



**THE WORLD BANK**  
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## Our work in Papua New Guinea & the Pacific Islands





## Our mission

The World Bank Group aims to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people by delivering on its twin goals: ending extreme poverty and increasing shared prosperity.

With deep financial resources, combined with global expertise in economic analysis and managing sustainable development, the World Bank is supporting Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands to be better connected, enhance resilience and create jobs and opportunities.

## The Pacific Islands & Papua New Guinea

Pacific Island countries have substantial natural resources, they are rich in cultural diversity and are rapidly increasing their trade and digital links with global markets.

However, Pacific countries face unique development challenges: they are physically detached from major markets, have small populations spread across many islands, they are confronting the worst impacts of climate change, and are some of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters in the world.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues around the world, Pacific countries are facing prolonged health and economic impacts that are stifling growth and creating new development challenges. Within this ever-changing global context, we are supporting Pacific Island countries to build on their strengths, while managing their vulnerabilities.



## The World Bank Group



# A selection of our projects

## Digital Development



Through the *Pacific Regional Connectivity Program*, the Pacific is being connected to faster, cheaper and more reliable internet. Fiber-optic cables have been, or will soon be, connected in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. In Tonga, this work has increased broadband access from 2% of the population in 2010 to 50% in 2018, and reduced the average retail cost of broadband internet by 97%. The World Bank is now helping to develop the Government's capacity to deliver digital services through the *Tonga Digital Government Support Project*.

Our support is also helping to connect outer islands to broadband, establish the foundations for digital government services, and strengthen the regulatory environment for the digital economy.

## Resilience



Pacific Island countries are at the forefront of climate change and disasters. The *Pacific Resilience Program* is helping Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to build early warning systems, strengthen disaster policies and community resilience, and is providing support for a regional disaster insurance scheme to ensure quick access to finance after a disaster.

In Tonga, the World Bank's long-term support has helped upgrade and reconstruct critical infrastructure, including more than 116 classrooms, 21 new WASH facilities, two new Emergency Operation Centres, and better multi-hazard early warning systems after 2018's Tropical Cyclone Gita.

In Kiribati, a program is working with communities to better prepare them for the impacts of climate change, including building rainwater tanks for remote communities as sea-level rise and drought have left many drinking wells contaminated.

## Governance



We are supporting governments across the Pacific to strengthen the management of public finances to ensure the long-term health of government budgets and delivery of public services.

## Education



The *Tuvalu Learning Project* is supporting early education and literacy by engaging parents and communities, and by strengthening teaching at preschool, primary and secondary levels.

## Energy



In Solomon Islands, World Bank-supported connections to solar power, together with the *Tina River Hydropower Project* – now under construction – has enabled over 2,400 new electricity connections to low-income households, community infrastructure and microenterprises in urban and rural areas.

The *Tuvalu Energy Sector Development Project* is helping Tuvalu achieve 40% renewable energy usage by the end of 2020.

In the Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands, the World Bank is working to enhance the reliability of electricity supply, improve energy efficiency, and scale up renewable energy generation.

## Trade & Investment



World Bank economic analysis and 'quick response' poverty surveys are helping to target policy responses and assistance to the most vulnerable groups in Pacific countries.

In both Samoa and Tonga, we have supported government-led efforts to reduce non-communicable diseases through tobacco and alcohol taxes.

## Water & Sanitation



The *South Tarawa Water Supply Project* is providing people on Kiribati's most populated island with better access to a safe, reliable and climate-resilient water supply.

We are supporting improved access to clean and reliable water supply services for people in nine provincial towns and 10 rural districts across Papua New Guinea.

## Agriculture & Food



In Papua New Guinea, we have supported close to 70,000 coffee and cocoa farmers to increase their skills, productivity and access to markets. The project includes a strong focus on increasing support to women farmers and has supported 24,000 women to earn an income.

In Samoa, where almost 70% of the population works in agriculture, we are supporting farmers to improve livestock and farming practices.



## Health

In Marshall Islands, the *Multisectoral Early Childhood Development Project* is investing in maternal and child health, as well as early childhood stimulation and preschool services, with a focus on the first 1,000 days of life.

In Samoa, we are supporting improved access to health care in rural areas, particularly focusing on addressing non-communicable diseases.

In PNG, the *Emergency Tuberculosis (TB) Project* has ensured patient treatment program drop-out rates on Daru Island – one of the world’s major TB hotspots – have reduced from 30% to almost zero.



## Transport

The *Pacific Climate Resilient Transport Program* is building resilience in key roads, ports and other transport infrastructure in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The *Pacific Aviation Investment Program* has delivered major reconstruction works to airports and runways in Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, with work continuing in each country, as well as Kiribati and Solomon Islands, helping to make air travel safer and more efficient across the Pacific.

The World Bank is supporting transport in Kiribati and Fiji through the *Kiribati Outer Islands Transport Infrastructure Investment Project* and the *Fiji Transport Infrastructure Investment Project*, which focus on land and sea transport, respectively.



## Environment & Natural Resources

The *Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program* is helping Pacific countries coordinate sustainable management of tuna fisheries to ensure the benefits are maximized for each country’s future growth and development.

The program also helps countries to sustainably manage their coastal fisheries and critical habitats, and is active in the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu, in addition to supporting the Forum Fisheries Association.



