

Oceania's Health & Economy: Navigating Global Shocks and Climate Challenges

Global Health Economics · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which Pacific Island nation has seen a significant economic rebound driven by the recovery of its tourism sector, with visitor arrivals in December 2022 surpassing pre-COVID levels and increasing its market share of Australian tourism?

- A) Papua New Guinea
- B) Fiji**
- C) Solomon Islands
- D) Vanuatu

2. Papua New Guinea (PNG) is strengthening its health system and pandemic preparedness through a partnership that includes a grant from the Pandemic Fund, a co-financing amount of over \$93 million from international partners, and significant government co-investment. What is a key risk factor for disease outbreaks in PNG that this initiative aims to address?

- A) Limited access to clean water in urban areas
- B) Unregulated contact among wildlife, animals, and humans due to biodiversity and land use changes**
- C) High prevalence of non-communicable diseases
- D) A widespread lack of vaccination programs

3. The World Bank forecasts that growth in Pacific island countries will slow in 2024 and 2025 as the temporary boost from the COVID-19 pandemic recovery fades. Which of the following countries is projected to have its GDP per capita in 2027 lower than its pre-pandemic GDP level in 2019?

- A) Fiji
- B) Palau
- C) Solomon Islands**
- D) Samoa

4. Australia has pledged a significant amount to the Global Fund's Eighth Replenishment to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. This investment is seen as crucial for strengthening health systems in the region. Which of the following Pacific nations is experiencing an HIV outbreak declared in January 2025, with a rapid increase in new infections?

- A) Papua New Guinea
- B) Fiji**
- C) Vanuatu
- D) Tonga

5. Kiribati is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, particularly sea-level rise. This vulnerability poses risks to its population, livelihoods, and infrastructure. What is a primary economic sector in Kiribati that is significantly threatened by climate change impacts like rising temperatures and sea-level rise?

- A) Manufacturing
- B) Tourism
- C) Fish products**
- D) Information technology

6. Samoa has launched a National Action Plan for Health Security, becoming the first Pacific Island country to do so. This plan aims to strengthen preparedness for health emergencies. What historical health challenges has Samoa drawn lessons from in developing this plan?

- A) Typhoid outbreaks and volcanic eruptions
- B) Measles outbreak in 2019 and the COVID-19 pandemic**
- C) Dengue fever and influenza outbreaks
- D) Polio and tuberculosis epidemics

7. The economic impact of COVID-19 has been severe for Pacific nations, particularly those reliant on tourism and trade. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have been disproportionately affected. Which program is being implemented in countries like Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu to support the recovery and development of MSMEs by improving their access to services and finance?

- A) The Pacific Islands Investment Initiative
- B) The Pacific COVID-19 Business Recovery Program**
- C) The Regional Economic Resilience Fund
- D) The Small Business Empowerment Initiative

8. Palau's economy is heavily reliant on tourism, which contributes significantly to its GDP. The country has implemented a 'Green Fee' as a conservation measure. How does this 'Green Fee' contribute to Palau's conservation efforts and economy?

- A) It funds a national airline and airport expansion.
- B) It provides revenue for conservation priorities, including protected area management and scholarships.**
- C) It directly subsidizes the tourism industry to attract more visitors.
- D) It is solely used for international climate change mitigation projects.

9. The Solomon Islands economy is heavily dependent on imports and is vulnerable to supply chain disruptions. What are the primary economic activities in the Solomon Islands that form the basis of its economy?

- A) Technology and finance
- B) Tourism and manufacturing
- C) Forestry, agriculture, and fisheries**
- D) Energy and mining

10. Vanuatu's economy, heavily based on agriculture, fishing, and tourism, is vulnerable to climate change. What are some of the projected impacts of climate change on Vanuatu's key economic sectors?

- A) Increased productivity in agriculture due to warmer temperatures and decreased frequency of cyclones
- B) Growth in tourism due to new climate-resilient infrastructure
- C) Decreased productivity in fisheries and agriculture due to changing rainfall, rising sea levels, and increased extreme weather events**
- D) Expansion of marine biodiversity leading to increased fish stocks for export

11. Tonga faces challenges in retaining its health workforce due to migration overseas for better income and incentives. To address this, the government is working on establishing robust mechanisms. What is a significant source of budget contribution for Tonga, which has helped offset its high rate of external migration?

- A) Foreign direct investment in technology
- B) Revenue from a newly developed tourism sector
- C) Remittances from skilled workers migrating abroad**
- D) Income from natural resource extraction

12. Papua New Guinea's 2025 National Budget includes a substantial allocation for the health sector, highlighting plans for specialized hospitals. What are the key specialized facilities planned for development to reduce the financial burden on families seeking treatment overseas?

- A) Specialized hospitals for infectious diseases and trauma care
- B) Specialized hospitals for mental health and rehabilitation
- C) Specialized hospitals for cancer care and cardiology/cardiovascular care**
- D) Specialized hospitals for maternal health and pediatrics