



IN BRIEF



# GENDER EQUALITY BRIEF FOR NIUE



## Women's Human Rights

Niue's [1974 Constitution](#) does not contain any provisions to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or gender. Treaties signed by New Zealand prior to 1988 were [extended to Niue through association](#), including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which was ratified by New Zealand in 1985. New Zealand [declared in November 1988](#) that its future participation in international treaties would no longer extend to Niue, and the United Nations Secretariat recognized the full treaty-making capacity of Niue in 1994. Since then, Niue has accessioned the [Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995](#). However, the country has [not independently ratified CEDAW](#) or incorporated it into domestic law. A draft CEDAW compliance assessment produced in 2001 [reportedly found significant legislative shortcomings](#), including the existence of colonial-era legislation which requires revision to align with international standards, and a lack of provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex. Niue has not produced a CEDAW report since the 2001 draft assessment.

As per the [Citizenship Act 1977](#) (NZ), Niueans are citizens of New Zealand and [hold New Zealand passports](#). There is [no discrimination on the basis of gender](#) in the provision of citizenship, and citizenship by descent can be obtained equally through citizenship of either parent. As citizens, Niueans who reside in New Zealand have access to all of New Zealand's [social security benefits](#).

Men and women of Niuean descent have [equal rights to family land](#) under the [Land Act 1969](#). Data from [Niue Statistics Office in 2018](#) states that 67% of households in Niue own the house they live in, while 23% live free of charge through family or employment, and 10% rent their home. Data on the number of women who own land is not available. In 2017, [27.7% of households were headed by women](#).

Consent and marriage laws are decreed by the [Family Law Code](#) and are not applied equally to men and women. For marriage, parental consent is required for a Marriage Officer to solemnise the marriage of any woman under the age of 19 or man under the age of 21. With parental

permission, the legal marriageable age is 15 for women and 18 for men. However, a marriage which occurs in contradiction to these terms is not invalidated. The average age at first marriage was [reported in 2011](#) to be 24 for women and 27 for men. Men and women have [equal rights to petition for divorce](#) and for custody of children.

### Legal Marriage age in Niue

Internationally accepted age:\*



Niue marriage age:\*



Niue marriage age with parental consent:\*\*



Niue average marriage age (2011):\*



\* Source: [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)

\*\* Source: [Family Law Code](#)

Sexual offences legislation in Niue requires revision to align with international standards. The [age of consent to sexual activity is 15 for girls](#) but is not specified for boys, and therefore offers limited protection for boys from sexual violence and exploitation. In [Niue's legislation](#), 'sexual intercourse with a girl who is an idiot, imbecile, or of unsound mind' is an offence with no parallel offence for male victims. There is no close-in-age stipulation in consent laws. The Niue Act 1966 lists the abduction of a girl under the age of 15 to be a specific offence; however, it specifies that no further action will be taken in the case if there is a subsequent marriage between the victim and the offender. As per the 1966 Niue Act, the offence of rape can only be committed by a man against a woman or girl, and Section 162(4) specifically prohibits the conviction of marital rape as an offence.

Same-sex relations between consenting adults was [decriminalised in 2007](#). There are no laws against discrimination based on sexual

orientation or gender identity in Niue, and the state has not signed the UN Human Rights Council's 2011 [Joint Statement on Ending Acts of Violence Related Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#). Diverse gender identities, such as *fakafifine* ('in the manner of a woman') and *fakataane* ('in the manner of a man'), have [historically been a part of Niuean culture](#). Individuals in Niue are [allowed legally to change their name](#) but, as with other Pacific Island countries, it is not possible to change gender details on official identity documents.

## Governance and Participation in Public Life

As established by the 1974 Constitution, the [Niue Assembly](#) – Niue Fono Ekepule – is a [unicameral legislature consisting of 20 members](#) elected every three years with universal suffrage. The 14 villages of Niue are represented by 14 members elected in a 'first-past-the-post' system, while the remaining six Assembly members are elected by block vote for a national common roll seat. Women have [stood as candidates for the Assembly since the first general election](#) in 1975.

In the most recent elections in May 2020, [three women were elected to the Niue Assembly](#); two women were elected to represent the communities of Alofi North and Tuapa, and one woman was elected from the national common roll. Women therefore represented 15% of seats in the Assembly. Women won [25% of seats in the 2017 election](#), 10% in 2014, and 15% in 2011 and 2008.

## Female Representation in National Parliament in Niue



\* Source: [Government of Niue](#) March 2022

\*\* Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) March 2022

The 20 elected members of the Assembly [vote to elect a Premier](#), who will then select three members with whom to form the Cabinet. Hon. Mona AINU'u, the elected representative of the Tuapa constituency, is the current Minister of Natural Resources and the only female member of the 2020-2023 Cabinet. Cabinet roles have been held by a handful of women in Niue since the first female Cabinet minister, Hon. O'Love Jacobsen, was appointed in 1993. Niue does not have any Temporary Special Measures (TSMs) in place to increase women's political representation.

