



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT FULL APPR 2018-19

Pacific Regional Program

September 2019



PACIFIC REGIONAL AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE 2018-19

KEY MESSAGES

Over the last five years Australia's regional aid program to the Pacific has focused on the following objectives: *securing sustainable economic growth, building effective institutions, supporting healthy and resilient communities and empowering women and girls* (outlined in the [Aid Investment Plan \(AIP\) 2015-16 to 2018-19](#)). This report summarises the performance of Australia's aid program in the Pacific Regional Program from July 2018 to June 2019 against these objectives at a time when DFAT is preparing a new aid investment plan.

The Pacific Regional Aid Program continues to make steady progress against AIP objectives. At the same time, Australian has committed to a more ambitious and intensified engagement in the region through the Pacific Step-Up (announced November 2018). The Step-Up objectives, delivered through the recently formed Office of the Pacific, are:

- Stronger partnerships for sustainable economic growth.
- Stronger partnerships for security.
- Stronger relationships between our people.

During the review period, major regional Step Up investments, such as the Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) have significantly expanded the scope and ambition of our regional aid portfolio, and strengthened our whole-of-government engagement with Pacific Governments and institutions. Our regional and multilateral partnerships facilitate engagement on complex regional challenges such as climate change, security and human development.

Standout achievements over this transitional reporting period include:

- **A successful inaugural year of the Pacific Labour Scheme**, with 10 country partners, over 200 workers and 50 employers participating in the first year – providing incomes and opportunities to build on the job skills in Australia.
- **Delivering on the Coral Sea Cable System**, which is on track for completion by the end of 2019. This major infrastructure project has the potential to catalyse economic growth, with World Bank research estimating improved internet access and connectivity could translate into additional GDP of more than USD5 billion and close to 300,000 additional jobs in the Pacific by 2040.
- **Launch of the Australia Pacific Training Coalition phase 3**, building on over a decade of success, including over 12,000 Pacific graduates and focusing on building quality Pacific systems and employment outcomes for Pacific Islanders.
- **Continued efforts by major regional organisations** to consolidate financial and management reforms driving better development outcomes for the Pacific. For example, further internal reform of the Pacific Community (SPC) has helped strengthen the delivery of services for the Pacific in vital areas like fisheries science, coastal fisheries management, education standards, sustainable agriculture and health.

Challenges in the reporting period relate to developing the additional 14 Step-Up activities alongside existing activities, the proliferation of small investments, and the need for greater coherence between bilateral and regional investments. To better reflect Australia's enhanced Pacific engagement and strengthen program coherence, a new regional aid investment plan is being developed for consultation in late 2019. The next Regional Aid Investment Plan will undertake additional analysis to ensure Australia's aid investments are targeted and will work towards streamlining investments to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of delivery. The Pacific Regional Program will also seek to improve its performance assessment framework to measure more effectively, and to track program performance, including performance on gender equality and disability inclusion.



CONTEXT

The Pacific Regional Program is designed to complement efforts at the bilateral level to address a range of regional development and economic growth challenges. The four strategic objectives are economic growth, effective regional institutions, healthy and resilient communities; and empowering of women and girls. These regional AIP objectives remain relevant to Pacific development, however there will be a need to refresh the regional aid investment architecture to better reflect Step-Up priorities (planned for late 2019).

Australia's development cooperation with the Pacific moved into a new phase as Australia stepped up its engagement across the board in the Pacific. The Step-up strengthens Australia's support for infrastructure, labour mobility and expanded cooperation on regional security. Under the Step-up, we have also progressed new partnerships on sports, churches and secondary scholarships, deepening our community-level connections.

Pacific regional organisations remain an essential partner for achieving a stable, secure and prosperous region. Australia is a founding member of, and a major contributor of funds to, the main regional organisations – the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), the Pacific Community (SPC), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP). These organisations bring unique expertise, skills and specialist services that supplement Pacific island countries own efforts. Regional organisations also promote shared approaches to addressing cross-border challenges in our region including climate change, oceans management and governance, sustainable fisheries, environment and regional security.

Multilateral partners – including development banks and organisations – play an important role in bringing large-scale finance and expertise to the region. Both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have large and growing portfolios in the region (USD1.1 billion and USD3.2 billion projected respectively by 2020), and are key partners on important policy priorities, such as debt management and building financial management capacity. The ADB has been scaling-up its presence in the Pacific. It aims to have offices in all 15 ADB member Pacific countries (except Niue) by the end of 2020.

Economic development remains a challenge. ADB estimates show growth from the region slowed to 1 per cent over 2018, from 3 per cent in 2017, in line with decelerating global economic growth¹. Remoteness, weak institutions, narrow production bases and limited prospects for future diversification remain key constraints to sustainable economic growth. Regional economic integration is also limited, with goods and services trade between Australia and Pacific island countries, and among Pacific island countries, small². Designed to help address this modest trade, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) has been developed. This regional development-centred trade agreement will support increased trade and investment between Australia and New Zealand and Pacific island countries³.

Education and skills underpin economic development. Around half of all Year 4 students and a third of all Year 6 students across 15 Pacific Islands are not meeting expected literacy standards⁴. Boys lag behind girls in both literacy and numeracy. Pacific employers report that an inadequately trained workforce is a major constraint to operations. School education systems are essential to ensure Pacific Islanders can take advantage of tertiary (including vocational), employment and labour mobility pathways.


The Pacific region's susceptibility to natural disasters continued in 2018-19. Several Pacific countries experienced seismic activity and volcanic eruptions, and tropical cyclones occurred across the region. Climatic changes, such as reduced rainfall and shifting seasonal patterns, have exacerbated existing developmental challenges including food and water security.

¹ Pacific Economic Monitor, July 2019, Asian Development Bank

² Goods and services trade between Australia and Pacific island countries was just \$11.2 billion in 2018.

³ PACER Plus is a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) covering goods, services and investment. It has been signed by Australia, New Zealand and nine Pacific island countries (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).

⁴ Pacific Islands Literacy & Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) 2018 Regional Report, <https://www.spc.int/resource-centre/publications/pacific-islands-literacy-and-numeracy-assessment-2018-regional-report>



Pacific women and girls continue to face challenges identified in previous reporting periods. Up to 60 per cent of women and girls have experienced violence at the hands of partners or family members. The Inter-Parliamentary Union reports that globally women comprise 24.1 per cent of national parliamentarians (world average as at December 2018) but that the percentage of women in Pacific parliaments is around 7.9 per cent. There is a gender gap in labour force participation (formal and informal sectors) in most Pacific countries. In general, women are less likely to be in paid jobs than men, and are still under-represented in non-agriculture waged employment.

Australia, through our aid program, pursues a twin-track approach to gender equality; we mainstream gender equality considerations in bilateral and regional programs and we provide targeted programming through *Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development* (*Pacific Women*, Objective 4) to shift entrenched gender inequalities.

In the Pacific Region, an estimated 1.7 million people have a disability, with many more experiencing serious health conditions. Most Pacific Island countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Australia's disability-inclusion strategy, *Development for All 2015-2020*, commits us to strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's development program. Central to Australia's approach to disability inclusion is supporting Disability Peoples' Organisations (DPOs) in developing countries to build their capacity. In the Pacific region, Australia has partnered with the Pacific Disability Forum since 2009 to support ratification and implementation of the CRPD.

Australia is the region's largest donor. In 2018-19, Australia provided an estimated AUD1.3 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Pacific, of which AUD278.6 million was through Pacific regional expenditure - a marked increase from AUD130.7 million in 2017-18. This reflects an increase of AUD84.2 million attributable to the Pacific Regional Program, largely related to the commencement of several Step-up activities. In addition, there was an estimated increase of AUD63.6 million attributable to the Pacific region under other DFAT regional and global programs, as well as ODA expenditure by other Government departments as part of the whole of government Pacific Step-up (see Expenditure Table below).

EXPENDITURE

Estimated ODA attributed to Pacific Regional⁵ was AUD278.6 million in 2018-19.

Objective	(A\$ million)	% of total ODA ⁶
DFAT Pacific Regional Program		
Objective 1: Economic Growth	137.0	65%
<i>Private Sector Initiatives and Aid for Trade</i>	60.3	28%
<i>Labour Mobility</i>	12.4	6%
<i>Fisheries</i>	17.6	8%
<i>Education</i>	46.9	22%
Objective 2: Effective Regional Institutions	42.3	20%
<i>Regional Institutions (PIFs and SPC)</i>	25.5	12%
<i>Governance</i>	8.0	4%
<i>People to People Links</i>	7.3	3%
<i>Security Cooperation</i>	1.5	0.7%
Objective 3: Healthy and Resilient Communities	29.5	14%
<i>Health and Disability Support</i>	7.9	4%
<i>Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction</i>	21.7	10%
Objective 4: Empowering Women and Girls	0.7 ⁷	0.3%
Other	2.2	1%
Sub-total Pacific Regional Program	211.9	100%
Less Pacific regional program flows attributed to Pacific Countries ⁸	-30.4	
DFAT Other Regional and Global programs	66.1	
Other Government Departments	30.9	
Total Pacific Regional ODA Expenditure	278.6⁹	

⁵ Pacific Regional ODA flows comprise ODA flows to the Pacific, not attributable to specific countries, from the DFAT Pacific Regional Program, other DFAT regional and global programs and other Australian Government departments.

⁶ Percentages relate to the sub-total of Pacific Regional Program.

⁷ Only direct gender funding under the Pacific Regional Program. There is significant gender-related work supported under investments that are captured under the *DFAT Other Regional and Global programs* line item including \$16m for the regional elements of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development.

