



IN BRIEF



GENDER EQUALITY BRIEF FOR TOKELAU

Women's Human Rights

The [Constitution of Tokelau](#) states a belief in the respect for the rights of all individuals and in non-discrimination. As per the Constitution, human rights within Tokelau are prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2 of which prohibits discrimination on the basis of a variety of characteristics, including sex. As citizens of New Zealand, [Tokelauans are entitled to hold New Zealand passports](#) and to live and work in New Zealand. There is no gender-discrimination in the citizenship and immigration rights of Tokelauans.

In Tokelau, there is a distinct difference between the roles expected of women and men. Traditionally, women possess relatively high status based on their [right to occupy property owned by their kin groups](#), and their role in managing the running of the home. It is [traditional for men to move to their wife's house](#) when they marry.

Land rights in Tokelau are considered inalienable on the basis that [land cannot be sold](#). All Tokelauan residents either have rights to the land or are married to people who possess land rights. In research from 1991 which examined the Tokelauan atoll of Nukunonu, the [responsibility of land tenure was found to be placed upon tamatane](#) (the male descendants of the sons of the founder of the ancestral unit). In comparison, *tamafafine* (the female descendants of the daughters of the founder of the ancestral unit) were responsible for 'division of produce' that had been accrued from the labour of the male descendants.

According to the [Tokelau Marriage Registrations Act of 1986](#), the minimum age for marriage is 16 for women and 18 for men. However, a marriage officer cannot record or legally wed a man under 21, or a woman under 19 without the written consent from at least one of the parents on each side of the marriage parties. In the [2016 Census](#), 5.3% of 15-19 year olds were recorded as married. The data is not disaggregated by sex.

Legal Marriage Age in Tokelau

Internationally accepted age:



Tokelau – with parental consent:

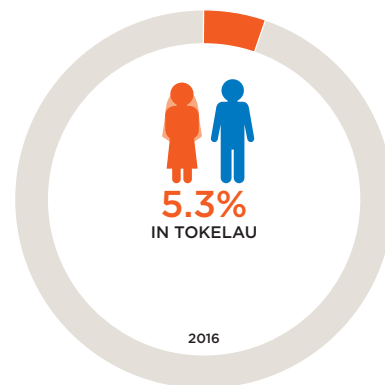


Tokelau – without parental consent:



Source: [Parliamentary Council Office](#)

Adolescent marriage rate in Tokelau



Source: [2016 Census](#)

Sexual offences are dictated by the [Crimes, Procedure and Evidence Rules 2003](#). 'Carnal knowledge' with a child under the age of 16 is a criminal offence: belief that the victim was over the age of 16 is not considered to be a viable defence. The term 'carnal knowledge' is not directly defined within the *Rules*, however, as [noted](#) by UNICEF in 2017, the language can be interpreted to mean that the age of consent for sexual activity in Tokelau is 16 for girls. There is no minimum age of consent for boys. In a [2014 student health survey](#), 20.1% of girls and 39.7% of boys aged 13-17 reported that they had had sexual intercourse. Under the *Crimes, Procedure and Evidence Rules*, 'adultery and fornication' and 'unmarried persons living together' are considered to be offences.

Consensual same-sex relations have been [legal in Tokelau since 2007](#). Same sex marriage is not recognised in Tokelau and Tokelau is not a signatory of the UN Human Rights Council's 2011 [Joint Statement on Ending Acts of Violence and Related Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#).

Tokelau's [first female Minister of the Ongoing Government](#) was elected in 2014. Tokelau's *General Fono* has [reportedly previously considered introducing Temporary Special Measures \(TSM\)](#) in order to increase women's political representation. None are currently in place. A consultant involved in the discussions regarding TSMs stated that some in the *General Fono* may feel that women's representation will naturally increase over time – without requiring TSMs – given that women were already reportedly well represented in village councils. According to a 2016 [report](#) to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, many women were opposed the introductions of TSMs on the basis that seats should be won solely on merit.