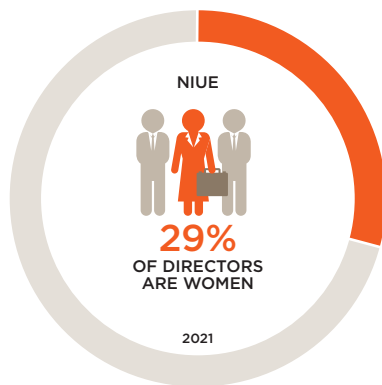
In addition to the national government, [each of the 14 villages has its own village council](#) with members elected to serve three-year terms. The Pacific Community (SPC) [stated in 2015](#) that women are more likely to hold local government seats on village councils than to hold common roll seats in Niue. Prior to the 2020 elections, [local media reported](#) that women held 50.8% of local village council seats. Women are [reportedly under-represented on church hierarchies](#). There are [no chiefs or tribal systems](#) in Niue, but familial ties significantly influence status and identity.

Social norms [have been identified as a barrier](#) to women's engagement in community and national decision-making. A custom of respect – from young people towards elders and women towards men – can also limit under-represented communities' engagement in decision-making processes.

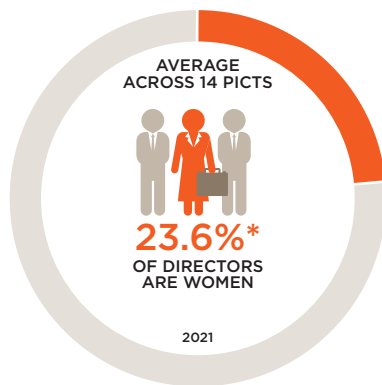
A [2015 analysis](#) of the top three levels of nine government departments found that men were more likely to hold high-level director positions, while women were better represented at lower levels within the departments. In 67% of the departments, men held the majority of the

positions with the greatest seniority. Women held the majority of positions at the second-most senior level in 56% of the departments, as well as the majority of the third-most senior positions in 78% of departments. In 2016, [11% of senior management positions in the public sector were held by women](#). In a [2021 analysis](#) of 10 organisations in Niue, women were found to hold 29% of Director positions on boards, including 14% of Director positions on the boards of state-owned enterprises.

### Women on Boards in Niue



Source: [Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative](#)



Source: [Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative](#)

\* Average calculated as the mean value across countries with available data.

Data on the gender composition of Niue’s judiciary is not available in the public domain. As of April 2021, Niue [reportedly](#) has five female police officers. Data on the current total size and therefore the overall gender composition of Niue’s police force is not publicly available for 2021, although Niue’s police force [reportedly](#) [comprised a total of 14 officers](#) as of June 2017.

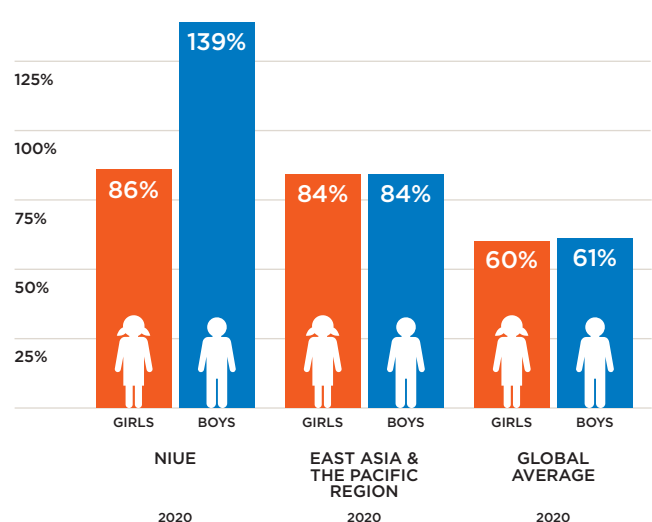
## Education

Education is free and compulsory from the ages of 5 to 16, and all children have equal rights to access education under the [1989 Education Act](#). The [literacy rate](#) among 15-24 year olds was 98% in the most recent data from 2011. Sex-disaggregated data is not available.

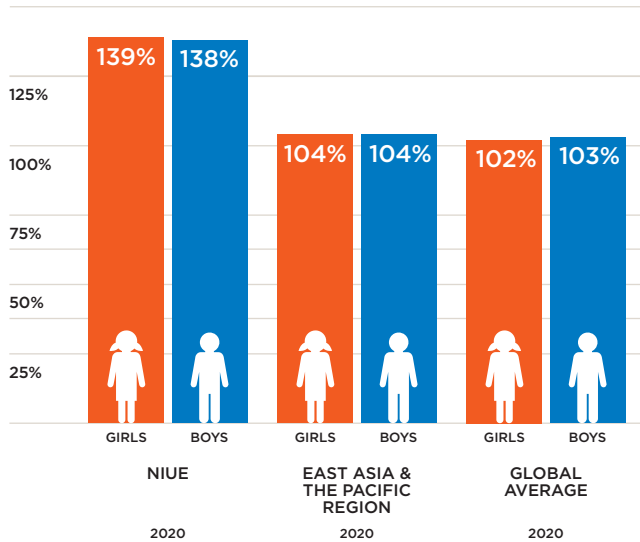
Classes are [taught in Niuean until Year 4](#), when the teaching language is transferred to English. The education system in Niue [follows the New Zealand curriculum](#). For pupils over the age of 14, the [1989 Education Act](#) states that parents may apply for an exemption from attending school if the child has been offered employment or training. The Committee on the Rights of the Child [stated in 2013](#) that the possible risk of children leaving school early, for example to join the labour force, is of concern. The gendered impact of early exit from education is not known, although, [as noted by UNICEF in 2017](#), the minimum marriageable age for girls is below the age of compulsory education.