⁸ Some Pacific Regional Program expenditure has been allocated to specific countries in which the Pacific Regional Program operates.

⁹ 2018-19 estimated outcome.

PROGRESS TOWARDS AIP OBJECTIVES

Table 1 Rating of the Program's Progress towards Australia's Aid Objectives

Objective	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Objective 1 – Economic Growth	Green	Green
Objective 2 - Effective Regional Institutions	Amber	Amber
Objective 3 - Healthy and Resilient Communities	Amber	Amber
Objective 4 - Empowering Women and Girls	Green	Green

Note:

■ Green. Progress is as expected at this stage of implementation and it is likely that the objective will be achieved. Standard program management practices are sufficient.

■ Amber. Progress is somewhat less than expected at this stage of implementation and restorative action will be necessary if the objective is to be achieved. Close performance monitoring is recommended.


■ Red. Progress is significantly less than expected at this stage of implementation and the objective is not likely to be met given available resources and priorities. Recasting the objective may be required.

OBJECTIVE 1 - ECONOMIC GROWTH



While economic growth in the region has declined in 2018, Australia's investments have contributed to improving the enabling environment to support longer term sustainable growth. Progress against this objective remained green, based on the continued strong performance of DFAT's key private sector development, education and fisheries investments. This includes the on track delivery of the Coral Sea Cable system and the successful mobilisation of the Pacific Labour Scheme. Furthermore, all three performance benchmarks for Objective 1 were achieved in the reporting period (see Annex B). Supporting women's economic empowerment and engagement remains a priority. While some economic growth investments improved their performance on gender equality (PACER Plus), more work needs to be done to accelerate progress. Policy dialogue remains a key tool for driving investment performance. For example, the Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting held in October 2018 in Honiara, Solomon Islands, brought together over 150 delegates from across the region to accelerate labour mobility programs, and agreement was reached to further progress Pacific worker access to superannuation.

Infrastructure is critical to sustainable economic growth in the Pacific. The commencement of the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) in 2019 is a key addition to our stepped up engagement in the region. The AIFFP will provide much needed funding to support economic growth enhancing sustainable infrastructure projects. In 2018-19, DFAT undertook a comprehensive design process for the AIFFP. The design included extensive consultation with Pacific Governments, multilateral development finance institutions, infrastructure supply chain companies, infrastructure investment fund managers and the international development community. **As of 1 July 2019 the AIFFP is operational**, and work is underway to develop a pipeline of quality infrastructure projects for investment that will promote economic development, and align with the Pacific Governments' priorities. All infrastructure supported through the AIFFP will be built to withstand the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. Under the AIFFP's Climate Infrastructure Window the AIFFP will fund projects which support renewable and lower emissions energy generation and transmission. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is central to AIFFP investment effectiveness and has been considered from the outset in the design and set-up of the facility. Forty percent of the AIFFP board is female and a dedicated gender and social inclusion manager has been recruited to support the integration of GESI across the project cycle. AIFFP projects will be developed, with



attention to the business case for GESI. This includes assessing the way GESI positively intersects with factors for long-term economic growth (i.e., competitive markets, human capital, rule of law and openness to trade) as well as shorter-term, practical advantages of gender diverse talent, enhanced business creativity, social licence, accessibility and use of infrastructure by both men and women.


The **Coral Sea Cable System** (undersea telecommunications cable) connecting Australia to Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands will deliver improved internet speed, enabling significant economic opportunities. In 2018-19, substantial progress was made in the delivery of the Australian majority funded cable project. The project is **on track to be completed by December 2019**. A marine survey determined the route of the cable in 2018 and cable manufacture was completed in March 2019. Civil works were simultaneously carried out to prepare the cable landing infrastructure in all locations on time. Considerable progress was achieved with partners in PNG and Solomon Islands on cable ownership, access, and management arrangements to enable sustainable operation (over a 25-year lifespan). Stakeholder engagement and outreach has been successful and media coverage positive. Initiatives are underway to assist PNG and Solomon Islands to increase internet access and connectivity, and to harness the economic benefits offered through the cable.

Supporting **private sector development** aims to improve Pacific countries' growth prospects, and is an important part of our Pacific step-up. Despite a challenging environment, over 2018 our investments have leveraged private finance; increased access to financial services, including for women; and improved the business enabling environment. The third phase of the **Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI)** performed well over the year. Business law reform and establishment of online business registries in a number of countries dramatically increased the rate of company formation by an average of 114 per cent, and reduced business registration processes from an average 22 to 1.5 days¹⁰. The **Pacific Readiness for Investment in Social Enterprise program (Pacific RISE)** transitioned from scoping, to testing investment readiness processes with intermediaries in 2018, to a pipeline of investment ready opportunities. In Vanuatu, Pacific RISE supported Coconut Oil Production Santo Limited (COPSL) with a AUD250,000 investment to establish a Virgin Coconut Oil processing plant. This investment will open new markets and increase incomes for approximately 100 rural families, with particular benefits for women as around 30 per cent of oil will be purchased from women suppliers. Pacific RISE has also been involved in linking social enterprises who work with people with a disability to intermediaries in the Pacific. This included consultations on how social enterprises and organisations with a disability focus could play a role in impact investments in the Pacific.

The **Pacific Finance Inclusion Program (PFIP)** has played an important role in expanding access to financial services for more than two million rural and low-income Pacific island people. Over 2018-19, at least an additional 127,697 Pacific island people, a third of who were women, gained access to some form of financial services. These services included micro-insurance or micro-pension products, mobile money services, and banking services through improved banking-agent networks. The new **Asia-Pacific Data for Development Initiative – Pacific Component (APD4DI)** didn't perform adequately in 2018-19, with stalled implementation and key milestones not met (reflected in low Aid Quality Check ratings). This has been addressed through revised institutional and governance processes, the recruitment of key staff and advisory capacity, and new partnerships established, resulting in improved performance in 2019.

Trade facilitation is enhancing livelihoods and growth opportunities in Pacific island countries. In 2018-19, the **PACER Plus Readiness Package** supported all Pacific PACER Plus signatories to adopt the latest international customs nomenclature HS2017. It also funded the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to develop a regionally integrated online trade portal for each signatory. In addition to providing advice on tariff rates, the portal comprehensively documents import and export procedures. UNCTAD established a PACER Plus Project Regional Coordination Office in Apia, Samoa, to support delivery of the trade transparency project. Trade portals are now operational in eight of the nine signatory countries.

¹⁰ Online business registries make the process of formally registering a business cheaper, faster, more predictable, and more accessible, particularly to residents of remote communities, women, and poorer people. PSDI has supported the entire process of online registry development—from initial analysis and legislative reforms to technical implementation, training, awareness raising, and operational support—needed to shift countries from outdated, paper-based registries to responsive and efficient digital ones.



The **Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program** (PHAMA Plus) helps Pacific island countries develop and maintain agricultural export markets by helping them meet export market biosecurity and quality requirements. Since the commencement of the latest phase in November 2018, PHAMA Plus has facilitated an additional volume of over 95MT of cocoa sales from PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to premium international markets. This has generated sales revenue of AUD110,250 for several exporters who are buying from over 100 farmers. The previous version of PHAMA ended in November 2018 and generated useful lessons for future market access programs, such as the importance of DFAT working more closely with whole-of-government partners to support PIC market access requests, addressing impediments across value chains alongside market access, and supporting a value-addition process for Pacific products. The Australian Government's support of **Pacific Trade Invest** (PTI), an agency of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, has assisted 981 businesses in 2018-19. PTI has facilitated a total of AUD23.5 million in exports and AUD2.29 million in investments. PTI's innovative Digital Trade Program focuses on supporting business in Pacific island countries to take advantage of the benefits that e-commerce can provide.

Australia is working with Pacific island countries through the expansion of **Pacific labour mobility** to realise what the World Bank describes as a 'major transformational economic opportunity'. This could potentially generate additional net income of USD13 billion for Pacific island countries by 2040.¹¹ Pacific labour mobility comprises two initiatives – the DFAT-led **Pacific Labour Scheme** (PLS) and the Department of Employment-led Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP). The PLS commenced on 1 July 2018, providing employment opportunities to Pacific island and Timor-Leste workers. In November 2018, the Australian Government announced the uncapping and expansion of PLS to all key Pacific island countries (previously capped with upper limit of 2,000 workers per year). Over 2018-19, Australia negotiated and signed Memoranda of Understanding with seven new countries to join the Pacific Labour Scheme. Workers from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu can now access low and semi-skilled employment for one to three years in rural and regional Australia. The Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC3) has been recast to ensure Pacific workers are well connected to the opportunities the PLS provides. Going forward, further work is needed to strengthen the risk management approach across whole-of-government partners.


We established the **Pacific Labour Facility** (PLF) in October 2018 to connect Australian businesses with Pacific island and Timor Leste workers and support sending countries to increase the number of workers coming to Australia. The PLF has established robust systems providing a strong foundation to increase the number of workers in coming years, including through mobilising managers out-posted in six countries. The number of PLS workers steadily increased in 2018-19; 202 Pacific island workers, including 39 per cent women, arrived in Australia during this inception phase. Strong growth is expected as awareness of the scheme increases. Australian businesses have demonstrated keen interest, with more than 50 employers approved to participate in the PLS in the first 12 months. The PLF also provided support to the expanding SWP, through strengthening partner government systems and establishing a 24 hour hotline to support workers welfare. In 2018–19, over 12,200 SWP workers came to Australia, an increase of 44 per cent from 2017-18. Women's participation in the SWP has increased to almost 18 per cent, up from 13.7 per cent during 2012-2017¹².

The Pacific regional **education and skills portfolio** is vital for the Pacific to realise its economic potential. The portfolio focuses on supporting regional education public goods to complement national education reform efforts with a focus on student and employment pathways in the region.

