SOLOMON ISLANDS
FOOD SECURITY PROFILE

DEMOGRAPHICS

712 100
Population (2020)

Life expectancy

Crude birth rate (2015): 32.6

Under five-years-old mortality rate: 26 per 1000 live births

82.5% of population have access to an improved water source

Low access to basic sanitation services

Percentage of people with no access to improved water source (2015):

Urban: 4.8%

Rural: 20.1%

THERE IS A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE ENDING HUNGER AND POVERTY IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

1 in 10 people are undernourished

12.7% of people live below the national poverty line

$1.9
One person out of four lives on less than USD 1.9 per day (2011 PPP)

1 Source: population data: Statistics for Development Division (SDD)/Pacific Community (SPC) health data: Solomon Islands 2015 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), poverty: Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO), hunger: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/SPC collaboration from 2012/13
Household Income and Expenditure Survey
Contribution to dietary energy consumption by food acquisition source

- Purchased foods consumed at home
- Food consumed from own production
- Food consumed away from home purchased or received free
- Food received for free and consumed at home

Less wealthy households allocate a higher share of their budget to food

SBD 14.2 is spent on average per person per day on food

Share of food expenditures in total expenditures

Malnutrition is also a serious issue in Solomon Islands

Children under five years old (2015)

- Wasting (Low weight for height): 7.9%
- Stunting (Low height for age): 31.6%
- Underweight (Low weight for age): 15.5%

Overweight or obesity (15 to 49 years old)

- 34.3%
- 47.4%

Analysis of food consumption patterns in Solomon Islands

Average national dietary energy consumption is around 2,640 kcal/capita/day with some disparities at subnational level

Average cost to acquire 1,000 kcal

Average dietary energy unit cost (Solomon Islands Dollar (SBD)/1,000 kcal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Tercile</th>
<th>SBD 6.1</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowest tercile</td>
<td>SBD 4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second tercile</td>
<td>SBD 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third tercile</td>
<td>SBD 7.5</td>
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Calories consumed by wealthy households are twice as expensive as those consumed by poorer households.

Contribution to dietary energy consumption by food acquisition source

- Cereals, tubers and plantain contribute to 77 percent of the calories received for free
- Cereals alone contribute to 61 percent of the calories purchased
- Tubers, plantains and coconuts contribute to 85 percent of the calories from own production

Solomon Islands

- First tercile: 52%
- Second tercile: 65%
- Third tercile: 51%
- Fourth tercile: 36%

1 Based on the analysis of the food data collected in the 2012/13 Household Income and Expenditure Survey of Solomon Islands. The analysis was performed by FAO and SPC in collaboration with SINSO. SPC was funded by the Australian Government through Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research projects FIS/2016/300 and FIS/2018/155.

2 Statistics refer to apparent consumption and are based on food quantities (edible amounts) available for consumption by the household, not on actual intake of the individuals.
Consumption of fruits and vegetables

CONSUMED IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

182 grams per capita per day

RECOMMENDED BY WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) FOR A HEALTHY DIET

400 grams per capita per day
Nutrient contribution to dietary energy consumption (%)

Fish contributes 42% of total protein consumed in Solomon Islands.

Less than one household out of five has access to a balanced diet\(^5\)

Nutritional adequacy\(^6\)
Diets are rich in vitamin C and poor in vitamin B2 and calcium.

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Brown coconut 1 585
Cassava/ tapioca/ manioc 460
Rice, white, uncooked 222
Kumara/ sweet potato 219
Taro, giant (taamu) 216
Sugar, white 214
Banana, cooking, raw 166
Noodles, instant (maggi-type), dry 131
Fish, reef, not further specified 112

\(^5\) In terms of reaching the three WHO recommended goals for energy supplying macro nutrients.

\(^6\) Ratio of nutrient available for consumption over average requirements. A ratio higher than 100 means that amount of nutrient available in the population is adequate with respect to the requirements of the population.