

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

Fiji has made significant progress in the field of information and communication technology (ICT). The Government has recognized the importance of ICT in driving economic growth and development and has implemented various initiatives to promote its adoption and usage across the country. In 2022, ICT sector contributed 4.14 percent to Fiji's real GDP. Due to natural disasters and pandemic, Fiji's ICT industry contribution to real GDP has declined in comparison to 4.2 percent in 2013.

CURRENT STATUS

Fiji's ICT sector is rapidly growing and emerging as the hub of the Pacific due to its expanding fibre optic connection and the government's commitment to developing a robust regulatory framework. The sector has also witnessed the introduction of various e-services and e-wallet platforms, which have further enhanced connectivity and convenience for the population. Additionally, collaborations with major tech giants like Google have resulted in the establishment of Google Cabins, further boosting Fiji's ICT capabilities.

CHALLENGES

1. *Legislative reform:* Need to review legislations and align with new technology advancement and protect all ICT users against cybersecurity threats.
2. *Inadequate infrastructure:* The lack of reliable internet connectivity in rural areas has limited the reach of ICT services.
3. *Labour shortage:* Need to address shortage of labour and skilled workers in ICT as it hinders the growth of businesses but also puts a strain on the economy.
4. *Broadcasting Industry upgrade:* Dependence on a single tower for transmission makes it vulnerable

to disruption during cyclone and extreme weather conditions.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. *Public Private Partnership Investment:* Unlocking economic and infrastructure development and job creation.
2. *Quality education:* Enabling students to develop digital literacy and gain invaluable skill that are highly sought after in the job market.
3. *Improve Healthcare:* Strengthen health information through ICT integration. This integration can improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery, as well as enable better coordination of care between different providers.
4. *Government e-service:* Enhancing government e-service effectively narrow the digital divide in Fiji by increasing the accessibility of information and public service to rural communities and marginalized populations.

FUTURE POLICIES & STRATEGIES

- **Review legislations and ICT policy:**
 - ✓ Review of regulatory framework that facilitates innovation, eliminates barriers to entry and establishes a favorable environment for the expansion of ICT industry and digital technologies.
 - ✓ Revise, formulate and implement a new policy structure for the telecommunication sector including the adoption of sector regulator model.
 - ✓ Strengthen framework and policy to address cybersecurity and data protection.
- **Reduce Cybersecurity threats:**
 - ✓ Raise awareness on cybersecurity.
 - ✓ Ensure appropriate security for ICT infrastructure nationwide.

➤ **Enhance Telecommunication infrastructure:**

- ✓ The expansion and improvement of network coverage, ensuring that remote areas have access to reliable communication services.
- ✓ Enable faster data transmission speeds and supports emerging applications like Internet of Things (IoT) devices.
- ✓ Create innovative solutions to address connectivity challenges, such as satellite-based internet or wireless mesh networks.

➤ **Increase skilled workers for the ICT industry:**

- ✓ Raise awareness on Digital literacy.
- ✓ Foster partnerships with educational institutions.
- ✓ Improve access to resources and tools for skill development in the industry.

➤ **Enhance Government e-services:**

- ✓ Improve accessibility and quality of online services.
- ✓ Increase efficiency and cost savings, by reducing paperwork and streamlining processes.
- ✓ User-friendly interfaces for individuals with disabilities or providing multilingual options to cater to diverse populations.

➤ **Promote Green Technology:**

- ✓ Encourage green technology in all ICT initiatives.
- ✓