Early childhood education is free but not compulsory. In 2020, the [Gross Enrolment Ratio \(GER\) for early childhood education](#) was 85.7% for girls and 138.5% for boys. The [adjusted net enrolment rate one year before the official primary entry age](#) was 61.9% for girls and 100% for boys in 2020.

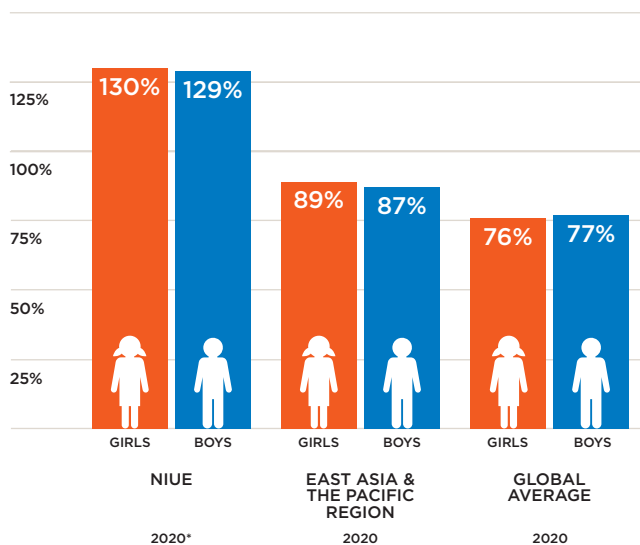
### Early Childhood Education Gross Enrolment Rates in Niue



### Primary Gross Enrolment Rates in Niue



### Secondary Gross Enrolment Rates in Niue



Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#)

There is [one primary and one secondary school](#) in Niue. According to UNESCO data, the GER for primary education was 139% for girls and 138% for boys in 2020. In the latest available data, from 2016, the gross intake ratio to the last grade of primary education was 92.3% of girls and 130.8% of boys. Further data is required to understand the mechanisms behind this, as gross intake ratio can be impacted by early or late enrolment as well as repetition of grades.

The GER for secondary education was 130% for girls and 129% for boys in 2020. In 2015, the Pacific Community reported that previously gendered subjects such as

carpentry, mechanics, cooking, and sewing were [now undertaken by both boys and girls](#) in Niue. In 2020, 1.5% of girls and 14.5% of boys in secondary education were [enrolled in technical and vocational training](#).

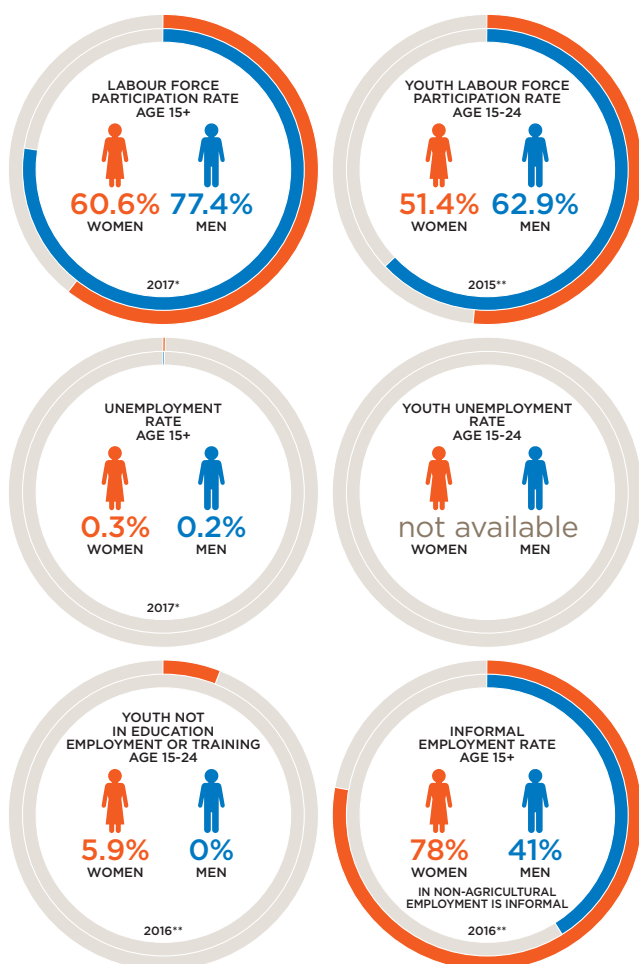
UNICEF [reported in 2017](#) that there has been an increase in the number of Niuean girls and women attending tertiary education, although up-to-date figures on the rate of male and female tertiary enrolment are not available. In the [2017 Census](#), 19.8% of men and 21.4% of women over the age of 25 held tertiary qualifications, while 22.0% of men and 10.7% of women held trade certifications. In 2011, 21.5% of men and 24.8% of women aged 25 and over held tertiary qualifications, and 16.7% of men and 4.7% of women held trade certifications. Further research is required in order to understand the changing gender dynamics in tertiary education. Women [received 50% of government education scholarships](#) in 2016, down from 65% on 2015.

