNDP.[31]

These national plans are attempts to prioritise SDG targets and indicators according to local relevance. The 2030 Global Agenda stipulates that no one is left behind, so whilst prioritisation is essential, there is still a requirement to address lesser priorities for the region. The development and particularly the implementation of these plans include international and regional support. Notably, as shown in Figure 1.6, not all countries and territories have a National Sustainable Development Plan in place.

It is likely that many of the territories in the Pacific are covered by other plans. Nevertheless, the need to contextualise the development agenda for each location necessitates a plan that addresses prioritisation. Several Pacific Islands have plans, which do not take into account the 2030 Global Agenda or have plans that have already concluded. These countries, such as Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau and Papua New Guinea, are advised to update their NSDP in this context.

FIGURE 1.6

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC WITH NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS, 2010-2030

Country and territories	Years 2010-2030																				
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Cook Islands							■	■	■	■	■		■	■							
FSM	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							
Fiji							■	■	■	■	■										
Kiribati							■	■	■	■											
Marshall Islands						■	■	■													
Nauru	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Niue	■	■	■	■																	
Palau	■	■	■	■	■																
Papua New Guinea	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Samoa							■	■	■	■											
Solomon Islands							■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Tokelau							■	■	■	■	■										
Tonga						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
Tuvalu							■	■	■	■	■										
Vanuatu							■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
American Samoa																					
French Polynesia																					
Guam																					
New Caledonia																					
Northern Mariana Islands																					
Walls and Futuna																					

Source: See Appendix B

Local

The implementation and measurement of progress across the 2030 Global Agenda in the Pacific will rely on the involvement of local actors. Civil society is a key partner in implementing the SDGs and NSDP, particularly in places where formal government has limited resources and capacity. For this to occur, alignment between actors is necessary to reinforce the importance of coordinating the actions of government, civil society organisations and international actors. All actors have distinct duties, but are partners in achieving the SDGs.

SDG16 RELEVANCE IN THE PACIFIC

As recognised by regional agreements including the Boe Declaration, there are significant human security concerns across the Pacific region. Whilst all the SDGs are interlinked, SDG16 has special importance as its focus on peace, justice and strong institutions also fosters resilience to deal with other challenges. The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) identified 'mega-trends' that will globally hamper the attainment of the SDGs. These trends include poverty and inequality, demographic changes, shocks and crises emerging from climate change, challenges from development financing and

changes stemming from technological innovation.[32] These are all relevant to the Pacific.

For the Pacific, SDG16 focuses on promoting peace and strengthening institutional capacity to deal with changes and challenges, while also addressing the areas of change that could be drivers for future armed conflict and violence. These include increases in displacement, migration, urbanisation, exclusion and inequality, as well as environmental factors such as climate change and natural disasters and broader security issues in the Pacific region.[33]

SDG16

SDG16 focuses on "fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies." This specific goal recognises the long reaching consequences of conflict and violence for development outcomes. Not only is violence a severe hindrance for development, it can also reverse many years of development gains. By prioritising SDG16, people who live in the Pacific have an opportunity to potentially build a more peaceful and economically advanced society. SDG16 is dedicated to:

- Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies as part of sustainable development;
- Providing access to justice for all;
- Building effective, accountable institutions at all levels;

These are institutional and structural drivers of Positive Peace. Structural changes tend to be gradual. Hence, any evaluation of SDG16 in the Pacific should highlight what is already working in these three areas, and what areas could be strengthened.

SDG16 acknowledges that peace is fundamental to development and that the international community recognises that peace can and should be measured for development outcomes. Successfully addressing the drivers of violence and conflict requires moving beyond a focus on the traditional development agenda of health, education and poverty. The inclusion of the drivers of peace across the SDGs

reflects the integrated and interlinked nature of the goals, which if achieved, work together to bring about development outcomes. This goal is linked to the peace and security reviews undertaken in 2015 including the *Global Study on Resolution 1325 (2000).*[34]

In order to address the drivers of violence and conflict, the focus cannot be purely on the traditional development agenda of health, education and poverty. Rather, as SDG16 recognises, governance, inequalities and institutions need to be addressed, as well as violence reduction. This focus on the drivers of peace is known as Positive Peace, or the "attitudes, institutions and structures which create and sustain peaceful societies."

SDG16 recognises that in order to build on what is working for peace there is a need to focus on Positive Peace, building the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. These same factors also lead to other positive outcomes, which many in society would acknowledge are important. Therefore, Positive Peace is described as creating an optimum environment for human potential to flourish. IEP has empirically developed a framework for Positive Peace, which is based on eight factors or pillars. These pillars, depicted below, are partly represented in SDG16.[35]

POSITIVE PEACE FRAMEWORK

Source: Institute for Economics & Peace

The pillars of Positive Peace IEP has identified eight key factors, or Pillars, that comprise Positive Peace:

- Well-functioning Government – A well-functioning government delivers high quality public and civil services, engenders trust and participation, demonstrates political stability and upholds the rule of law.

- Sound Business Environment – The strength of economic conditions as well as the formal institutions that support the operation of the private sector. Business competitiveness and economic productivity are both associated with the most peaceful countries.

- Equitable Distribution of Resources – Peaceful countries tend to ensure equity in access to resources such as education, health, and to a lesser extent, equity in income distribution.

- Acceptance of the Rights of Others – Peaceful countries often have formal laws that guarantee basic human rights and freedoms and the informal social and cultural norms that relate to behaviours of citizens.

- Good Relations with Neighbours – Peaceful relations with other countries are as important

as good relations between groups within a country. Countries with positive external relations are more peaceful and tend to be more politically stable, have better functioning governments, are regionally integrated and have lower levels of organised internal conflict.

- Free Flow of Information – Free and independent media disseminates information in a way that leads to greater knowledge and helps individuals, business and civil society make better decisions. This leads to better outcomes and more rational responses in times of crisis.

- High Levels of Human Capital – A skilled human capital base reflects the extent to which societies educate citizens and promote the development of knowledge, thereby improving economic productivity, care for the young, political participation and social capital.

- Low Levels of Corruption - In societies with high levels of corruption, resources are inefficiently allocated, often leading to a lack of funding for essential services and civil unrest. Low corruption can enhance confidence and trust in institutions.

CONFLICT AND INTERCOMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Peace and security issues in the Pacific are unique and the region's approach to sustaining peace would benefit from reflecting this. Generally, relations with neighbouring countries in the Pacific are strong with limited historical tension. In part, this is due to the structural advantages of having no shared land borders that can be areas of contestation. Issues regarding exclusive economic zones are generally not catalysts for interstate tension. There are significant flows of people and trade between the countries and territories in the Pacific and interstate conflict has not occurred.

However, there have been internal conflicts and political instability, which has largely been due to tribal tensions. Deaths have occurred due to conflicts in Bougainville and the Highlands in Papua New Guinea, as well as in Solomon Islands. As shown in Figure 1.7, there have been two

countries in the Pacific that have experienced violent conflict. According to recognised global databases, the most recent example is between the Akul and Kambrip tribes in the Enga Province in Papua New Guinea in 2012. However, this in part reflects the importance of reliable data on conflict. Independent studies have shown there have been active tribal fights in the Highlands in Papua New Guinea, which have not been captured by global conflict databases.[36] The nature of intercommunal violence, with attacks occurring in rural and remote regions and both victim and perpetrators of violence limited to members of a particular tribe or ethnicity, makes it more difficult for this particular form of violence to be captured in broad event databases that depend on media reports. Global experiences highlight that both Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, as conflict-affected countries, need to remain vigilant to prevent reoccurrence of conflict. Since 1945, over half of countries globally that experienced civil conflict have had a relapse into conflict.[37]

FIGURE 1.7
DEATHS FROM ARMED CONFLICT IN THE PACIFIC, 1989-2017
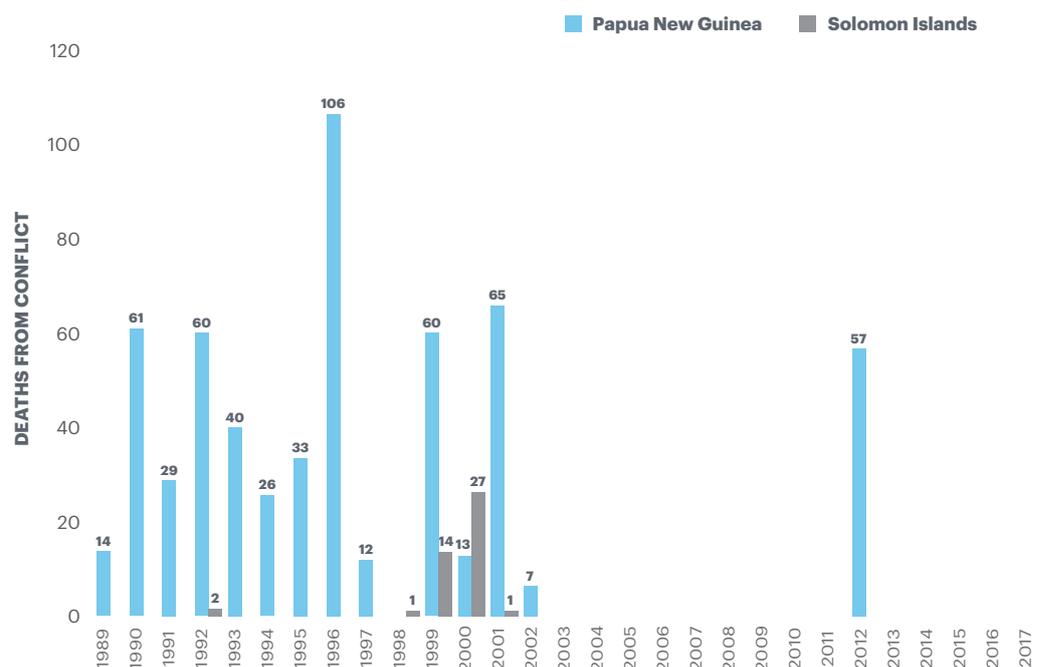
Source: UCDP

Other experiences of national conflict, unrest and political turmoil have generally been peacefully resolved.[38] There have been accounts of political unrest in Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji. There have also been concerns raised about referendums triggering violence in New Caledonia and Bougainville. The majority of these uprisings have not resulted in conflict-related deaths. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and peacebuilding efforts, such as in Solomon Islands, have been cited as assisting in prevention.[39]

The Pacific is known for relatively high levels of social resilience.[40] However, displacement and migration, urbanisation, youth unemployment, unstable governance, rising socio-economic inequalities, poor resource management and land disputes are all potential sources of conflict.[41] Broader geopolitical risks including climate change, violent extremism and transnational crime also represent security challenges in the Pacific.[42] These challenges are briefly discussed below.

INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

While organised violent conflict is rare, interpersonal violence still poses a threat to ongoing stability and justice in the region. One of the most prevalent forms of violence in the Pacific is intimate partner violence and violence against women. Intimate partner violence takes the form of both physical and sexual violence in many countries. This form of violence is known to carry significant social and economic costs to a society and if not appropriately addressed can lead to less trust and legitimacy in institutions. Exposure to violence as a child can also have severe consequences for childhood development.[43] As well as being extremely traumatic to victims, intimate partner violence can be a significant hindrance to sustainable development and the legitimacy of institutions and hence the reduction of this form of violence is an important aspect of the 2030 Global Agenda.

Of countries with comparable data, Fiji had the highest percentage of women reporting physical violence at over 60 per cent, whereas Solomon Islands had the highest reports of sexual violence at 55 per cent. The combined results of these surveys is shown in Figure 1.8.[44] As data on violence against women is underreported, the actual rates of violence against women are higher than surveys suggest. One study in Papua New Guinea showed that 70 per cent of women in Papua New Guinea have experienced rape or assault in their lifetime.[45]

FIGURE 1.8

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN, 15-49, REPORTING PHYSICAL VIOLENCE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER IN THEIR LIFETIME ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE DATA
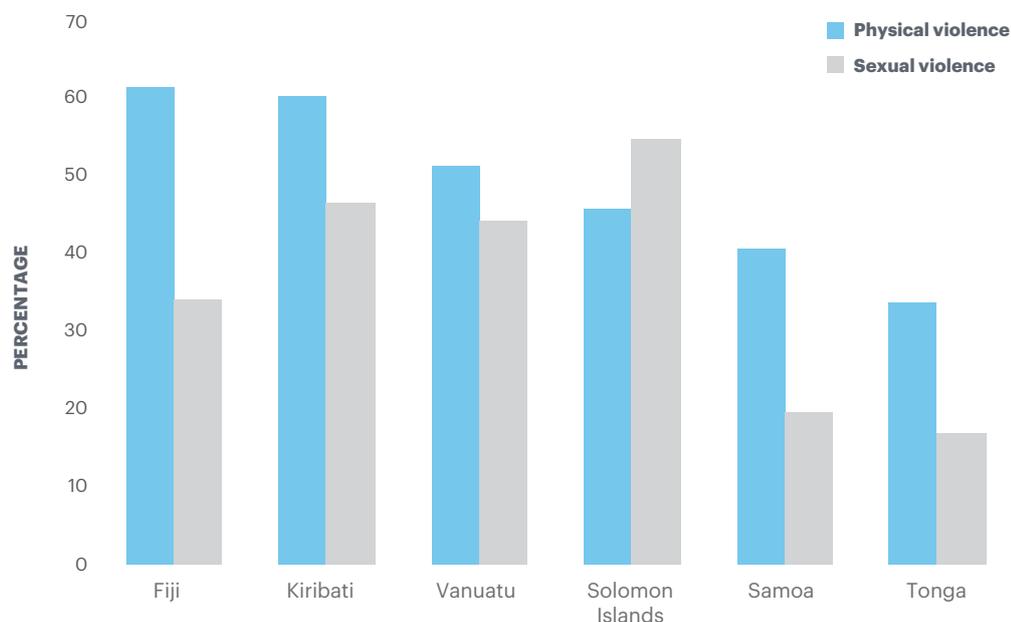
Source: United Nations Statistics Division

In addition to intimate partner violence, rape is also a prevalent issue across the Pacific. For example, in Vanuatu 28 per cent of women were reportedly forced into their first sexual experience. In the Solomon Islands and Kiribati this figure was slightly lower at 21 per cent and 20 per cent respectively. In contrast, 8.4 per cent of women in the United States reported experiencing sexual violence at first intercourse.[46] Once again, comparison of sexual assault data across the Pacific needs to be undertaken with care as estimates per year per country are not available nor standardised across the region. For example, the Demographic Health Survey, a primary source for sexual assault statistics, is not administered in the same year for each country in the Pacific, and comparisons of countries can only be done across different time periods. Figure 1.8 shows results based on the most recent available year of data.

