



Our Work in the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea



THE WORLD BANK
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East Asia & Pacific

See how World Bank-supported projects are helping governments and people in the Pacific*

Agriculture & Food



In Papua New Guinea, about 70,000 coffee and cocoa farmers – including 24,000 women – have benefitted from enhanced 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 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 64% in 2021, and reduced the cost of broadband by 97%.

Our 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.

Education



We are helping Pacific countries to pilot improvements in secondary school, with the aim of lifting education outcomes and reducing dropout rates.

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, new connections to solar power, together with the Tina River Hydropower Project – now under construction – have connected 2,400 families to electricity, while delivering new community infrastructure and supporting microenterprises in urban and rural areas.

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

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

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 region-wide Forum Fisheries Agency.

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.

This includes important debt and financial management reforms in Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

Similar support has also led to the establishment of a new Independent Commission Against Corruption in Solomon Islands and expansion of Marine Protected Areas in Fiji.

Health



In PNG, we have helped PNG authorities address the spread of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, and is working provincial health authorities to strengthen the delivery of much-needed health services at community-level clinics and health centres.

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. Through this project, social assistance payments support more than 1,200 families to help their children reach their full potential.

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

Jobs & Social Protection



Nearly 20,000 young Solomon Islanders have undertaken more than one million days of work and training through the *Rapid Employment Project* and its successor, the *Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement Project*; building vital community infrastructure like footpaths, stairs and public washrooms.

In PNG, thousands of young people in Port Moresby, Lae are taking part in the *Urban Youth Employment Project* – providing employment opportunities and life skills training.

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

In Fiji, approximately four thousand Fijians – mostly women – living in rural communities have benefited from cash-for-works opportunities supporting environmental restoration work through the *Jobs for Nature 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.

The World Bank is helping countries develop social protection systems that help the region's most vulnerable people deal with crises and shocks, find work, invest in their children's education and health, and protect the aging.

Data, Analysis and Statistics



Through analytical reports the World Bank is helping Pacific governments and partners make more informed policy decisions. These include *Public Expenditure Reviews*, *Country Economic Memorandums*, *Poverty Assessments* and the twice-yearly *Pacific and Papua New Guinea Economic Updates* that provide the region with the latest economic projections and analysis.

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.

Through the *Pacific Observatory*, we are helping Pacific countries modernize data collection, including through phone surveys, satellite imagery, and other data sources to support evidence-based policymaking.

Resilience



Pacific Island countries are at the front line of climate change and disasters. World Bank support helped Tonga recover from 2022's volcanic eruption and tsunamis, with similar support to Vanuatu following dual cyclones in 2023, with immediate cash support to support each country's response. We also helped upgrade and reconstruct infrastructure in both countries, including hundreds of classrooms, bathroom facilities, new Emergency Operation Centres, and better multi-hazard early warning systems.

The *Pacific Resilience Program* is helping Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to build early warning systems, strengthen disaster policies and community resilience, and support for a regional disaster insurance scheme to ensure quick access to finance after a disaster.

In Kiribati, World Bank support is helping communities to better prepare them for the impacts of climate change, including building rainwater tanks for remote communities.

Transport



The *Pacific Climate Resilient Transport Program* is making roads, ports, bridges and other transport infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters.

In Samoa, this work has better connected the capital, Apia with the international airport and inter-island port, as well as a new Mali'oli'o Bridge on Savai'i island. In Tonga this work has included reconstruction of the main port on the island of 'Eua, and in Vanuatu work to upgrade 65 kilometers of road on Espiritu Santo is now underway.

Collectively, 45% of the population across Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are expected to benefit from greater access to transport services as a result of these works.

In PNG, more than 236 kilometers of critical roads links have been restored through the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project, with more than 50 bridges also rehabilitated across the country. An estimated 1.3 million people (roughly 27% of PNG's population) have benefitted from our support.

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.

Tourism



On Fiji's second-largest island of Vanua Levu, we are supporting resilient, sustainable tourism development, including destination development, improved connectivity and essential services to drive community-based tourism and private sector development.

Water & Sanitation



In PNG, our support is connecting six key rural towns across PNG to clean, reliable water supply services for tens of thousands of people across the country.

In Kiribati, 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.

OUR MISSION

The World Bank aims to make a real difference in the lives of millions of people by delivering on its mission to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity on a liveable planet.

The new vision and mission are shaping the World Bank's new playbook. A better and bigger World Bank will support all its clients in addressing development challenges at country, regional, and global levels, and will pursue outcomes that revolve around:

Poverty reduction: ending extreme poverty by 2030 or as soon as possible.

Shared prosperity: boosting prosperity, particularly for the poorest, to achieve more equitable societies.

Inclusion: increasing and improving the distribution of opportunities, resources, and choices for all, especially for women, youth, as well as vulnerable and marginalized people, with special focus on human development (including education, health, and social protection).

Resilience: strengthening the ability of people and countries to prevent, prepare, and recover from shocks, including against climate and biodiversity crises, pandemics, and fragility or conflict.

Sustainability: advancing economic growth and job creation, macroeconomic stability, fiscal and debt management, food security, and access to clean air, water, and affordable energy, including recognizing the increasing interlinkages between country-level progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and progress to reduce the impact of climate change and other global risks.

The Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea

Pacific Island countries have substantial natural resources and extraordinary linguistic and cultural diversity. However, Pacific countries are physically remote, have small populations spread across many islands, and are some of the world's most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

As the region recovers from the sharp economic contraction due to the pandemic, many Pacific countries are facing challenges in reinvigorating growth and remain extremely vulnerable to climate, health and economic shocks are driving supply chain shortages and inflation impacts that are stifling growth and creating new development challenges.