There is a strong commitment and momentum for education reform across the Pacific. This has been led by the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) through **agreement on the Pacific Regional Education Framework (PacREF) 2018-2030**. In 2018-19, DFAT engaged extensively with Pacific Island Countries (PICs) on the preparation of the PacREF and, looking ahead, is committed to coordinating bilateral and regional resources to support the regional education reform agenda. Key areas of focus for the PacREF will include supporting curriculum development, school level learning pathways, and building the capacity of teachers.

¹¹ World Bank Pacific Possible (August 2017) p xv i, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/168951503668157320/pdf/ACS22308-PUBLIC-P154324-ADD-SERIES-PPFullReportFINALscreen.pdf>.

¹² World Bank, Maximizing the Development Impacts from Temporary Migration, 2017, <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/572391522153097172/pdf/122270-repl-PUBLIC.pdf>



The **Education Quality Assessment Program (EQAP)** (AUD16 million over five years) administers school assessment and compiles education data and research that assists national education systems. In 2018, EQAP conducted the third Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA) administered in 15 countries in 10 languages and undertaken by 40,000 year 4 and 6 students in 925 schools. Key findings of the PILNA included improvements in literacy and numeracy; 53 per cent of students in Year 4 met or exceeded literacy standards, up from 43 per cent in 2015; and 63 per cent of Year 6 students met or exceeded expected literacy standards, up from 50 per cent in 2015. Further interventions are required to enable improvements for the significant number of students not meeting expected standards.

The **Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC3)** third phase commenced on 1 July 2018, following a successful second phase which concluded 30 June 2018 (see box below). APTC3 is helping create a skilled and competitive Pacific workforce through a AUD128 million investment over four years, with campuses in five countries – Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. In 2018-19: 2,025 students graduated with Australian qualifications, of which 34 per cent were women, and more than 80 per cent of graduates were employed in their field of training. To date, international labour mobility for APTC graduates has been low. The baseline is 2 per cent of graduates. The APTC and PLF are working closely to strengthen opportunities for APTC graduates to access opportunities under Australia's Pacific labour mobility programs.

Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) Phase 2 2011-2018

APTC, one of Australia's flagship investments in the Pacific region, provided a strong Australian identity and successfully promoted Australia's ongoing commitment to the Pacific, including strengthened people-to-people linkages and economic growth through skills development. Skills development and vocational education are key elements in Australia's support for the Pacific including our stepped up Pacific engagement. APTC succeeded in building national and regional capacity in skills development and gained a strong reputation for quality and relevance among stakeholders.

By the end of phase 2:

- 12,862 Pacific Islanders had graduated with Australian VET qualifications, including over 40% women.
- 93% of graduates responding to surveys reported having improved employment prospects.
- 55% of graduates promoted and/or given more responsibility and 52% earned more than before.
- 42% of APTC academic staff were female, and 62% of support and management staff were female.
- APTC addressed occupational gender discrimination through the proactive recruitment of women to study in traditionally male-dominated trade areas (eg electrical, plumbing, carpentry etc), and of male students to study health and community services courses (e.g. disability, children's services, aged care).

Fisheries are an essential source of food, nutrition, revenue and employment, and present an opportunity to support and strengthen economic growth outcomes in the Pacific. Australia's long standing support and active engagement in Pacific fisheries, principally through the **Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)** and the **Pacific Community (SPC)** (respectively, AUD5 million and AUD2.4 million annually), helps Pacific island countries to benefit from the sustainable use of their fisheries resources. Pacific Leaders' ten year goals for offshore tuna fisheries set out under the Regional Roadmap for Fisheries (2015) are largely being achieved. Most recent figures (2017) show the tuna catch in the waters of FFA members delivered over USD535 million in revenue from access and license fees (up 8 per cent from 2016) and USD450 million in GDP (up 26 per cent from 2016). Employment in tuna-related sectors also continued to increase to an estimated 22,500. The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Ocean remained the only tuna fishing region in the world where stocks are not classified as overfished. Still, the long-term sustainability and profitability of this fishery is being undermined by overcapacity; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities; and the impacts of climate change.

Australia continued to work with partners to strengthen community-based approaches to **Pacific coastal fisheries management** for food security. To date, the project has engaged directly with 101 communities across Kiribati (31), Solomon Islands (37) and Vanuatu (33), and developed 18 new management plans. Overall, 75% of project activities to date were conducted in collaboration with one or more national, sub-national, or civil society agency, promoting increased recognition and support for sustainable management of inshore fisheries resources.

Securing maritime boundaries is a key issue for the development, sovereignty and security of the region. Noting the importance of maritime resources for economic development in the Pacific, in 2018-19 Australia worked with partners, including the Pacific Community, to help countries establish maritime zones consistently with the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), including their Exclusive Economic Zones and continental shelves. In the last year, three shared boundaries were agreed in-principle, with signature pending approval by respective Governments. Establishing maritime zone limits and depositing this information with the UN is also a priority for securing maritime jurisdiction in the face of climate change impacts, such as sea level rise.


In 2018-19, Australia remained a strong supporter of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner's role in regional coordination and advocacy on **cross-sectoral ocean issues**, including ongoing negotiations for a new international agreement on biological diversity of areas beyond national boundaries. This is a key focus for developing states, which seek a share of benefits derived from high seas marine genetic resources, and a priority identified by PIF Leaders.

The absence of a Pacific regional Performance Assessment Framework and the number and diversity of investments grouped under the economic growth objective makes it challenging to track and assess overall performance. A key management action is to develop a new regional aid investment plan and performance assessment framework to improve program coherence and performance. Another important management action will be to strengthen the links between skills programming and the PLS to ensure workers have the most relevant skills possible to participate in the Australian job market as well as in home economies.

OBJECTIVE 2 - EFFECTIVE REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS



Progress against this objective remained amber. The major regional organisations have consolidated reforms of their financial and management systems. They further prioritised their work over the reporting period to partially meet the benchmark - that regional organisations have defined, clear and sensible priorities. Challenges remain to tighten financial accountability, in particular for the University of South Pacific (USP). Regional organisations demonstrated mixed performance on gender equality. Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) significantly increased its gender equality performance, making good progress through the DFAT funded Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Adviser and improved international engagement and reporting on gender equality outcomes. Despite strong progress in some key divisions, more work needs to be done across SPC to lift performance on gender equality. There is room for improvement within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Partnership to improve gender equality. Strengthening gender analysis and social inclusion remains a priority for Australia, and we will work with the regional organisations to embed this approach in their work. Regular policy dialogue remains a key tool for progressing shared challenges and joint commitments.



The Pacific Community (SPC) is the largest technical and scientific organisation in the Pacific. Australia is a member of SPC, as are all Pacific island countries and territories, New Zealand, the United States and France. Australia is also the largest donor to SPC, and in 2018 provided AUD28.9 million for core funding, and for SPC programs and project activities. Our funding to SPC supported delivery of essential services to Pacific island countries and territories, including in fisheries science to help manage the region's valuable tuna stock, maintaining education standards, addressing non-communicable diseases, and generating statistics to track progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2018-19, with Australia's support, SPC delivered the Pacific Literacy and Numeracy Assessment, which aims to lift education standards across 15 Pacific island countries and territories. Other examples of where Australian funding to SPC made an impact included: Fiji amended legislation in favour of equal employment of men and women in its mining sector; Samoa finalised its maritime boundaries; and in Kiribati 6,000 people gained access to water following SPC installation of a water system.

Australia's support to SPC is focused on improved regional service delivery, enhanced SPC capabilities (including improved financial management and gender mainstreaming) and a stronger relationship between Australia and SPC. In 2018-19, SPC maintained its momentum in terms of budget and project delivery reform, increasing its project expenditure rates to almost 100 per cent.

SPC further refined its programs to focus on the 10 priorities agreed by SPC members, including climate change and disasters, ocean science and food security. Australia's support to SPC continued to fund world-class stock assessments for offshore fisheries and the sustainable management of coastal fisheries. SPC demonstrated excellent results on gender equality over the reporting period in the fisheries and maritime sectors, which applied gender analysis to their important work on coastal fisheries, but slower progress on gender in other sectors. SPC Division of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) worked closely with SPC's Social Development Program to improve gender equity and social inclusion in delivery of outcomes relating to sustainable management of natural resources. Initiatives included development of the Pacific Handbook for Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Fisheries and Aquaculture (published March 2019), and gender analysis of the aquaculture sector in Fiji and Samoa.

In early April 2018, and for the first time, Australia and New Zealand held joint High Level Consultations with the SPC. Reflecting the alignment of Australia and New Zealand's interests in the region, the talks were an important opportunity to discuss our collective interests in effective SPC service delivery to help build a secure and prosperous region.

On 21 June 2019, Foreign Minister Payne attended the biennial SPC Ministerial Conference, the first Australian Foreign Minister to attend the Conference since its inception. Ministers called for greater investments in ocean science and discussed how best to ensure the long-term health of our oceans, which are vital to Pacific economies, livelihoods and cultures. Minister Payne also announced an additional AUD3.5 million for the SPC to help Pacific island countries address the risks to their maritime zones posed by sea-level rise, and other climate-related impacts.

Australia is the largest donor to the **Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)**, and in 2018-19 provided AUD6.24 million in core funding to support its work on regional political governance, economic cooperation, security and trade. Australia assisted the Secretariat to support a number of high-level events in the Pacific, including the participation of Pacific leaders at Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders week, hosted by Papua New Guinea in late November 2018, and a visit by UN Secretary-General Guterres to Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Secretariat hosted a high-level political dialogue for PIF Leaders with Secretary-General Guterres on 15 May, focused on climate change ahead of the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in September 2019.




