



## **INAUGURAL CONFERENCE OF PACIFIC EDUCATION MINISTERS**

**Aotea Centre, Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand**

**20-22 March 2023**

**Status of Pacific Education 2022**

***(PacREF(23) CPEM.04)***

***(Paper prepared by the Pacific Community – Education Quality Assessment Programme and  
UNESCO Institute of Statistics)***

<b>Title/Topic</b>	<b>Status of Pacific Education 2022</b>
<b>Paper Collaboration</b>	Pacific Community (EQAP) and UNESCO Institute for Statistics
<b>Purpose of the Brief</b>	The purpose of the paper is to highlight the status of Pacific education through various statistical indicators under each of the PacREF policy areas.
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p>To improve the availability and use of data, EQAP has partnered with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) to ensure that internationally comparable education data from Pacific Island countries is available and used for monitoring of the Pacific Regional Education Framework. The intended outcome of the partnership is that Pacific Island countries publish timely and regular high-quality education data so that decision-makers at all levels can access and proactively use high quality education data.</p> <p>It is important that quality information about the status of the education in the Pacific is widely disseminated to ensure public trust in education data and statistics. It is hoped that the publication of the Status of Pacific Education report will lead to greater confidence in the use of official education data and statistics to inform education policy and decision-making at national, regional and international levels.</p> <p><b>Overall regional progress in meeting PacREF goals.</b></p> <p>(i) Quality and relevance</p> <p>Positive progress has been made towards improving the out of school rate for primary-aged children, but there has been little change for lower secondary-aged adolescents. Almost 7% of Pacific primary-aged children are out of school in the region compared to almost 25% of lower secondary-age students. This represents slightly more than the 2030 benchmark of 5% for primary age students, but substantially more than the 12% for the lower secondary-age 2030 benchmark.</p> <p>(ii) Learning pathways</p> <p>Progress has been made towards increasing the overall number of young children enrolled in early childhood education, but fewer children aged one year prior to primary age were now enrolled. Compared to the regional 2030 benchmark of 93%, less than 72% of Pacific children were enrolled in early childhood education in the year before starting primary school.</p> <p>(iii) Student outcomes</p> <p>For the student outcomes policy area, there has been progress in the completion of education at all levels. That is, more students are completing their schooling at primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels. While there has been no progress in increasing the intake to the last year of primary education, there has been improvement in the intake of students to the last year of lower secondary education.</p> <p>Recent regional assessments show that fewer primary children are meeting minimum proficiency levels in numeracy. Currently, three-quarters of Year 6 students in the Pacific region are meeting the expected standard for numeracy. This is lower than the 2030 benchmark of 85% of students proficient in numeracy.</p> <p>(iv) Teaching profession</p>	

There has been progress in increasing the number of trained teachers teaching in both primary and secondary schools. Currently, around 71% of Pacific primary teachers are trained compared to 63% of secondary teachers. However, there is still a large gap between the 2030 regional benchmark of 100% of teachers trained and current indicator values.

*Refer “Status of Pacific Education Report”*

**Ministers are invited to:**

Note the overall progress of the Pacific region towards achieving PacREF goals and SDG 4 benchmarks and discuss strategies for regional collaboration to fast-track progress towards 2030.

<b>Decision requested</b>	<i>Ministers to <b>agree</b> for the report to be published and data released on the Pacific Data Hub to inform regional development partners and international stakeholders.</i>
<b>Ministers’ Position</b>	<i>Ministers <b>agreed</b> for the report to be published and data released on the Pacific Data Hub to inform regional development partners and international stakeholders.</i>