Our impact across the Pacific

The World Bank is supporting Pacific countries to overcome these challenges, informed by the Pacific Islands Forum's 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

The World Bank is currently supporting 93 active projects across the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea, totalling US\$2.81 billion in commitments. Our support has rapidly increased over the past decade, with a 50% increase in staff across the Pacific region, and a seven-fold increase in World Bank-supported projects since 2014. This work has been driven by significant increases in support through both the International Development Association (IDA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction & Development (IBRD).

The World Bank's work in the Pacific is also supported by the Australian and New Zealand governments, through the PNG and the Pacific Islands Umbrella Facility (PPIUF), which will be in place until at least 2031, and supports World Bank projects across the Pacific through a commitment of AUD109 million from the Australian Government (DFAT) and NZ\$33 million from the New Zealand Government (MFAT); commitments that are expected to grow to an combined estimated US\$200 million by 2031 as projects grow.

The World Bank Group

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT (IBRD)

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.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)

Focused on the private sector in emerging markets, IFC uses its capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in developing countries.

THE MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGENCY (MIGA)

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

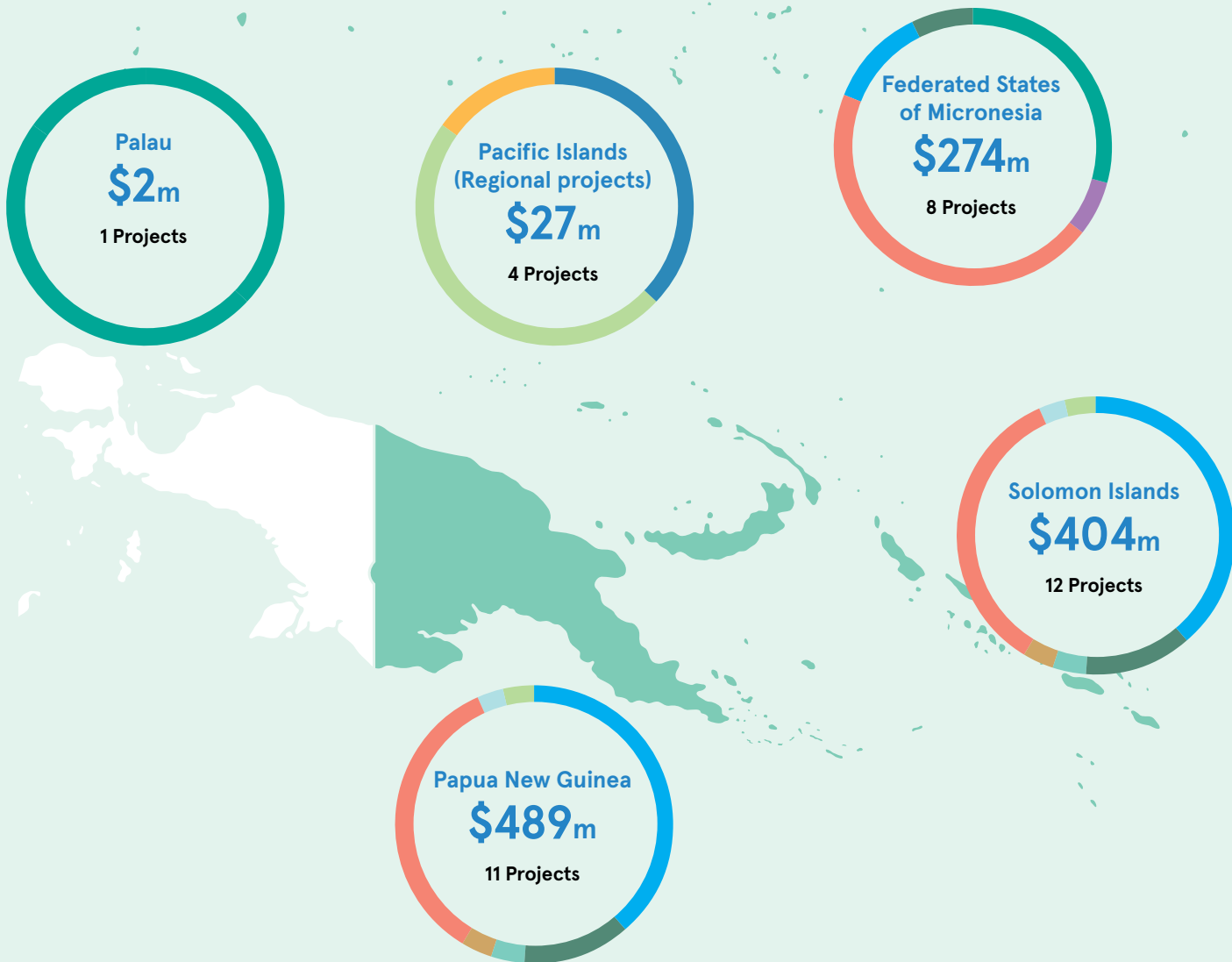
THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES

Provides international facilities for conciliation & arbitration of investment disputes.

WHERE WE WORK

Working in partnership with 12 countries across the region, the World Bank is currently supporting 91 active projects across the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea, totalling US\$2.8 billion in commitments.

* based on September 2023 data.



Agriculture & Food		Finance & Innovation		Jobs	
Digital Development		Governance		Social Sustainability & Inclusion	
Education		Health		Trade & Investment	
Energy		Poverty & Equity		Transport	
Environment & Natural Resources		Resilience		Water & Sanitation	