The PIF Secretariat led two major reviews in the reporting period – a health check of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and a Forum Troika review of arrangements for the PIF leaders’ meeting. Australia contributed to both reviews, including supporting the development of a *2050 Strategy to Secure the Blue Pacific*, and proposing ways to strengthen leaders’ discussions with Forum Dialogue Partners (the 18 countries recognised by PIF leaders as having significant political or economic interests in the Pacific, including the US, UK, China and Japan).

The Secretariat bedded down important corporate and financial reforms over the past year, including regular meetings of the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee, introducing streamlined business processes for financial management, and finalising a revised Strategic Framework 2017-2021. In September 2018, PIF leaders endorsed a new sustainable funding strategy for the Secretariat. The Strategy will, over time, increase the proportion of membership funding from Forum island countries. This importantly helps secure greater ownership by members of their organisation, and places greater expectations on the Secretariat to deliver relevant policy advice and effective arrangements for its members. Australia has funded a Social Inclusion Adviser position in the Secretariat, which has supported country members to prepare for key international gender equality engagements and established a governance mechanism to implement the Pacific Framework on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016). This role will strengthen its capacity for gender and disability analysis in regional policy development.

The next stage of Australia’s support for the **University of South Pacific (USP)** commenced in April 2019 with the signing of a new Partnership Agreement. USP is a key source of graduates to industry and government in the region, providing the critical workforce for sustainable development. Australia recognises the importance of a university with a strong Pacific identity supporting economic and social development in the region. The education sector, particularly teacher education and education systems strengthening, remains a fundamental part of USP’s mandate and services, with high expectations from Pacific island governments. The new partnership focuses on lifting teacher-training standards in line with the priorities of the new Pacific Regional Education Framework. It also encourages greater linkages between the University and Australia’s tertiary education sector. Australia has been working closely with USP to support its transition to new leadership with the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor in January 2019. We have also been working closely with Pacific Education Ministers through our Ministerially-appointed representative on the University Council to respond to recent allegations of serious policy non-compliance by the University.

PacificAus Sports (formerly the Australia-Pacific Sports Linkages Program) is a AUD52 million (AUD40 million non-ODA and AUD12 million ODA) program designed to build closer and deeper ties with Pacific nations through sport. In PacificAus Sports’ first year (2018-19) it partnered with four Australian national sporting organisations: Netball Australia; Football Federation Australia; National Rugby League; and Rugby Australia to deliver AUD3.3 million (non-ODA) of sports diplomacy activities in the Pacific focused on high performance sport. Sixty-one per cent of all funded PacificAus Sports activities to date have directly benefitted women and girls. PacificAus Sports will administer AUD12 million in ODA funding from 2019-20 to 2022-23 aimed at developing sports administration, governance, and policy in Pacific sporting bodies.

In 2019, the **Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)** celebrated 40 years of championing coastal states’ rights and cooperation in the sustainable management of the region’s valuable offshore fish stocks as the pathway to long-term regional security. Significant achievements include the approval of a new FFA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and agreement on a new Regional Longline Strategy– both demonstrating commitment to collective and national action. By presenting a strong unified front, FFA Members achieved all five priorities set by Fisheries Ministers for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) meeting in December 2018, each of which will deliver long-term benefit to the region. In June 2019, Fisheries Ministers also agreed to introduce harmonised minimum terms and conditions for employment standards of crew on board all fishing vessels, thereby reducing the risk of potential human rights abuses at sea.



In 2018-19, Australia increased core funding to **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)** to support SPREP's work in protecting island and ocean ecosystems, encouraging sustainable development, assisting in climate change adaptation and improving waste management. Having identified deficiencies in its gender and social inclusion indicators, we are working with SPREP to make improvements in these areas. SPREP has made some progress by ensuring projects consider gender equality gaps and constraints in the design and implementation stages, in accordance with the programme gender policy. Australia also committed to fund the AUD16 million (2019-2025) **Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP)**, which will assist SPREP to implement the *Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018 2025* and coordinate and align the many regional and national donor driven activities and agendas on plastic pollution in the Pacific. Highlights of achievements for SPREP over the past year include delivery of assistance to Pacific countries for the UNFCCC negotiations and communications; and implementing the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan.

Climate change and disaster resilience coordination is addressed through the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP), which implements the Framework for Resilient Development with support of combined secretariat formed by PIFS, SPREP and SPC. The PRP is contributing enhanced alignment of CROP's climate change mandates.

OBJECTIVE 3 - HEALTHY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES




The rating for healthy and resilient communities remains amber. The program continues to make good progress in mainstreaming climate change into an increasing number of Pacific bilateral and regional investments, but there is still more work to do to cover all existing programs and new designs. While there are examples of climate information informing decisions, this requires ongoing work to access and analyse relevant climate information and communicate it in a way that makes sense to government, sectors and communities. For health, positive progress was made to ensure the whole portfolio is delivering effective programs but there is room for improvement in areas of gender, disability and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The planned evaluations for health investments will provide more concrete evidence of performance (see Annex C – Evaluation Planning).

Regional climate change

Australia is working more closely than ever with the Pacific on issues of greatest concern to them, including climate change. As part of our steadfast commitment to address climate change in the region, Australia committed to spending AUD300 million on strengthening climate and disaster resilience between 2016 and 2020. We are well on track to exceed this commitment, through dedicated initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience, as well as a comprehensive effort to integrate climate and disaster risks across the Pacific aid program. At the 2019 Pacific Island Forum (Tuvalu, 13 August), the Prime Minister announced a new AUD500 million commitment over five years (2020-2025) for renewable energy, climate change and disaster resilience in the Pacific.

In 2018-19, the **Australia Pacific Climate Partnership** (the Climate Partnership, AUD75 million 2018-2022) was established. The Partnership includes four components that aim to: integrate climate and disaster risk reduction across Australia's aid program in the Pacific; increase access to climate information; improve climate change governance; and make climate action more gender and socially inclusive. The Climate Partnership has provided technical assistance for the PIF Secretariat to develop a proposal for a new climate and disaster resilience funding mechanism, the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF). A Climate Partnership Gender and Social Inclusion strategy was also developed in 2018 through extensive consultation. The strategy sets out actions to promote gender equality and social inclusion throughout all of the Climate Partnership's



activities and sub-programs. In 2018-19, the Climate Partnership also established a partnership with the Pacific Disability Forum to explore the impacts of climate change on men and women with disability. In the first stage of the partnership PRF will build an evidence base through case study research with national disabled people's organisations in Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The second phase of the partnership will support advocacy and programming for disability inclusive climate and disaster risk reduction (DRR) actions in selected Pacific countries.

A key pillar of the **Climate Partnership** is its **Support Unit**, which is leading the integration of climate and disaster resilience into the design and implementation of aid investments in the Pacific, including governance, infrastructure, health and education programs. The Support Unit commissioned a range of thematic analyses in climate change and health, renewable energy, education and infrastructure to inform climate and disaster integration going forward. In addition, the Support Unit responded to 160 requests for support from Pacific country and regional programs with focus on a multi hazard approach to disaster and climate resilience. For example, the redevelopment of the Gizo Market in Solomon Islands was designed to withstand Category 5 cyclone wind speeds and projected storm surge and the Support Unit has helped shape vocational training in Vanuatu to manage climate change risks in tourism and agribusiness sectors.


With the impact of climate change and natural disasters escalating, and focus on infrastructure in the Pacific aid program increasing, it is important that Australian support is delivering climate and disaster resilient construction. While the Support Unit has increased engagement with bilateral infrastructure programs across the region there have been challenges in this sector, such as ready access to granular climate information and specific technical expertise on climate resilient infrastructure. Australia will do more in this space, including through the new AIFFP, a key initiative under Australia's Pacific Step-up. Infrastructure built through this facility will be climate smart and disaster resilient, with a focus on energy, transport, water and communication sectors, which are key areas in meeting the challenges of climate change and disasters in the region. Key integration strategies of the Support Unit include ensuring all aid investments integrate climate and disaster resilience and low carbon development at concept and design phase, so that internal resourcing, M&E and risk management is assured during implementation.

Australia's **Climate and Oceans Support Program** in the Pacific was extended to a second phase, building on our long-term support for climate science in the region. The program supports 14 Pacific meteorological services to monitor, analyse and communicate information about climate and oceans, including seasonal forecasts and sea level rise. In 2018-19, the program supported seven meteorological services (Fiji, PNG, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Samoa, Kiribati) to provide monthly updates on rainfall and predicted drier or wetter conditions to help communities, sectors (agriculture, health, energy, disaster management agencies) and governments to make decisions and prepare for the season ahead.

The **Pacific Risk Resilience Program** (PRRP) (2012-2018), piloted in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, established a model for mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk management into PIC national, sub-national and community decision making and planning. For example, incorporating climate and disaster risk into the design and construction of a rural road in Fiji's Northern Division resulted in a road that withstood heavy rainfall from two cyclones in 2018 without landslides, while those nearby did not. In 2018-19, the design of **Pacific Resilience and Governance Program** (PRGP) (AUD10.4m, 2019-22) was finalised, building on the PRRP and scaling up to integrate climate and disaster risks in Pacific national and sub-national plans and policies in up to nine Pacific countries.

Pacific Regional Health

The Pacific regional health program aims to strengthen regional health governance and policy and deliver health services and training that cannot be provided in individual countries or where there are economies of scale through regional or multi-country approaches. Program objectives are linked to the Pacific region's *Healthy Islands Framework (2015-2025)* which is monitored annually by the Pacific Heads of Health, reporting to Pacific Health Ministers. The regional program complements investments in bilateral health programs including through capacity support for policy and legislation development, and delivery of clinical training.