Governance and Participation in Public Life

Tokelau has been a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand since it ceased to be a British Protectorate in 1926. In practice, [Tokelau is mostly self-governing](#) due to a progressive transfer of authority in recent years. Legislative and administrative powers lie with the village Councils of Elders, the *Tuapulega*, who manage all services at the village level. Authority over issues of national and international significance is delegated to the national assembly, the *General Fono*. The *General Fono* consists of seven representatives from Atafu and Nukunonu, and eight representatives from Fakaofu, who are elected for a three year period. The *General Fono* meets three times a year. The Council of the Ongoing Government of Tokelau is based in Apia, Samoa, and consists of elected village heads, *Faipule*, and mayors, *Pulenuku*, from each of the three atolls. The Council of the Ongoing Government forms a connection between traditional village governing structures and the national assembly.

Four of the 22 members of the *General Fono* are women (18.2% female representation in the national parliament).¹ General elections take place every 3 years, with the next in January 2023.

Local governance is male-dominated in all three atolls. Traditionally, the [Fono o Taupulega](#) on Nukunonu and Fakaofu are comprised of male elders (known as *toeaina*), whilst on Atafu, there are male elders as well as *matai* elected to sit on the *fono*. Generally, *matai* refer to titled male family heads who are capable of making decisions with regards to land rights. [In 2010](#) women comprised 4 out of 35 village council members (11.4%) in Nukunonu, 1 out of 16 village council members (6.3%) in Fakaofu, and 0 out of 25 in Atafu. Overall, 6.6% of village council members in Tokelau were female in 2010.

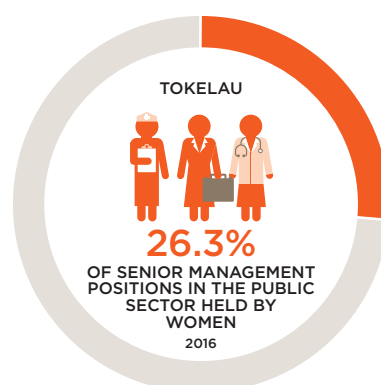
In 2016, [five of the 19 senior management positions in the public sector](#) were held by women (26.3%). The gender composition of Board Director and Chair positions in Tokelau is not known.

Female Representation in National Parliament in Tokelau



Source: Government of Tokelau, [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) March 2022

Women in the Public Service in Tokelau



Source: [Government of New Zealand](#)

1 Government of Tokelau, 2022.

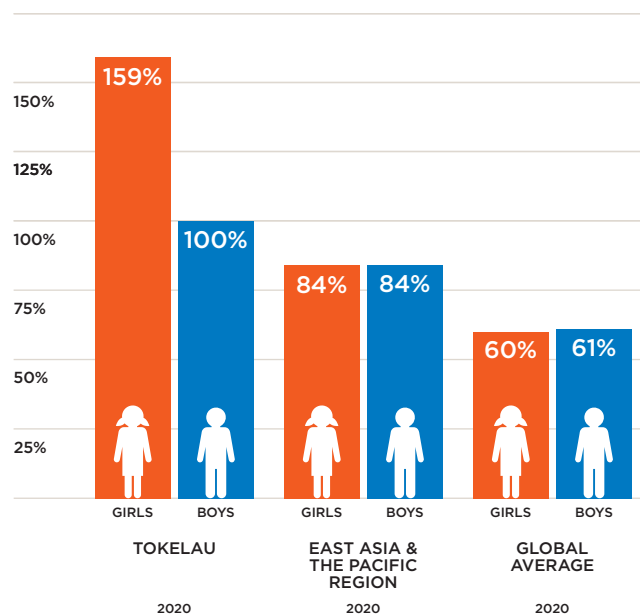
The [court system](#) in Tokelau consists of the Commissioner’s Court and Appeal Committee of each village, the High Court of Tokelau, and the Court of Appeal. The High Court of New Zealand and the Court of Appeal of New Zealand act as the High Court and Court of Appeal for Tokelau. The gender composition of these courts is therefore determined by the New Zealand Judiciary. Each village has a Commissioner’s Court consisting of a Law Commissioner and a Court Clerk, and an Appeal Committee of 3-4 members selected by the *Taupulega* Council of Elders. In the [most recent annual report](#) for the Tokelau judiciary (2015-18), 100% of Law Commissioners were male. In the [latest available sex-disaggregated data](#) from 2012-13, the police force across Atafu, Fakaofu, and Nukunonu contained 16 individuals, two of whom (12.5%) were women.