Across the University's 11 national campuses, [54% of enrolled students were female](#) in 2013, and [Niue's campus had the lowest rate of female enrolment](#) at approximately 25%. The enrolment rate of men and women in tertiary education in Niue is sensitive to large annual fluctuations due to the small population size and low overall enrolment numbers, and is likely impacted by flows of students travelling to study abroad. In the [2017 Census](#), 20.0% of women and 8.5% of men who stated that they would be living overseas in the following year selected education as their main reason for leaving.

As of April 2020, 204 female students and 190 male students had been [affected by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Further research is required in order to understand the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education of girls and boys in Niue.

## Women's Economic Empowerment

### Economic Empowerment Indicators in Niue



\* Source: [2017 Census](#)

\*\* Source: [Household Income and Expenditure Survey](#)

In the [2017 Census](#), the labour force participation rate was 60.6% for women and 77.4% for men over the age of 15. In [data from the 2015-2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey](#) (HIES), the labour force for adults over the age of 15 was 60.4% for women and 69.3% for men. Among youth aged 15-24, the labour force participation rate was 51.4% for women and 62.9% for men in the HIES. In 2016, the [informal sector constituted 77.8% of female](#) and 40.9% of male non-agricultural employment. Among the 1,144 Niueans who were over the age of 15 in the 2017 Census, one man and two women recorded that they were unemployed, resulting in a 0.2% male and 0.3% female unemployment rate. Men were more likely to have unpaid employment, most notably due to producing goods for own consumption (1.7% of men and 0.2% of women). Women were more likely to be outside of the

labour force; 22.8% of men and 39.7% of women over the age of 15 were outside of the labour force. The main reason for not being in the labour force was retirement for both men and women, although women were significantly more likely to be outside of the labour force due to home duties; 14.7% of the female and 3.5% of the male population over the age of 15 were in this category.

In 2016, 5.9% of women and 0.0% of men between the ages of 15 and 24 were [not in education, employment or training](#). There is a [reported skills gap](#) for young people moving from education to employment, which has been identified as requiring additional mentoring and capacity building for young employees.

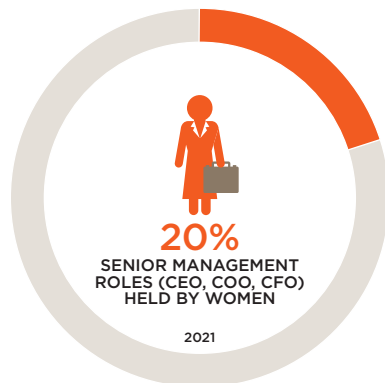
In the [2015/2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey](#), employment in the public sector was found to be the most common economic activity for both men and women, at 41.1% and 39.7% respectively. Men were more likely to be employed in the private sector than women (20.0% of men and 11.8% of women), while women were more likely to be homemakers (2.9% of men and 14.2% of women), students (6.9% of men and 7.8% of women), and retired/too old to work (8.6% of men and 14.2% of women). Nationally, 43% of households received pensions in 2016, and [18% of the population were over the age of 60](#) in 2017. In 2013, [13% of the population were in vulnerable employment](#); Niue was therefore in line with the Millennium Development Goals' objective of 'full and productive employment'.

The most common industries of employment for women in the [2017 Census](#) were *administrative and support service activities* (18.0% of female employment, 5.7% of male employment), *education* (13.0% of female employment, 4.5% of male employment), and *accommodation and food service activities* (10.2% of female employment, 5.9% of male employment).

In a [2021 analysis](#) of 10 Niue organisations, 20% of senior management personnel – including Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers, and Chief Operating Officers – were women in Niue. The most common occupation groups for women in the [2017 Census](#) were *professionals* (19.7% of women, 11.9% of men), *service and sales workers* (18.8% of women, 11.4% of men), *technicians and associate professionals* (18.6% of women, 9.3% of men), and *clerical support workers* (18.3% of women, 3.1% of men). The most common occupation group for men was *craft and trade related work* (1.1% of women, 20.9% of men).



## Women in Senior Management in Niue



Source: [Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative](#)

Gender stereotypes in the workplace impact the roles undertaken by men and women in Niue. Men are reportedly [under-represented in nursing and teaching positions](#), although the exact gender-composition of these professions is not known. There is also evidence to suggest that in the majority of households [women spend more time than men on cooking, cleaning, and caring responsibilities](#), and this is believed to hold true regardless of women's economic participation outside of the home.

Women's economic empowerment is impacted by access to finance, however further research is required in order to understand the challenges faced by Niuean women in this respect.