Australia's funding is enabling **SPC's Public Health Division (PHD)** to extend its support for Pacific Ministries of Health to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In 2018-19 we committed an additional AUD1 million to enable PHD to accelerate efforts to address childhood obesity. SPC PHD is working directly with countries to ensure action on childhood obesity occurs in a coordinated way across relevant sectors.

Pacific countries work with the World Health Organisation and SPC PHD to improve their compliance with the **International Health Regulations**. PHD helped five Pacific countries implement their national surveillance, disaster preparedness and response plans; and three countries are now implementing their national infection prevention and control policies. This should enable more rapid and organised response to disasters and lead to a reduction in health-care associated infections.

The **Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)** worked in eight Pacific countries. Volunteer medical teams conducted, on average, more than five clinical consultations daily and at least one operation daily, which averted 3443 disability-adjusted life years from 340 patients across six surgical specialties. RACS' increased emphasis on professional development activities has been building professional relationships and networks which contribute to a connected and well-supported Pacific health workforce.

The **UN joint program on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH)** has strengthened government-led cross-sectoral planning, budgeting and reporting, although there are ongoing challenges with service delivery. The program experiences the persistent challenges of insufficient human resourcing capability, disconnects between UN and national health systems, and poor data collection and analysis. An evaluation in the second half of 2019 will assess the extent to which the program has achieved its outcomes.


While implementing partners have improved their collection of sex disaggregated data, greater efforts are required to ensure understanding of the differing needs of men and women and to promote women's participation and leadership in the workforce. A good example of gender equality mainstreaming is RACS' analysis of women's access to specialist training in anaesthesia and surgical specialties at the National Referral Hospital in Solomon Islands. It was also found that a previous trainee of the program has now become the first female anaesthetic consultant in the Solomon Islands. The results of RACS' analysis will also influence future training plans. More active mainstreaming of disability inclusion is needed through the whole program.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks are in place for each activity. While partners confirm through established reporting structures that they are delivering effective programs. The quality and utility of partners' M&E systems is, however, variable. Partners are working to strengthen these systems. Partners could also strengthen their approaches by communicating challenges as well as achievements and we will continue to encourage them to do this.

OBJECTIVE 4 - EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS



The rating for **empowering women and girls** remains green. This is based on the continued strong performance of DFAT's flagship investment targeting gender equality, Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*, AUD320 million 2012-22), which is demonstrating results as expected based on reporting and monitoring. Achievements and opportunities for improvement will be assessed through a six-year evaluation of *Pacific Women*, scheduled for the second half of 2019. The 2018-19 benchmark called for 6,000 women to be supported to take on leadership roles at the community, provincial and national level. During the reporting period, an additional 1,552 women were supported to take on leadership, bringing the cumulative number of women supported through *Pacific Women's* the regional activities to 9,716.



In line with DFAT's twin-track approach, gender equality is mainstreamed through the other three AIP objectives as well as DFAT's bilateral programs in the Pacific. Gender equality has also been well integrated into the design and inception phases of key regional security, people-to-people and economic initiatives under Australia's stepped up engagement in the region. For example, both Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility Pacific and the Pacific Labour Scheme designs have integrated gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations and are recruiting specialist technical resources. These initiatives will deliver results over the next reporting period.

Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (*Pacific Women*)

In 2018-19, effectiveness of the program increased, with improved performance of the *Pacific Women* Support Unit on quality and strategic policy advice issues, and improvements to already strong monitoring and evaluation, including analysis of program data for reporting purposes.


In its first 6 years, the initiative has supported: 12,512 women to take on leadership roles at the community, provincial and national levels; 17,960 women to access financial literacy training and financial services; 64,262 women and children to access crisis support services, including counselling, health and justice service; and 6,613 men to undertake male advocacy training. This includes support for around 1,000 people with disabilities.

In 2018-19, *Pacific Women* finalised two key program designs. *Pacific Girl* provides support to Pacific organisations working in a transformative way with adolescent girls. *Balance of Power* will support change in deeply entrenched negative social norms and attitudes on leadership that are a primary barrier to women's participation and voice in political processes.

Expanded women's economic empowerment (WEE) programming in 2018-19 resulted in gains for women, their families and communities. A mid-term evaluation of *Markets for Change* showed that in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu there were increased opportunities for women to save money and expand their businesses. More women are participating in Market Vendor Associations and engaging with government, which in Fiji has led to many municipal councils increasingly employing female market staff (previously almost exclusively men). However, women's control of their income requires further work and this will be more fully addressed in the next phase of the program. Other programs (for example the CARE Coffee program and ACIAR's Family Teams program in PNG) have had success in changing underlying gender dynamics affecting women's economic decision making, and changing family and community attitudes to women as money managers and decision makers. They have done this by engaging the whole family (including husbands and children) and by providing additional services to both women and men.

The *Pacific Women* Support Unit organised a regional learning forum on WEE, which was successful in sharing approaches to the issues outlined above. The forum provided over 240 participants the practical skills to understand and address the links between women's economic empowerment and discriminatory social and institutional norms.

Pacific Women continued to deliver strong results to end violence against women (EVAW) by improving the quality of services for survivors, as well as delivering new and expanded services in Marshall Islands and Cook Islands, respectively. Partners employed a number of strategies to change social norms, including community and faith-based prevention and male advocacy. These approaches are helping women and men to reconsider their gendered roles and practices and how these contribute to violence in families and communities. Partners are taking more joined-up action, and leveraging support from governments as well as the private sector. Lack of Pacific government resourcing for enforcement of domestic violence legislation remains a challenge.



Pacific Women and DFAT Posts are working with partner governments and regional organisations, such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), to support improved gender equality policies and programs, and inclusion of marginalised populations. In 2018-19:

- the Government of Fiji instituted a new task force on Women and Climate Change following advocacy by coalition partners involved in *Pacific Women's* WeRise program.
- The *Pacific Women*-funded Gender and Social Advisor in PIFS has established support to country members to prepare for key gender equality engagements such as the Commission on the Status of Women, and established a governance mechanism to implement the Pacific Framework on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2016).
- Gender advisers in Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu encouraged disability inclusion in their legislation and policy support activities, and ending violence programs in Papua New Guinea were adapted to be inclusive of women with disability.
- The 2018 evaluation of the We Rise coalition noted greater engagement and support for the leadership, voice and rights of women identifying as LGBTQI, but noted they still face significant institutional and societal barriers to inclusion.

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and Australian Federal Police (AFP) worked with Pacific island countries to increase access to justice for women and children survivors of violence through improved police responses, implementation of domestic violence legislation and increasing women's leadership. In 2018-19:

- AGD delivered training and mentoring to build policy and law reform skills of 58 female Pacific law and justice officials through its Pacific Policy Champions and Pacific Legal Policy Twinning programs.
- AFP strengthened police frontline response to family violence and increased community awareness of the impact of family violence.
- AFP partnered with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre to deliver Gender Advocates Training (GAT) for Pacific police, through its Pacific Police Development Program-Regional (PPDP-R).
 - o Some positive outcomes include development of a code of conduct and increased recruitment of female members to the Crime Branch in Tuvalu, and drafting of a sexual harassment policy for Kiribati's police service.
- AFP's Executive Women's Leadership Forum continued to build the networking, leadership skills and qualifications of thirteen Pacific police women in senior and executive level positions across eleven Pacific police services.

MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The Pacific Regional Program promotes mutual accountability through joint commitments negotiated with major Pacific regional organisations, as set out in multi-year Partnership Agreements. Australia holds regular high-level consultations with relevant regional organisations to discuss and track performance and mutually agree future actions. In 2018-19, Australia continued to consolidate and strengthen these partnerships. DFAT provided flexible, specialist support to regional organisations to advance key issues including the development of results frameworks, monitoring and evaluation and reviews of regional meetings.

SPC and PIFS have continued to strengthen program delivery and financial management. In the reporting period, SPC has refocused its programming on ten priorities agreed by SPC members to improve program coherence and performance. The PIFS bedded down important corporate and financial reforms over the past year, which included regular meetings of the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee, introducing streamlined processes for financial management, and finalising a revised Strategic Framework 2017-2021.

Mutual obligations are also a core part of the effective delivery of the Pacific Labour Scheme. In 2018-19, Australia negotiated joint commitments with participating governments for the Scheme that relate to strengthening the enabling environment for sending skilled workers from the Pacific and generating demand from quality employers in Australia. These mutual obligations were set out in Memoranda of Understanding and signed with seven partner governments in the reporting year, with the previous three participants



signing in 2017-18. The reporting period represents the first 12 months of the Scheme, a period of mixed progress, with more work needed to address capacity constraints in some of our partner countries to identify and mobilise skilled workers to come to Australia.

Australia also adopted a strong partnership approach to its significant investment in the Coral Sea Cable System, including mutual obligations on all parties. A trilateral MoU, signed in July 2018, between Australia, PNG and Solomon Islands, committed PNG and Solomon Islands to jointly fund one-third of the project costs, with Australia funding the remaining two thirds. Australia is encouraging fair and non-discriminatory access to the telecommunications cable through project agreements with partners in PNG and Solomon Islands.

PROGRAM QUALITY AND PARTNER PERFORMANCE

Overview

A Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) was not developed for the Pacific Regional Program as a whole, creating some challenges with assessing overarching progress on performance. However, many individual investments have PAFs in place which are reported on during the Aid Quality Check process. The program as a whole would benefit from strengthening capacity and focus on generating effective performance information and strengthening data quality. The proliferation of activities could impact overall performance in the future. These challenges will be addressed in the next AIP, particularly through the development of a whole of program PAF.

