

FIJI

LANCET COUNTDOWN ON HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE DATA SHEET 2025

Health and climate change in Fiji

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change tracks the evolving relationship between climate and health through 50+ peer-reviewed indicators. Since 2016, it has provided peer-reviewed annual assessments, published in *The Lancet*. The 2025 report reveals the grave health toll of climate change inaction: fossil fuel dependence, rising emissions, and delayed adaptation are costing millions of lives. Recent climate policy rollbacks further threaten our ability to respond to the accelerating crisis, undermining progress towards a healthy future.

This document highlights key country-level findings from the 2025 Lancet Countdown report for Fiji, showing that:



In Fiji, populations are increasingly exposed to extreme heat, contributing to rising cases of heat-related illness and mortality, and undermining livelihoods and wellbeing



In Fiji, rising sea levels increase risks of displacement, flooding, and damage to coastal infrastructure, especially for vulnerable communities.



Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns has increased the risk of dengue transmission in Fiji.

With the threats of climate change growing, protecting people's health and survival demands simultaneous and unprecedented efforts to advance adaptation and mitigation, and requires an "all hands on deck" approach.

Heat and health

Exposure to high temperatures threatens lives and health, increasing the risk of heat-related illness and mortality. Vulnerable groups, including older adults, young children, pregnant women, and those with preexisting conditions, face the greatest risks. In Fiji, heatwave exposure has risen above global averages, placing growing pressure on health systems.

31.9

In 2024, people in Fiji were exposed to 31.9 heatwave days each, on average. Of these, 29.6 (92.9%) would not have been expected to occur without climate change. (Indicator 1.1.1)



Rising temperatures have likely compromised the health benefits associated with outdoor physical activity, with a roughly 40% increase in more hours per person during which ambient heat would have posed a moderate or higher risk of heat stress if undertaking light or moderate outdoor physical activity (e.g., walking or running), amounting to an additional 500 hours of potential exposure to health-harming heat. (Indicator 1.1.2)

40M

From 2015 to 2024, heat exposure resulted in an average annual loss of over 40 million potential labour hours in Fiji. Potential work hours lost in the agricultural sector accounted for 84% of total yearly losses from 2015-2024. (Indicator 1.1.3)



The potential income lost from labour capacity reduction due to extreme heat was US\$14.7 billion in 2024 in the SIDS region. Workers in the agricultural and construction sectors were severely affected, incurring 31% and 32% of the respective losses in 2024. (Indicator 4.1.3)

In the face of rising heat stress, urban greening plays a critical role in cooling cities through shade and evapotranspiration, enhancing livability and resilience. Fiji stands out among Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for maintaining high urban greenness, contributing to climate adaptation and heat mitigation efforts. (Indicator 2.2.2)

Rise in Risk and Spread of Dengue

Changing rainfall patterns and temperatures have increased the risk of dengue in Fiji. There was a dengue fever outbreak in the Western and Central Divisions, with a total of almost 12,000 cases of dengue fever were reported throughout Fiji between January 1 and July 27 2025 ([Outbreak News Today, Aug 23, 2025](#))



The transmission potential (R_0) of dengue by *Ae albopictus* mosquitoes increased by 48.7% in 2015-2024, compared to the 1951-1960 baseline. (Indicator 1.3.1) This rise reflects how warming temperatures are expanding the geographic and seasonal range of disease-carrying mosquitoes, increasing the risk of dengue outbreaks and placing added strain on public health systems.

Sea Level Rise and Sea Surface Temperature

Fiji is highly vulnerable to sea level rise and warming oceans, which are eroding coastlines, damaging coral reefs, and threatening freshwater and food systems. These changes are displacing communities and undermining livelihoods, especially in low-lying areas.

50,696 people were living less than 1m above sea level in 2024 in Fiji. (Indicator 2.3.3)



As a country with around 90% of its population living within coastal regions and an economy highly dependent on marine ecosystem resources, the increasing sea surface temperature trend since 1985 is particularly concerning for Fiji. 2022 marked the first year sea surface temperature passed 28°C in Fijian waters. The sea surface temperature in coastal areas of Fiji were 0.7°C higher in 2024 compared to 1981-2010. (Indicator 1.4.2) These increasing temperatures, coupled with ocean acidification, could further threaten food security in Fiji.

Tree Cover Loss

Tree cover is a critical element in enhancing air quality and shifting the carbon balance toward sequestration. In Fiji, deforestation and land use changes continue to pose challenges to maintaining healthy forest ecosystems, making reforestation and sustainable land management essential for climate resilience.



Tree cover is another essential condition for improving local air quality and tipping the carbon balance in favour of sequestration. Since 2000, Fiji has lost almost 52,000 hectares of tree coverage. (Indicator 3.4)

Climate and Health in Policy

Mentions of climate and health in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) statements reflect a nation's priorities and global engagement, helping to spotlight vulnerabilities, advocate for support, and shape international action on climate-related health risks



2024 marked the 5th consecutive year that Fiji mentioned the intersection of health and climate change in their UNGA statements. (Indicator 5.4.1)

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[Pan-American Health Organization](#)

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