Research conducted in the region has identified a number of risk factors behind the high rates of gender-based violence. These include economic dependence and poverty, the low social status of women and girls, sexual double standards and a lack of sexual and reproductive health education.[47] Alcohol and drug abuse are also key risk factors linked to gender-based violence. While the prevalence and accessibility of hard drugs remain low, this area will pose a significant future challenge for the Pacific. Similarly, gambling is an emerging regional issue, which is an exacerbating factor for intimate partner violence.[48]

In the Pacific, attitudinal data shows that for certain categories more women consider beatings by a husband justified than men in the same age cohorts. For example, the 2014 Demographic Health Survey in Samoa found that 3.5 per cent of men and 7.9 per cent of women agreed with the statement that "it is justified for a husband to beat his wife if she refuses to have sex with him."[49] Similarly, the 2015 Demographic Health Survey for Solomon Islands found nearly eight in ten women agreed with at least one of the specified justifications for wife beating. By comparison, close to six in ten men in the Solomon Islands agree with at least one specified justification for wife beating.[50] These justifications include refusing to have sex, neglecting the children, going out without informing the husband, arguing with the husband and burning food. This is a notable increase from about seven in ten women in 2006–2007 and indicates that the majority of women still believe that violence against women is justified under certain circumstances.

POTENTIAL DRIVERS OF INSECURITY

There are a range of emerging threats that could be potential challenges to stability and peace in the Pacific region. These changes include:

- environmental, such as natural disasters and the effects of climate change;

- socio-economic and demographic, such as displacement, migration, urbanisation and increasing inequality;

- broader geostrategic competition in the region, such as disputes in the South China Sea as well as shifts in regional power balances. Regional leaders have referred to this as "a dynamic geopolitical environment leading to an increasingly crowded and complex region."[51]

Pacific leaders have recognised these drivers through the Boe Declaration.[52] The Boe Declaration calls for recognising climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific. As well as climate change, other profound changes occurring in the Pacific are likely to exacerbate current tensions relating to resources and access and use of land.

Environmental

Natural hazards and changes in the environment can have deleterious impacts on human security. This is particular pertinent to the Pacific due to the high prevalence of environmental events and emerging threats of climate change.[53] The Pacific region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as flooding, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis.[54] In fact, according to the 2017 World Risk Report, which measures the risk of an extreme natural event leading to a disaster, five Pacific Islands are among the 15 most vulnerable countries in the world.[55] It is likely that the number is even higher than this, with 15 Pacific Islands not included in the study. Such events impact domestic political stability, food and water security and resource management. The World Risk Report determines risk of extreme natural events through measures of exposure to events such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and changes to sea levels, and vulnerability including susceptibility, coping capacity and adaptive capacity.

FIGURE 1.9

PERFORMANCE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS IN RISKS OF NATURAL HAZARDS IN WORLD RISK REPORT

Country	Rank (out of 171)	World Risk Index
Vanuatu	1	36 .45%
Tonga	2	28 .57%
Solomon Islands	6	18 .77%
Papua New Guinea	11	16 .34%
Fiji	15	13 .50%
Kiribati	165	1 .76%

Source: 2017 World Risk Index

In addition to natural disasters, the Pacific faces precarious water issues. Many Pacific Islands are heavily reliant on rainfall for their water consumption and agricultural needs and are thus highly vulnerable to the effects of droughts and rain-induced flooding.[56] The 2012 Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment found that droughts have been more frequent and more prolonged in the region since 1950.[57] This will likely lead to an increased risk of food and water shortages, malnutrition and water and food-borne diseases, as well as increased livestock deaths, higher risks of wildfire and widespread water stress.[58]

Contamination of the water table has vast impacts on populations. For example, Kiribati's highly porous soil can result in bore water becoming contaminated by human remains, human and animal waste and increased salinity from rising sea levels. The example of Kiribati also highlights why a multi-dimensional understanding of environmental risk is needed. Further examples of multidimensional risk factors are found in the Pathways to Peace Report 2017, a joint publication between the United Nations and the World Bank.[59]

Most research to date has concluded that climate change is not a cause of conflict in and of itself, but rather acts as a threat multiplier, exacerbating pre-existing, underlying grievances. In the Pacific, these grievances are often related to ethnic tensions, land ownership and resource scarcity.[60] Although the full extent of climate change's impacts are hard to predict, there is consensus surrounding the significant, negative impacts of the changing environment as a result of man-made climate change.[61] For example, between 1993 and 2010 the global sea level rose with the highest rise taking place in the Western Pacific.[62] Loss of land due to such changes forces migration and erodes food security, not only in the directly impacted regions, but also in the areas to which the migrants relocate. One study estimated that up to 1.7 million Pacific Islanders will be displaced due to climate change by 2050.[63] Issues associated with climate change and losses from natural disasters are not included within SDG16, but are represented through other SDG indicators that have been prioritised by the region.

Socio-economic and demographic

Since Samoa became the first Pacific Island country to gain independence in 1962, the region has seen significant socio-economic and demographic changes. Population shifts, the changing economy, urbanisation and globalisation have brought about significant societal challenges. The Pacific region has seen a dramatic increase in population, which is projected to continue. The population across the Pacific is predicted to increase from between a quarter to a third by 2030 and by between half and 82 per cent by 2050. Figure 1.10 shows historical estimates of population and projections of future population sizes for Pacific Islands. This increase in population has the potential to be a driver of land disputes across the Pacific.

FIGURE 1.10
ESTIMATED POPULATION OF THE PACIFIC, 1960-2050
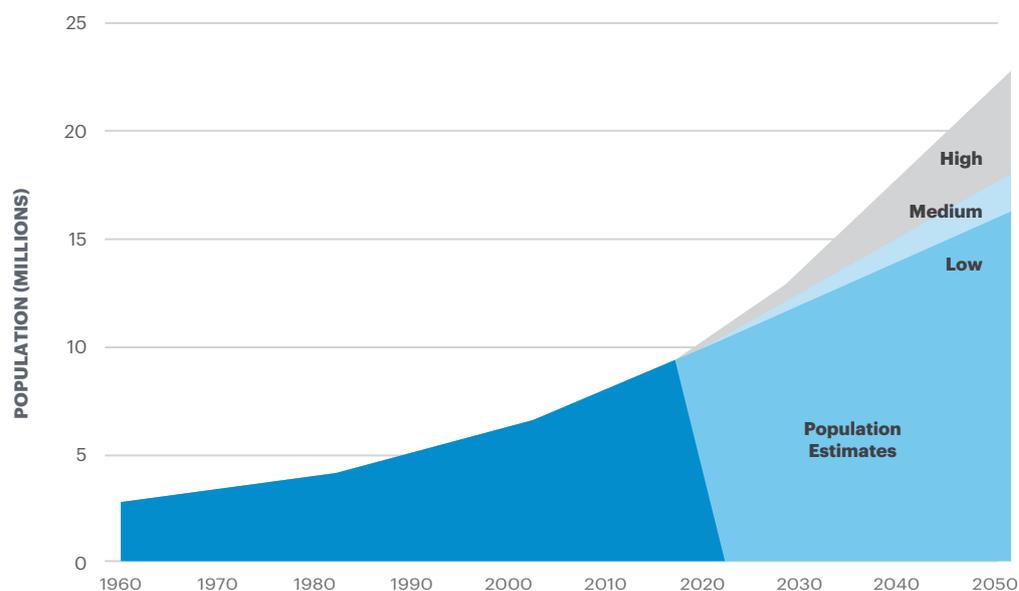
Source: UNDESA

The population across the Pacific has increased over three-fold since 1950, from around 2.5 million to over 11 million in 2015.[64] The population of Melanesian countries has more than tripled from 1961 to 2017. Fiji, with the lowest population growth in the region still has increased two-fold

At the same time, many people have shifted from traditional ways of living to urban environments with greater interactions with the formal economy and formal governance. By becoming more integrated and globalised, Pacific Islands have also become more susceptible to volatility.[65] There is greater risk resulting from poor or uneven economic growth and from prospective impacts from global economic shocks.[66]

Population growth and the youth bulge

The Pacific region also has increasing youth populations. The term "youth bulge" applies to countries that have a disproportionate proportion of youth as a proportion of total population. This is often a result of decreasing rates of infant mortality and high rates of fertility. Population estimates highlight the fact that the Pacific region has a higher than global average share of youthful population. This is shown in Figure 1.11. Melanesia has the highest proportion of population under 24

at 55 per cent, compared to the global rate of 42 per cent.

Care needs to be taken when comparing youth population across the Pacific as there is no one standard age bracket definition used in the region. For example, the range of 15 to 34 is used in Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and others. Kiribati uses the range of 15 to 30, whereas Papua New Guinea uses 12 to 25 years.[67] Figure 1.11 shows the different categories of ages across the different regions in the Pacific. This is presented for illustrative purposes only and is not a recommendation of youth age standardisation in the region.

Given the right circumstances, youth are the engines of economic development, growth and innovation. However, without opportunities for education, employment or self-expression, a large youthful population can be a catalyst for crime, violence and susceptibility to radical ideology. Lack of opportunity can lead to feelings of relative deprivation. High levels of internet and mobile phone penetration, while a signal of technological progress, also shifts expectations around culture and the entitled quality of life, as images of material success are easily accessed through the internet,

PROPORTION OF POPULATION BY AGE BREAKDOWN, PACIFIC REGIONS 2015 ESTIMATES
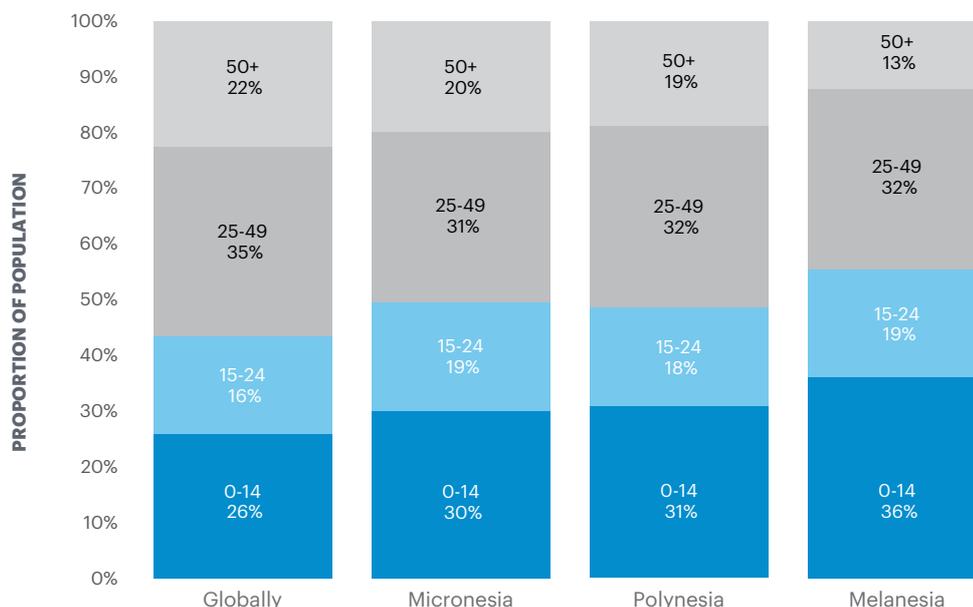
Source: UNDESA, author's calculations

television and pop-culture.[68] Although Pacific Island countries and territories lack clear and comparable data on either formal or informal employment levels, they are estimated to have high levels of unemployment and underemployment particularly for youth.[69] The average rates of youth unemployment rates across the Pacific are 23 per cent,[70] which is nearly double the global average of 12.6 per cent.[71]

A mismatch between a government's ability to meet the needs of an expanding youth population may cause increased risks of conflict.[72] The effect of "youth-bulge" on conflict further intensifies when there has been rapid urbanisation and environmental stresses.[73] The Pacific region recognised this and in response developed the Framework for Resilient Development (FRDP).[74] It includes focusing on resilience through building income security, access to markets and employment, livelihoods diversity and flexibility, access to financial services and land reform. There have also been approaches to youth that recognise the changing environment, with focus on supporting the green economy and green job creation for youth employment strategies. There are now Young Entrepreneurs Councils active in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Kiribati supporting the creation of new

employment opportunities for youth.[75]

Urbanisation, Migration and Inequality

In addition to changes in population size and composition by age, globalisation has brought about an increase in the flow not just of goods and services, but people too. In the Pacific there has been significant urbanisation, with one in every four Pacific islanders now an urban resident.[76] Informal urban settlements, particularly in Melanesia, are often relatively high in violent crime.[77]