To support effective and efficient program management, six program evaluations were undertaken in 2018-19 (Annex C) and a further six are scheduled for 2019-20.


Aid Quality Checks (AQC)

In 2018-19, the Aid Quality Check (AQC) process has been revised to focus on fewer quality criteria (effectiveness, efficiency, gender equality), while no changes have been made to the FAQC criteria.

The Pacific Regional Program conducted 28 performance assessments in 2018-19, covering 82 per cent of program expenditure. The Pacific Regional Program has exceeded the strategic target for value for money (85 per cent of investments demonstrate satisfactory effectiveness and efficiency ratings). Of the 28 investments, 96 per cent (27 of 28 investments) achieved satisfactory ratings for effectiveness and 92 per cent of investments (26 of 28) achieved satisfactory ratings for efficiency. This represents a slight decrease from 100 per cent in 2017-19, which is largely attributed to the Asia-Pacific Data for Development Initiative. This initiative achieved unsatisfactory performance against all criteria. In response, the project was re-scoped with targeted deliverables in 2019-20 and addressed through revised institutional and governance processes.

Gender equality ratings have increased from 65 per cent in 2017-18 to 70 per cent in 2018-19. This is due in part through a number of new investments that have adequately integrated gender equality considerations, as well as improved performance by PIFS. However, the satisfactory ratings remain below the 'empowering women and girls' strategic target of 80 per cent. Ongoing attention to strengthen the effective mainstreaming of gender equality and social inclusion across Pacific regional investments will be required to sustain improvements.

Investments such as PACER Plus and the Pacific Islands Forum partnership have demonstrated improved gender equality ratings, moving from unsatisfactory in 2017-18 to satisfactory in this reporting period. While five ongoing investments were rated as good or very good for gender (23%), six were rated as unsatisfactory. There are a range of factors for unsatisfactory performance on gender equality, including limited consideration in design, commitment and resourcing from partners, and collection and use of sex-disaggregated data.



Performance of key delivery partners

The Pacific Regional Program conducted 18 Partner Performance Assessments (PPAs) in 2018-19, which assessed the performance of partners under agreements that spent AUD34.6 million (covering some 16 per cent of expenditure under the Pacific Regional Program). The performance of partners in the Pacific Regional Program was strong. In 2019, every partner was rated as satisfactory against all five dimensions of performance. This is consistent with the previous year. In particular, our partners are demonstrating strong performance on Collaboration, Communication and Responsiveness (average of 4.8 out of 6); Effective Partner Personnel (average of 4.8); and Policy alignment, risk management and innovation (4.7). This is similar to last year, but represents a slight decline of 0.1 in all three fields. Of our partners, six were multilateral organisations, including UNDP, UNICEF, IMF, IFC and UN Women, and eight were commercial contractors.

RISKS

Table 3: Management of Key Risks to Achieving Objectives

Key risks (emerging and ongoing)	What actions were taken to manage the risks over the past year?	What further actions will be taken to manage the risks in the coming year?	Provide a Risk Rating (low, medium, high, very high)	Are these same risks in in Post's Risk Register (Yes/No)*
The Pacific Regional Program's effectiveness drops due to additional management pressures of mobilising Step-Up activities.	Office of the Pacific (OTP) established with increased staffing to deliver on Pacific Step-Up while also maintaining focus on base program. Incremental approach to implementing initiatives. Regular stakeholder consultation to improve performance.	Finalise Pacific Regional Aid Investment Plan (AIP) and Performance Assessment Framework. Incremental approach to implementing initiatives. Coordinate closely across DFAT and with other agencies. Regular stakeholder consultation to improve performance.	High	Yes – Divisional Risk Register
Proliferation of small value activities, which decreases program efficiency.	OTP established to deliver on Pacific Step-Up while also maintaining focus on base program.	Regional AIP and OTP budget processes will drive decisions of effectiveness and efficiency. Efforts to incorporate new activities under existing investments. Incorporate in 2019-20 Divisional Risk Register.	Medium	Not in 2018-19 Divisional Risk Register
Lack of coherence between bilateral and regional programs undermines program quality.	OTP established to deliver on Pacific Step-Up while also maintaining focus on base program. High profile regional investments worked with bilateral programs eg labour mobility. Strong collaboration with bilateral areas and Pacific posts on the regional program.	Regional AIP and OTP budget processes will drive decisions of effectiveness and efficiency. Development of the AIP includes consultation with posts and bilateral governments/regional organisations to support strengthened coherence. Coordination between Canberra and posts on program design and delivery across regional and bilateral investments. Incorporate program coherence in 2019 20 Divisional Risk Register.	High	Not in 2018-19 Divisional Risk Register

The overall risk profile of the portfolio has changed. With many of the Step-Up activities coming online in 2018-19 or in the final stages of design, the additional resourcing requirements for delivery and oversight has increased.



MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Progress to address management actions in 2017-18 APPR

The four management actions from the 2017-18 APPR were either not achieved or partly achieved (refer Annex A). Preparatory work for the regional AIP was undertaken but not finalised by early 2019. The draft AIP is being prepared for consultation with Pacific island countries governments in the last quarter of 2019.

Coordination between regional and bilateral programs improved through strengthened communication (for example regular meetings) and work towards a joint performance assessment framework for all Pacific aid investments. There is still more work to do to improve coordination and alignment and this activity will remain a management action for this APPR.

While important strides to improve Pacific women's participation in the workforce have been made in the reporting period, including improving the participation of women in the Seasonal Worker Programme and achieving 39 per cent women's participation in the new PLS, this management action was only partly achieved. The management focus in future years will be lifting the performance on gender equality of all DFAT regional programs.

Management Actions for 2019-20

Management actions identified for the coming year are:

- Develop a new Aid Investment Plan and undertake consultations in the final quarter of 2019, linked to budget strategy which will set out clear objectives.
- Continue to strengthen DFAT's bilateral and regional aid program coordination, alignment and synergies, including through the new AIP to outline how we focus efforts on coherence.
- Continue to intensify Australia's whole of government collaboration with Pacific governments, regional organisations and institutions with a focus on economic growth, human development and enhanced regionalism, including through strengthening alignment with Pacific processes and plans.
- Work with regional programs to improve performance on gender equality, with a focus on larger investments.

Operational Management Actions identified for the coming year are:

Objective	Program	Management Action
Objective 1 – Economic Growth	Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote alignment between AIFFP project pipeline priorities and bilateral AIPs. - Maintain strong risk systems for managing AIFFP project selection and implementation. - Increase utilisation of Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) sectoral working groups to boost coordination with other likeminded actors in the Pacific. - Gender and social inclusion explicitly considered in the design and implementation of AIFFP projects, drawing on lessons learned from the Coral Sea Cable telecommunications project and other infrastructure investments undertaken by DFAT and other development partners. - Consider opportunities to maximise the development impact of the cable through the PNG and Solomon Islands AIPs currently being developed, and major aid program designs.
	Pacific Labour Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to balance Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) growth with effective risk management. - Continue to strengthen links between skills programs and PLS. - Continue research agenda to inform worker welfare.
	Trade and Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued focus on Pacific island country needs in terms of ratification of PACER Plus; Ensure strong ownership by PICs in the design of the PACER Plus implementation unit and assistance package. - Continue to work with Multilateral Development Banks to maximise PIC access to concessional development finance and grants. - Work with the IFC to undertake a broad review of the second IFC Pacific Partnership. The review will also consider how the Pacific Partnership relates to the bilateral partnership with Fiji and Papua New Guinea. - Work closely with ANU to continue to improve performance of the Asia-Pacific Data for Development Initiative.
	Education and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support Pacific partners to respond to the recent PILNA literacy and numeracy data with a view to improving education pathways between primary and secondary levels for Pacific students. - Leveraging the PLF and APTC3 to enhance Pacific engagement in Australia's labour market - Work towards greater alignment of DFAT's regional and bilateral education and skills investments in line with the Pacific Regional Education Framework and APTC 3 objectives. - Support the University of the South Pacific to implement findings of its review of the school of education. - Explore opportunities for greater collaboration between APTC3 and PLF on employment pathways for graduates.



Objective 2 - Effective Regional Institutions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with other PIF members and the Secretariat to strengthen arrangements for the PIF leaders' meeting and associated events. - Continue to work with SPC to strengthen gender and social inclusion. - Work with SPC and its members to strengthen regional coastal fisheries governance, including through the annual Heads of Fisheries meetings and technical meetings. Undertake an independent mid-term review of the Community Based Fisheries Management Program Phase 2 to inform the program and future regional support. - Continue to engage with FFA and its members to support the implementation of the FFA's new Strategic Plan and Longline Strategy and continued implementation of the Regional MCS Strategy. Work with FFA countries to identify blockages to ratifying and implementing the NTSA and identify priorities to strengthen information exchange under the NTSA.
Objective 3 - Healthy and Resilient Communities	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertake two health program evaluations, resulting in practical recommendations for sustainability, gender equality, disability inclusion and improved monitoring. - Engage with partners to strengthen mainstreaming of gender equality and disability inclusion in programs. - For disability inclusion, DFAT in Suva will engage with key actors e.g. DPOs, aiming to identify challenges in accessing health services and developing concrete actions.
	Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to work with Pacific Regional programs to strengthen consideration of climate change in program design and implementation, as reflected by level of expenditure on resilience, consultation on program designs, and reflection of resilience in monitoring and evaluation. - Apply evidence from resilience analysis and scientific data and show case examples of successful resilience integration, share lessons across the region.
Objective 4 - Empowering Women and Girls	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve evidence base to help guide remaining three years of the program by undertaking a 6 year evaluation of <i>Pacific Women</i>, including an assessment of the effectiveness of activities aimed at progressing social norm change. - Finalise and implement guidance to improve mainstreaming of disability in <i>Pacific Women</i>. - Provide technical support to regional programs to improve integration of gender equality considerations (analysis, strategy, monitoring and evaluation).