Education

Education in Tokelau is [free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15](#), from primary to secondary school. There are only three schools in Tokelau: one for each atoll that provide education for a total of approximately 400 students. Each of the three schools offers education from early childhood to Year 13. Early childhood education is free but not compulsory. There are a number of optional, free transitional and foundational courses available at the University of South Pacific for Years 12 and 13.

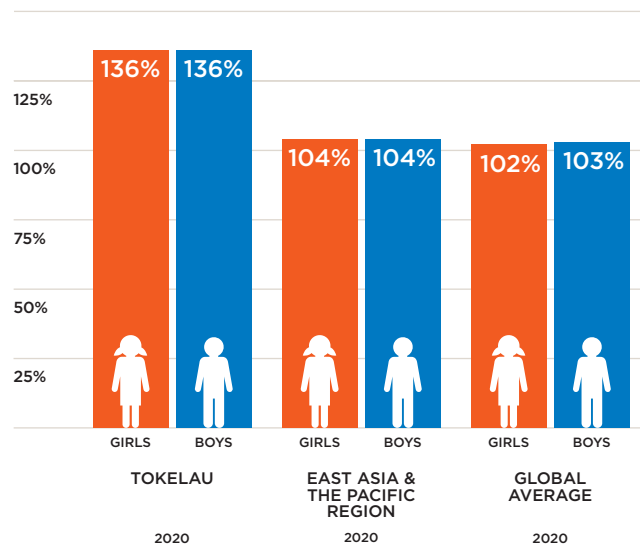
According to [data](#) from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for early childhood education was 159% for girls and 100% for boys in 2020. A Gross Enrolment Rate above 100% indicates that there are a significant number of over- or under-age children enrolled within the specified education level.

Early Childhood Education Gross Enrolment Rates in Tokelau



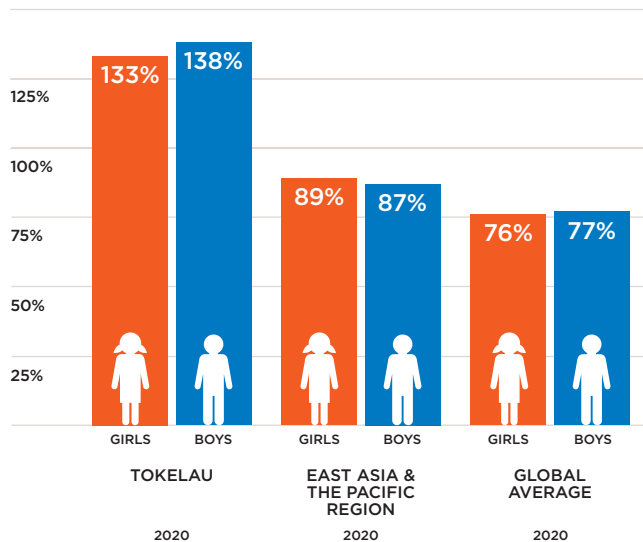
Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#)

Primary Gross Enrolment Rates in Tokelau



Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#)

Secondary Gross Enrolment Rates in Tokelau



Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#)

In 2019, the **Net Enrolment Rate (NER)** for primary education in Tokelau was 97%. Sex-disaggregated NER for primary education are not available. UIS [data](#) shows the GER for primary education in 2020 was 136% for both girls and boys. For secondary education the GER was 133% for girls and 138% for boys in 2020, while the NER was 100% for girls and 98% for boys in 2019.