Additionally, climate change has the potential to amplify international and domestic migration in the Pacific.[78] Increased migration both within and across borders may contribute to resource scarcity pressures and competition for resources. In the Pacific, key challenges arising from urbanisation include limited infrastructure, overcrowding and financial and land tenure insecurity. This is particularly true of the growing informal settlements on the peripheries of urban centres. For example, nearly half of urban populations in Melanesia live in informal settlements.[79] The risk of any rapid change, including from unregulated migration, is the potential for a multiplier causing instability with greater competition for sources of food, resources, stability or safety.[80]

PROPORTIONAL CHANGE IN POPULATION DENSITY, 1991 - 2017

Source: FAO, World Bank, author's calculations

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Urbanisation, Migration and Inequality

In addition to changes in population size and composition by age, globalisation has brought about an increase in the flow not just of goods and services, but people too. In the Pacific there has been significant urbanisation, with one in every four Pacific islanders now an urban resident.[76] Informal urban settlements, particularly in Melanesia, are often relatively high in violent crime.[77]

Additionally, climate change has the potential to amplify international and domestic migration in the Pacific.[78] Increased migration both within and across borders may contribute to resource scarcity pressures and competition for resources. In the Pacific, key challenges arising from urbanisation include limited infrastructure, overcrowding and financial and land tenure insecurity. This is particularly true of the growing informal settlements on the peripheries of urban centres. For example, nearly half of urban populations in Melanesia live in informal settlements.[79] The risk of any rapid change, including from unregulated migration, is the potential for a multiplier causing instability with greater competition for sources of food, resources, stability or safety.[80]

FIGURE 1.12
PROPORTIONAL CHANGE IN POPULATION DENSITY, 1991 - 2017
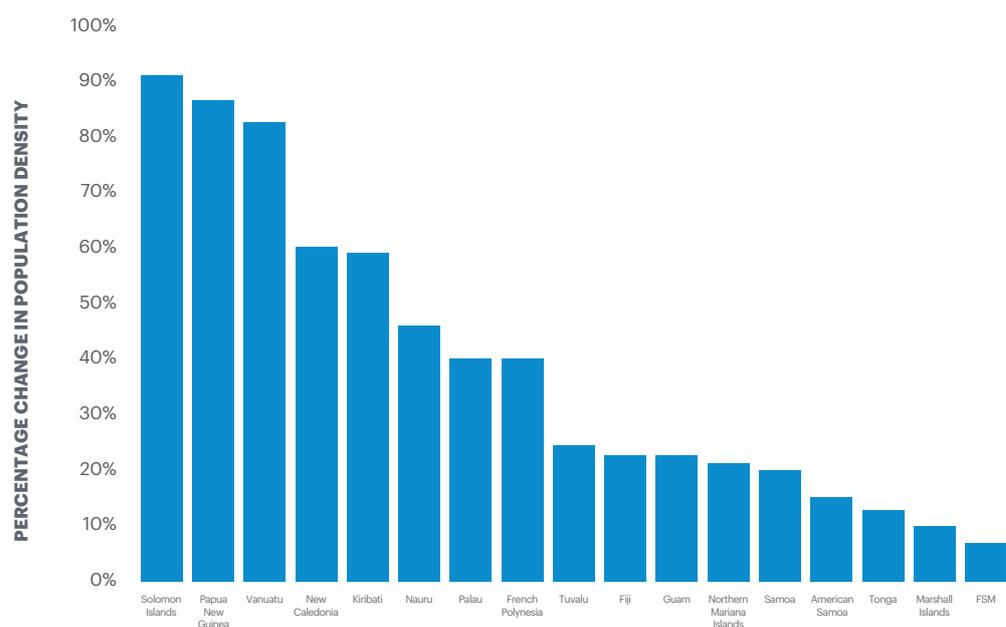
Source: FAO, World Bank, author's calculations

As climate change exacerbates resource scarcity, forced migration will increase.[81] In the context of the Pacific, forced migration may exacerbate land tenure grievances, ethnic tensions and access to resources, all of which increase levels of violence and conflict in the Pacific. Migrant flows to neighbouring countries will likely further increase pressures on resources in receiving nations.[82] Such dynamics can create or exacerbate underlying ideological tensions.[83]

The period known as "the tension"s in the Solomon Islands in the late 1990s is often portrayed as a purely ethnic conflict. Yet an in-depth analysis by the Solomon Islands Government in collaboration with the UNDP found a number of contributing factors including the combination of forced migration and unequal access to scarce resources. The subsequent bloodshed resulted in hundreds of deaths, as well as the displacement of more than 30,000 people during a five-year period.[84] Water scarcity issues have also caused conflicts in Fiji, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea.[85]

The forced re-population of Banabans to Fiji after the Second World War highlights the complexity of this issue. Although not due to climate change, the

forced migration of Banabans resulted in land rights issues, as well as ethnic tensions in Rabi, the island to which they were relocated.[86] More recently, this link between migration and conflict played out in New Caledonia in 2001. The violent confrontation between native New Caledonian Kanaks and Wallisian migrants led to violence and a small number of casualties and deaths.[87] Issues related to migration and conflict are addressed by PIFS in "Promoting Human Security and Minimising Conflict Associated with Forced Migration in the Pacific Region."[88]

Exclusion and inequality

The exclusion of marginalised groups from political and economic participation are also relevant to SDG16 in the Pacific. Young people, women, people with mental and physical disabilities and the elderly are particularly prone to exclusion in the Pacific. As illustrated in Figure 1.13, women are not proportionally represented in the parliaments across the Pacific. Political exclusion, along with imbalanced access to resources, are known as forms of 'slow violence', compounding human insecurity in the region.[89]

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT ACROSS THE PACIFIC, NOVEMBER 2018
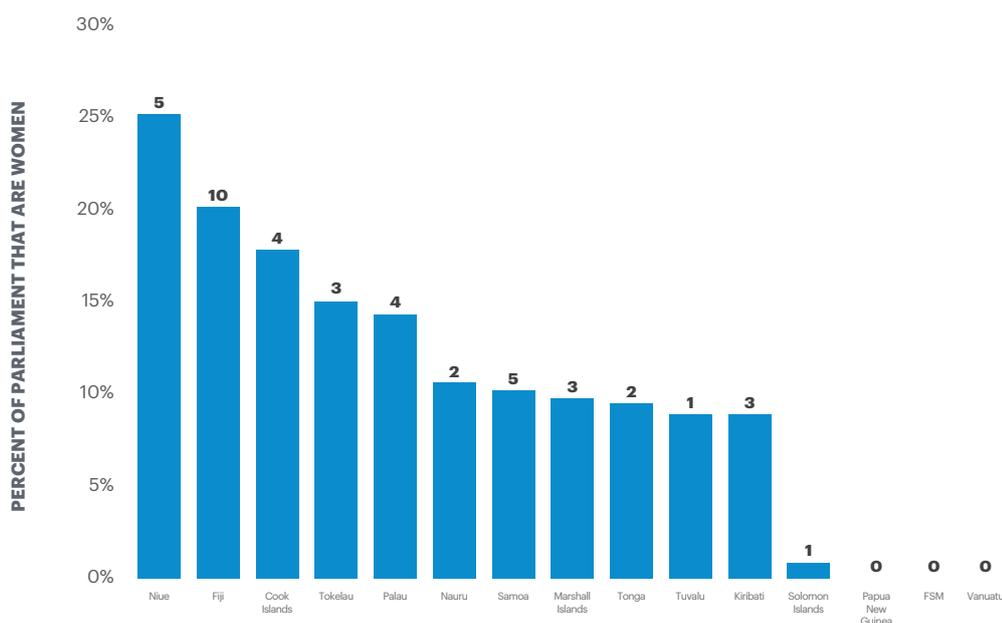
Source: Pacific Women in Parliament

Notably, the Pacific has taken steps towards improving economic and political participation with respect to gender. The Pacific Regional Working Group on Women, Peace and Security created a Regional Action Plan , which provides a regional framework for enhancing women's role in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and security policymaking. This is to promote, protect and co-ordinate women's human rights during humanitarian crises, transitional contexts and post-conflict situations.[90] There is limited data available showing the differences in representation for other excluded groups, such as those with disabilities. The issue of exclusion is particularly important in the Pacific as significant change, as is forecasted across the region, is likely to lead to further exclusion with uneven distribution.[91] Notably, there is significant crossover with Goal 5 which relates to achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls. Activity that occurs for SDG16 will be of great relevance to Goal 5 and vice versa, highlighting that the SDGs are interconnected and should not be siloed.

BORDER SECURITY ISSUES

There are also broader security issues that may affect Pacific Island countries and territories. As outlined in the 2017 Australian Foreign Policy White Paper, these include:[92]

- An evolving international order sparked in part by "[e]conomic growth in Asia" which has "re-shape[d] our strategic landscape;"

- Tackling "critical global threats" from transnational organised crime, terrorism and violent extremism. This will also require ensuring an open, free and secure cyberspace;

- Safeguarding maritime security, recognising Exclusive Economic Zones and protecting the oceans;

- Building global cooperation through shaping rules and institutions and responding to the challenges of climate change, displaced people, strains on resources and guarding against global health risks.

These challenges and the way in which Pacific Island countries and territories respond, will need to be managed in order to ensure continual stability in the region.

SECTION II:
DATA AVAILABILITY ACROSS THE PACIFIC

DATA CHALLENGES

The report Measuring Peace in the Pacific highlighted the paucity of relevant SDG16 data across the Pacific region.[93] In addition to issues related to statistical capacity and the financing of data collections, the Pacific region faces many unique geographic and demographic data-related challenges.

Variations in geography, population density and urbanisation present enormous challenges in the region. Many Pacific Island countries and territories are sparsely populated across numerous islands. The total population of the Pacific Island countries and territories is dispersed across several thousand islands and atolls. This increases the costs and logistical challenges associated with data collection and compounds the statistical burden for these countries. In the Pacific, the countries and territories with the biggest population are the least densely populated and have the smallest proportion of the population living in urban areas. The majority of populations in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are rural and population density is under 25 people per square kilometre. Smaller islands are much more densely populated, with Guam, Tuvalu and Nauru all having over 300 people per square kilometre. The large spread of populations results in greater travel requirements and higher costs for undertaking censuses and other data collections. They also raise logistical challenges to ensuring all areas are fully captured.

Population sizes between Pacific countries are widely varied. Six countries or territories account for 92 per cent of the population of the region, with Papua New Guinea alone accounting for 71 per cent. There are also significant privacy implications that arise from either small or geographically diverse populations as people can be easily identified when data is disaggregated. Collected data often cannot be shared, even across government departments or agencies, due to privacy concerns.

The Pacific's expansive geography has contributed to extremely high levels of diversity in terms of cultures, ethnicities and languages. For some people, a visit by the census team could be the only involvement they have with the government in any form for many years. There are additional costs and challenges to data collection associated with the diversity of languages and cultures found in the Pacific.

Issues regarding the collection of data relating to cause of death exemplify the general challenges of data collection in the Pacific region. In order to accurately measure and monitor the scale of mortality by cause, a country requires a well-functioning civil registration system that, through a standardised approach of certification and coding, captures both the cause and mode of death. However, many Pacific countries lack good quality data on the cause of death for a number of reasons:

- Lack of a standardised format for recording cause of death information, in part due to poor medical certification practices. For example, many Pacific countries tend to group causes of death due to injuries in the general category of "External causes of mortality" rather than specifying particular causes of death;

- Health personnel may not be present when deaths occur, leading to incomplete medical certificates;

- Private land burials without official approval, leading to a lack of death records;

- An onus on citizens to report deaths, leading to under-reporting;

- Technical issues, such as high turnover of trained staff and the use of either outdated or dysfunctional software;

- Poor communication of the significance of recording mortality data to local level officials;

- Reporting systems and resources are highly centralised and often dependent on one or two key individuals in the central government;

- Inadequate coordination with private health institutions and between public institutions, leading to task duplication and unreconciled datasets.

Reflecting of these data challenges, none of the Pacific Islands, including Papua New Guinea and Fiji, were included in the preliminary Global SDG Index due to insufficient data availability.[94] Pacific Island countries represent a large proportion of the 48 countries excluded due to data availability.

SDG16 DATA IN THE PACIFIC

The report Measuring Peace in the Pacific included an assessment of data currently available for SDG16.[95] Figure 2.1 shows the data availability in the Pacific across these 23 indicators. This is an assessment of availability only in relation to the requirements of the indicator. It does not take into account the age or reliability of the data. It is possible that some of the data coded as available is not of sufficient quality or coverage, or is too old to be used. Furthermore, data coded as available may only provide partial coverage and thus may not be adequate for dzetermining a national score. For example, there may only be data for the Highlands in Papua New Guinea, which account for around 40 per cent of the total population but are likely not representative of the rest of the country. Conversely, data may exist in some countries and territories but has been coded as not available or unknown.

- No Pacific Island country or territory has data covering all the SDG16 indicators.

- A total of 57 per cent of indicators are either available, partially available or available through a proxy measure. A proxy measure is an indirect and highly correlated measure of the desired outcome.

- The remaining 43 per cent of indicators are not available and further data generation efforts are required.

- It also emphasised that there are significant challenges to collecting relevant data across the Pacific region which cannot be easily resolved without substantial investment and innovative data solutions. There is still some debate over the prioritisation and usefulness of some SDG16 indicators for the Pacific region. This section seeks to outline available data for SDG16 indicators to inform these regional discussions and assist in the development of baselines.

