



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Development Cooperation Factsheet:

May 2021



ESTIMATED AUSTRALIAN ODA 2021-22	\$156.4 MILLION
GROSS NATIONAL INCOME PER CAPITA	USD \$2,050 (2019) ¹
POPULATION	669,823 (2019) ¹

Australia and Solomon Islands are strong security, development and economic partners. We share similar COVID-19 response goals—to save lives and livelihoods and emerge stronger post-pandemic.

Strategic direction

Australia is Solomon Islands' largest bilateral development partner. We are re-shaping our efforts in response to COVID-19.

Australia is working with the Solomon Islands Government to support implementation of Solomon Islands' *National Development Strategy (2016-35)*, including through — *Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Development Response* — focused on three pillars of support:

- **health security:** health, education, gender equality, and disability inclusive development;
- **stability:** governance, law and justice, policing, defence cooperation; and
- **economic recovery:** infrastructure, transport, resource and economic management, rural development, private sector engagement and aid for trade.

Our program draws on expertise from across the Australian Government, including the Australian Federal Police, Department of Defence and the Australian Electoral Commission, to deliver capacity support and advice to the Solomon Islands Government.

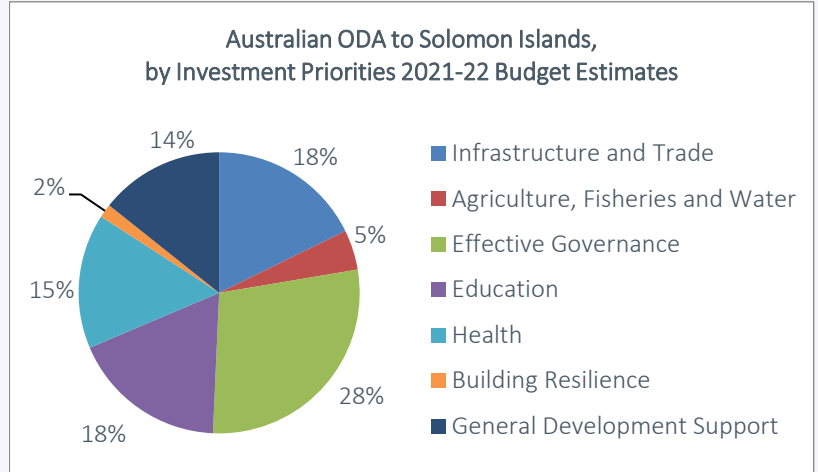
Recent program highlights

- Completion of the Coral Sea Cable linking Honiara to Sydney; a \$200 million submarine fibre optic cable delivering faster more reliable internet connectivity to the Solomon Islands, majority funded by Australia.
- Provided pandemic preparedness and response training and advice, an airport quarantine facility, funding for public awareness material and improved laboratory capacity for COVID-19 testing.
- Australia funded 142km of road maintenance or improvements to help improve economic activity
- Around 676 workers (66 female) currently in Australia under the Pacific Labour Scheme and 293 (51 female) participating in the Seasonal Workers Programme.
- 16,152 people have increased access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services through Australian Humanitarian Partnerships program in 2019-20.
- 1,342 women accessed emergency shelter, health, sexual abuse or referral services through our Gender programs in 2019-20.
- 267 teachers trained through Education sector programs, 37 Australian scholarships and 100 Australian Pacific Training Coalition (APTC) graduates in 2019-20.

Australian ODA	2019-20 Actual \$m*	2020-21 Budget Estimate \$m*	2021-22 Budget Estimate \$m*
Country Programs	114.6	103.1	103.1
<i>Bilateral base allocation</i>	92.7	103.1	103.1
<i>Coral Sea Cable**</i>	22.0	-	-
Regional	17.8	29.5	26.4
Global	14.8	6.6	8.3
Other Government Departments	14.5	17.6	18.6
Total Australian ODA to Solomon Islands	161.7	156.8	156.4
% of Total Australian ODA	4.0%	3.9%	3.9%

*Due to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

** Coral Sea Cable project was completed in 2019-20, accounting for the lower program expenditure.



Current program highlights

- Ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccines for Solomon Islands through our \$80 million contribution to the COVAX Facility for developing countries and \$14.1 million to the regional Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative over 2020-23.
- New 10-year \$250 million Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program (SIIP) will scale-up activities in 2021-22 as it becomes fully operational.
- \$10 million in additional economic budget support to help maintain water and sanitation, focus on aviation safety and keep schools open.

For more detail: [Partnerships for Recovery: Australia's COVID-19 Response](#)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

