

Pacific Economy Report on Unpaid Work and Volunteering

Kakala framework



The research was guided by **five** research questions:

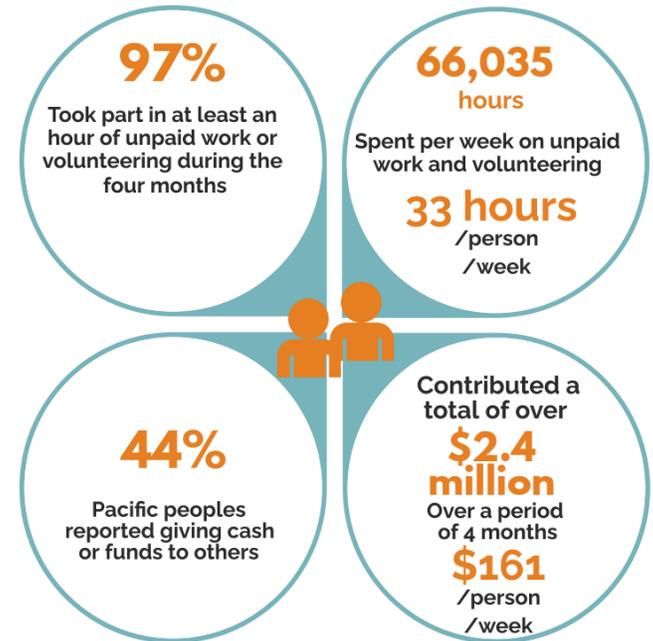
- What constitutes volunteering and unpaid work from **currently available literature and data**?
- What constitutes volunteering and unpaid work from the **perspectives of Pacific peoples**?
- How do volunteering and unpaid work **contribute to the wellbeing of Pacific peoples and the creation and development of their wealth**?
- How do Pacific volunteering and unpaid work **contribute to the Aotearoa economy**?
- What are the **impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic** during the past on Pacific volunteering and unpaid work?

What is unpaid work?

Any work conducted outside of employment and related activities for pay or profit

For Pacific peoples, unpaid work and volunteering are an expression of love for their families and communities, and it is embedded in their cultures and identities.

Unpaid work and volunteering activities contribute to Pacific wellbeing through sharing cultural knowledge, expressing spirituality, enhancing social capital, honouring elders, and supporting communities holistically.



Through the various roles and responsibilities Pacific peoples have in different contexts, such as family, church, community and workplace, they are highly engaged in various types of unpaid work and volunteering.

- Cook Islands** • aronga tūtaki – koreia (everyone that works on a volunteer basis)
- Fiji** • itavi (cares for one another)
- Kiribati** • Te anganano (offer to help with all your heart without any expectation to be paid)
- Niue** • Gahua ha ko e fakaalofa (work because you care/love)
- Rotuma** • Garue hanisi (work with love)
- Samoa** • Galue Ofo Fua – Work ones offers (ofu) to do without pay (Fua)
- Samoa** • Galue Loto Fuaiaifo – The will to work without any rewards
- Tokelau** • Galue fai i te alofa (work for the sake of love)
- Tonga** • ngaue tupu he 'ofa (work out of love)
- Tuvalu** • galuega fakagamua (work for free with your whole being for what needs to be done)

Data for the report was collected through four diverse methods

Systematic review of available literature on Pacific perspectives and international definitions of unpaid work and volunteering

Quantitative data analysis of Pacific peoples' unpaid work and volunteering from Stats NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure

Qualitative focus groups and individual talanoa

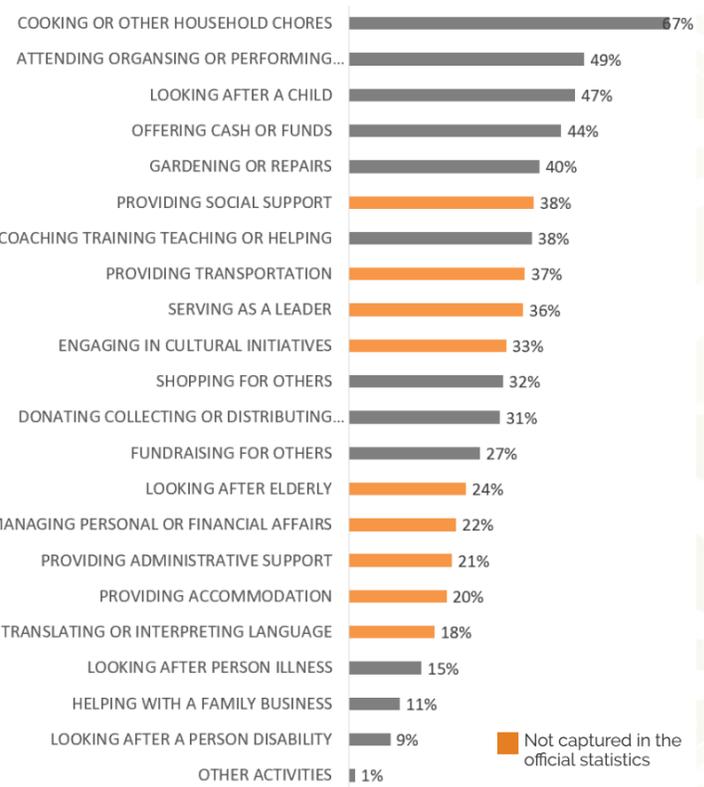
27 Focus groups **186** Diverse participants

Online survey

2,000 Participants stratified by age, gender and region **9** Ethnic groups

Pacific peoples were more likely to report engaging in unpaid activities if they:

- were **over the age of 25**
- identified with **having a religion**
- had an **annual income over \$15,000**
- were **not receiving government benefits or had no source of income**
- had achieved a **Bachelor's degree or higher** in education



- **More than half** (56%) of total hours spent on unpaid work and volunteering by Pacific peoples are currently not captured in official statistics.
- Pacific peoples are concerned that the current measurements of unpaid work and volunteering underestimate the true extent of their unpaid work and volunteering activities. Research participants found the Census 2018 question on unpaid activities confusing and not culturally inclusive.
- Pacific peoples' engagement in unpaid activities, such as looking after the elderly, providing social support, providing accommodation and transportation, and translating or interpreting Pacific languages are some of the unpaid activities that are not included in the official statistics.

- Pacific peoples **45 years and over** were more likely to report providing social support, serving as leaders, engaging in cultural initiatives, translating Pacific languages, and attending events.
- **25-44 year olds** were more likely to report looking after a child and looking after the elderly.
- **45-64 year olds** were more likely to report looking after a person due to illness.
- **65+ years** were more likely to report looking after a person due to disability.

Pacific peoples' engagement in unpaid work and volunteering contributes greatly to the Aotearoa economy: now and into the future. The current economic measurements of Pacific contributions to the Aotearoa economy are underestimated due to cultural differences in defining and measuring unpaid work and volunteering.

COVID-19 and the national lockdown in March 2020 significantly impacted Pacific communities in Aotearoa. Pacific peoples' holistic perspectives of wellbeing led to increased Pacific engagement in unpaid work and volunteering during the lockdown. Pacific peoples will be essential to improving the social, cultural, financial, and environmental wellbeing of Aotearoa in a post-COVID-19 environment.

Over half of the survey participants reported providing increased social support during lockdown.

Nearly 40% reported increased caregiving for the elderly, providing administrative support, and serving as a cultural leader during this time.