## Social & Jobs

In Solomon Islands, more than 15,000 young people have undertaken more than 867,000 days of work and training through the *Rapid Employment Project* and its successor, the *Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement Project*.

Faced with high secondary school drop-out rates, the *Skills and Employment for Tongans Project* is supporting the Tongan government to implement a cash transfer program to assist households in keeping their children in secondary school.



## Supporting the Pacific’s response to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank Group is deploying up to US\$160 billion in financial support to help countries around the world protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery.

World Bank-funded COVID-19 health projects are already underway in Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea and Samoa, with funding also to the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu to support preparedness and response. This support is delivering protection for health workers, increased testing capacity and essential supplies.

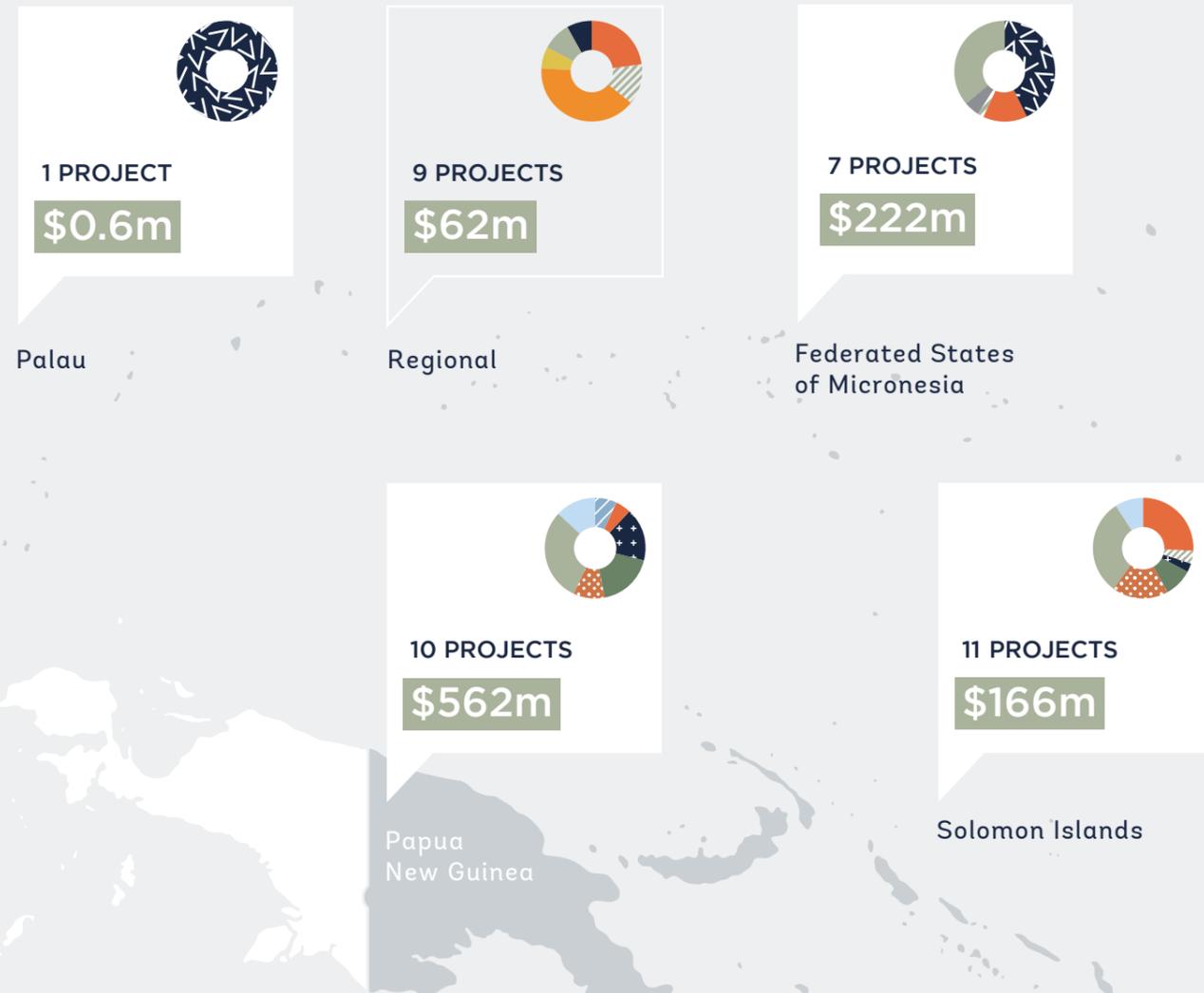
Economic recovery support is also being delivered throughout FY22, and we have already supported Pacific countries with economic impact research to provide critical insights into how countries are being impacted, and in turn, how best they can respond.



## Poverty & Equity

The lack of quality data for – and in – Pacific Island countries remains a critical roadblock to the region’s understanding of poverty, welfare and social developments. We are working to modernize statistical data collection in the Pacific, with Kiribati and Tonga acting as ‘pilot’ countries to help demonstrate improvements in coming years.

# Where we work



Working in partnership with 12 countries across the region, the World Bank is currently supporting 88 projects across the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea, totaling a US\$2.06 billion\* commitment through a combination of IBRD and IDA financing and Recipient-Executed Trust Funds.

\* based on 25 August 2021 data

