The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) used to estimate poverty in Fiji was conducted in 2019-20. Official estimates for the national poverty rates have been produced and published by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics, but estimates of poverty rates using the International Poverty Lines are expected by mid-2021. By World Bank definitions of data deprivation, Fiji is classified as vulnerable to data deprivation. In the past 10 years, Fiji has conducted a HIES on two occasions, with over five years between them (2013-14 and 2019-20).
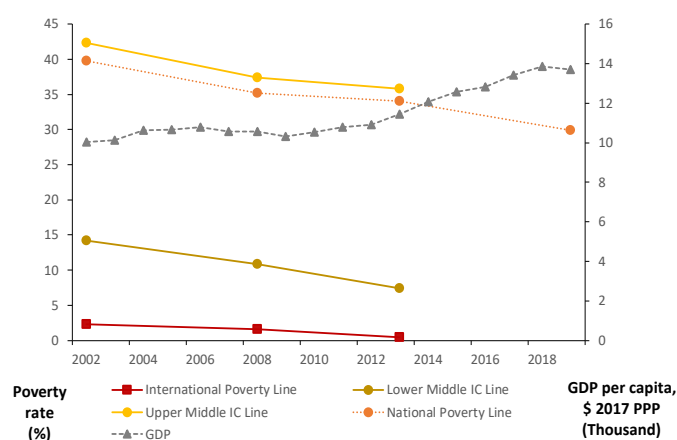
The national cost-of-basic-needs poverty rate was 29.9 percent for 2019-20. Methodology changes (see "Poverty Data and Methodology" section) prevent direct comparisons between the 2019-20 data and previous HIES rounds. Poverty is higher in rural areas than urban areas (41.5 percent and 20.4 percent, respectively). The poverty rate is also higher in the outer islands compared to the main island of Viti Levu (36.8 percent and 28.1 percent, respectively), but three-quarters of Fiji's poor are located in Viti Levu. Inequality, as measured by the Gini Index using per capita consumption, was estimated at 30.1, which is among the lowest in Pacific Island Countries as well as in the East Asia Pacific region.

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have increased poverty in Fiji. Though the virus itself has been largely contained, the resulting economic shock to tourism, which is linked to nearly one-fifth of households, has already increased unemployment. The Government of Fiji estimated that 115,000 Fijians became unemployed or suffered reduced work hours as a direct result of COVID-19. Another channel of impact is a reduction of remittances from abroad, which would affect one-third of Fijian households at all points of the welfare distribution. The compounded welfare losses are likely to affect a large share of the population, and leaves many at risk of falling into poverty.

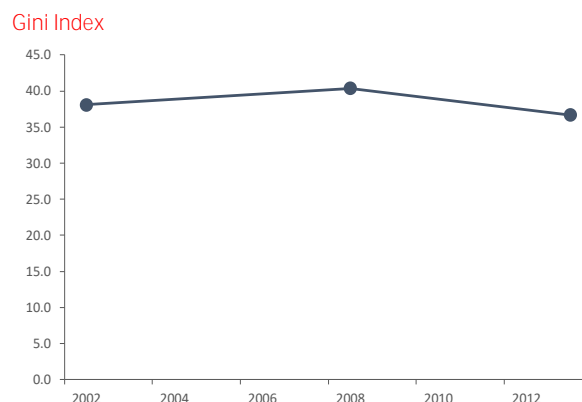| POVERTY	Number of Poor (thousand)	Rate (%)	Period
National Poverty Line	258.0	29.9	2019
International Poverty Line 2.1 in Fiji dollar (2013) or US$1.90 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	4.2	0.5	2013
Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 3.5 in Fiji dollar (2013) or US$3.20 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	64.5	7.5	2013
Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 6 in Fiji dollar (2013) or US$5.50 (2011 PPP) per day per capita	310.0	35.8	2013
Multidimensional Poverty Measure		0.7	2013
SHARED PROSPERITY			
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent		1.17	2008-2013
INEQUALITY			
Gini Index		36.7	2013
Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth		1.68	2008-2013
GROWTH			
Annualized GDP per capita growth		1.58	2008-2013
Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey		-0.51	2008-2013
MEDIAN INCOME			
Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita		0.73	2008-2013

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of Feburary 2021, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2002-2019

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2002-2013

Gini Index

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

Distribution among groups: 2013	International Poverty Line(%)		Relative group (%)	
	Non-Poor	Poor	Bottom 40	Top 60
Urban population	100	0	33	67
Rural population	99	1	47	53
Males	100	0	40	60
Females	99	1	40	60
0 to 14 years old	99	1	52	48
15 to 64 years old	100	0	35	65
65 and older	100	N/A*	33	67
Without education (16+)	100	N/A*	38	62
Primary education (16+)	99	1	43	57
Secondary education (16+)	100	0	36	64
Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+)	100	0	11	89

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2013	(% of population)
Monetary poverty (Consumption)	
Daily consumption less than US$1.90 per person	0.5
Education	
At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school	1.4
No adult has completed primary education	0.8
Access to basic infrastructure	
No access to limited-standard drinking water	7.8
No access to limited-standard sanitation	3.2
No access to electricity	10.0

Source: World Bank using HIES/EAPPOV/GMD

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Between the 2002-03 and 2013-14 HIES rounds, Fiji measured poverty using income aggregates. However, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics switched to a consumption-based measure starting with the 2019-20 HIES. The new method has the following features: 1) an adult equivalence scale with children aged 0-14 counted as half an adult; 2) a Food Poverty Line based on a calorie threshold of 2,228 calories per adult equivalent, as determined by the Fiji Food and Nutrition Centre in 2019; and 3) a single national poverty line, with spatial and temporal deflation applied to the consumption aggregates. To facilitate meaningful comparisons across countries, the World Bank publishes consumption-based estimates using three different poverty lines (2011 PPP): the International Poverty Line (US$1.90), and two other poverty lines at US$3.20 and US$5.50. For Fiji, per capita consumption aggregates were spatially deflated by survey strata (which covers the urban/rural split for each of the four geographical divisions) and temporally deflated by survey quarter.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the EAPPOV database. EAPPOV is a database of socio-economic statistics constructed using microdata from household surveys in the East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region and is managed by the East Asia & Pacific Team for Statistical Development (EAPTSD). As of January 2021, the collection includes 20 countries and 106 surveys. Harmonized surveys in the EAPPOV database are compiled into 4 modules following Global Monitoring Database (GMD) Harmonization guidelines. A subset of the harmonized variables form the basis of the GMD collection, including the welfare aggregate which is used for Global Poverty Monitoring. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.

WORLD BANK GROUP
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Fiji

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