As per the [Public Service Regulations 2004](#), women in the public sector who have been in their current employment for a minimum period of 12 months are entitled to receive up to 60 days of maternity leave on full pay, plus an additional 30 days at half-pay. Male public service employees are entitled to five consecutive days of paternity leave with pay. There are [no regulations regarding the provision of parental leave in the private sector](#), and no regulations or policies regarding workplace sexual harassment in either the public or private sectors. Niue is not a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and so has not signed or ratified any of the ILO's fundamental, governance, or technical conventions.

The COVID-19 pandemic had had wide-ranging economic implications throughout the globe. The concentration of female employment in the informal sector as well as in accommodation and food service activities in Niue means that women are particularly vulnerable to the economic impacts of COVID-19. In 2018, tourism – a sector particularly impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions – [contributed approximately 41.0% of Niue's GDP](#). In April 2020, Niue approved a [US\\$ 4.1-million COVID-19 stimulus package](#), including wage subsidies for affected businesses. Additionally, the Niue Development Bank offered businesses loan repayment holidays, and the government offered tax relief on imports. The measures, however, neither targeted women's economic security nor aimed to address violence against women during the pandemic.

## Health/Sexual and Reproductive Health

As of 2017, the [life expectancy](#) in Niue was 75.2 years for women and 72.5 years for men. In 2016, the [mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease](#) among 30-69 year olds in Niue was 18.5%. Sex-disaggregated data from the [Statistics and Immigration Office](#) shows that, between 2012 and 2016, the leading causes of death for women in Niue were heart disease (accounting for 10.2% of total female deaths during this period), cancer (8.2%), diabetes (6.1%), respiratory diseases (4.1%) and infectious diseases (4.1%).

There are a number of lifestyle factors that impact the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Niue. Obesity is a significant [public health concern](#). The World Health Organization's [latest 2016 estimate of adult obesity](#) in Niue was 49.3% for both sexes (44.2% for men, 54.5% for women). [Between the ages of 5 and 19, the prevalence of obesity](#) was estimated at 29.5% for both sexes (30.8% for men and 28.1% for women). More up-to-date data is required to assess current prevalence rates and trends in obesity within the population. In the [2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey](#), 14.2% of women and 13.7% of men self-reported a diagnosis of diabetes. Diabetes was most common among older generations, with 41% of men and women over the age of 70 reporting that they had diabetes. Men and women reported comparable rates of hypertension (4.4% of women and 4.6% of men), while women were more likely to self-report that they have other ongoing

health problems, such as heart disease (17.6% of women and 8.0% of men).

Alcohol consumption in Niue is significantly higher among men than women; the [per capita annual alcohol consumption](#) was 16.0 litres of pure alcohol for men and 3.8 litres of pure alcohol for women in 2019. The age-standardised prevalence of current tobacco use was 20.1% for men and 10.8% for women in 2016.

The [total fertility rate](#) in Niue was 2.7 for the period 2012-2016. In 2017, the [adolescent fertility rate](#) among those aged 15-19 was 37 per 1,000 population. According to the [Statistics and Immigration Office](#), 8.4% of births in 2016 were to mothers between the ages of 15 and 19. In 2017, [UNICEF reported](#) the contraceptive prevalence rate in Niue to be 23%. Data on contraceptive use by age and on unmet needs for family planning is not available. While there is no recent data on the types of contraceptives used in Niue, contraceptive implants and female condoms are [not classified as essential provisions](#), nor are pregnancy tests.

### Adolescent Fertility Rate in Niue

Sustainable Development Goal target: reduce adolescent fertility rate to	Niue:
<b>less than 13 live births per 1,000</b>	<b>37 live births per 1,000</b>
women aged 15-19 by 2030	women aged 15-19 (2017)

Source: [2017 Census](#)

### Maternal Mortality Ratio in Niue

Sustainable Development Goal target: reduce maternal mortality ratio to	Niue:
<b>less than 70 per 100,000 live births</b>	<b>0 per 100,000 live births</b>
by 2030	2016

Source: [Niue Vital Statistics Report 2012-2016](#)

### Under-5 Mortality Rate in Niue

Sustainable Development Goal target: reduce under-5 mortality rate to	Niue:
<b>less than 25 per 1,000 live births</b>	<b>24.8 per 1,000 live births</b>
by 2030	2020

Source: [UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation](#)

Trends regarding maternal health are difficult to accurately measure due to the low total rate of births in the country and the fact that expectant mothers often [choose to travel to New Zealand to give birth](#). Mothers are [reportedly transferred to New Zealand](#) if there is no doctor in residence who can perform a caesarean or if there are potential birth complications, as Niueans are entitled to free healthcare in New Zealand under their New Zealand citizenship. Nevertheless, Niue performs well in indicators of maternal health; 100% of pregnant women receive at least one antenatal health care visit and [100% of births are attended by skilled health personnel](#) in 2011. There have been [no reported maternal deaths since 1982](#). There is a lack of recent data on anaemia prevalence in Niue. World Health Organization data for the period 1993-2005 found a [32% prevalence rate of anaemia among pregnant women](#) and 12% prevalence rate among non-pregnant women, suggesting that anaemia is a public health concern in Niue.