ANNEX A - PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management responses identified in 2017-18 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2018-19
DFAT will continue to prioritise activities that empower more women to enter the Pacific workforce.	Partly achieved	<p>DFAT regional programs included targeted activities that supported women to enter the Pacific workforce through improved skills, knowledge, voice and decision-making, improved access to services and employment opportunities, and improvements to the broader enabling environment.</p> <p>Pacific Women has made some progress in increasing the knowledge, skills and confidence for women to successfully undertake or expand economic activities, primarily through UN Women's regional Markets for Change project. This includes market vendor association engagement with government, which in Fiji has led to many municipal councils increasingly employing market staff. While Pacific Women provides training, capacity building and support for women to obtain formal qualifications bilaterally, there is inadequate evidence to link this to a significant number of women accessing employment opportunities.</p> <p>Under the Seasonal Worker Programme women's participation increased to 18% in 2018-19 (from 15% in previous 5 years). The Pacific Labour Scheme has increased the percentage of female workers in Pacific labour mobility by including sectors such as hospitality and aged care, as well as through targeted strategies to increase women's participation in, and benefit from, labour mobility.</p> <p>The Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) continued to empower women to participate in the private sector. The PSDI produced a regional study of the context in which Pacific women engage in the private sector. The book <i>Women and Business in the Pacific</i> analyses the circumstances and challenges of business-women across seven Pacific countries. The book advocates for legal and policy frameworks that support women's increased participation in the private sector, and presents detailed strategies to address challenges specific to each country analysed. The PSDI continued to embed gender considerations across its main areas of work, eg. in PNG it is supporting the reforms of associations and cooperatives that is better aligned to women's social and community norms.</p> <p>PACER Plus is helping women traders to more easily participate in regional trade. As part of PACER Plus Readiness Package, UNCTAD produced a major study on gender and trade transparency; country fact sheets on gender and trade; and an export manual for women traders. This work is informing UNCTAD's approach to establishing trade portals in signatory countries, which will provide traders (including women traders) with up to date and accessible information of trade procedures and processes. It also fills information gaps around key constraints to women participating in regional trade and provides recommendations for how PACER Plus can incorporate gender to maximise development benefits.</p>
Strengthen donor coordination across our health investments, and increase our support for NCD prevention.	Partly achieved	<p>Donor Coordination - DFAT continued to work with the QUINTS+ formal donor coordination mechanism (originally established by DFAT). QUINTS+ brings together SPC PHD, WHO WPRO, World Bank, ADB, MFAT and DFAT for joint problem solving around long-term and emerging Pacific health and coordination issues. DFAT continues to drive the mechanism to ensure shared understanding of priorities, roles, responsibilities and stakeholders' comparative advantages.</p> <p>NCDs – We committed an additional AUD1 million to enable SPC PHD to accelerate efforts to address childhood obesity. This enabled SPC PHD to expand its work with countries to ensure action on childhood obesity occurs in a coordinated way across all relevant sectors.</p>
Develop a new Aid Investment Plan in the first quarter of 2019.	Not achieved	Only some preparatory work was undertaken in 2018-19 to develop a new Aid Investment Plan. The AIP will be prioritised to be finalised by the end of 2019.
DFAT will continue to strengthen bilateral and regional aid program coordination, alignment and synergies.	Partly achieved	DFAT has commenced development of a joint performance assessment framework (PAF) that includes all Pacific investment (bilateral and region). One aim of the PAF is to improve Pacific program coherence and coordination. More regular Office of the Pacific operations meetings have assisted in building better understanding between bilateral and regional programs.

Note:

- Achieved. Significant progress has been made in addressing the issue
- Partly achieved. Some progress has been made in addressing the issue, but the issue has not been resolved
- Not achieved. Progress in addressing the issue has been significantly below expectations

ANNEX B – PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

Progress towards Performance Benchmarks in 2018-19

Most performance benchmarks in 2018-19 were achieved or partly achieved (six of 10 achieved, 3 of 10 partly achieved and 1 benchmark no longer relevant).

Note Ratings categories:

- Achieved. Significant progress has been made and the performance benchmark was achieved
- Partly achieved. Some progress has been made towards achieving the performance benchmark, but progress was less than anticipated.
- Not achieved. Progress towards the performance benchmark has been significantly below expectations

Aid objective	Performance Benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2018-19
Objective 1: Economic Growth			
<i>Collective action managing regional resources delivers economic benefits to Pacific governments</i>	<i>5% annual increase in revenue flowing to Forum Fisheries Agency Pacific island member governments from offshore tuna fisheries (draft Roadmap aim AUD475 million by 2020-21)</i>	Achieved	The region achieved this performance benchmark. The value of access fees paid by foreign vessels to FFA members has increased 8 per cent to approximately USD535 million in 2017 (the most recently available figure). The increase has come from fees associated with the number of days vessels are given licences to fish in the region through the Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) instituted by 8 tuna rich countries. The Pacific Regional Program is aware of the challenges in attribution of increasing fisheries revenue to its investments in core funding to the FFA. Despite this, our core funding directly supports FFA members to establish the enabling environment to effectively manage and monitor the VDS. It is therefore of strategic relevance to the Aid Program Objectives outlined in the Aid Investment Plan.
<i>Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) provides more Pacific islanders with internationally recognised qualifications in areas of demonstrated labour market demand.</i>	<i>Additional 1000 Pacific islander graduates per year with internationally recognised qualifications.</i>	Achieved	In 2018-19 more than 2,000 Pacific Islanders graduated with internationally recognised qualifications, over 34 percent were female graduates. The new phase of APTC commenced in 2018 and will increasingly focus on key outcomes that support labour mobility outcomes, co-investment and improving the quality of national systems and training. APTC has established a close partnership with the new Pacific Labour Facility to deliver on labour mobility pathways into Australia.
<i>Aid program attracts new private sector investment that contributes to Pacific development outcomes.</i>	<i>Private sector investment leveraged. (aim USD500 million /AUD660 million)</i>	Achieved	The Pacific Regional Program has to date supported investments that have leveraged approximately AUD764 million in private sector investment. While the 2018-19 target was exceeded, leveraged finance was less in 2018-19 than in previous years. Over 2018-19, funds leveraged were approximately: the IFC Pacific Partnership (AUD13.65 million); the Sydney office of Pacific Trade and Invest (AUD2.29 million) and Pacific Readiness for Investment and Social Enterprises, PacRISE (AUD640,000).

Aid objective	Performance Benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2018-19
Objective2: Effective regional institutions			
<i>Collective ownership of regional organisations by Pacific island country members.</i>	<i>Pacific island country members engaged in decision-making at Pacific regional organisation governing body meetings (aim 60%)</i>	Achieved	Pacific island country members' engagement at major regional meetings was over 80 percent. Over 90% of members were represented at leader level at the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum in Nauru, with similar levels for the Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The Forum Economic Minister's Meeting was around 70% attendance by the relevant minister. Pacific island countries were well represented at the SPC Conference in June 2019, including at ministerial level for Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The SPREP Executive Board met in 2018 and the entire SPREP membership will meet in September 2019, including at Ministerial level.
<i>Regional organisations have prioritised and consolidated programs focused on their comparative advantages</i>	<i>Regional organisations have defined clear, sensible priorities for the organisation</i>	Partly achieved	<p>The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat and Pacific Community (SPC) continued to focus their work, including through a new Statement of Intent for the PIF Secretariat, and refine the SPC's strategic plan. SPREP continues to implement and refine, including through developing two-year plans known as Performance Implementation Plans (PIPs), its 10-year Strategic Plan (2017-2026). The Strategic Plan, two-year PIPs and 10-year results framework are designed to reorient SPREP from its previous approach of reporting on activities to now reporting against outcomes; while the current model is not perfect, it is an improvement on previous reporting.</p> <p>The University of the South Pacific has drafted a new Strategic Plan and is currently reviewing its School of Education. The USP Council is leading the University's response to an investigation into financial and management issues.</p> <p>With Australian funding, the SPC revised its financial and management systems, leading to over 90% rates of project execution. SPREP's budget management has improved in recent years; while it was carrying a net deficit of USD778,000 in 2015, by 2018 it achieved a surplus of USD154,000 and a total reserve fund of USD139,740.</p>
	<i>The predicted budgets of regional organisations compare well to expected expenditure</i>	Partly Achieved	
Objective 3: Health and resilient communities			
<i>Pacific island countries effectively manage global sources of climate finance</i>	<i>Pacific governments are able to access and use information on climate change impacts in national planning</i> <i>(Nine Pacific island country programs have commenced implementation of integration plans, as evidenced by the number of new investments addressing climate and other disaster risks and resilience)</i>	Achieved	<p>Climate change and disaster resilience have been integrated into aid investments in nine (9) bilateral programs. A total of 11 new bilateral and 3 new regional and global investments integrated climate change and disaster resilience. These, along with 5 new dedicated regional climate change and disaster resilience investments, contributed an additional AUD31.9 million in climate and disaster-related investment to the region in 2018-19. Examples of relevant support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific Phase 2 is supporting 14 Pacific meteorological services to monitor, analyse and communicate information about climate and oceans, including seasonal forecasts and sea level rise. • In Kiribati, Australia is supporting the Director of Climate Finance in the Ministry of Finance. Since recruiting the position, Kiribati has secured over USD150 million in support for priority climate change projects from international climate finance sources. • Through the Climate Finance Readiness for the Pacific program, Australia is supporting GIZ to work with five Pacific Island countries to build their capacity to apply for climate finance.

