



THE WORLD BANK

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East Asia & Pacific

SEPTEMBER 2022

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 extensive financial resources, combined with global expertise in economic analysis and managing sustainable development, the World Bank is supporting the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to be better connected, to strengthen resilience, and to 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, and 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 region continues to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pacific countries are facing 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 Pacific projects

Agriculture & Food



In PNG, World Bank support has helped 70,000 coffee and cocoa farmers – including 24,000 women – to increase their skills, productivity and access to markets. This work is now expanding to include other produce, including coconut, spices and small livestock.

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

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 Fiji, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. In Tonga, this work has increased broadband access for 2% of the population in 2010 to 64% in 2021, and reduced the cost of broadband by 97%.

World Bank support has helped deliver a massive transformation in Samoa, supported a new domestic cable system in Fiji, and is helping Pacific countries establish digital government services, and strengthen regulations 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 obtain quick access to finance after a disaster.

World Bank support is helping Tonga recover from 2022's volcanic eruption and tsunami, and has helped upgrade and reconstruct critical infrastructure across the country, including more than 125 classrooms, 21 new bathroom facilities, two new Emergency Operation Centers and better multi-hazard early warning systems.

In Kiribati, World Bank-funded support is helping communities to better prepare 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.

Energy



In Solomon Islands, World Bank-supported connections to solar power, together with the *Tina River Hydropower Development 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.

In Tuvalu, which has been heavily reliant on imported fuel for electricity, the *Energy Development Sector Project* is helping to drive the country's switch to renewable energy.

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.

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 provincial towns across PNG.

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 to support evidence-based policy-making, with Kiribati and Tonga acting as 'pilot' countries to help demonstrate improvements in coming years.

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.

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 World Bank is working with provincial health authorities to strengthen the delivery of much-needed health services at community-level clinics and health centers.

Transport



The *Pacific Climate Resilient Transport Program* is building resilience in key roads, ports and other transport infrastructure in the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. This work will better connect communities, protect infrastructure against the impacts of climate change and help ensure that those living in outer islands are better connected.

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

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 Agency.

Social Sustainability / 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 incentivize families to keep their children in secondary school.

In PNG, the *Enhancing Labor Mobility Project* supports workers and their households to benefit from overseas employment opportunities, with a focus on women and disadvantaged groups.

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.

Supporting the Pacific's ongoing response to COVID-19



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank Group has deployed over US\$200 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 in Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, PNG and Samoa – and funding to support the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu – have supported preparedness and response, delivered protection for health workers, increased testing capacity and essential supplies and supported vaccine rollouts.

Economic recovery support – including helping businesses and services rebuild and recover – will continue throughout 2023 and 2024.