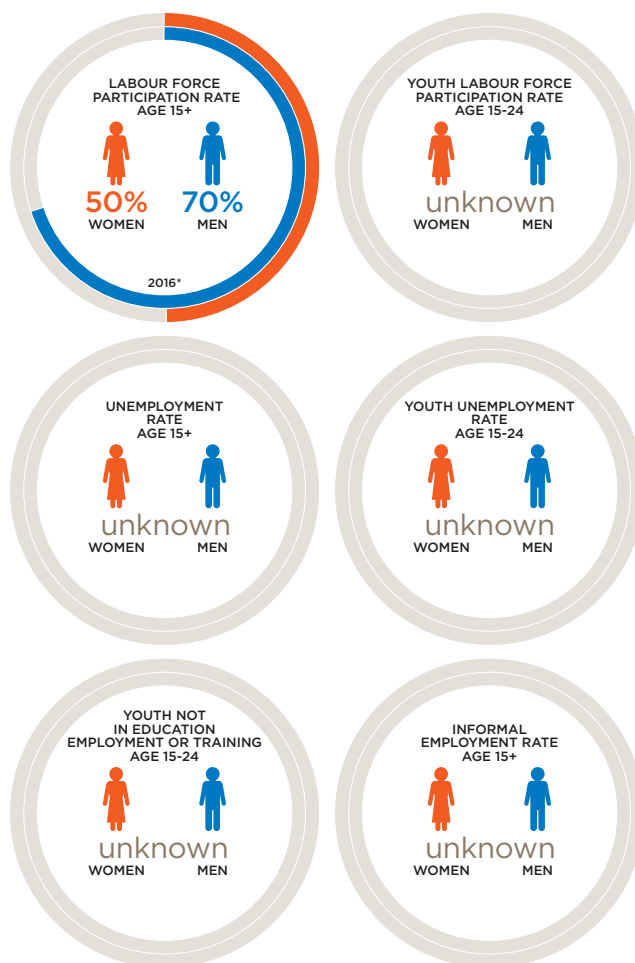
According to the [2016 Census](#), 31.3% of women and 29.6% of men above the age of 15 had no school qualifications. Despite a slightly higher proportion of women with no qualifications, 54.6% of those who reported taking part in education post-secondary were female. In the 2016 Census, 8.8% of men and 5.1% of women held trade certificates, while women were more likely to have degree-level certificates such as a bachelor's or postgraduate degree. At the time of the 2016 Census, there was a greater proportion of women (7.9%) studying at the tertiary level than men (3.1%).

Residents of Tokelau are known to regularly travel overseas for schooling and education purposes. In the 2016 Census, 20.1% of the usual resident population (20.5% of males and 19.8% of females) were overseas on the night of the Census count, 35% of whom were recorded as being overseas for the purposes of schooling or education.

Legislation on inclusive education to support students with disabilities was introduced in 2018, as the [Tokelau Inclusive Education Policy](#). Special/inclusive education is a mandatory part of teacher training.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Economic Empowerment Indicators in Tokelau



* Source: [Tokelau National Statistics Office](#)

In the [2016 Census](#), 79.2% of Tokelau's residents aged 15 and over reported they were engaged in some form of unpaid labour in the week prior to the Census. 59.8% reported that they were engaged in paid labour, while 50.9% reported that they had been engaged in both the paid and unpaid labour in the previous week.²

Disaggregated by sex, women had a lower participation rate in paid labour in the 2016 Census at 49.9%, compared to men's 70.0%. More men (81.4%) than women (77.0%) reported that they were involved in unpaid labour, while

² Note that in the 2016 census, the labour force status survey counted respondents in each group based on response options. Percentages do not sum to 100%. The survey counted people reporting in five different labour force categories (i.e. unpaid, paid, paid and unpaid, non-labour force, no response).

59.9% of men and 42.0% of women were engaged in both paid and unpaid work. 15.2% of women and 8.5% men reported that they were outside of the labour force and not engaged in any paid or unpaid work in the week prior to the Census. Across all three atolls, most people in paid employment worked as labourers, and within agriculture and fisheries. In the 2016 Census, 39.7% of Tokelau's employed population worked in these sectors, down from 44.1% in 2011.

