**Digital Development**

Through the Pacific Regional Connectivity Program, the Pacific is being connected to faster, cheaper and more reliable internet. Fiber-optic cables have arrived, or will soon be connected, in the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Kiribati, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. In Tonga, the world has increased broadband access from 2% of the population in 2010 to 51% in 2014, and reduced the average retail cost of broadband internet by 9%. 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 infrastructure for broadband. The World Bank is also assisting Governments across the Pacific to develop frameworks that can ensure access to affordable and reliable internet.

**Trade & Investment**

World Bank economic and policy advice and quick response support to women farmers and rural communities, and by strengthening teaching at preschool, primary and secondary levels.

**Resilience**

Pacific Island countries are at the forefront of climate change and disasters. The Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Resilience Program and regional disaster insurance schemes are helping Tuvalu achieve 40% renewable energy usage by the end of 2020. The Pacific Climate Resilient Transport Program is building resilience in key road and ports infrastructure in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In Kiribati, a program is working with communities to improve water supply and sanitation, and to develop an early warning system for drought.

Transport

The Pacific Climate Resilient Transport Program is helping to build a sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly transport infrastructure in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.

In Kiribati, the World Bank is supporting the transport sector by providing support to the Government for the Kiribati-Rotuma project.

**Health**

In Solomon Islands, the Multicounry Early-Childhood Development Program is investing in maternal and child health, as well as early childhood 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.

**Environment & Natural Resources**

The Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program is helping Pacific countries coordinate sustainable use of marine resources, which focus on land and sea transport, respectively.

**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 development. We are working with Kiribati and Tonga acting as pilot countries to help demonstrate improvements in coming years.

**Social & Jobs**

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

Faced with high school drop-out rates, the SAIs and Employment for Tongo Project is supporting the Government to implement a cash transfer program to assist households in keeping their children in secondary school.

**Water & Sanitation**

The South Pacific 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 rural provincial towns and 10 rural districts across Papua New Guinea.

**Environment**

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.

**Energy**

Our support is helping to improve access to clean and reliable energy for people in rural communities, and by strengthening teaching at preschool, primary and secondary levels.

**A selection of our projects**

**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 26,000 women to earn an income.

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

**Governance**

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**Governance**

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

**A selection of our projects**

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

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Bank Group is deploying up to USD$2 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 an example of this, such as the Emergency Tuberculosis (TB) Project in Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu, in addition to supporting the Forum Fisheries Association.

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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 shifting 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.

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, totalling a US$2.06 billion commitment through a combination of IBRD and IDA financing and Recipient-Executed Trust Funds.

The World Bank Group

International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD)

Provides interest-free loans & grants to governments of the poorest countries.

Lends to governments of middle-income & creditworthy low-income countries.

International Development Association (IDA)

Provides interest-free loans & grants to governments of the poorest countries.

Focused exclusively on the private sector, the IFC provides advice to businesses & governments, contributes debt & equity financing to commercial companies.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Focused exclusively on the private sector, the IFC provides advice to businesses & governments, contributes debt & equity financing to commercial companies.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

MIGA offers political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries.

Provides international facilities for conciliation & arbitration of investment disputes.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

Provides international facilities for conciliation & arbitration of investment disputes.

Papua New Guinea

Our mission

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