FIGURE 2.1
DATA AVAILABILITY OF SDG16 INDICATORS ACROSS THE PACIFIC

SDG16	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	8.1	9.1	10.1	10.2	a.1	b.1
Vanuatu	1	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	3
Solomon Islands	1	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	3
Papua New Guinea	1	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	1	3	1	1	3	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	3
Samoa	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	4
Tonga	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	4
Fiji	1	2	3	4	2	3	3	4	1	1	3	3	1	3	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	3
Kiribati	1	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	4
FSM	1	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	1	3	3	1	3	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Marshall Islands	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	1	1	3	3	4	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	4
Tuvalu	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	3	1	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	4
Palau	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	1	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Nauru	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	1	2	3	1	4
Cook Islands	2	2	3	4	4	3	3	4	1	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
French Polynesia	2	2	4	4	4	3	4	4	1	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Guam	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
American Samoa	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Niue	2	2	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
New Caledonia	2	2	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	2	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Wallis Futuna	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Northern Mariana Islands	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4
Tokelau	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	1	4	2	3	1	4

1	Available and fully covers what the indicator measures
2	Available but only partially covers the indicator measure (i.e. not disaggregated, incomplete age breakdown, etc.)
3	Proxy measure available or should be able to be calculated
4	Not available / unknown

Source: Author's assessment

Very few countries currently have high levels of data availability across the SDG16 indicators. Vanuatu and Solomon Islands have data available for nearly half of the indicators. These countries differ in coverage by one indicator 16.9.1, which measures birth registration for children under five. In Vanuatu, the coverage of birth registration is now over 80 per cent. For Solomon Islands, the 2015 Demographic Health Survey reported registrations for 88 per cent of births for children under age five years, although only 26 per cent of those registered have a birth certificate.
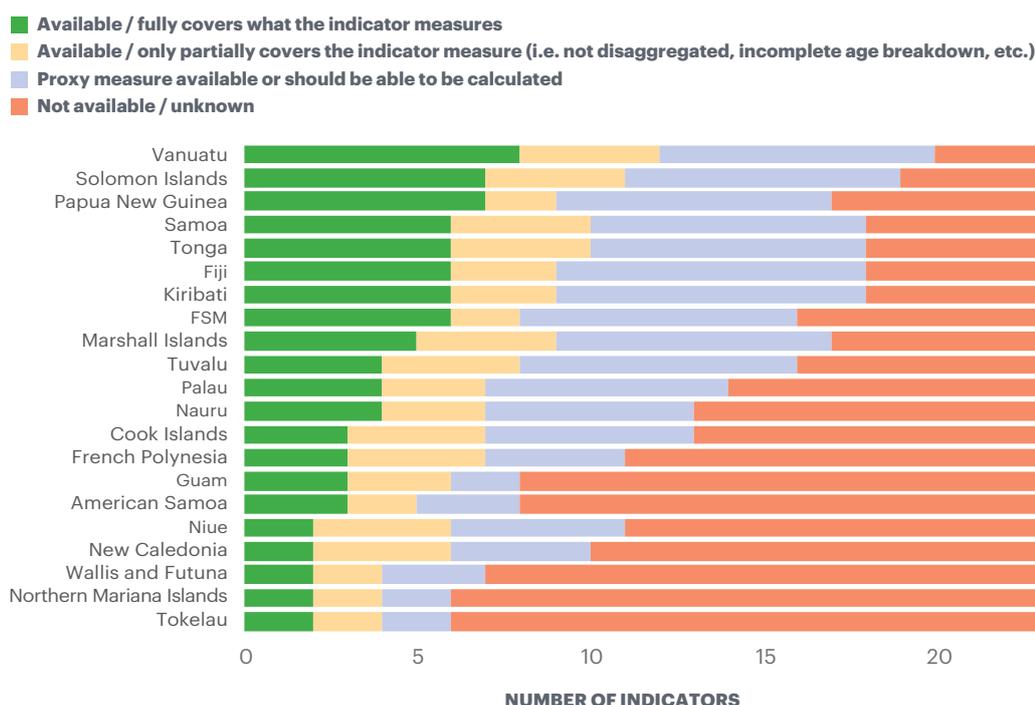
Both Fiji and Papua New Guinea have nine indicators which are available or partially available. However, these countries do not have the most recent major data collections and hence a significant number of these indicators will be based on older data.

Nine countries or territories have fewer than half of the indicators for SDG16 available. It is likely that

significant data collections will be required in order to determine progress of SDG16. Notably, data for many of the non-sovereign territories are unavailable. Eight of the ten Pacific Islands with the lowest data availability for SDG16 are non-sovereign territories and the remaining two, Cook Islands and Niue, are states in free association with New Zealand. This suggests that data capture for these territories for SDG16 relevant indicators are not as common as for the sovereign countries in the Pacific.

Gaps in data are highly consistent across countries. For example, no countries have data for the proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services nor the proportion of the population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group.

ASSESSMENT OF DATA AVAILABILITY OF SDG16 INDICATORS ACROSS THE PACIFIC

- ■ Available / fully covers what the indicator measures
- ■ Available / only partially covers the indicator measure (i.e. not disaggregated, incomplete age breakdown, etc.)
- ■ Proxy measure available or should be able to be calculated
- ■ Not available / unknown

NUMBER OF INDICATORS

Source: Author's assessment

SDG16 DATA GLOBAL

Data shortages for measuring SDG16 are not unique to the Pacific. Currently, there is not enough official data or statistical capacity available at the national level to properly measure SDG16 in a cross-country, comparable way. Many countries covering a significant proportion of the global population do not have the required data to understand whether their citizens have access to justice and strong institutions or live in peaceful contexts. Secondary or unofficial sources will in many cases, be important to fully measure SDG16 in a comparable way across the world.

In many respects, SDG16 is the most ambitious goal of the SDGs and faces unique practical challenges in its measurement and implementation. It is known as an enabling or transformative goal, in so much as that many of the other SDGs will be easier to achieve by improving SDG16. However, without better quality data, it will not be possible to properly report on the goal and understand if countries are moving in the right direction.

- A global audit of SDG16 has found that there is limited comparable data around the world.[96] The study looked at 22 of the 23 SDG16

indicators. One indicator SDG16.8.1, is only measured globally, not disaggregated by country and therefore was excluded in the assessment of data availability. The audit found:

- Eight of the 22 have data for less than 50 per cent of countries;

- Only seven indicators have data for more than 90 per cent of countries;

- Some of the most important indicators capturing violence against children, sexual violence, and underreporting of violence are comparable for less than 40 per cent of countries.

Figure 2.3 highlights the proportion of countries that have available data across the SDG16 indicators. Globally comparable data is either not available or only gathered for a limited number of countries for many indicators and countries. This study looked at only 163 countries rather than the 193 member states of the UN. This does not include many Pacific Islands or other Small Island Developing States.

PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRIES WITH AVAILABLE SDG16 DATA BY INDICATOR, GLOBAL VS PACIFIC
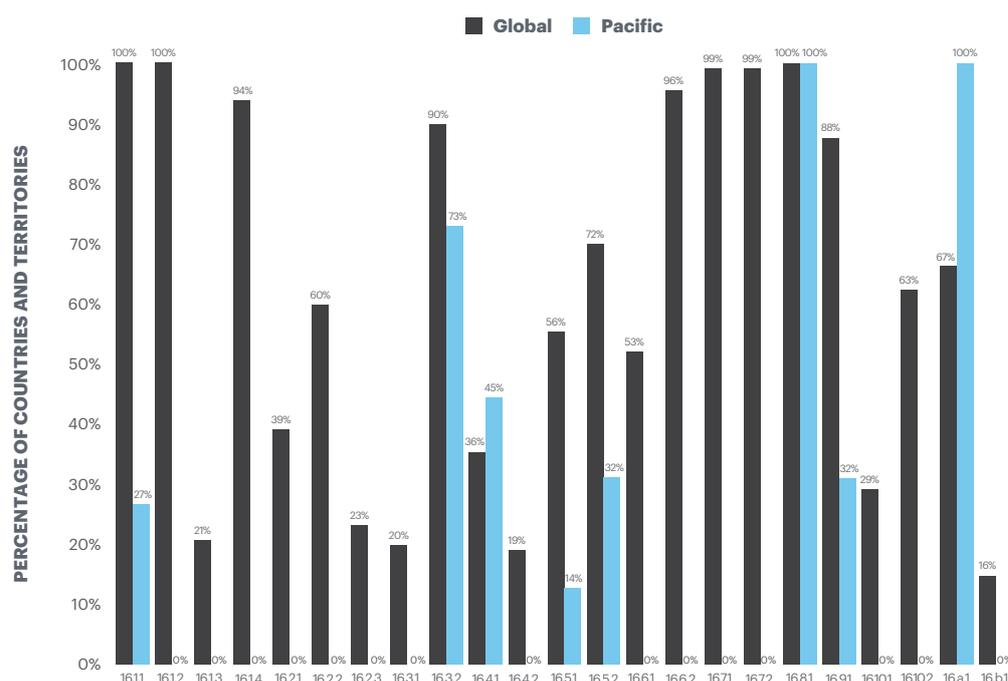
Source: Author's calculations

Furthermore, there are certain measures where there is not yet an agreed methodology. Seven of the 23 indicators for SDG16 are not currently being measured. These indicators are classified as Tier III, meaning there is no internationally established methodology or standards available for the indicator yet. Methodologies and standards for these indicators are being, or will be, developed or tested. For example, methodological work on measuring indicator 16.4.1 looking at the total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows is expected to completed by the end of 2019.[97] Around one in four of all SDGs are classified as Tier III indicators.[98] This is a global challenge. No country, regardless of capacity or intention, will be able to effectively measure all SDGs until the methodologies for Tier III indicators have been decided upon.

For the Pacific region, indicators measuring violence and institutional strength show the largest discrepancies.

The rates of homicides in the Pacific region varies considerably between different countries and territories, ranging from zero in Nauru and Niue to estimates of over ten per 100,000 in Papua New Guinea. There are also significant variations in homicide within nations. In Papua New Guinea, for example, the homicide rate varies from virtually non-existent in some cities to over 60 per 100,000 in the second largest city of Lae in Morobe Province.

Birth registration also varies considerably, reflecting the different strength and size of institutions across the Pacific region, ranging from 30 to 100 per cent. However, these measures can change substantially within a short period of time. Vanuatu, for example, had a substantial increase in birth registrations following Cyclone Pam in 2015 due to a surge in investment.

There are also significant data gaps, particularly as it relates to violence against children and measures of government effectiveness and responsiveness. Other measures of peace, justice and institutions which are of interest to the Pacific region are also not fully captured with the current set of indicators. There is a need for these to be discussed and included in regional measures.

FURTHER CHALLENGES

The inclusion of SDG16 is a major achievement of the international community and important recognition of how violence and conflict can undermine development. However, major challenges in facing SDG16 both globally and in the Pacific region still exist. There are numerous methodological issues, political challenges, as well as practical and implementation issues around data,[99] including:

- **Data availability and capacity:** Statistical capacity will take a very long time to build and it is likely that data will not be available for years on some indicators. Regular reporting on data gaps like this report will be necessary to maintain international awareness. There is also a need to supplement quantitative data with qualitative assessments;

- **Political challenges:** Some targets cannot be practically independently measured by National Statistics Offices (NSO) for politically sensitive reasons. For example, SDG indicators 16.5.1 on corruption or 16.10.1 on the killing ordetention of journalists and human rights activists are challenging for government to monitor. This is where civil society plays a significant role in capturing data in a reliable manner to monitor areas where it would be inappropriate for government to. This increases the necessity for free flow of information through a free and fair media environment;

- **Methodological challenges:** Some targets are inherently multidimensional and cannot be measured by one or two indicators. SDG16.3 on rule of law illustrates this. Furthermore, not all of the indicators in the official Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators process adequately capture the concept encapsulated by the target, as it is worded. For instance, adequate data does not exist for SDG16.7, 'Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels;'

- **Context specific reasons for measuring:** Some countries in outright conflict will not be able to maintain statistical capacity during the conflict. This increases the need for independent conflict monitors;

- **Globally oriented design:** SDG16.8 and SDG16.10.2 on broadening and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance require independent and third parties to monitor progress;

- **Localisation:** Targets and indicators for the SDGs were selected as universal ambitions and as such they do not necessarily reflect local experiences. There are challenges, which emerge from differing government systems, such as the inclusion of traditional, local and district or provincial councils. Many indicators need to be contextualised or localised in order to be meaningful for different contexts.

SECTION III:
OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PACIFIC

The Pacific region also has significant opportunities stemming from the SDGs. This includes through contextualising the 2030 Global Agenda to be more useful and relevant from the experiences of the Pacific. Localising the SDGs is actively encouraged by the international community. The Pacific region also has the chance to explore the use of innovative data collection methods. Due to the many issues around the challenges in collecting data in the Pacific, it is unrealistic to assume that this data burden will be resolved through increasing the statistical capacity of National Statistics Offices. Innovative data solutions are required and the Pacific region has already implemented several initiatives that are instructive to other regions in the world. Furthermore, the Pacific has an opportunity to create its own regional measure of what is important and use this as part of the 2030 Global Agenda.

