



Fiji

332 islands · 1.3 million km² of ocean · 1 LEO provider licensed

CONCERN

HIGH

PROVIDERS

1 Operational / 1 Authorized

Latest update: 2026



SkyCommons Observatory is a project of Open Knowledge to map power, expose risks, and advance public-interest principles into governance of LEO satellite internet services.

Our scores rating 'level of concern' are based on key public-interest principles defined in the table [here](#). This country profile is one of several on: skycommons.okfn.org

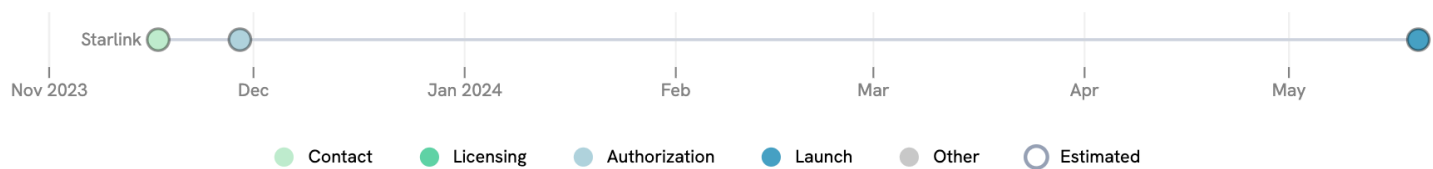
Summary

Fiji's connectivity challenges stem largely from its geography. The country consists of about 332 islands in the Pacific Ocean (with around one third inhabited). Its population of around 930,000 people is distributed across a land area of 18,273 km² spread over approximately 1.3 million km² of ocean. Pacific submarine cables are Fiji's primary internet connectivity lifeline, but have proven vulnerable to both seismic activity and vessel damage. There is a significant rural–urban connectivity gap.

Starlink is the only licensed and operational LEO provider in Fiji. There is no alternative for residential consumers. The government gave the company a case-specific licence framed as a digital inclusion and disaster-resilience priority. The Telecommunications Authority of Fiji has channeled Universal Service Obligation (USO) funding into 126 institutional sites across remote maritime provinces, including Lau, Kadavu, and Namosi, in order to bring telemedicine and online schooling to outer island communities that had no prior broadband options.

There is no binding coverage mandate or LEO-specific compliance framework accompanying Starlink's licence. In order to diversify service providers, the government is exploring LEO satellite companies OneWeb and Amazon Leo (formerly Kuiper), but neither is licensed. Starlink's authorisation was announced but the exact terms were not published, and no public consultation preceded the decision. The Telecommunications Authority of Fiji holds revocation and sanction powers, but has never exercised them. Fiji's governance and transparency gap reflects a capacity problem: a small-island regulator administering critical infrastructure under laws that were never designed for global LEO satellite operators.

Timeline



[See [online version](#)]

Research highlights

Competition

CONCERN **CRITICAL**

OPERATIONAL
Starlink

Currently, Fiji has no competitive LEO market. Starlink is the sole licensed and operational satellite internet provider in Fiji, and consumers have no alternative. The government is exploring OneWeb and Amazon Leo (formerly Kuiper) for future diversity of service providers, but neither is licensed.

Affordability

CONCERN **CRITICAL**

STARLINK SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
\$100–964 per month

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$9,300 per year

Starlink is sold exclusively through local resellers, with a two-tier residential model as of March 2026. Local Priority plans start at FJD \$224 per month (~\$100 USD) for 50GB and FJD \$396 per month (~\$178 USD) for 500GB. Global Priority plans for maritime and in-motion use run FJD \$898–\$2,146 per month (~\$403–\$964 USD). In addition there is a required deposit of FJD \$999–1,099 (~\$449–\$494 USD) for activation. Fiji's median household income is FJD \$20,727 per year (~\$9,300 USD) based on the 2019–20 National Census). The entry-level setup cost alone represents over half of a monthly salary. The cheapest monthly plan would consume 11–13% of a median household income. In other words, the high cost of set up and subscriptions make individual household adoption unlikely for most Fijians. The realistic path to LEO connectivity is through shared institutional infrastructure, which the USO-funded deployments already follow.

Accessibility

CONCERN

HIGH

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY
Only 50% of Fiji's remote areas

Only about 50% of Fiji's remote areas have broadband connectivity, with infrastructure concentrated on the main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. For an archipelago of more than 300 islands, 100 of which are inhabited, this leaves most communities dependent on whatever reaches them through deployments funded through the Universal Service Obligation. Those deployments have reached 126 sites across Lau, Kadavu, and Namosi, plus 30 centralised Wi-Fi sites in Namosi and Lomaiviti, bringing telemedicine and online schooling to villages including Lakeba and Naviavia. Coverage decreases sharply outside of these targeted institutional deployments, leaving a significant rural-urban connectivity gap.

Governance

CONCERN

HIGH

Starlink's license was granted through a case-specific regulatory pathway with no competitive procurement process, and no public consultation. The Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF) issued the operating licence in November 2023, with a separate spectrum licence granted by the Ministry of Communications. The former Deputy Prime Minister publicly championed the technology, framing it as a disaster resilience priority. This strong political endorsement shaped Starlink's terms of entry. The Ministry of Communications retains revocation power and has announced plans for annual TAF reviews but neither has been tested. The Communications and Multimedia Act provides a statutory framework on paper.

Accountability

CONCERN

CRITICAL

No LEO-specific compliance framework exists. Starlink operates under Fiji's existing telecommunications and competition law. There are no quality-of-service standards, outage reporting obligations, or refund mechanisms specific to satellite services. Government statements link Starlink's deployment to digital inclusion and disaster resilience goals, but no binding coverage mandates or universal service targets are publicly attached to the licence itself. The USO contract between TAF and Telecom Fiji for 126 rural sites has a separate legal basis; it does not appear to impose obligations directly on Starlink. Transparency on cybersecurity audits, incident reporting, and cross-border data storage is limited. When national security and responsible spectrum use were raised as concerns at the time of licensing, then Communications Minister Manoa Kamikamica's response was that the government could quickly revoke licences should national security breaches occur. Revocation remains the documented enforcement instrument. It has never been used.

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About this research

SkyCommons Observatory was created by the Open Knowledge Foundation, a non-profit organisation working at the intersection of technology, openness, and governance. Our website (prototype) and research community questions the politics and processes of LEO satellite internet connectivity using open data and research methods. Is the public-interest met? We treat what happens in space as something that concerns everyone on Earth.



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