The [UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation \(IGME\)](#) estimated Niue's 2020 under-5 mortality rate at 24.8 deaths per 1000 live births; infant mortality rate at 20.97 deaths per 1000 live births; and neonatal mortality rate at 13.06 deaths per 1000 live births.

In a 2011 report, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child [reported](#) that there had been identified cases of chlamydia in Niue but no identified cases of syphilis or gonorrhoea between 2009 and 2011. Recent data on community awareness of sexually transmitted infections and on prevalence rates, including age- and sex-disaggregated data, is not available. As of 2017, there are [no recorded cases of HIV/AIDS](#) in Niue. In partnership with UNAIDS, [UNDP operates HIV/AIDS programming in Niue](#) working with key populations whose access to testing and prevention services is impacted by stigma and discrimination, such as female sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender people.



A [survey of teachers, principals, students, and parents conducted in 2015](#) concluded that the curriculum regarding sexual reproductive health and HIV in schools was considered to be inadequate at both the primary and secondary level. There are conflicting reports regarding the implications of teenage pregnancy and motherhood in Niue. In 2011, the Committee on the Rights of the Child [reported](#) that teenage pregnancy is not considered taboo and that young mothers regularly receive support from their family and community if they wish to continue with their education. Conversely, UNESCO [reported](#) in 2015 that students are not allowed to continue their schooling during pregnancy and often do not return to school following the birth of a child due to stigma in the community as well as their new childcare responsibilities.

As [reported by the World Health Organization in 2013](#), estimates from 2004 suggest that approximately 13% of the adult population have a mental health condition. There is a lack of specialist mental health professionals in Niue and there are no psychiatric facilities at the Niue Fook hospital. Patients, including those with mental health concerns, may be transferred to New Zealand for treatment if their case is viewed to be severe or beyond the treatment capabilities of Niue's healthcare system. The cost of attending the appointment is covered for the patient and the medical care is free to access since Niueans are citizens of New Zealand. According to the [2019 Niue Global School-based Student Health Survey](#), girls between the ages of 13 and 17 were more likely to report mental health concerns than their male counterparts; 29.2% of girls and 10.0% of boys surveyed stated that they had seriously considered suicide during the 12 months prior to the survey. Furthermore, 14.1% of girls and 8.0% of boys stated that they had attempted suicide during the 12 months prior to the survey.

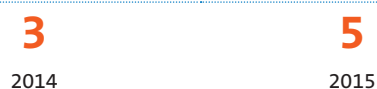
Data indicating the health-seeking behaviours of women and men is limited. In the 2015 [Stocktake of Gender Mainstreaming in Niue](#), the Pacific Community stated that women seek both mental and physical health services more than men. There are cultural and social barriers that impact the health-seeking behaviours of women and men in Niue. The small population size means that there are potential issues surrounding

confidentiality in healthcare as well as an actual or perceived lack of anonymity in the community. This has been [identified as impacting on adolescent sexual and reproductive healthcare-seeking behaviours](#). There is no specific legislation mandating the age of consent for independent medical advice in Niue and, as a result, matters relating to confidentiality and consent rely on the provider's professional judgement. Perceptions of mental illness can also [stigmatise help-seeking](#) and lead to discrimination in the community.

## Ending Violence against Women and Girls

A number of international organisations have [identified violence against women and girls as a significant problem in Niue](#), although there is a lack of comprehensive recent data on this issue. Niue has not conducted a family health and safety study and much of the evidence regarding the prevalence of violence against women and children is anecdotal. Qualitative interview data with police and government officials [reportedly suggests](#) that intimate partner violence is more common than non-partner violence. In 2015, there were [five police incident reports filed for domestic violence](#); this is an increase from three incidents reported in 2014.

### Incident Police Reports on Domestic Violence in Niue



Source: [Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration Trend Assessment Report](#)

[Previous research](#) by UNICEF noted that sexual violence against children below the age of 15 occurs 'regularly' and that teenage pregnancies often occur as a result of incest or an unequal power dynamic between young girls, their mothers, and older men from outside of the family. Additional data on this topic is unavailable. UNICEF further stated in 2017 that incidences of incest and child sexual abuse are generally resolved outside of formal law enforcement channels, for example through mediation with church or village elders.

Violence against women and girls is [considered to be a taboo subject in Niue](#) and such violence may be considered to be a private family matter. This further discourages help-seeking among victims. In 2016, it was [reported](#) that there was a lack of services for victims of domestic violence, for example no safe house or

counselling services available. Stereotypes regarding masculinity and the role of men and women in Niue's society have been identified as [contributing to a culture of impunity](#) and a lack of action on violence against women and girls.