CONTEXTUALISING THE SDGS

The SDG agenda provides an opportunity for the Pacific region for both greater visibility and leadership in global governance. As a region, the Pacific has expressed support for the SDGs throughout the deliberations and adoption process.[100] This support reflects the more holistic view offered through the SDGs towards development, including many measures that are particularly significant for Pacific region and other small island developing states.
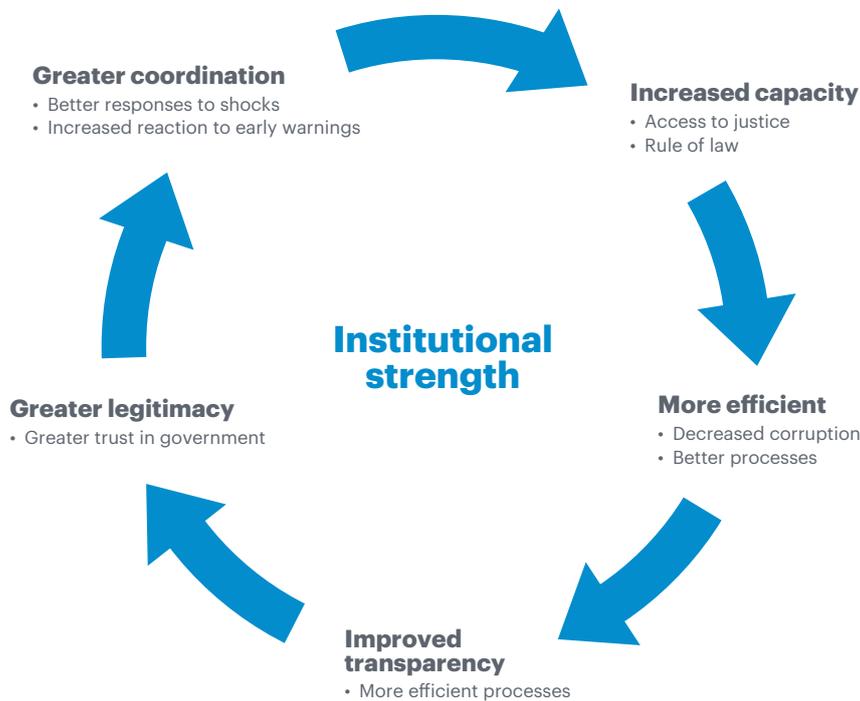
The experience of the MDGs highlights the importance of localising the SDG targets and goals that most directly relate to peace to help attain development gains and build resilience. Lasting peace requires more than an end to poverty and discrimination; it requires a strengthening of institutions and good governance as well. The international system, as well as national leadership, must be transformed to address modern problems, including organised crime, political violence, reform of international agencies and cooperation among countries of different income levels.[101] In a 2018 address to the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary General of the United Nations emphasised the importance of the SDGs and their role in sustaining peace. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is known as the "common global blueprint" to tackle the root causes of violence and conflict, creating more peaceful, stable and resilient societies.[102]

The United Nations's High Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace in the United Nations General Assembly in April 2018 reinforced the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, concluding that it was a key tool to use in working toward an inclusive, coherent and sustainable peace. The meeting identified long-term conflict prevention to be reliant on sustainable development and economic growth, institution building and a focus on human rights,[103] all of which fall within the purview of SDG16. National ownership and inclusivity were identified as essential in this respect.[104] This is particularly important for the Pacific region where there is high levels of diversity, which needs to be reflected in policies and measures relating to sustaining peace.

SDG16, which addresses peace, justice and strong institutions, is a transformative goal that can assist in implementing the other SDGs (sometimes denoted as SDG16+). Prioritising the strengthening and legitimisation of institutions will assist in achieving the whole 2030 Global Agenda. Focusing on institutional strength acts as a virtuous cycle where positive aspects are reinforced. By focusing on institutional strength through SDG16, many of

FIGURE 3.1

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH ACTS AS VIRTUOUS CYCLE

Greater coordination
- Better responses to shocks
- Increased reaction to early warnings

Increased capacity
- Access to justice
- Rule of law

Institutional strength

Greater legitimacy
- Greater trust in government

More efficient
- Decreased corruption
- Better processes

Improved transparency
- More efficient processes

Source: Author's assessment

the other SDGs will be easier to achieve. This is illustrated in Figure 3.1

Despite geographic spread and cultural diversity, the Pacific region is remarkably integrated with both formal and informal channels for knowledge exchange. Regional relationships are strong and the region has experience in collective advocacy to the global community. The advocacy and support of Pacific SIDS were pivotal in ensuring the inclusion of SDG14 within the 2030 Agenda. This goal specifically focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans.[105] Likewise, the Pacific region could be known as a driver of SDG16 globally.

The Pacific has relatively strong inter-group relations across high levels of ethnic and cultural diversity. This is despite limited resources and lower government capabilities compared to other regions. There are lessons the Pacific region can offer to the international community in terms of how to sustain peace in countries with lower government capacity and how to capture relevant data to monitor progress in sustaining peace.

In contextualising SDG16 to the region, the Pacific

has the opportunities to be leaders in the following key areas:

LOCALISING

The UNDP recommends localisation take place for transformational change. This includes addressing the following drivers:

- sensitisation and engagement of local actors;.
- accountability mechanisms;.
- participatory planning and service delivery;.
- local economic development;.
- partnerships.[106]

The UNDP has facilitated extensive work on localising the SDGs in the Pacific. This has included through the development of tools for coordination, planning, budgeting and data monitoring of community level development results at the national level. This activity has assisted with linking the National Sustainable Development Plans with the SDGs in Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu amongst other countries. It has also involved inclusive consultation processes with national governments

with technical support provided by the United Nations and Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific agencies to encourage national ownership of the SDGs.

RECOGNISING TRADITIONAL GOVERNANCE

For the Pacific region, this localisation can also address the importance of informal, or traditional, governance. The region has large areas and populations that have very little interaction with formal governance systems. The absence of formal government structures does not mean that areas are ungoverned, but rather that they are under informal or traditional governance. This is generally a hybrid of multiple actors including tribal, church, business leaders and civil society organisations to standardise law and order. This type of informal governance is administered by customary authorities, often in partnership with other local actors.[107] Traditional governance is very important across many Pacific Island countries and territories and there is a desire to ensure it is recognised by international actors.[108] It has been recognised that weakened traditional governance systems in the Pacific means some communities lack resilience and are less able to recover from shocks, including from natural hazards.[109]

Highlighting the importance of traditional governance is of particular significance to the Pacific region given that much of the discourse around informal governance views it as transitional between failed to effective state.[110] The theory is that informal polities will be replaced by state authorities once they are strengthened and gain legitimacy. However, this is not necessarily an inevitable nor even desired objective across every Pacific Island country and territory. In the Pacific, traditional governance is generally not a result of spoilers preventing the state from acting. Rather, it often stems from limited capacity of formal government with limited revenue sources and vast geographic spread. Instead of slowly replacing informal governance with formal institutions, a more feasible approach is incorporating the informal within formal governance. An example of this is the establishment and recognition of customary courts.[111]

In order for the region to emphasise why maintaining traditional governance is important and can be included as a measure of governance, some of its weaknesses should be considered. Traditional governance is not a panacea, nor should

it be romanticised as a prima facie good. Whilst the informal tends to have perceived legitimacy, it can still be corrupted or abused by competing interests. Furthermore, informal governance can often be illiberal and extra-constitutional, excluding women and children.[112]

However, recognising the importance of informal governance and institutions, even though they are often invisible to external observers, is a strength and opportunity for the Pacific region. SDG16 in particular seeks to look at inclusive governance and justice systems. The Pacific region can seek to track formal as well as informal systems using the SDG framework. This would be a recognition of the importance of both systems and would encourage inclusive decision making regardless of the mechanism. It could also facilitate early warnings and strengthen resilience by measuring what is actually occurring rather than proxies for the size and presence of the state.

There have been attempts to measure traditional governance in the Pacific region, notably the survey on Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia from 2011.[113] This included asking about the performance of chiefs and proxy measures of the respect of traditional governance, such as the number and attendance of chief's meetings and the number of outstanding fines in a community. The survey also included measures of traditional culture, such as knowledge of traditional stories, dances and wisdom as well as traditional production skills and wealth. The study found that respect for chiefs was ranked as one of the three most important values for individual wellbeing.

TRADITIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

An aspect of traditional governance systems across the Pacific is through dispute resolution. Traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are a major reason why armed violent conflict is relatively rare and short lived across the Pacific.[114] Of course, there have been notable exceptions with conflicts in New Caledonia in the 1980s, in Bougainville in the 1990s and during "the tensions" in Solomon Islands. Nevertheless, there are many constraints on conflict through reciprocity with rituals and goods.[115] In Melanesia, this includes providing pigs and money as restitution as well as aggressive retaliation, which has the effect of ensuring there is no cumulative imbalance of violence.[116] Formal and informal alternative dispute resolution activity occurs in Federated States of

Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu among others. The University of the South Pacific, which provides legal training across the Pacific region, also provides training in alternative dispute resolution. Developing measurements and targets to ensure the strength and longevity of these mechanisms, particularly in the context of SDG16, will be important for the Pacific. The Pacific region has an opportunity to highlight both the significance of these mechanisms and ways to measure these informal governance structures.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS

As well as informal governance structures, there is also scope for traditional knowledge systems to build resilience and sustain peace. The importance of maintaining cultural heritage has been recognised across the Pacific and is enshrined in national plans. The National Sustainable Development Plan of Vanuatu, for example, includes the goals to protect and promote traditional knowledge and traditional safety nets. The plan includes the goal for "a vibrant cultural identity underpinning a peaceful, just and inclusive society."[117] The Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems program from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation promotes using indigenous and local knowledge to contribute to understanding, mitigating and adapting to climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.[118] Along with SAMOA Pathway, there are several initiatives for furthering the use of local knowledge for policy making in Small Island Developing States.[119] The use of local knowledge as well as traditional

governance more generally is an opportunity for greater localisation of the SDGs. Whilst this has largely been through environmental monitoring to date, engaging with traditional knowledge systems could be used in a similar way for institutional building and increasing resilience. Integrating traditional knowledge systems enables community leadership, strengthens local level governance and relationship between local communities and the state.

CONNECTING THE SDGS

Another area of opportunity for the Pacific region is through connecting the different SDGs to emphasise the unique ways in which they interact. The Pacific region already has experience in connecting different goals and prioritising a range of interacting areas. The Boe Declaration includes a recognition that there are multiple, interconnected security issues facing the Pacific. There is already recognition that oceans are linked to other development goals in the Pacific. These interlinkages are also important across the whole framework of the 2030 Global Agenda. As another means of localising and prioritising, the Pacific region can show how the SDGs are interlinked in the Pacific. There is clear recognition that all 17 SDGs are interconnected. As such, across the SDGs, 36 targets describe some part of peace, inclusivity, or access to justice. Two thirds of these targets are included in goals other than SDG 16. These 36 targets make up SDG16+, which form the starting point of the SDG's principle goal, to "ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment."[120] Connections between SDGs are further discussed in Connecting the SDGs.

CONNECTING THE SDGS

SDG targets can be thought of as addressing sustainable peace through different mechanisms. While some seek to reduce the drivers of violence and impediments for peace, others seek to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and improve access to justice. The attainment of peace, justice and strong institutions are clearly recognised in other SDGs. This highlights that the SDGs themselves are indivisible and there is need to focus on all SDGs.

SDGS AND THE DRIVERS OF POSITIVE PEACE

For example, violence is partly driven by inequality, both economic and social, coupled with widespread lack of resources and limited access to basic services. Many of these drivers are addressed in:

- SDG1 aims to eliminate poverty in all its forms and which includes equal rights to economic resources, basic services, ownership and control over land and other resources;
- SDG5 addresses the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, including ending violence and harmful practices;
- SDG8 focuses on achieving full employment, providing equal pay and decent work for all;
- SDG10 similarly sets out to achieve economic,

social and political equality and inclusion for all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;
- SDG16 is closely intertwined with these goals and advances representative decision making at all levels and equal access to justice for all.

SDGS AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE

- SDG4 aims to "ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development" importantly including promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence.
- SDG13 aims to strengthen national resilience and capacity for dealing with climate-related and other natural disasters.
- SDG15 addresses ending the illegal poaching and trafficking of precious wildlife products.
- SDG 16 pushes for international cooperation in dealing with violence, crime and terrorism. It also promotes participatory and representative decision making and the domestic and international promotion of the rule of law as well as equal access to justice for all.

The relationship between the different SDGs is highlighted below. The size of the circle represents the closeness of the relationship between other SDGs and SDG16.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SDG16 AND OTHER SDGS
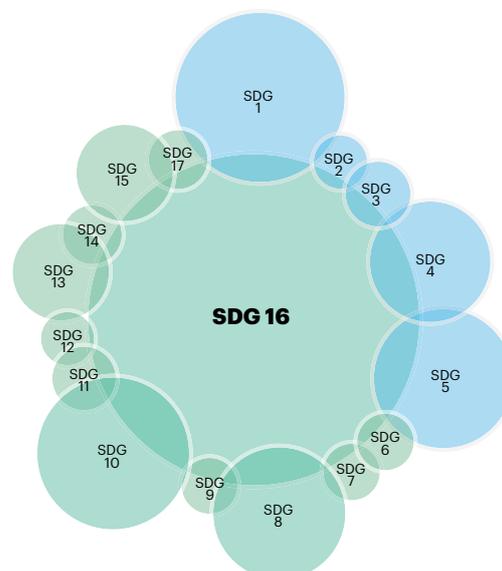
Source: IEP

INNOVATION IN DATA COLLECTION

The Pacific region can also showcase some innovative data gathering techniques. There is an extreme burden on national statistics offices (NSOs) in measuring the SDGs in addition to existing efforts to collect data on health, the economy, governance and regular censuses. The work of NSOs across the region and the support they receive through the SPC, among other intergovernmental bodies, should be highly commended.

However, it is unrealistic to assume that this data burden will be resolved through increasing the statistical capacity of NSOs. Whilst there is a need to continue strengthening statistical capacity and resources for data collection across the region, it will be crucial to identify innovative and cost-effective data capture solutions with a particular emphasis on exploring local solutions coupled with third party involvement. It is unlikely there will be enough resources for the Pacific region to adequately cover all its data collection needs through current methods.