Certain jobs are [held predominantly or exclusively by women](#)—such as caring and support roles—whilst some occupations are held by a majority or exclusivity of men—for instance, construction, technology and trade. The occupational analysis in the 2016 Census classified people engaged in paid labour force in six categories: (1) legislators, administrators and managers; (2) professionals; (3) technicians and trade workers; (4) clerical and administrative workers; (5) labourers, agriculture and fisheries workers; (6) others. Among the Tokelauan women who reported being in paid employment, 42.4% were labourers, agricultural and fisheries workers, followed by 37.9% who were professionals and 10.3% who were clerical and administrative workers. Less than 7% of the surveyed women who reported having paid employment belong to the 'legislators, administrators and managers' category, and 1.5% reported themselves as technicians and trade workers.

Among the Tokelauan men who reported being in paid employment in the 2016 Census, 37.8% were working as labourers, agricultural and fisheries workers, followed by 27.9% who were professionals. 20.1% worked as technicians and trade workers; approximately 8% as legislators, administrators and managers, and 4.6% as administrative workers.

According to the 2016 Census, 79.2% of the population was engaged in unpaid work. This was below the 84.5% rate reported in the 2011 Census. In 2016, men were more likely than women to engage in village fishing (3.0% of women, 59.4% of men), while women were more likely than men to contribute to village weaving (37.5% of women, 4.1% of men). Women were more likely than men to care for children in their own household (80.6%

of women, 52.7% of men) or other households (43.4% of women, 26.0% of men).

Tokelau is not a member of the [International Labour Organization](#) (ILO) in its own right. However, the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention apply to Tokelau through ratification by New Zealand in 1983. *The Public Service Code of Conduct* prohibits discrimination, bullying, and harassment in the workplace. *The Public Service Code of Conduct* also [provides 30 days of paid maternity leave](#) to women who have been employed in public service for at least a year. There is no national parental leave legislation.

Health/Sexual and Reproductive Health

The [healthcare system in Tokelau](#) is comprised of clinics within each village which have their own General Practitioner and several nurses. Village clinics offer primary and preventative health care services. Medical services and treatments within these clinics are free of charge for Tokelauans. For cases where further medical attention is required a Patient Referral Scheme escalates treatment to Apia hospital in Samoa, or Wellington Hospital in New Zealand. The [life expectancy](#) at birth in Tokelau was 70.4 for women and 67.8 for men in 2010.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are an ongoing concern in Tokelau: in the most recent WHO data from 2013, 67.8% of women and 58.6% of men over the age of 15 were [classified as obese](#), while a total of 89.3% of women and 82.9% of men were either overweight or obese. More up-to-date data is required in order to assess current trends in obesity. Incidences of diabetes were on the rise, according to the [2015/2016 Household Income and Expenditure](#) (HIES) report. Almost 60% of persons aged 20 to 59 reported using tobacco in the week preceding the survey. People aged 40-44 reported the highest rate of tobacco smoking, at 75%. Additionally, 41% of the population (54% of men and 29% of women) aged 10 or over reported consuming alcohol in the week prior to survey.

Tokelau is potentially facing a 'triple burden' of diseases. Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and cancer are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Tokelau.

According to an [analysis of available civil registration records from 2014-2018](#), 75% of all deaths for Tokelau were a result of NCDs.

The [total fertility rate](#) in Tokelau was 3.8 births per woman in the most recent statistics from 2016. The most up-to-date information on adolescent pregnancy rates in Tokelau is from 2011. The [adolescent birth rate](#) was estimated at 30 births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 in 2011. As [noted](#) by UNICEF in 2017, this is a noticeable decrease since 1997–2001, when it was estimated that the adolescent birth rate was 41 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. These statistics place the adolescent birth rate in Tokelau significantly above the East Asia and Pacific regional average of 20 births per 1,000 women. The most recent neo-natal, infant, and maternal mortality rates are 0, although the low overall number of births in the country means that these rates are subject to large potential increases if any deaths do occur. It is reported that 100% of births were attended by a skilled health professional.