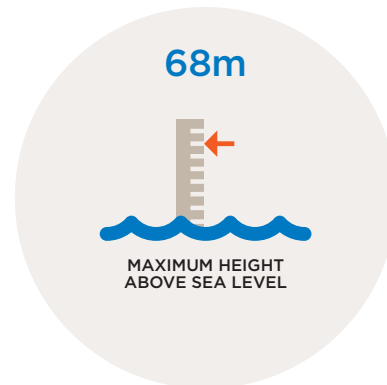
A new family law bill has [been in discussion in Niue since 2007](#). The proposed bill [would include a 'no-drop policy'](#) whereby cases of domestic violence are required to progress through the legal system regardless of whether a victim attempts to withdraw the charges. Such a policy is designed to prevent victim intimidation and coercion, and to discourage the promotion of reconciliation procedures as a resolution to domestic violence incidents. The Niue Police Department [joined the Pacific Prevention of Domestic Violence Programme in 2007-2011 \(initial duration\)](#) and reportedly introduced a soft no-drop policy, although the terms of this measure are unclear.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, rates of intimate partner violence increased throughout the globe. Increased time spent at home with abusive partners during lockdowns, increased triggers for perpetrators during times of stress and uncertainty, and reduced access to support services during the pandemic have been [identified as factors contributing to the increased rate of intimate partner and familial violence](#). Analysis of trends in violence against women and girls in Niue during the COVID-19 pandemic is not possible due to a lack of available data.

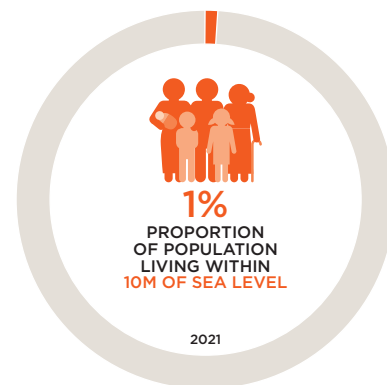
## Gender and Protection in Humanitarian Action

There is a lack of data on the current and future impacts of disasters and climate change on women and men in Niue. Niue is [vulnerable to a number of climate-related risks](#) including extreme weather events such as cyclones and droughts, and increased incidence of vector-borne diseases. The population is also [vulnerable to water-borne diseases following natural disasters](#) due to reliance on rainwater and underground water reserves. Niue is not included within the World Risk Index for disaster risk, or in the Global Climate Risk Index.

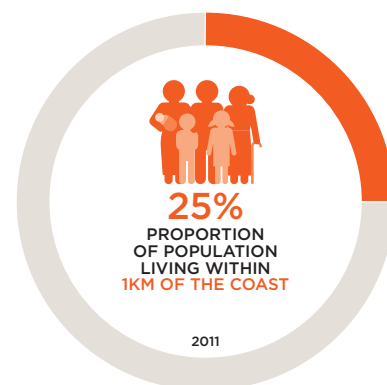
## Climate and Disaster profile of Niue



Source: [Pacific Community \(SPC\)](#)



Source: [Pacific Community \(SPC\)](#)



Source: [Pacific Community \(SPC\)](#)

## Main Climate-Related Hazards



Source: [World Health Organization](#)

Unlike many atoll nations, Niue is a raised atoll with a [maximum height](#) of 68m above sea. An estimated 1% of the population [live within 10m of sea level](#), with a total of 3% living within 20m of sea level. Despite the islands' height from the sea, Niue's infrastructure is vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather such as tropical cyclones. In 2004, for example, [Cyclone Heta destroyed Niue's only hospital](#). The replacement Niue Foou Hospital was subsequently built further inland to offer greater protection from extreme weather events. As [noted by UNICEF in 2017](#), Niue's education system is also vulnerable to the impact of extreme weather events. The gendered nature of such events in Niue is not known, although at a global level women are known to be more vulnerable to disasters both during the event and in the aftermath.

The representation of women in climate and humanitarian decision-making, preparedness, and response in Niue is not known from publicly available information.

Niue's [National Disaster Plan 2010](#) and the [Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change 2012](#) govern the country's planning and response to disasters. The Joint National Action Plan does not mention gender. One of the five key goals of the Plan is to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response. Action 5.1.2 under this goal includes the training of village councils, non-government organisations, community groups, and households in disaster preparedness, response and recovery, with the

aim of ensuring vulnerable groups within communities are considered within disaster preparedness plans. The Plan does not provide a definition of which groups are classified as vulnerable. The Niue National Disaster Plan of 2010 does not mention gender or the vulnerability of any particular groups.

[As of April 2022](#), there have been seven confirmed COVID-19 cases and no COVID-19-related deaths in Niue. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the lives of both women and men in Niue. Further research is required in order to understand the gendered-impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Niue and its long-term effects on Niuean women and girls.