It is difficult to measure the exact cost of data collection for the SDGs for the period from 2015 to 2030. The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data initiative estimates that the cost of collecting data on Tier I and Tier II indicators of the SDGs for the 77 countries eligible for International Development Assistance (IDA) is US$1.2 billion annually.[121] The cost of data collection varies by country population amongst other things, so this estimate could actually be higher for countries where there are greater costs associated with data collection. While reliable data is not available to provide a per country estimate for the Pacific region, Fiji provides an illuminating example. The total cost for MDG data collection in Fiji over the period from 1990 to 2015 was estimated at USD$28.25M or USD$1.13M per year.

This is USD$63,000 per year, per target.[122] This would be the equivalent of around one-sixth of the annual budget for the Fiji Bureau of Statistics to monitor the 18 targets of the MDGs. Based on the experience of the MDGs in the Pacific, as well as estimates from the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, it is likely that there will be substantial costs associated with measuring the SDGs in the Pacific. This shows the need for donor investments, as well as the introduction of cheaper and innovative data collections to ensure the costs are not prohibitive. This is particularly true for the Pacific where there are significant and unique challenges for data collection.

FILLING THE GAPS

There are at least seven approaches to measuring gaps in existing SDG16 data. These have been mapped in Figure 3.2 relative to the amount of effort in terms of time and money compared to their impact in terms of providing decision makers with actionable information.

- Ignore: Ignore SDG measurement requirements altogether.
- Planned: Measure only what current planned data collections provide.
- Third party: Use third party data collection initiatives to measure specific indicators.
- Interim: Develop interim measures through existing and novel data sources, including proxy measures.
- Indicative: Use different indicative data collection strategies such as expert surveys.
- New: Integrate new data collection within the currently planned official statistical collection.
- Everything: Dramatically increase expenditure on monitoring and surveys.

FIGURE 3.2
IMPACT VS EFFORT ASSESSMENT OF DIFFERENT DATA COLLECTION APPROACHES FOR SDG16 INDICATORS
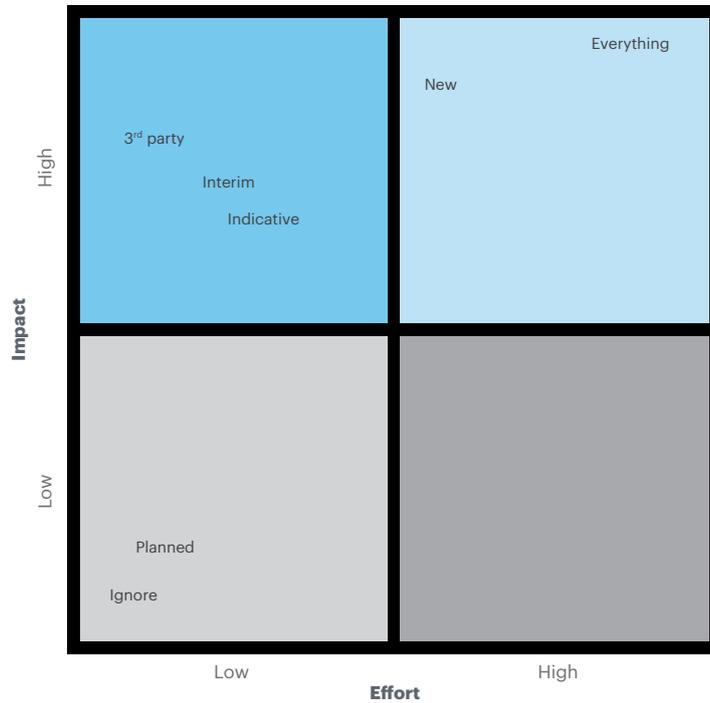
Source: Author's assessment

Measurement is for a highly specific purpose - to shape action. There has been considerable effort to further statistical capacity across the Pacific region through NSOs. This will not be enough. Emphasis should be on finding enough information to shape policy quickly and cheaply. This provides opportunities for innovation, the use of technology to bypass capacity constraints and promoting incidental data gathering through other projects, through normal activity of the ministries, and through civil society activities.

Much of this work is ongoing across the Pacific region. However, it could be strengthened through increased accountability and heightened risk taking. Innovation necessitates that resources may be inefficiently allocated, at least initially, as novel approaches involve increased risk. The support of pilot projects that can 'fail quickly' with lessons clearly shared across the region will help encourage the inventions in approaches required.

Innovations do not need to be expensive or dependent on significant technological advances. A focus on how existing data can be employed to shape policy and drive decision making is crucial. Often, data does not need to provide a complete picture in order to be useful for decision making. Many of the challenges across the Pacific region are well documented and an emphasis on strengthening institutions to respond is fundamental, regardless of any new data collections. Low-key innovations through expert interviews or brief polls can be beneficial in shaping policy.

The high impact and relatively low effort methods are not mutually exclusive and it is likely a combination of options will be necessary. While some SDG16 indicators can be compiled using planned collections, NSOs will be overburdened if they solely depend on this data mechanism. Alternatives need to be explored. For example, third party data collection initiatives are already underway in a number of countries. While not all of these are directly related to SDG16, some initiatives, such as data on gender-based violence and domestic violence collected by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre,[123] are of interest for SDG16 data collection.

Not all approaches will be relevant or suitable across the vast diversity of the Pacific region. However, there are still lessons to share. The Pacific region is used to showing leadership through sharing resources and lessons across the region. As an example of this, the Pacific region is the first in the world to adopt a collective, coherent and coordinated approach to reporting on global and regional sustainable development commitments.[124] Accordingly, as the region is collective in reporting, innovations across the region have collective relevance too.

Supplementary data will require innovative and cost-effective initiatives as well. Even with different methodologies, triangulation of data can enhance statistical reliability and influence the decisions made from particular data. With SDG16 in particular, there are certain indicators that are enhanced if the government is not the source. For example, reports on levels of corruption or the effectiveness of the public service are deemed more reliable if validated by external non-political sources. Many of the data gaps for measuring SDG16 exist across the same indicators for Pacific Island countries and territories. There will be a need to collect new data to measure it. Seven of the SDG16 indicators are Tier III, meaning there is no established methodology, or standards are still being developed. Given this, future data collection will be required to measure these indicators.

SOURCES OF DATA

The SDGs require data to be collected from a range of sources. The primary source is through official statistics, which include data collection conducted by the NSO as well as administrative data. Official statistics play an important role and should "serve the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation."[125] The primary function of official statistics is to inform domestic actors in shaping sub-national and national policies.[126] The SDGs offer an opportunity for governments to continue to support and strengthen their national statistical system and national data production.

There are a range of possible methodologies for data collection, each with different sources. These methods can be summarised as asking, monitoring and a mix between the two. Asking includes surveys, structured interviews and focus groups. Monitoring is often through using administrative data, documents and records. Hybrid methodologies include expert surveys, observations and case studies. These include both asking and some qualitative assessment.

FIGURE 3.3
DIFFERENT METHODOLOGIES FOR DATA COLLECTION

ASKING	MONITORING	HYBRID
Surveys	Documents	Observational
Census	Records	Case studies
Structured interviews		Expert assessments
Focus groups		

The different methodology is shaped by the purpose of the data collection, what is to be measured, how accurate the data needs to be, the collection point, budget and expertise of the questioner.

a) Asking

The most important source of relevant data for measuring progress with the SDGs is through surveys and the census. Survey-based indicators are critical for capturing peoples' own assessments of progress and is a necessary complement to other SDG16 indicators measured from administrative sources at national and international levels.

Further, the SDGs have been negotiated to be explicitly oriented towards outcomes for people, which by definition requires more than administrative sources or assessments.

c) Population data

Reliable population data is fundamental for the SDGs to be effectively measured. This is especially true of SDG16, in which 14 of the 22 indicators require population data. This is shown in Figure 3.4. Population data comes from the census, vital registration data, administrative records and the population register.

FIGURE 3.4

NUMBER OF SDG16 INDICATORS THAT REQUIRE POPULATION DATA

Source: Author's calculations

b) Monitoring

Data-based on monitoring is often more regularly updated and actionable than survey data as it generally is measuring things relevant to the delivery of a particular service. The sources of this type of data are generally administrative sources from police, health, registers, municipal and other mechanisms of government. Non-government organisations and civil society may also collect relevant data, especially as it pertains to service delivery.

d) International comparative assessments

There are also international sources of data available for the Pacific. These often rely on local data or using new collection, but they can also include expert opinions. Fundamentally, this data is designed to allow for comparisons between countries and often uses a simple, but replicable methodology.

INNOVATION

The Pacific has an opportunity to be leaders in innovative data collection methods, especially for measures tailored to the region. There are already some novel activities occurring in the region that can be showcased. One example is work done in Papua New Guinea measuring sorcery-accusation-related violence, which has created a historical database using media accounts, with regular updating through key-individuals in different provinces.[127] Notably, this innovation has not required new technology or an expensive new survey mechanism. Often, the innovation required is asking the right people where existing information can be captured into a spreadsheet.

Due to some of the challenges with data collection in the Pacific,[128] there have been several novel initiatives to overcome these challenges in order to get timely and accurate data for policymaking. An example from Papua New Guinea through the Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative with support from Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade highlights how innovation is necessary for even some of the most fundamental areas of data collection. This program is to strengthen the Civil Registry and Vital Statistics (CRVS) System, work on the National Mortality Technical Working Group and provide contributions to the eHealth Steering Committee and Technical Working Group. It is improving the health information system, known as eNHIS, capturing births death and causes of death, developing a National Mortality Data Base and ensuring linkage with Civil Registration. Data for Health has also been supporting the CRVS legal review led by the Constitutional Law Reform Commission in collaboration with the Civil Registrar. Capacity building was also provided to the Health Information System branch of the Department of Health in terms of International Coding of Diseases mortality coding.

There has also been activity at the provincial level such as trainings to improve community vital events notification for birth and death through ward recorders and a ward record system with paper-based notification. A SMS-based notification system is also being piloted. Trainings were also provided for the implementation of verbal autopsy for community deaths to better capture causes of deaths in the absence of a physician and verbal autopsy rolled out. Trainings for the improvement of the quality of Medical Certification of Cause of Death were provided to physicians and Health Extension Officers through previously trained

master trainers. This type of work is necessary in providing greater clarity on birth registration (SDG16.9) and causes of death (SDG16.1). Lessons from examples such as these are often shared through regional networks including the Pacific Civil Registrars Network.[129] Other networks active across the Pacific that are sharing experiences in data collection include the Pacific Disability Forum. An important first step for tracking progress of the SDGs in the Pacific is data collection. Better coordination and communication among partners is important to progressing Pacific efforts to deliver and report on SDGs.

There is also innovation across the Pacific in tying program execution with data collection to inform policymaking as well as actually implementing the 2030 Global Agenda. An example of this is in the Women's Weather Watch, coordinated by Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Pacific's regional secretariat femLINKpacific.[130] This project is a model for providing real-time information about approaching storms and disaster management at the community level with a strong emphasis on including women before, during and after natural hazards. This links the relevant SDGs through emphasising gender inclusive preparedness and humanitarian response during disasters. The intention is to include women in decision making (SDG16.7) and increase access to public information (SDG16.10). Through monitoring extreme weather events, the project intends to increase the visibility of women's leadership and ensure a holistic human security response. Through monitoring events and policy responses, this project seeks to bridge the gap between data collection and implementation.

TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

The use of technology for measuring the SDGs has the potential for an exponential rather than linear impact on implementation. The combination of increased mobile and internet penetration could overcome some of the geographic, monetary and communication challenges associated with data collection. For example, the 2016 Tonga census, the 2016 Vanuatu mini-census and the 2017 Tuvalu mini-census used electronic tablets for data collection.

Whilst new technologies will help overcome some of the financial and capacity burdens associated with measuring the SDGs, it cannot replace official statistics.[131] New data sources can complement official statistics as outlined by the United Nations

in the March 2017 Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, which establishes guidelines for generating data outside the official statistical system. For example, many of the novel ways of capturing data have certain preconditions for different societies. There also needs to be relatively high levels of human capital and extensive mobile phone or internet penetration. Both of these measures are underrepresented in the Pacific.

Nevertheless, there have been initiatives to generate data using technology in the Pacific. For example, SPC's Coastal Fisheries Programme has assisted in measuring current fish stocks and flows across the Pacific by using innovative technologies for developing platforms for reporting as well as monitoring and surveillance. This includes the release of a mobile application 'PacFishID' to assist in the identification of finfish species across the Pacific Islands region.[132] Another example is the "Phones against corruption" project in Papua New Guinea with UNDP.[133] This project generated nearly 30,000 SMS from citizens regarding potential cases of corruption as a result of a prompted SMS hotline linked to a survey. The reliance on SMS rather than a smartphone app maximised the reach of the project, as mobile phone penetration is almost five times greater than access rates to mobile broadband. Whilst such projects offer potential, they have limited use for representative surveys and it is doubtful that they could substantially reduce the costs associated with collecting official statistics.

These methods can be used as a proxy for performance in certain measures. Initiatives such as those by UNICEF's Global Innovation Centre are low cost approaches that, whilst not necessarily statistically vigorous, are easily replicated by using mobile phone infrastructure. For example, UReport is a free messaging tool that allows young people within a country to express their views through small-scale polls. It is currently active in Papua New Guinea and 39 other mainly African countries. In December 2017 in Papua New Guinea, a poll of 356 people asked whether they had visited a health facility to get a SRH or HIV related service. The results were disaggregated by age, gender and district.[134]

Technology can also ensure that data collection is more accurate and reliable, particularly for survey collections. For example, the 2009 Vanuatu census used geographic information system technology to determine the exact GPS location of each household with scanning technology enabling the digital capture of written information.[135] Similarly, Tonga experimented with the use of tablet computers to capture census data, which allowed live tracking to detect mistakes and implement corrections.[136] These technological advances can significantly improve data quality.

