



**YOUTH FORUM 2026**

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# PACIFIC SUB-REGIONAL YOUTH CALL TO ACTION (PNG, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SAMOA)

*Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future for young people in all their diversity.*

## Situational Analysis

Pacific Island youth across Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Samoa face development challenges that are different in context but deeply connected in nature—shaped by shared geographic isolation, climate vulnerability, governance constraints, and limited resourcing across essential services. While each country has its own cultural identity and governance systems, young people across the subregion experience parallel obstacles in securing clean water, sanitation, reliable energy, digital connectivity, and resilient infrastructure, even as they continue to rise as leaders in community-driven solutions.

In Papua New Guinea, youth across 22 provinces struggle with persistent inequalities in access to basic services, from unreliable water and sanitation systems to limited electricity and poor digital connectivity. Rural and remote communities remain particularly underserved, while informal settlements in urban

centers face overcrowding, pollution, and growing exposure to climate risks. Yet, despite these barriers, PNG youth have emerged as strong advocates and implementers of climate action, environmental stewardship, and community mobilisation, setting an example of resilience and innovation.

These challenges echo strongly in the Solomon Islands, where the country’s widely dispersed islands amplify service delivery gaps. Here, youth in rural and outer islands face persistent shortages in WASH facilities, essential health services, and ICT infrastructure. Climate change is rapidly intensifying existing vulnerabilities through sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and increasingly severe storms that disrupt livelihoods and damage infrastructure. With limited financing and institutional capacity, the Solomon Islands faces heightened pressure to deliver equitable development, yet young people continue to play active roles in community preparedness, environmental

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protection, and local problem-solving.

Similarly, in Samoa, young people navigate rising living costs, limited job pathways, and increasing urbanisation pressures around Apia. Although basic service access is comparatively stronger, climate-related disasters such as cyclones, flooding, and coastal erosion frequently damage infrastructure, strain economic stability, and threaten community resilience. Samoan youth are highly engaged in environmental conservation, digital innovation, small-scale entrepreneurship, and community initiatives, but their efforts need stronger partnerships, inclusive decision-making roles, and sustained investment to create long-term impact.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

- » Scale climate-resilient Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) systems across villages, schools, health facilities, and informal settlements to ensure reliable, safe, and inclusive access to water and sanitation.
- » Institutionalise youth-led waterway protection initiatives, including regular clean-ups and pollution-prevention activities, to restore and safeguard local ecosystems.
- » Invest in youth-driven WASH education initiatives and support youth water-quality monitoring groups with the training and tools needed to protect community health.

### SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

- » Expand comprehensive green-skills training for youth, including solar installation, micro-grid management, and other renewable-energy competencies essential for a just transition.
- » Accelerate the rollout of decentralised renewable energy systems, such as community solar hubs, standalone solar units, and mini-grids to improve energy access in remote and underserved areas.
- » Support and scale youth-led clean-energy enterprises, including solar repair services,

*Nothing about us, without us.  
Invest in youth. Partner with youth.  
Deliver the 2030 Agenda together.*

Across all three countries, Pacific youth share a united message: sustainable development in the region requires stronger coordination, resilient systems, climate-adaptive investment, and genuine youth leadership embedded at every stage of planning, implementation, and accountability. Their lived experiences and community-driven solutions position them not just as beneficiaries, but as essential partners in accelerating progress toward the SDGs.

battery refurbishment, and innovative circular-economy solutions.

### SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- » Bridge the digital divide by expanding satellite connectivity and establishing accessible community Wi-Fi hubs that enable equal digital access for all youth.
- » Create youth innovation labs equipped with resources, mentorship, and micro-grants to support young people in developing local solutions and scaling their ideas.
- » Ensure youth are meaningfully included in district and provincial planning processes for climate-resilient infrastructure, allowing them to shape long-term development priorities.

### SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

- » Strengthen youth-led urban initiatives that improve waste management, expand urban gardens, and promote cleaner, greener communities.
- » Co-design safe, inclusive public spaces in partnership with young women, girls, and persons with disabilities, ensuring accessibility

and protection for all.

- » Deliver practical, community-based disaster risk education tailored to settlements and coastal villages, empowering youth and families to prepare for and respond to climate-related hazards.

## SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- » Establish a Pacific Youth Coordination Platform to serve as a regional mechanism for learning, knowledge sharing, collaboration, and access to opportunities for young people across the Pacific.
- » Establish structured, ongoing dialogue platforms that bring together youth, government, and the private sector to co-design solutions and advance shared development priorities.
- » Provide sustained financing for youth-led initiatives and ensure young people are formally included in SDG monitoring, review, and accountability processes.

## CONCLUSION

Pacific youth are ready to co-lead solutions that strengthen resilience, expand opportunity, and deliver inclusive development. We call on our governments, development partners, the private sector, and civil society to resource and scale these actions and embed youth leadership at all levels.

*The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on 18-20 February, 2026. The Pacific Sub-Regional drafting team consisted of Dianne Margaret Parascos (PNG), Miriam Sulu (Solomon Islands), and Asiasiga Grace Tariu Sinapati (Samoa). Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.*