## Appendix 1: Country Background

Capital	Alofi
Population	1,549 (2021)
GDP per capita (USD)	\$18,757 (2018)
Human Development Index	Not available
Type of Government	Niue is a parliamentary democracy in free association with New Zealand under the Niue Constitution Act 1974. <a href="#">The system of government</a> is based on the Westminster system.
Women in Legislature	<a href="#">Three out of 20</a> (15%) of elected Assembly members are women as of March 2022.
Legal System	The legal system is <a href="#">based on English Common Law</a> , administered by the High Court which has full civil and criminal jurisdiction.
<a href="#">Ratified Human Rights Conventions</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full treaty-making capacity of Niue was <a href="#">recognized by the United Nations in 1994</a>. Prior to this, Niue <a href="#">ratified four human rights conventions by association with New Zealand</a>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (Signed 1972)</li> <li>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)(Signed 1978)</li> <li>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)(Signed 1978)</li> <li>The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Signed 1985).</li> </ul> </li> <li>Since the full treaty-making capacity of Niue was recognized in 1994, Niue has <a href="#">signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child</a> (CRC) (Accession 1995). Niue has not signed the Optional Protocols to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.</li> <li>Niue has not signed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</li> <li>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</li> <li>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) or the Optional Protocol on CAT.</li> <li>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Urban vs. Rural Women (%)	<a href="#">44% of the population was urban</a> in 2017 (sex-disaggregated data not available).
Female-Headed Households (%)	<a href="#">27.7% of household heads were women</a> in 2017.
Women in the Workforce	In 2016, <a href="#">77.8% of female and 40.9% of male non-agricultural employment was informal</a> .
Women CEOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women were reported in 2017 to hold <a href="#">38.2% of management and decision-making positions</a>, including politicians, senior government officials, and corporate and general managers in both the public and private sector.</li> <li><a href="#">Women held the most senior director-level positions in three of the nine government departments</a> assessed in a 2015 report.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Women comprised <a href="#">11% of the senior management</a> positions in the public sector in 2016.</li> <li>In a 2021 <a href="#">analysis</a> of 10 Niue organisations, 20% of senior management positions (including Chief Executive Officers, Chief Financial Officers, and Chief Operating Officers) were women.</li> </ul>
Women on Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women held <a href="#">3% of seats on state owned boards</a> in 2016.</li> <li>In a 2021 <a href="#">analysis</a> of 10 Niue organisations, 29% of Directors were women.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> The following departments were analysed: Department of Community Affairs, Department of Education, The Secretariat to the Public Service Commission, Meteorology Office, Statistics Office, Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Health, Department of Treasury.

## Appendix 1: Country Background (continued)

Niue is a [self-governing state in free association with New Zealand](#). As part of the free association relationship with New Zealand, Niue may conduct its own foreign relations and may join international organisations and sign treaties in its own right. New Zealand provides necessary administrative and economic assistance to Niue in addition to assistance with foreign affairs, security and defence as requested by Niue's government. The country consists of a single raised coral atoll with a [total land area of 260km<sup>2</sup>](#) and is situated approximately 480km east of Tonga. The capital, Alofi, is located on the western coast of the island and is Niue's only urban area. In 2017, an estimated [44% of the population resided in Alofi](#).

The population of Niue was approximately [1,549](#) in 2021. An estimated [24,000 Niueans were living in New Zealand](#) as of 2017. Niueans are New Zealand citizens and therefore have the accompanying rights to live and work in both New Zealand and Australia. The [main countries of origin](#) for people living in Niue are Niue, New Zealand, Australia, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Fiji.

## Appendix 2: Country Commitments on Gender

### International Commitments

Gender Commitments	Status	Actions
<a href="#">Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</a>	Ratified by association with New Zealand in 1985	<p>New Zealand, and by association Niue, ratified CEDAW in 1985. The <a href="#">full treaty-making capacity of Niue was recognized by the United Nations</a> in 1994. Niue has not independently signed or ratified CEDAW.</p> <p>A draft CEDAW compliance assessment was produced in 2001, and <a href="#">reportedly</a> found a number of areas of legislation that were not compliant with CEDAW and required revision to align with international standards. There is no legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.</p>
<a href="#">Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</a>	Signed 1995	<p>The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, produced at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, laid out comprehensive commitments for the global attainment of women's empowerment and gender-equality.</p> <p>A <a href="#">regional analysis</a> of progress on the Beijing Platform for Action and Sustainable Development Goals published in 2020 found that Niue has maintained good maternal healthcare provisions and outcomes.</p> <p>Niue did not submit a 25-year national review report as required by January 2021.</p>
<a href="#">Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration</a>	Signed 2012 <a href="#">Regional review</a> published in 2016	<p>A <a href="#">2016 progress report</a> noted that although women actively participate in village councils in Niue, there was still an under-representation of women in senior management and decision-making positions. There were no steps taken toward Temporary Special Measures (TSMs) to increase women's representation in parliament.</p>



## Appendix 2: Country Commitments on Gender (continued)

### National Commitments

Gender Commitments	Status	Actions
<b>Voluntary National Review</b>	n.d.	Niue has not conducted a Voluntary National Review
<b>National Gender Policy</b>	Draft - not yet published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Niue <a href="#">finalized a draft Gender Policy in 2016</a>.</li> <li>The draft policy identifies four priority areas where attention is required:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy, safe and harmonious families;</li> <li>Developing the full potential of women and men for economic development and food security;</li> <li>Women and men participate equitably in decision-making bodies and leadership positions in all sectors;</li> <li>Gender-responsive government policies and programmes are implemented in all sectors.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Family Law Bill</b>	Draft – not yet published	<p>A new family law bill has been <a href="#">in discussions in Niue for the past decade</a>. The proposed bill <a href="#">would include a ‘no-drop policy’</a> whereby cases of domestic violence are required to progress through the legal system regardless of whether a victim attempts to withdraw the charges.</p> <p>The development and consultation of the bill aims to increase awareness of domestic violence in Niue.</p>