Adolescent Fertility Rate in Tokelau

Sustainable Development Goal target: reduce adolescent fertility rate to	Tokelau:
less than 13 live births per 1,000	30 live births per 1,000
women aged 15-19 by 2030	2011

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

Maternal Mortality Ratio in Tokelau

Sustainable Development Goal target: reduce maternal mortality ratio to	Tokelau:
less than 70 per 100,000 live births	0 per 100,000 live births
by 2030	2010

Source: [UNICEF](#)

Under-5 Mortality Rate in Tokelau

Sustainable Development Goal target: reduce under-5 mortality rate to	Tokelau:
less than 25 per 1,000 live births	0 per 1,000 live births
by 2030	2011

Source: [UNICEF](#)

[According to UNICEF](#), the high rate of adolescent pregnancy may be related to a significant unmet need for family planning. Contraception prevalence rates are not available, although a lack of condom availability in non-medical contexts reportedly contributes to a low contraceptive prevalence in Tokelau. Obtaining condoms from hospitals is seen as a ‘public declaration’ of the intention to engage in sex. Previous research suggests that, due to the lack of confidentiality, [adolescents avoid obtaining contraceptives](#).

There is insufficient recent data on sexually transmitted infection (STI) and STI prevention methods for Tokelau. A 2014 survey found that only [35.5% of youth aged 13-17 reported using protection during their last sexual intercourse](#), and that 39.1% of the surveyed students had engaged in sexual intercourse before the age of 14. This corroborates a 2008 survey which highlighted [‘sexually risky behaviour’ among Tokelau’s youth](#) (aged 15 to 24, whose status was unmarried/not living with a partner). The 2008 survey concluded that safe sex prevalence is very low in Tokelau. There were [no reported cases of HIV](#) in Tokelau as of 2017.

Further data is required to understand current trends in mental health among the Tokelauan population. In the [2014 Global School-based Student Health Survey](#), 22.5% of girls and 19.6% of boys aged 13-17 stated that they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the 12 months prior to the survey, while 23.9% of girls and 27.5% of boys stated that they had attempted suicide at least once in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Violence against Women and Girls

There is a noticeable data gap in the statistics on violence against women and girls in Tokelau. Violence against women and girls is a key public health and safety concern, however [there is little to no reliable data on gender-based violence](#) in Tokelau.

Lifetime Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in Tokelau

Ever-partnered women have experienced physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime:	Unknown
Ever-partnered women have experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime:	Unknown
Ever-partnered women have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime:	Unknown
Ever-partnered women have experienced emotional violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime:	Unknown
Ever-partnered women have experienced economic abuse from an intimate partner in their lifetime:	Unknown

Tokelauan women have criticised the current system; the Tokelau Government newsletter Te Vakai [reported in 2010](#) that offenders of sexual crimes usually only receive a minimal monetary penalty and that this discourages potential victims from coming forward.

In 2017, UNICEF highlighted that broadly, the Tokelauan community is engaged in child protection and social protection. Nevertheless, the same traditional norms may also be 'permissive of violence against women and children and dissuade against domestic violence cases being reported to formal justice authorities.'

While country-specific data is extremely limited in Tokelau, across the Pacific Island Countries and Territories, [several factors have been identified as contributors to violence against women and girls](#). Women and girls' low social status increases their vulnerability and risk of encountering violence, and the lack of female representation in traditional decision-making makes them more reliant upon male authority. Moreover, a culture of silence exists within communities where speaking on sexual violence is perceived negatively, potentially bringing great shame on the survivor, the family, as well as the perpetrator.

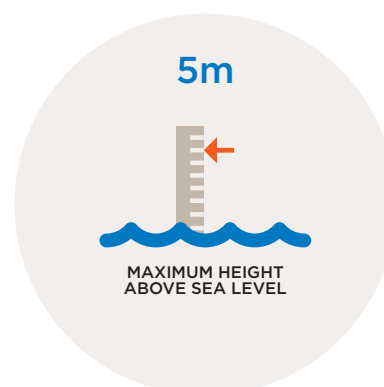
Tokelau does not have any specific policies or legislation against gender-based or intimate partner violence. Physical violence can be prosecuted under existing assault offences in [The Crimes, Procedure and Evidence Rules of 2003](#). There is no data to show what proportion of such offences are related to intimate partner or gender-based violence.