Technological solutions could also address issues arising from civil registration statistics. For example, the Solomon Islands has introduced a computerised database system, known as the Justice Information Management System, which captures all criminal data from the first police interaction to the penal and parole system.[137] This standardisation of data helps address one of the most pressing issues relating to the continual recording of data, such as cause of death. The Solomon Islands is currently determining how data captured in this system can be used to measure SDG16 indicators.[138]

EXPERT ASSESSMENTS

Across the Pacific, some of the data measuring SDG16 is either not available or not regularly updated. Most of the information that is not currently available could be measured using surveys. There are some indicators that do not have an established methodology. Nevertheless, it is likely that once these methodologies have been established they will be able to be measured across the world with a consistent methodology. A lack of funding for data collection is a consistent issue across the Pacific region, with many Pacific Island countries and territories relying on donors to fund even the most basic of data collections. As a supplement to these planned surveys, of which more will likely be required to fulfil reporting requirements, it is possible to provide updates or snapshot views of the status of particular targets. One way to do this is through expert assessments. The importance of interim measures and specifically the use of expert surveys, particularly in areas with challenges to collecting data, has been recognised elsewhere with Somalia SDG 16 Monitoring and Evaluation Task Force facilitated by UNDP and the Global Alliance.

Expert assessments or surveys are often used to gather information where objective data is either not available or of poor quality, or where the nature of the quantity of interest does not lend itself to straightforward measurement. For example, the extent to which a political party is left or right oriented. A well-designed expert survey that gauges responses from a significant number of experts can quickly, and relatively cost-effectively, bridge data gaps.

Expert surveys are used by a range of organisations and data collection initiatives, such as the Economist Intelligence Unit, the WomanStats Project, the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators and Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem). The most critical element of any expert survey is defining who counts as an expert. There is a tendency for expert surveys to become "expat" surveys, a compilation of the views of people who work for International NGOs or universities who generally have greater exposure to external organisations. For the purposes of measuring certain indicators on SDG16 in the Pacific, the definition of expert includes:

- Policymakers in government departments such as employees of the prime minister's office or other government departments.
- Members of the judicial branch including judges, public defendants and state prosecutors
- Leaders and members of local NGOs engaged in the peacebuilding and human rights and advocacy sectors.
- Leaders and members of international NGOs engaged in the peacebuilding and human rights and advocacy sectors who have been stationed in country for a minimum of one year.
- Local and international academics who are considered experts on a particular country's socio-political situation.

Expert assessments are particularly useful for measures where it is very difficult to acquire accurate data in other ways. Examples of this include measures of violence against women and children. It is very difficult to acquire accurate data in the Pacific region through household surveys. Often, surveyors are unable to question women and children independently of other members of the household, which compromises the accuracy of any survey.

Another example is SDG16.2.2, which looks at the number of victims of human trafficking by sex, age and form of exploitation. As human trafficking is largely a hidden crime, measures often depend upon asking people who are more aware of human trafficking issues. An expert assessment is often the only way to determine relative estimations of the

scale of the issue in a particular country or territory. This could include asking members from civil society organisations and businesses that interact with construction and shipping businesses that involve foreign nationals. An expert evaluation could be a yearly survey conducted either on the phone or in person amongst the selected expert group.

GUIDANCE FOR DATA COLLECTION

Recognising the regional strengths of the Pacific, any data collection exercise to measure the SDGs in the Pacific could be shaped by the following guiding principles:

- Replicable and sustainable: It should be an activity that can be repeated in future with a similar methodology, which enables the ability to compare trends over time. To further the leadership of the Pacific region across SDG measurement, reference to developing a process that can be undertaken in different contexts would be useful. This process could be able to be applied to other SDGs and National Sustainable Development Plans, as well as other data requirements. Connecting different initiatives is not only a worldwide issue, but is also a fundamental requirement to locking-in significant change.

- Time and cost-effective: There are competing priorities both within the SDG framework and the National Sustainable Development Plans, as well as with the competing priorities in the normal operations of government. With the increasing demand for data, any data gathering exercise needs to be efficient in order to be viable.

- Directed by internal priorities: Fundamentally, data can inform policy and direct decisions. In order to do this, data must be considered relevant to internal priorities. In order for data to be effective in this way , it needs to be presented in a clear and easy-to-understand way to facilitate analysis.

SECTION IV:
APPLICATION OF SDG16 DATA IN THE PACIFIC

In the course of conducting this work, the possibility of a SDG16 Pacific Peace Composite Index was explored. Composite indices can illustrate general tendencies and points of comparison regarding a particular topic. They can also serve to identify priorities, such as which policy areas require more attention, what kinds of data require better measurement and which countries are experiencing more or less success with respect to peace. They offer a convenient way to communicate complex issues is an easy to understand way to a general audience. Figure 4.1 offers examples of global indices that include Pacific countries. Many global measures do not include territories.

COVERAGE OF PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL MEASURES
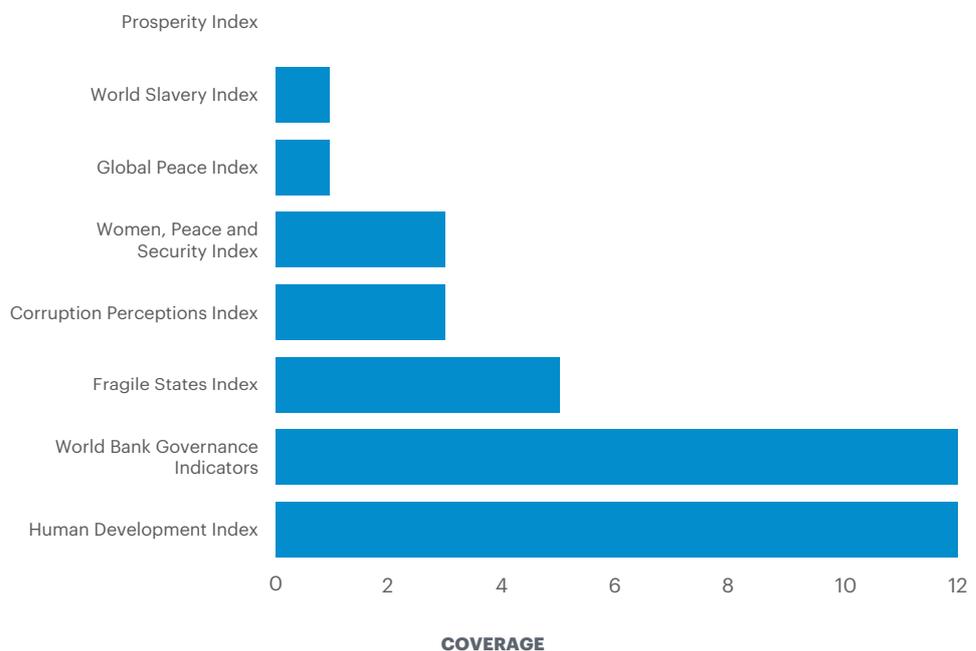
Source: Author's calculations

While building a composite index requires a high level of technical skills, the OECD's Handbook on the Construction of Composite Indicators recognises that "construction owes more to the craftsmanship of the modeller than to universally accepted scientific rules for encoding". As such, there is no one way to create a standard composite index. However, when done well, composite indices offer advantages to guiding and prioritising policy.

BENEFITS OF AN INDEX TO THE PACIFIC

An index can summarise complex, multi-dimensional realities with a view to supporting decision makers. Part of the benefits of an index is through simplifying as they are easier to interpret than a battery of many separate indicators. Indexes also allow for progress to be assessed over time. This can assist in placing issues of country performance and progress at the centre of the policy arena. The ease in interpreting can also facilitate communication and advocacy to promote accountability and to compare complex dimensions effectively.

However, composite indices can face many pitfalls. They may send misleading policy messages if poorly constructed or misinterpreted, or invite simplistic policy conclusions. Furthermore, indexes could result in inappropriate or incomplete policies if

dimensions of performance that are difficult to measure are ignored. Indexes can also be misused to support a desired policy, particularly if the construction process is not transparent and/or lacks sound statistical or conceptual principles. Other areas where indexes can be abused is through political disputes over the selection of indicators and weights. The simplification process may disguise serious failings in some dimensions and increase the difficulty of identifying proper remedial action, if the construction process is not transparent. Many of these issues are not unique to indexes.

These pitfalls are especially pertinent in the Pacific, where issues of flawed or outdated data are prevalent. Additionally, a country's score on an index can often be more representative of their government capacity or population size than anything else. This is important mind when considering the Pacific, where government capacity and population size varies substantially from country to country.

Field-specific measurements and assessments within this index should not be held as an unequivocal, decisive data source for that field. As a multi-dimensional analysis, this index is most valuable and applicable when utilised to characterise overarching trends. Analysis conducted using this index should likewise be contextualised and supplemented with relevant qualitative information when possible.

As part of this work, the potential for a Pacific Peace Index was explored. Through regional consultation, a selection of regional relevant candidates for indicators were proposed. These are outlined in Figure 4.3. Due to a lack of data across all indicators though, the ideal Pacific Peace Index could not be constructed in such a way as to avoid the pitfall of poorly constructed composite indices.

However, the process of developing an ideal list of indicators for the region provides a discussion point to focus and prioritise efforts on collection of this data across the Pacific. The work allows further debates on how Pacific nations can build the capacity and implement programs aimed at collecting data on SDG16. It also allows for localisation of efforts to ensure data collection is relevant to the context of the region. For example, while indicators relating to the rule of law and strength of institutions are important, such measures in the Pacific could consider developing some way of recognising alternative and informal modes of governance that operate in the region.

Data standards also need to be developed to allow for cross-country comparisons. For example, violence against women is a major issue facing the Pacific. Under-reporting rates of violence against women is a prominent barrier to assessing the prevalence of such data. There are current methodologies for comparable measurement through surveys. These could be supplemented through other disaggregated data that allows for triangulation of results and provide greater confidence in cross-country comparisons. However, the problem of cross-country comparison is compounded if countries do not have standard reporting mechanisms for such forms of violence. Disaggregating violent deaths by gender offers a more useful tool to inform policy debates around such topics.

As explored in Section II: Data availability across the Pacific, there is limited comparable data across the Pacific region. This includes for the SDG16 indicators that have been prioritised across the region, as shown in Figure 4.2. Whilst the lack of data is not fatal to the Pacific as a region achieving the 2030 Global Agenda, it does highlight that more data needs to be collected in order to measure progress.

FIGURE 4.2
DATA AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR SDG16 PRIORITIES FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

Coutry	Rank (out of 171)	Availability	Availability (author's assessment)			
		PIF's assessment	Available	Partial measure	Proxy measure	Not available
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	No	0	0	13	9
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	No	0	0	7	15
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	No	10	0	12	0
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions	No	0	0	13	9
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	No	0	0	0	22
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Yes	7	0	0	15
16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	No	0	0	22	0
(16.a.1)	Existence of implementation plan for the different UN Treaty Body recommendations and UPR recommendations which are fully or partially resourced (Pacific Proxy Indicator modified from the global definition)	No	-	-	-	-

Given the lack of data, even for the indicators prioritised in the region, there could be scope for generating interim measures. The purpose of measuring the SDG16 indicators is to achieve the targets and goal of peace, justice and strong institutions. The data collection is a means to this end, and so a localised measure that enables cross-country comparison to help prioritise activity and determine what actions are helping or hindering could be a useful tool. Figure 4.3 highlights a possible framework for measuring SDG16 across the Pacific.

DATA ANALYSIS OF SDG16 IN THE PACIFIC

POSSIBLE SDG16 MEASURE FOR THE PACIFIC

SDG16 MEASURE FOR THE PACIFIC	
A. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PEACEFULNESS	**B. RULE OF LAW**
16.1 violent deaths 16.2 violence against children 16.4 arms flow	16.3 access to justice 16.5 corruption 16.9 birth registrations 16.a.1 human rights 16.b.1 perceived discrimination
C. SOUND INSTITUTIONS	**D. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY**
16.6 accountable institutions 16.7 representative decision-making 16.8 global governance 16.10 public access to information	Vulnerability measure

As a full Pacific Peace Index could not be reliably constructed using data currently available, the section provides an analysis of existing data relating to SDG16. Due to the limited data coverage across all countries and territories, only nine Pacific Islands were included in the analysis. Figure 4.4 shows the nine countries that have been included in the analysis.

