

3.4 Samoa Telecommunications

The telecommunications infrastructure is well-established and almost 90% of the country has telephone and Internet coverage. There are 2 major telecommunication companies present, Blue Sky and Digicel, providing a competitive marketplace. There are no restrictions on obtaining SIM cards and mobile numbers, other than providing ID. Data plans are readily available through either of these 2 companies, or several smaller ISP companies.

E-Sky is a privatised Public Body. 25% is still held by the Unit Trust Of Samoa (UTOS), an investment vehicle that lets Samoan citizens take a stake in the company.

Digicel is a company owned by the Irish billionaire Dennis O'Brian, incorporated in Bermuda, and based in Jamaica.

For more information on telecoms contacts, please see the following link: [4.8 Additional Service Provision Contact List](#)

Telephone Services	
Is there an existing landline telephone network?	Yes
Does it allow international calls?	Yes
Number and Length of Downtime Periods (on average)	nil
Mobile Phone Providers	Blue Sky Digicel
Approximate Percentage of National Coverage	99%

Telecommunications Regulations

The Office Of The Regulator is responsible for the issuing of all licenses in regards telecommunications and wireless transmissions. There are regulations in place for all the forms of communication listed below and permission must be granted before. For VSAT devices such as handheld Thurayas, they may be brought into the country and used with no special permission, provided an external link provider has already connected them.

Regulations on Usage and Import		
	Regulations in Place?	Regulating Authority
Satellite	Yes	Office of the Regulator
HF Radio	Yes	Office of the Regulator
UHF/VHF/HF Radio: Handheld, Base and Mobile	Yes	Office of the Regulator
UHF/VHF Repeaters	Yes	Office of the Regulator
GPS	Yes	Office of the Regulator
VSAT	Yes	Office of the Regulator
Individual Network Operator Licenses Required		
Yes		
Frequency Licenses Required		
Yes		

Existing Humanitarian Telecoms Systems

Only the larger UN agencies have VSAT phones (see table below). All agencies have radios, however since UNDSS agency left the country in 2015, they do not have a dedicated frequency to operate on.

Existing UN Telecommunication Systems

	UNDP	FAO	ILO, UNEP, WMO, UNWomen, UNFPA	UNICEF	WHO	UNESCO
VHF Frequencies	No	No	No	No	No	NO
HF Frequencies	NO	No	No	No	No	No
Locations of Repeaters	N/A	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
VSAT	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Disaster Management Office and Red Cross are the only agencies that use the Emergency Radio Network (ERN).

	DMO	Red Cross	CARITAS	Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA)
VHF Frequencies	Emergency Radio Network (ERN)		N/a	N/a
HF Frequencies			N/a	N/a
Locations of Repeaters	Upolo - Mt. Vaea, Mt. Fiamoe, Mt. Tafua Upolu, Vaovai, Afuililo Dam, Fagaloa PAS, Faleapuna & Richardson Road Savai'i - Mt. Tagotala, Mt. Lepiu, Mt. Tufutafoe, Mt. Olomanu.		N/a	N/a
VSAT	Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a

Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

There are a number of ISPs available that organizations are able to contract through, used by Samoan businesses. Reliability and bandwidths are good (4G is readily available). Netvo provides a VSAT connection, and the other providers do so via cable connection (leased from Blue Sky's).

Internet Service Providers		
Are there ISPs available?	Yes	
If yes, are they privately or government owned?	Both	
Dial-up only?	No	
Approximate Rates (<i>local currency and USD - \$</i>)	Dial-up	N/A
	Broadband	T\$500/unlimited/month
Max Leasable 'Dedicated' Bandwidth	10 MGB/Sec	

Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)

There are 2 MNO companies operating; Sky has 100% 3G coverage of the country, and Digicel which has 75% country coverage.

Both offer similar services including mobile money. Blue Sky has superior coverage and 4G+ in urban areas, whilst Digicel has lesser coverage and achieves a maximum of 3G speeds.

For information on MNOs please visit the [GSM Association website](#).

Company	Number of Agent Outlets by Area	Network Strength by Area	Contracted for Humanitarian or Government Cash Transfer Programmes?	Services Offered
Blue Sky	7 nationwide	Urban 4G+ Rural 3G	No	Merchant Payment, bulk disbursement, receive and make payments
Digicel	7 nationwide	Urban 4G Rural 2-3G	No	Merchant Payment, bulk disbursement, receive and make payments