Aid objective	Performance Benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2018-19
<i>Collective action managing regional fisheries resources delivers economic benefits to Pacific countries</i>	<i>Pacific governments provide more resources (financial and human) to holistic community-based fisheries management approaches. (ACIAR provides evidence of holistic community-based fisheries management approach in at least 3 countries.)</i>	Partially achieved	The project is nearing its midpoint and is on track to achieve or exceed its output and outcome targets. there is evidence submitted by ACIAR that the project approach to community based fisheries management has gained traction and momentum in the three target countries. To date, the project has directly engaged with 101 communities across Kiribati (31), Solomon Islands (37) and Vanuatu (33) through intensive and 'lite-touch' approaches and 18 new management plans have been developed. The project continues to respond to the complex operating environment of coastal fisheries by increasing investments in national fisheries agencies to refocus efforts and support to coastal fisheries. This includes new national staff and operating budgets, as well as training and support in the development of national coastal fisheries strategies (in Kiribati and Vanuatu, the first of their kind in both countries) and regulations. Overall, 75% of project activities to date were conducted in collaboration with one or more national, sub-national, or civil society agencies, promoting increased recognition and support for sustainable national and subnational CBFM programs.
<i>Pacific island government national surveillance systems effectively monitor outbreaks of infectious diseases</i>	<i>Number of Pacific island countries meeting all seven International Health Regulation core capacities.¹ (Currently 9 out of 14). Our aim is to maintain or increase this number each year.</i>	No longer relevant or measurable	<p>During 2018-19, the reporting context for Pacific countries changed in relation to IHR core capacities. WHO did not collect data against Pacific countries' self-reporting on core capacities during the year. It is therefore not possible to obtain data to report against this benchmark.</p> <p>A new reporting system has replaced the former system. It involves more objective States Parties reporting; and is accepted as a better fit-for-purpose for Pacific countries which are often not in a position to acquire all the IHR core capacities at country-level due to a range of limitations. Instead some of these capacities need to be provided through other means e.g. regionally.</p> <p>For 2019-20 the replacement benchmark will be the aggregate IHR capacity (per cent) for the Pacific region as reported in States Parties Self-Assessment and Annual Reporting (SPAR). The baseline measurement is 52 per cent.</p>
Objective 4: Empowering women and girls			
<i>Improved leadership opportunities for women in the Pacific.</i>	<i>Number of women supported to take on leadership roles at the community, provincial and national level. (target 6,000)</i>	Achieved	In 2018-19, an additional 1,552 women were supported to take on leadership through <i>Pacific Women</i> regional initiatives, bringing the total number of women to 9,716. The latter figure surpasses the (cumulative) target of 6,000.

Note:

- Achieved. Significant progress has been made and the performance benchmark was achieved
- Partly achieved. Some progress has been made towards achieving the performance benchmark, but progress was less than anticipated.
- Not achieved. Progress towards the performance benchmark has been significantly below expectations

¹ See www.who.int/topics/international_health_regulations/en/

Annex C - Evaluation Planning

1 LIST OF EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD - (financial year 2018-19)

Investment number and name (if applicable)	Name of evaluation	Date completed	Date Evaluation report Uploaded into AidWorks	Date Management response uploaded into AidWorks	Published on website
INK496 - Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	Markets for Change independent mid-term review 2018	23 July 2018	24 April 2019	24 April 2019	Yes
INL779 Innovations in Financing	Pacific Readiness for Investment in Social Enterprise Facility (Pacific RISE)	September 2018	28 August 2019	Not applicable, but management response received 21 February 2019	No
INL387 GoA-PIFS Partnership 2014-2023	Pacific Trade Invest (Australia) Performance Review	December 2018	28 August 2019	Not applicable	No
INM456 Reducing the cost of remittances to the Pacific	Send Money Pacific website Review	December 2018	28 August 2019	Not applicable	No
INK783 - Pacific Public Administration Governance Initiative	Mid-term review of support to Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institution	April 2019	9 April 2019	9 April 2019	Yes

2 LIST OF PROGRAM PRIORITISED EVALUATIONS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Evaluation title	Investment number and name (if applicable)	Date – planned commencement (month/year)	Date – planned completion (month/year)	Purpose of evaluation	Evaluation type
6 year evaluation of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	INK496	July 2019	December 2019	Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, M&E and impact of the program Parallel review of changing gender equality context across the Pacific Improve existing investment and inform further phase	DFAT led
End of Program Review of the UN joint program on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH)	INK933	2019	2019	Assess the appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency of the program and whether elements of the model are replicable in other programs	DFAT led
Mid Term Review of the Pacific regional Clinical Services and Health Workforce Improvement Program (CSHWP)	INK933	October 2019	March 2020	Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and M&E of the program Improve existing investment and inform further phase	DFAT led
Independent Review of Pacific Financial Inclusion Program	INI898 Pacific Financial Inclusion Program (PFIP)	July/2019	December / 2019	Program evaluation to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiencies, the likely impact, and the sustainability of the program in the different countries in which it is active.	Independent Evaluation
Review of PIFS WTO Geneva Office	INL387 GoA-PIFS Partnership 2014-2023	October / 2019	December / 2019	Rapid appraisal to inform DFAT decisions beyond the current funding agreement to guide the strategic intent, performance framework, risk management, and resourcing.	Independent Appraisal
Review of the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation	INL387 GoA-PIFS Partnership 2014-2023	July 2019	December / 2019	Comprehensive review of PIPSO on its Governance structures and Strategic focus moving forward.	Independent Review

ANNEX D - AID QUALITY CHECK RATINGS

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Relevance	Gender equality	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability
Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)	\$18m 2006-2020	2019 AQC	4	5		4		
		2018 AQC	5	4	6	5	4	4
PACER Plus Support	\$29m 2007-2022	2019 AQC	4	4		4		
		2018 AQC	4	4	5	3	3	4
UNDP Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme	\$29m 2009-2020	2019 AQC	5	4		4		
		2018 AQC	5	4	5	4	4	4
University of the South Pacific Partnership	\$84m 2019-2025	2019 AQC	5	4		4		
		2018 AQC	5	5	5	4	3	5
DFAT-EQAP Partnership	\$15m 2018-2023	2019 AQC	5	5		4		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fisheries Development Assistance in the Pacific	\$75m 2010-2022	2019 AQC	5	5		4		
		2018 AQC	5	5	6	4	4	5
SPREP Partnership Agreement 2011-2018	\$37m 2011-2021	2019 AQC	4	4		3		
		2018 AQC	4	4	6	3	4	5
Australia Pacific Climate Change Action Program	\$82m 2018-24	2019 AQC	5	4		5		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Australia-Pacific Technical Coalition Stage 3	\$128m 2018-2024	2019 AQC	5	5		4		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development	\$171m 2012-2022	2019 AQC	5	5		5		
		2018 AQC	4	4	5	5	4	5
Pacific Public Administration Governance Initiative	\$17m 2014-2022	2019 AQC	4	5		3		
		2018 AQC	4	4	6	3	3	4

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Relevance	Gender equality	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability
Pacific Regional Health Strategy	\$39m 2013-2021	2019 AQC	4	4		3		
		2018 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	4
World Bank Pacific Facility 4	\$67m 2013-2022	2019 AQC	4	5		4		
		2018 AQC	5	5	6	4	4	5
SPC - GOA Partnership for Pacific Regionalism	\$109m 2014-2020	2019 AQC	5	4		3		
		2018 AQC	4	4	5	3	5	4
GoA-PIFS Partnership 2014-2023	\$58m 2014-2023	2019 AQC	4	4		4		
		2018 AQC	4	4	6	2	3	4
Support to Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy	\$16m 2014-2021	2019 AQC	4	4		2		
		2018 AQC	4	4	5	3	3	3
Asia-Pacific Data for Development Initiative	\$5.4m 2018-2021	2019 AQC	1	1		1		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Innovations in Financing	\$6m 2015-2020	2019 AQC	4	4		6		
		2018 AQC	5	5	6	6	5	5
Pacific Partnership II with IFC	\$20m 2017-2022	2019 AQC	4	3		5		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pacific Research Program	\$20m 2017-2021	2019 AQC	4	4		4		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Undersea Cables Project	\$158m 2017-2020	2019 AQC	5	4		3		
		2018 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2 FAQC RATINGS

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Overall rating	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Relevance	Gender equality	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability
Australia-Pacific Technical College Stage 2	\$240m 2011-2018	4	6	6	4	4	6	5
Private Sector Development Initiative Phase 3	\$22m 2013-2019	5	5	4	3	4	2	3
Investing in a Resilient Pacific 2016-2019	\$24m 2012-2018	3	4	3	5	3	2	3
UNDP Pacific Sub Regional Centre	\$30m 2006-2018	4	4	5	4	4	4	6
Pacific Regional Agricultural Market Access	\$41m 2009-2018	4	5	5	4	4	5	6
Pacific Legal Information Institute	\$3m 2011-2018	5	4	5	5	3	3	5
Pacific Risk Resilience Program	\$18m 2011-2018	4	5	5	5	5	5	5

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.



ANNEX E – PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The Pacific Regional Performance Assessment Framework will be developed by end of 2019 to fit alongside the new AIP.

APPENDIX 1: 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INFOGRAPHICS

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	Reduce inequality within and among countries
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment	 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
 <p>9 INDUSTRIE, INNOVATIE EN INFRASTRUCTUUR</p>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable Industrialisation and foster innovation		