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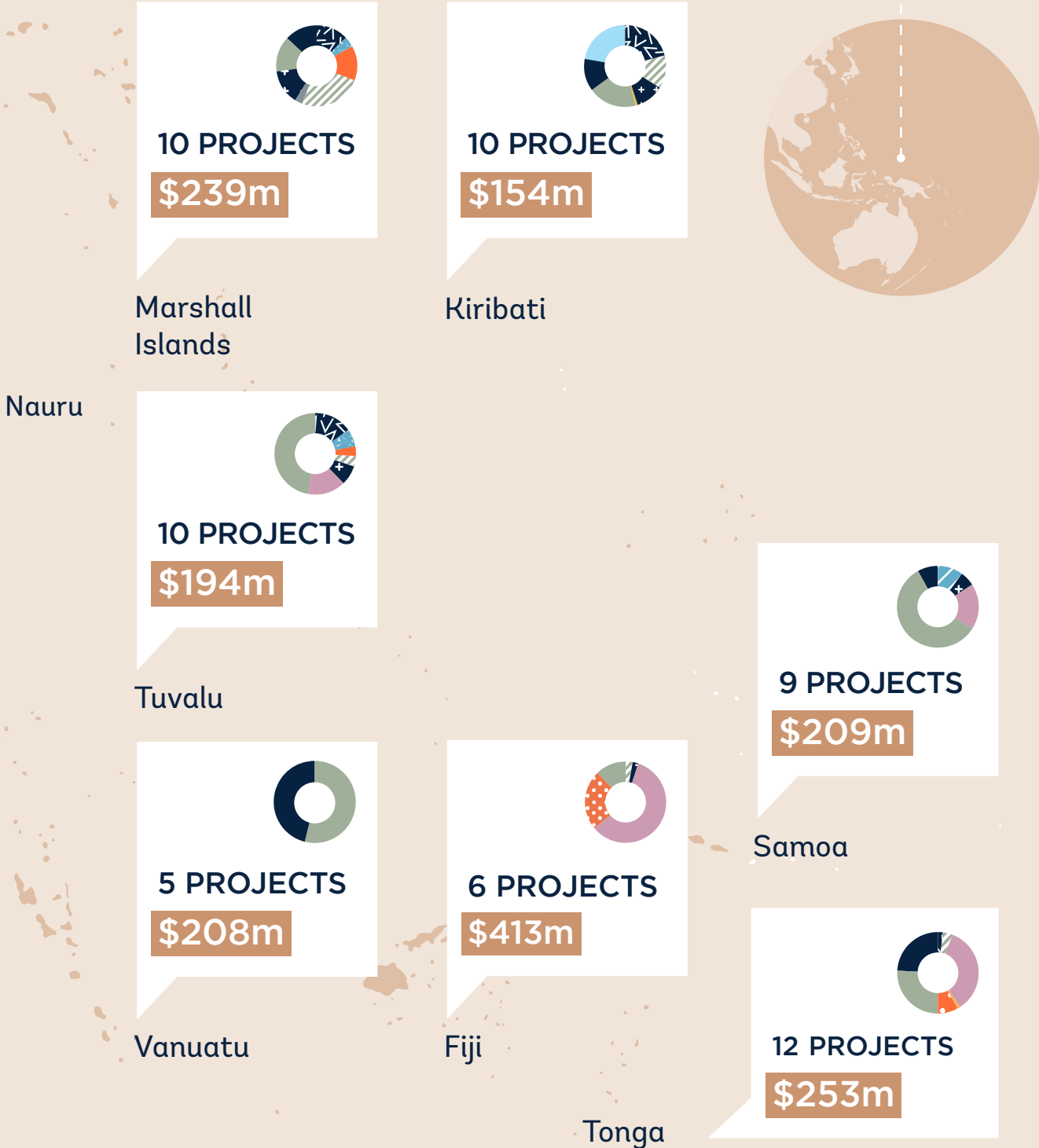
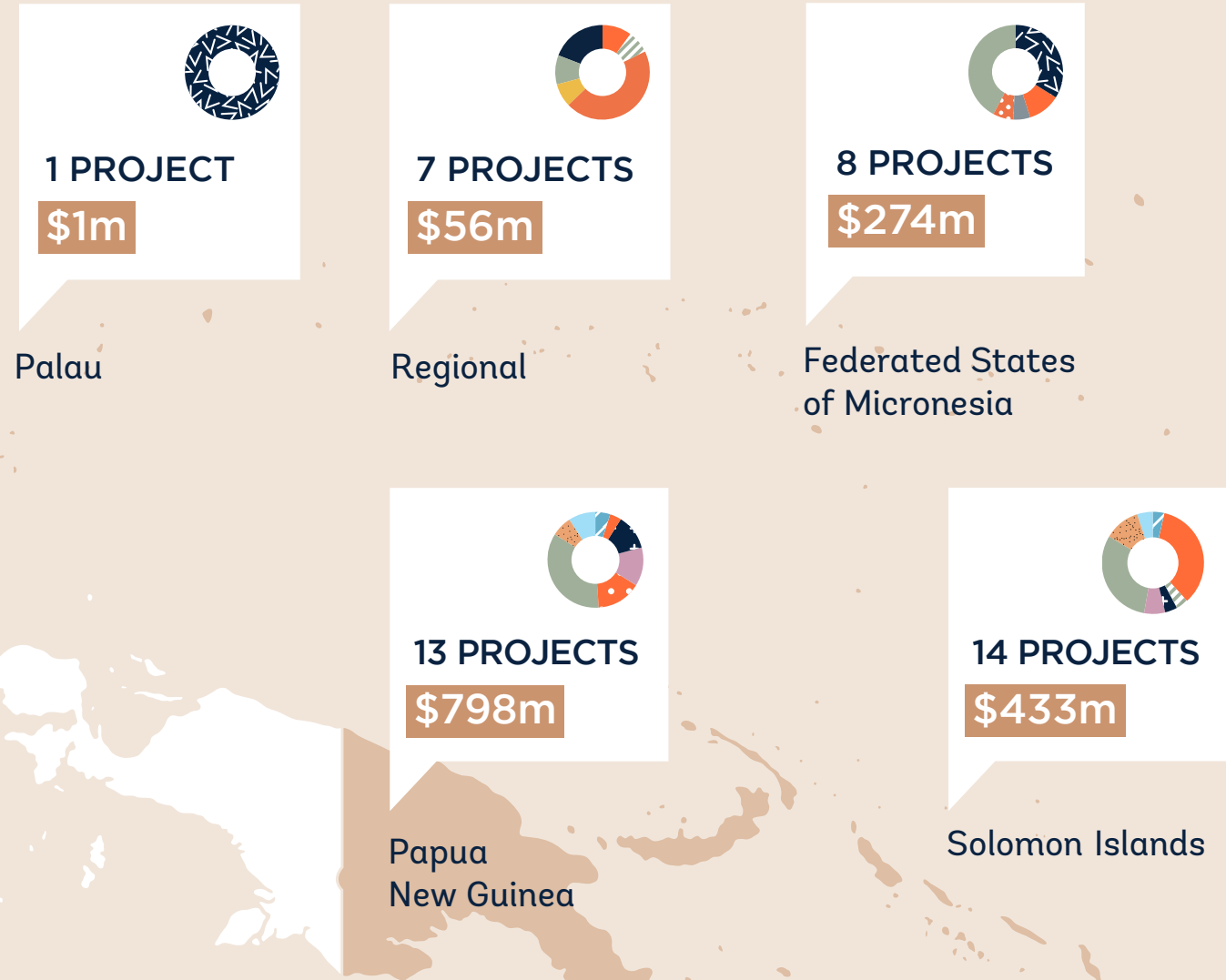


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Where we work



Working in partnership with 12 countries across the region, the World Bank is currently supporting 105 projects across the Pacific Islands and PNG, totalling US\$3.2 billion in commitments through a combination of IBRD and IDA financing, Recipient Executed Trust Funds, and co-financing.

* based on FY23 (1 July 2022) data.

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| Agriculture & Food | Finance & Innovation | Jobs |
| Digital Development | Governance | Social Sustainability & Inclusion |
| Education | Health | Trade & Investment |
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