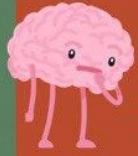


CONNECTIVITY AND LIVING STANDARDS

DOES BETTER CONNECTIVITY IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS?



Higher mobile coverage and internet access support digital services. But infrastructure alone isn't enough. Usage, affordability, and public engagement also shapes how connectivity translates into tangible benefits for individuals and communities.



In the Pacific Islands, where geographical isolation presents unique challenges, understanding how connectivity influences quality of life requires a broader look at both technological access and the social and economic conditions that shape its use.



CONNECTIVITY VS DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

DOES MORE SIGNAL EQUATE TO MORE PARTICIPATION?



By comparing countries in the Pacific Islands, it shows how 4G coverage, broadband subscriptions, and internet use vary with real consequences for service access

Average Value by Indicators across all countries



IT_MOB_4GNTWK - Proportion of population covered by at least a 4G mobile network
 IT_NET_BBND - Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants
 IT_USE_I99 - Proportion of individuals using the internet
 EGI - E-Government index
 OSI - Online service index
 NCSI_POLI - Cybersecurity Policy
 NCSI_RANK - National Cyber Security Index

DIGITAL SERVICE IMPACT

DOES CONNECTIVITY HELP TO BOOST GOVERNMENT SERVICES?



E-Government performance varies. Fiji ranks high, but countries like Solomon Islands lag due to poor internet access. Even full coverage (e.g. Niue) doesn't ensure public usage or trust.



Enhanced connectivity can strengthen government services, but its impact depends on digital literacy, infrastructure quality, and public trust to ensure meaningful e-government adoption.

DEVICE OWNERSHIPS VS USE



ARE MOBILE PHONES ENOUGH TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL GAP?

Many own devices and yet basic digital tasks remain uncommon. Sharing files, accessing services, and using email require training, trust, and affordability. Unpaved roads and transport issues also limit service reach.

While mobile phones are essential tools, they are not enough on their own to close the digital gap without broader support in education, infrastructure, and accessibility.

OVER 75% ADOPTION; URBAN ACCESS DRIVING STRONG GAINS

Fiji Tonga Samoa

BELOW REGIONAL AVERAGE WITH PERSISTENT CONNECTIVITY GAPS

Solomon Island Papua New Guinea

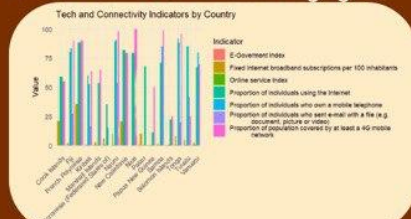
OVERALL TREND

Usage rising steadily across the board, but uneven growth reveals deeper digital divides.



DIGITAL READINESS IS UNEVEN ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Technology indicators, from broadband subscriptions to internet use shows wide disparities. Some nations have strong coverage; others remain offline or under-engaged.



BASED ON THE GRAPH, WE OBSERVE THAT

- FRENCH POLYNESIA LEADS IN BROADBAND AND INTERNET USE
- NIUE HAS FULL 4G BUT WEAK ENGAGEMENT
- SOLOMON ISLANDS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA SCORE LOWEST OVERALL

GDP AND TECHNOLOGY INDICATORS

	0.75	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.75	0.50	0.25	0.00
MAILFILE	0.71	0.38	0.40	0.30	0.4	0.4	0.46	1.00
IT_MOB_OWN	0.85	0.37	0.45	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.98
OSI	0.21	0.11	0.42	0.70	0.67	1.00	1.00	0.4
EGI	0.32	0.31	0.75	0.51	1.00	0.87	1.00	0.8
IT_MOB_4GNTWK	0.41	0.80	0.49	1.00	0.51	0.75	0.75	0.30
IT_USE_I99	0.83	0.82	1.00	0.88	0.72	0.92	0.85	0.89
IT_NET_BBND	0.92	1.00	0.82	0.90	0.31	0.11	0.37	0.88
GDP	1.00	0.92	0.43	0.41	0.32	0.21	0.60	0.71

LEGEND:
 IT_MOB_4GNTWK - Proportion of population covered by at least a 4G mobile network
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 MAILFILE - Proportion of individuals who sent e-mail with a file
 IT_MOB_OWN - Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone
 GDP - Gross Domestic Production

DOES MORE WEALTH GUARANTEE BETTER DIGITAL SERVICES?

GDP per capita correlates with broadband and internet use. But mobile coverage and government service scores show little connection and sometimes inverse trends.

WE FIND THAT CONNECTIVITY ENABLES GROWTH, BUT NOT EQUALLY

Connectivity contributes to better quality of life in the Pacific Islands, linking to gains in education, services and economic participation.

HOWEVER, The data reveals clear disparities i.e., high coverage doesn't always translate to high usage. Gaps in affordability, infrastructure, and digital skills limit impact. Improving lives requires more than access where it needs policies that make digital services usable and inclusive.