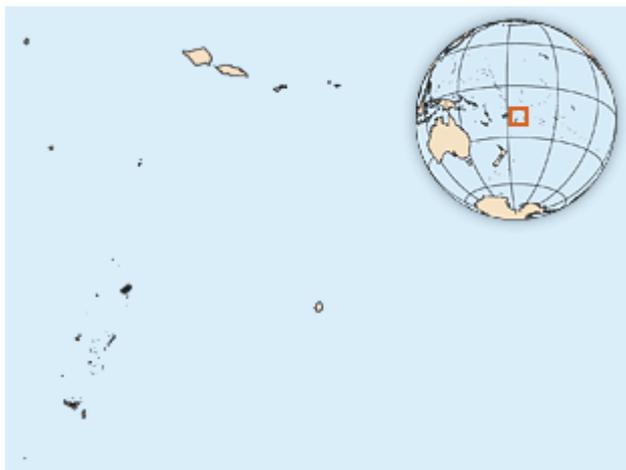


## Tonga



<http://www.who.int/countries/en/>

WHO region	Western Pacific
World Bank income group	Lower-middle-income
<b>Child health</b>	
Infants exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life (%) (2012)	52.2
Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%) (2016)	78
<b>Demographic and socioeconomic statistics</b>	
Life expectancy at birth (years) (2015)	73.5 (Both sexes) 70.6 (Male) 76.4 (Female)
Population (in thousands) total (2015)	106.2
% Population under 15 (2015)	36.8
% Population over 60 (2015)	8.2
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population) ( )	
Literacy rate among adults aged >= 15 years (%) ( )	
Gender Inequality Index rank (2014)	148
Human Development Index rank (2014)	100
<b>Health systems</b>	
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (2014)	5.18
Private expenditure on health as a percentage of total expenditure on health (2014)	17.60
General government expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure (2014)	13.50
Physicians density (per 1000 population) (2010)	0.558
Nursing and midwifery personnel density (per 1000 population) (2013)	3.881
<b>Mortality and global health estimates</b>	
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births) (2016)	6.8 [3.7-11.7]
Under-five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1000 live births) (2016)	16.4 [10.5-26.3]
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) (2015)	124 [57 - 270]
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) (2012)	95.5
<b>Public health and environment</b>	
Population using safely managed sanitation services (%) ( )	
Population using safely managed drinking water services (%) ( )	

Sources of data:  
Global Health Observatory May 2017  
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.cco>

### HEALTH SITUATION

Tonga has recently been successful in tuberculosis disease control, lymphatic filariasis elimination and high coverage of routine immunization. Control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) has advanced through training primary health care nurses, and through multisectoral action and legislative review. Health reform since the 1990s has strengthened Ministry of Health governance, the health workforce, infrastructure development and management. Tonga declared fulfilment of International Health Regulations (2005) core capacities in 2016.

However, NCDs remain the main cause of premature illness and death. Access to medicines, screening, referral and monitoring for NCD management are a challenge. Key risk factors include tobacco, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. Stigma and discrimination towards people with mental health issues is also a concern that likely inhibits access to services and their provision.

Tonga remains vulnerable to epidemic-prone disease outbreaks, environmental and food-related emergencies, and the health consequences of natural disasters. Tonga also faces risk from extreme weather, coastal erosion and inundation, earthquakes and tsunamis.

### HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEMS

Tonga has one national referral hospital, three hospitals, 14 health centres and 34 reproductive and child health clinics. Approximately 90% of health services are provided at hospitals.

The *National Health Strategic Plan 2015–2020* is the guiding vision “to improve the health of the nation by providing quality care through promotion of good health, reducing morbidity, disability and premature mortality”. The plan also sets the target for Tonga “to be the highest health care provider in the Pacific as judged by international standards in 2020”.

The six strategic key result areas of this plan are categorized under the following: Service delivery; Health workforce; Infrastructure, medical products and technology; Leadership and governance; and Health-care finance.

### COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

In implementing this strategy, WHO and the Ministry of Health will work with other government ministries, other sectors, academia, civil society, other United Nations agencies, bilateral development partners, regional and global health initiatives, philanthropic foundations and others in support of planned national health priorities.

WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2018–2022)	
Strategic Priorities	Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1:</b> To strengthen capacity in planning, implementing and reviewing its National Health Strategic Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Develop long-term health strategic plan.</li> <li>1.2. Conduct annual health review and report.</li> <li>1.3. Develop annual health sector operational plan.</li> <li>1.4. Develop health workforce profile and projection.</li> <li>1.5. Produce national health account.</li> </ol>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2:</b> To strengthen the health system, including the health workforce, essential services delivery and health information systems to progress towards universal health coverage and the vision of Healthy Islands</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Strengthen health service delivery through reinforcing performance assessments, including a regulatory framework and auditing process for HR and healthcare facilities.</li> <li>2.2. Strengthen health service delivery at rural areas and outlying islands and effective referral and transfer systems to link with tertiary health care at hospitals.</li> <li>2.3. Strengthen the health workforce by adaptation of foreign trained medical graduates into Tonga's health systems, and promotion of online-based continuing professional development, including POLHN operation.</li> <li>2.4. Review and develop a plan for the use of traditional and complementary medical practice.</li> <li>2.5. Conduct regular health progress updates through the Healthy Islands Monitoring Framework and SDGs indicators.</li> <li>2.6. Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics including causes of death.</li> </ol>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3:</b> To strengthen, sustain and achieve high immunization coverage and to improve the immunization programme</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. Strengthen strategies that engage communities and other stakeholders and encourage their participation to overcome vaccine hesitancy.</li> <li>3.2. Ensure vaccine security through effective vaccine management and financial sustainability.</li> <li>3.3. Improve vaccine/immunization safety surveillance systems.</li> </ol>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4:</b> To achieve national targets for NCDs in line with the global and regional targets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Align Tonga's tobacco legislation to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.</li> <li>4.2. Utilize evidence-based policies to reduce harmful use of alcohol.</li> <li>4.3. Improve diets and physical activity.</li> <li>4.4. Promote mental health by supporting prevention of mental disorders, alcohol harm and suicide, reduce stigma and discrimination, and promote human rights across the lifespan.</li> <li>4.5. Monitor the NCD situation in Tonga through targeted surveys and routine data collection.</li> </ol>
<p><b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5:</b> To strengthen capacities for preparing and responding to public health events related to common epidemic-prone diseases, environmental hazards and natural disasters</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1. Enhance core public health functions needed for early warning, incident management and risk communication.</li> <li>5.2. Develop national plans and core capacities for all-hazards health emergency preparedness and disaster risk management.</li> <li>5.3. Ensure monitoring of anti microbial resistance and implement containment measures.</li> <li>5.4. Review and evaluate Tonga's outbreak alert and emergency response systems.</li> <li>5.5. Establish and evaluate post-disaster early warning, alert and response systems.</li> <li>5.6. Adapt/implement <i>Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Management for Health</i>.</li> <li>5.7. Provide supplies, logistics and operational support for all graded and protracted health emergencies, and build capacity in humanitarian supply chain management within national health authorities.</li> </ol>