Throughout the Asia and Pacific region and beyond, [rates of intimate partner violence increased during restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Further research is required to understand how women in Tokelau have been impacted by this.

Gender and Protection in Humanitarian Action

As a small non-self-governing territory, Tokelau is often omitted from international environmental and climate hazard analysis, and as such does not appear in the World Risk Index or Global Climate Risk Index. Tokelau is nonetheless critically vulnerable to the effects of climate change, as its [atolls are 3–5m above sea level](#). The combined inhabited land area is limited to approximately 12km². [100% of the population lives within 1km of the coast](#). Rising sea-levels can directly result in habitat destruction, displacement, and an inability to reliably depend on natural resources for income and subsistence. Natural hazards such as tropical cyclones have become more frequent and severe as a result of climate change. This has [exacerbated financial and health concerns in Tokelau](#).

Climate and Disaster Profile of Tokelau



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



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

Main Climate-Related Hazards



Source: [University of New Zealand](#)

The erosion of limited arable land and coral bleaching affect the diversity of land-based produce. Erosion and bleaching have also [threatened the sustainability of fishery sources](#). There are limited sources of fresh water, as there are no water storage or collection facilities. As a result, droughts and dry spells are becoming more common. Tokelauans are increasingly reliant on imported produce and food. This negatively impacts the Tokelauan economy and national nutrition. Overall, climate change poses very significant risks to the health of Tokelauans. Further research is required to fully understand the gendered impacts of climate change in Tokelau.

The Tokelauan government has established a [2017-30 Integrated National Strategy for Enhancing the Resilience of Tokelau to Climate Change and Related Hazards](#).

Some of the key tenets of the strategy are committing Tokelau to: low-carbon development policies, integrated risk reduction and disaster resilience arrangements. The government's implementation plan for 2017-2022 recognises gender-differentiated impacts from climate change and associated natural disasters. It acknowledges that there have not been sufficient gender-differentiated,

intergenerational, or socioeconomic vulnerability assessments to demonstrate the impacts of climate change on men and women in Tokelau.

The [2010-2015 National Policy for Women of Tokelau](#) recognised the need to better prepare women for natural disasters. Recommended steps included improving women's knowledge of climate change and natural disasters and providing leadership and skills training for women to increase their participation in environmental protection and disaster preparedness. As of 2015 the Policy is now outdated. Further research is required to analyse the progress achieved under the policy and the current rates of female participation in disaster preparedness and environmental protection.

[WHO data](#) indicates that as of April 2022, Tokelau remains free of COVID-19. Approximately 1,936 vaccine doses have been administered in Tokelau as of 28 September 2021. Tokelau was not included in the [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#) by UNDP.