FIGURE 4.4

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN THE ANALYSIS

COUNTRY
Fiji
Kiribati
Marshall Islands
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Samoa

Selection of indicators were based on the data availability audit of the region. Indicators were chosen to be as close as possible to the ideal indicators recommended through expert consultation and listed in Figure 4.3. An indicator's inclusion was based on the following criteria:

- Is it included in or related to the ideal indicators in Figure 4.3?
- Is there sufficient country coverage?
- Is there a sufficient time series available?
- Is there data available after 2010? (i.e. is it recent enough to be informative)

Unfortunately, many indicators could not be included for these reasons. The lack of comprehensive SDG16 data is an issue experienced outside of the Pacific region as well; no country has full coverage across all SDG16 indicators. However, in the Pacific region where there are more general difficulties in data collection. Figure 4.5 shows the indicators that have been selected for inclusion in the cross-country analysis. As can be seen, only three of the seven indicators have a time series, making analysis over years reliant on approximation. The analysis is comprised of the following seven indicators grouped into three domains: violence, Justice and Institutions.
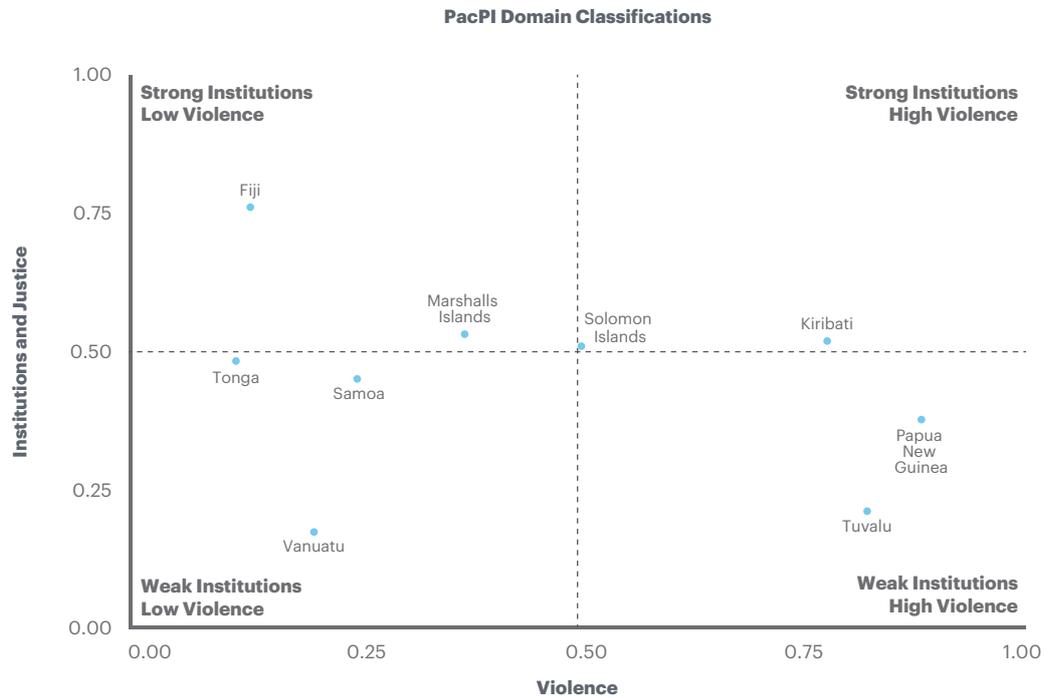
FIGURE 4.5
SDG16 INDICATORS ANALYSED

Domain	Indicator	Earliest Year	Latest Year	Number of Countries
Violence	16.1.1 Intentional homicide count and rate per 100,000 population	2010	2015	13
Violence	16.1.3 Age-standardised prevalence of physical or sexual violence experienced by populations in the last 12 months (%)	2010	2018	8
Violence	5.2.1 Age-standardised prevalence of women aged 15 years and older who experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months (%)	2010	2018	8
Institutions and Justice	16.5.1 proxy Both CPIA transparency, accountability, and corruption in the public sector rating	2010	2016	9
Institutions and Justice	16.7 women in parliament	2018	2018	12
Institutions and Justice	16.3.2 pre-trial detainees (% of total)	2017	2017	13
Institutions and Justice	16.9.1 registered births	2017	2017	7

Because of the challenges in the data, an overall Pacific Peace Index is not constructed, but rather the domains themselves are analysed individually. The analysis broadly compares countries on their performance in two domains: "*Violence*" and "*Institutions and Justice.*" As the underlying data faces issues of cross-country comparability, this report chooses not to provide a ranking for each of these scores. Instead, this data is combined to produce Figure 4.6, which categorises countries into one of four quadrants. With stronger data the analysis could provide better inputs for policy debates.

FIGURE 4.6

PACIFIC CROSS-COUNTRY COMPARISON FOR SDG16

PacPI Domain Classifications

Source: Author's assessment

Figure 4.6 is based on the most recent data using comparable sources. It is understood that some of this data is not necessarily reflective of the current situation in all countries. For example, part of the reason why Vanuatu is shown to have weak institutions in Figure 4.6 is because of relatively low registration of children under five years of age. However, this reflects that the data has not been updated. It was estimated the proportion of recorded birth registrations in children under age five improved from 40 per cent to over 80 per cent. This improvement is due to increased investment to improve recording. Following Cyclone Pam, UNICEF launched a campaign to register the births of children across the archipelago. In addition to promoting registration for children whose births' had never been registered, the agency issued new birth certificates to replace those that had been destroyed in the storm, dramatically increasing the registration rates.[139] This demonstrates the need for timely data and that alternate collection mechanisms would add particular value to assessing progress toward SDG16.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: SDG16 DATA AVAILABILITY ACROSS THE PACIFIC

As part of this project, IEP conducted a comprehensive data audit of available sources for indicators that could be used either as direct measures of proxies for the SGD16 goals. IEP conducted an audit of the following 90 indicators for SDG16 in the Pacific:

SDG Indicator	Measure	Data Source	Gender Disaggregation	Coverage	Most Recent Year on Record
16.1.1	Estimates Of Number Of Homicides	WHO	No	Cook Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2012
16.1.1	Estimates Of Rates Of Homicides Per 100 000 Population	WHO	No	Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands	2012
16.1.1	Homicide Count Per 100,000 Population By Country/ Territory	UNODC	No	Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa	2012
16.1.1	Homicide Rate Per 100,000 Population By Country/ Territory	UNODC	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2012
16.1.1	Homicide Victims And Violent Death Male And Female	UNODC	F, M	Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa	2010
16.1.1	Percentage Of Female Intentional Homicide Victims, By Country/Territory	UNODC	F, M	Fiji, Tonga	2012
16.1.1	The Average Of The Number Of Death From Conflict	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands	2003
16.1.1	Total Number Of Deaths By Firearm In	UNODC	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016

16.1.1	Total Number Of Female Victims Of Lethal Violence In	UNODC	F	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.1.1	Total Number Of Intentional Homicide In	UNODC	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.1.1	Total Number Of Violent Deaths In	UNODC	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.1.1	Violent Deaths Trends	UNODC	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.1.2	Battle-Related Deaths	UCDP	No	Papua New Guinea	1996
16.1.3	Men Attitudes Towards Wife-Beating For At Least One Of Five Specified Reasons	UNWOMEN	M	Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa	2013
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Partner Violence Last 12 Months	UNWOMEN	F	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	2013
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Partner Psychological Violence In Last 12 Months	UNWOMEN	F	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2013
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Partner Psychological Violence Lifetime	UNWOMEN	F	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2013
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Partner Violence Lifetime	UNWOMEN	F	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2013
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Physical Violence Last 12 Months	UNWOMEN	F	Marshall Islands, Tuvalu	2012
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Physical Violence Lifetime	UNWOMEN	F	Fiji, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu	2012
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Aged 15-49 Experiencing Sexual Violence Lifetime	UNWOMEN	F	Fiji, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu	2013
16.1.3	Proportion Of Women Victims	UNWOMEN	F	Marshall Islands, Tuvalu	2013

16.1.3	Women Attitudes Towards Wife-Beating For At Least One Of Five Specified Reasons	UNWOMEN	F	Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa	2013
16.1.3	Women Perpetrators	UNWOMEN	F	Marshall Islands, Tuvalu	2013
16.2.1	Percentage Of Children 1–14 Years Old Who Experience Any Violent Discipline	UNICEF	Both, F, M	Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2017
16.2.1	Physical Displine Place Of Residence Percentage Of Children 1–14 Years Old Who Experience Any Violent Discipline	UNICEF	No	Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2017
16.2.1	Physical Displine Wealth Quintile Percentage Of Children 1–14 Years Old Who Experience Any Violent Discipline	UNICEF	No	Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2017
16.3.2	Number In Pre-Trial Detention	UNODC	No	American Samoa, Nauru, Palau, French Polynesia, Tuvalu	2012
16.3.2	Pre-Trial Detainees (% Of Total)	WORLD PRISON BRIEF	No	American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2017
16.4.2	Rate Of Lawful Civilian Firearm Ownership Per 100 Population	SMALL ARMS SURVEY	No	American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Samoa	2004
16.5.1	% Of People That Came Into Contact With The Service In Each Country	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.1	% Of People That Came Into Contact With The Service In Each Country In Last 12 Month	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.1	% Of People That Came Into Contact With The Service In Each Country In Last 12 Months	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.1	% Of People That Came Into Contact With The Service In Each Country In The Last 12 Month	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.1	% Of People That Came Into Contact With The Service In Each Country In The Last 12 Months	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.1	% Of People That Came Into Contact With The Service In Each Country In The Past 12 Month(Contact Rate)	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016

16.5.1	Cpia Transparency, Accountability, And Corruption In The Public Sector Rating (1=Low To 6=High)	WORLD BANK	No	Micronesia (Federated States of), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Education	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Judiciary	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Land Services	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Medical And Health	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Police	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Registry And Permit Services	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Tax Revenue And/Or Customs	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016
16.5.1	Global Value For Utilities	WORLD BANK	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, French Polynesia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2016

16.5.1	People That Paid A Bribe Having Said That They Came Into Contact With The Service	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.1	People That Paid A Bribe Having Said That They Came Into Contact With The Service(Contact Rates)	WORLD BANK	No	Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	2016
16.5.2	Percent Of Firms Expected To Give Gifts In Meetings With Tax Officials	WORLD BANK	No	Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, French Polynesia, Tonga	2014
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Communication, Transport And Tourism	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Def Ence	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tonga	2008
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Economic Affairs	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tonga	2008
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Economic Development	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Education	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands, Nauru, French Polynesia, Tonga, Tuvalu	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Education And Training	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tonga	2008
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Environment And Conservation	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands, French Polynesia	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Finance And Economic Planning	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Fuel And Energy	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, Tonga	2010
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On General Economic Affairs	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, Tonga	2010
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On General Public Services	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, Tonga	2010
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Governance	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Health	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands, Nauru, French Polynesia, Tonga, Tuvalu	2015

16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Home Affairs	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Infrastructure	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands, French Polynesia	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Judiciary	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Law And Order	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Legal Services	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Natural Resources & Environment	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tonga	2008
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Natural Resources And Environment	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Office Of The Auditor General	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Office Of The Governor General	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Office Of The Prime Minister	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Parliament	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Police And Prison Services	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Public Order And Saf Ety	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tonga	2008
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Public Order And Safety	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, Tonga	2010
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Recreation, Culture And Religion	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, Tonga	2010
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Rural Development (Outer Islands)	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Social Development	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands	2015

16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Social Protection	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, Tonga	2010
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Social Welfare	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Cook Islands	2015
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Tourism, Culture & Religion	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tonga	2008
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Transport	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	French Polynesia	2014
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Transport And Communications	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Nauru, French Polynesia, Tonga	2012
16.6.1	Government Expenditure On Works, Water And Energy	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	No	Tuvalu	2009
16.7	Number Of Mps	PACIFIC WOMEN IN POLITICS	No	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2018
16.7	Number Of Women	PACIFIC WOMEN IN POLITICS	F	Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2018
16.9.1	Percentage Of Children Under Age 5 Whose Births Are Registered	UNICEF	F, M	Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2017
16.9.1	Registered Births Pacific	UNICEF	No	Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2017
16.9.1	Total Percentage Of Children Under Age 5 Whose Births Are Registered	UNICEF	No	Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa	2017

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS IN THE PACIFIC

The following national action plans exist in the Pacific.

SDG Indicator	Measure	Data Source	Gender Disaggregation
Cook Islands	National Sustainable Development Plan	2016-2020	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-coo-2017-2019-ld-01.pdf
FSM	Strategic Development Plan	2004-2013	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-fsm-2015-2017-sd-02.pdf
Fiji	5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan	2017-2021	http://www.fiji.gov.fj/getattachment/15b0ba03-825e-47f7-bf69-094ad33004dd/5-Year---20-Year-NATIONAL-DEVELOPMENT-PLAN.aspx
Kiribati	Kiribati Development Plan	2016-2019	http://www.mfed.gov.ki/sites/default/files/Kiribati%20Development%20Plan%202016%20-%2019.pdf
Marshall Islands	National Strategic Plan	2015-2017	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-rmi-2016-2018-ld-04.pdf
Nauru	National Sustainable Development Strategy	2005-2025	https://pafpnet.spc.int/pafpnet/attachments/article/224/Nauru%20NSDS%202005-2025%20%20(2009)%20cobp-nau-2012-2014-oth.pdf
Niue	Niue National Strategic Plan	2009-2013	https://www.preventionweb.net/files/28164_nnsp200920132.pdf
Palau	The Medium-Term Development Strategy	2009-2014	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-pal-2016-2018-oth-01.pdf
Papua New Guinea	Development Strategic Plan	2010-2030	http://www.health.gov.pg/publications/PNGDSP_Final%20Version%20for%20Print.pdf
Samoa	Strategy for the Development of Samoa	2016-2019	http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/sao165879.pdf
Solomon Islands	National Development Strategy	2016-2035	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-sol-2017-2019-ld-01.pdf
Tokelau	Tokelau National Strategic Plan	2016 - 2020	https://www.tokelau.org.nz/site/tokelau/files/2016Docs/TNSP%202016-2020%20Tokelauan.pdf
Tonga	Tonga Strategic Development Framework	2015-2025	http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/ton168846.pdf
Tuvalu	National Strategy for Sustainable Development	2016-2020	https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf
Vanuatu	National Sustainable Development Plan	2016-2030	https://www.gov.vu/attachments/article/28/Vanuatu2030_Constultation_Report.pdf
American Samoa			
French Polynesia			
Guam			
New Caledonia			
Northern Mariana Islands			
Wallis and Futuna			

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