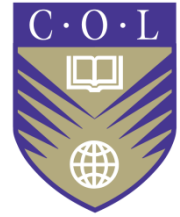


Gender Profile: Solomon Islands



General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 113,744
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 107,193

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 197,696
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 191,250

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 93
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014)(CIA, 2015): 16.7

Under-five mortality rate for males: NA
Under-five mortality rate for females: NA

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 70.1%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49: NA
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49: NA

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 67
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 70

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (1999) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 90%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (1999) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 80%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (1999) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 83.70%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (1999) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 69%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
82.11%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
79.27%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
49.77%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
47.01%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education: NA
Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education: NA

Graduates from tertiary education who are female: NA

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 46.7%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 30.5%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female: NA

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 53%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 80%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution: NA

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 2%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15(2013) (Girls Not Brides, 2015): 3%

Females married between 15 and 19: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 65%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2012): 62%

* * *

Gender Gaps

Health

- Abortion is criminalised.

- 11.1% of women experience an unmet need for contraception.

Education

- There is a lack of mentorship for females in Solomon Islands. For example, according to a nationwide survey conducted in 2005, only 2.9% of secondary school principals were female (Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2005).
- A national survey conducted in 2008 revealed that women were twice as likely as men to have received no education (14% and 7%, respectively) (UN Women, 2014).

Economic

- Hard data on women's participation in the Solomon Islands' economy are very difficult to obtain. A 2010 International Finance Corporation report on gender and investment climate reform in the country indicated that “[a]lthough largely absent from the formal sector, Solomon Islands’ women play a major role in the country’s rural economy as producers and in marketing. Women are responsible for about 90 percent of fresh fruit and vegetable marketing—as bulk-buyers and as retailers. . . . But Solomon Islands women operate their businesses in a maledominated culture. . . . They are under-represented in the formal labor market, and face major cultural barriers as entrepreneurs” (p. viii).
- Women comprise less than 30% of the public service and hold only 6% of senior public service positions (UN Women, 2014).
- UN Women (2014) notes that “[c]onstitutional rights to freedom from discrimination, including on the basis of gender, are . . . applied subject to customary law, even where customary law has discriminatory effect. For example, the Court of Appeal held in 1995 that a widow’s right to inherit a share of her late husband’s assets was subject to customary law, which prevented her from receiving the funds because of her gender. The Court of Appeal also held that the constitutional protection of customary law allowed Provincial Councils to be structured so as to allow all-male membership, again overruling the provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender.”

Decision-Making

- According to Pacific Women in Politics (2014), “following the 2010 national elections, the new Government indicated in its Policy Statement that the Government would look at options for women's reserved seats as part of a broader electoral boundaries review. This work has not yet progressed.”
- A 2014 discussion paper on impediments to female electoral success in Solomon Islands indicated three key barriers: (i) “Women are held to different standards of behaviour in Solomon Islands society, and this is a tool that opponents use (to apparent effect) to call into question the character of women candidates”; (ii) “[h]aving money to spend is an integral aspect of electoral success in Solomon Islands elections, and women candidates generally want for this resource”; and (iii) “[v]otes in Solomon Islands are usually won with the support of influential local figures (brokers), and predominantly patriarchal local-level leadership in Solomon Islands makes it harder for female candidates to gain the support of strong brokers” (Wood, 2014, p. 1).

Human Rights

- Solomon Islands does not have legislation regarding domestic violence, and marital rape is not criminalised.
- A 2010 UNIFEM Pacific review of the literature on violence against women and children in Pacific nations found “high rates and severe consequences of violence against women” in Solomon Islands (UNIFEM, 2010, p. i). Fifty-five per cent of ever-partnered women had experienced sexual violence, and 45% had experienced physical violence at the hands of their partner. Approximately 10% reported having been abused when pregnant. Thirty-seven per cent of women said they had been sexually abused prior to the age of 15 (p. 8). Fifty-six per cent reported being emotionally abused (p. 7).
- UN Women (2014) notes that “some cultural traditions require married female rape victims to pay compensation to their husband’s family, to make amends for the shame incurred when she was attacked”.
- According to a national study by UN Women, approximately 73% of both men and women believe that violence against women can sometimes be justified (UN Women, 2014).

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