Appendix 1: Country Background

Capital	There is no permanent capital. The capital rotates annually between Tokelau's three atolls; Nukunonu, Atafu, and Fakaofu.
Population	1,501 (2021)
GDP per capita (USD)	\$6,882 (2019)
Human Development Index	Not available
Type of Government	<p>Tokelau has been a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand since 1926. The head of state is the British monarch. The Administrator of Tokelau is a New Zealand senior public servant appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in New Zealand to represent the British Monarch.</p> <p>In practice, Tokelau is devolved and is largely self-governed with a governmental system based on traditional village leadership. The position of Ulu-o-Tokelau, the Titular Head of State, rotates annually between leaders of the three atolls.</p>
Women in Legislature	Four out of 22 members (18.2%) of the <i>General Fono</i> are women as of March 2022, according to the Government of Tokelau, 2022.
Legal System	Tokelau is a territory of New Zealand with a parliamentary democracy, as mandated by the Tokelau Act 1948 . The legal system is a combination of British and New Zealand Acts of Parliament, rules of the Tokelau General fono, and British common law. The highest court in Tokelau is the Court of Appeal in New Zealand.
Ratified Human Rights Conventions	<p>The following human rights conventions have been signed and ratified by New Zealand, and by extension, Tokelau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) – signed 1966, ratified 1972. • International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) – signed 1968, ratified 1978. • International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) – signed 1968, ratified 1978. • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – signed 1980, ratified 1985. Optional protocol accepted in 2000. • Convention Against Torture (CAT) – signed 1986, ratified 1989. • Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) – signed 2007, ratified 2008. <p>Tokelau has not signed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).¹ • Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED). • International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW).
Urban vs. Rural Women (%)	Tokelau's population is 100% rural.
Female-Headed Households (%)	48.2% of households were headed by women in the 2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) .
Women in the Workforce	<p>In the 2016 Census, women comprised 49.9% of the paid labour force.²</p> <p>Among the women in paid employment in 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42.4% worked as labourers, agricultural and fisheries workers; • 37.9% worked as professionals; • 10.3% worked as clerical and administrative workers; • Less than 7% worked as legislators, administrators and managers; • 1.5% worked as technicians and trade workers. <p>Women represented 60% of public servants in 2016.</p>
Women CEOs	Unknown
Women on Boards	In 2016, five of the 19 senior management positions in the public sector were held by women (26.3%).

1 The CRC was signed by New Zealand in 1990 and ratified in 1993, however [this treaty does not apply to Tokelau](#).

2 The labour status survey in 2016 did not differentiate formal and informal labour. The survey counted responses in five different labour force categories (i.e. unpaid, paid, paid and unpaid, non-labour force, no response), potentially allowing multiple responses per individual. The percentage figures across the categories do not sum to 100%. Not all percentage details were available from the source document.

Appendix 1: Country Background (continued)

Tokelau is a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand, which consists of three small low-lying coral atolls: Atafu, Nukunonu, and Fakaofu. The country has no permanent capital. The capital and head of government position, the *Ulu-o-Tokelau*, [rotates annually](#) between the country's three atolls. The [total land area](#) of the islands is approximately 10km² and the Exclusive Economic Zone of Tokelau is 319,031km².

The population of Tokelau was [estimated to be 1,501](#) as of mid-year 2021, with a population density of 150 persons per square kilometre. The [2016 Census](#) showed the population of Tokelau to be evenly distributed across the three atolls, with each containing approximately a third of the total population. Tokelauans are citizens of New Zealand and hold New Zealand passports. The country's official languages are Tokelauan and English. The majority of the resident population of Tokelau are ethnically Tokelauan. According to the 2016 Census, the next most common ethnic groups are Samoan and Tuvaluan.

Appendix 2: Country Commitments on Gender

International Commitments

Gender Commitments	Status	Actions
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	<p>Signed 1980, ratified 1985 by association with New Zealand.</p> <p>New Zealand's most recent reporting cycle for CEDAW took place between 2016 and 2021.</p>	<p>In New Zealand's state party report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2016, they note that Tokelau has taken actions such as the <i>National Policy and Action Plan for the Women of Tokelau and Tokelau National Strategic Plan</i>, although both have now expired.</p> <p>The report notes activities conducted by the <i>Fatupaepae</i> (Women's Committees) such as handcraft markets and <i>Tautiti</i> (Tokelau Beauty Pageants).</p>
The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	<p>Signed 1995.</p> <p>Most recent review: regional review conducted in 2010.</p>	<p>Tokelau has not produced a national review of progress achieved under the Beijing Platform for Action. A Pacific regional review conducted in 2010 found that Tokelau performed well in education indicators such as participation in Early Childhood Education. Other actions noted in the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The recruitment of female police officers in all three villages.• High levels of female representation in senior management positions within the public service.

Appendix 2: Country Commitments on Gender (continued)

National Commitments

Gender Commitments	Status	Actions
National Policy for Women of Tokelau 2010-2015	2010	The National Policy for Women aimed to guide the Government of Tokelau and <i>Taupulega</i> (Governing Council) to support necessary actions and policies towards the advancement of women in Tokelau at all levels. As of January 2022, there was no updated national policy on women or gender.