

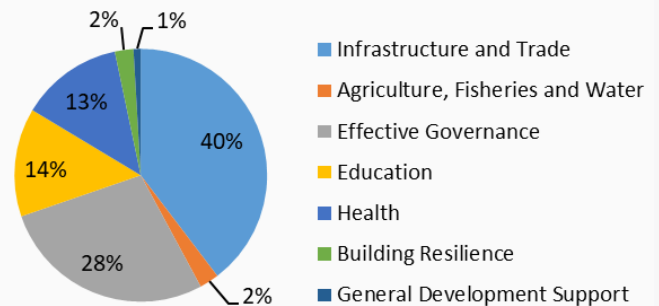


2019-20 SOLOMON ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Program Budget	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Bilateral	122.3
Regional	25.3
Global	11.6
Other Government Departments	15.3
Total Australian ODA to Solomon Islands	174.4

*Actual expenditure is expected to be available in December 2020

May 2019 estimated Australian ODA to Solomon Islands by Sector, 2019-20 (pre-Covid19)*



* Due to rounding the total percentage may not add up to 100 per cent

COVID-19 Development Response

- Australia is the largest development partner with the Solomon Islands and we have pivoted our aid program to support Solomon Islands to respond to the challenges of COVID-19. As part of this assistance, Australia provided a \$13 million package in direct budget support – with \$8 million allocated to health and \$5 million to economic stimulus – and tailored its existing assistance to help meet Solomon Islands’ response priorities.
- As the largest health sector partner, Australia has led support for Solomon Islands’ COVID-19 preparedness and response, assisting Solomon Islands to complete a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, including training in surveillance and infection control, and COVID-19 clinical guidelines.
- Australia has provided targeted support for preparedness and response through national and provincial health training and health infrastructure upgrades, including building a quarantine facility at Honiara International Airport.
- Australia enabled Solomon Islands’ testing ability by providing a qPCR COVID-19 testing machine with ongoing technical support and GeneXpert COVID-19 testing cartridges.
- Australia funded the upgrade of the National Referral Hospital’s testing laboratory to support

improved testing. Australia provided five new ventilators, distributed to hospitals and clinics in Honiara, Malaita and Western Province.

- Australia supported the delivery of essential services by assisting government state owned enterprises, including Solomon Water.
- To ensure at-risk women and children could continue to receive assistance during COVID-19 lockdowns, Australia refurbished Seif Ples Domestic Violence Centre, and provided essential communication devices and fuel for trained staff to provide vital services.
- Australia assisted Solomon Islands to secure its western border and prevent the potential importation of COVID-19 through the Defence Cooperation Program and support to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) to improve surveillance capability. Australia funded increased patrol boat rotations, additional aluminium fast boats and tents and improved radio communications capability.
- Australia supported the National Disaster Management Office through a new Disaster Management and COVID Preparedness project to strengthen response coordination at national and provincial levels and provide specific procurement support, including two boats to allow transport of relief supplies in Choiseul and Western Province.

Other program highlights

- Australia's support enabled reliable and affordable internet via Solomon Islands' connection to the undersea telecommunications Coral Sea Cable linking the Solomon Islands Domestic Network to Sydney.
- Australia supported the Solomon Islands Government to finalise commercial construction negotiations on the Tina River Hydropower Project, a significant milestone in the project's ten year history. Australia is the project's largest grant financier with an investment of \$28.4 million.
- Australia funded the Solomon Islands Comptroller of General Customs, under whom the external revenue collection exceeded targets by seven per cent in 2019.
- Performance against annual targets under Australia's Health Sector Support Program remained stable at around 65 per cent achieved. These targets reflect a mixture of health system strengthening and service delivery indicators. There were appreciable improvements in performance at provincial level and in the health budget process, and a rise in the contraceptive prevalence rate.
- Australian-funded training has resulted in 66 new doctors registered in Solomon Islands since 2015. This increase in qualified doctors has improved the quality of health services, with 13 additional doctors posted to provincial health facilities in 2019 (a 45 per cent increase on 2018).
- Australia's Education Sector Support Program contributed to improved primary literacy and numeracy results in regional tests and supported the construction of four girls' dormitories and ablution blocks, one science lab and three classrooms and repairs on eight school buildings.
- Australia's support for the coconut, cocoa and tourism sectors resulted in an increased income of \$1,096 for more than 300 households in 2019.
- Australia's Rural Development Program improved provincial services including water supply, village halls and market houses, and established 35 linkages between producers and market outlets. By 2020, 9,945 male and 8,977 female members of farming households were engaged in productive partnerships with commercial enterprises.
- Australia's *Strongim Bisnis* catalysed 275 micro, small and medium sized enterprises, resulting in increased business profits and \$408,000 of increased economic activity through increased goods and services. 24 new partnerships leveraged \$1 million worth of investment from partners to develop new businesses and accelerate growth.
- Through the Pacific Financial Inclusion Program, over 15,000 Solomon Islanders working in the informal sector are saving for their futures with the youSave superannuation program. Over 300 business and 12 licensed tax agents now use the new online tax payment system with the Solomon Islands Inland Revenue Department.
- In 2019-20, 228 workers (28 female) participated in the Seasonal Workers Programme (a decrease of 86 workers from last year) and 134 Solomon Islanders (6 female) were mobilised under the Pacific Labour Scheme (an increase of 114 workers from last year).
- With Australia's support, more women accessed violence support services. The number of women accessing counselling increased from 580 in 2018 to 1,240 in 2019. Of this, a total of 256 rural women and girls accessed services from the five provincial volunteer committees.
- Through the Australia Pacific Training Coalition, (APTC) 100 Solomon Islanders (53 female) now have an Australian-recognised qualification; Solomon Islands has the highest female graduate ratio across the APTC platform. 34 per cent of graduates reported being in a higher role after graduating.
- Australia created a weekly *Law Blo lumi* legal awareness radio program to provide information on the justice system, including the constitutional basis of the COVID-19 state of emergency.
- Australia supported the Solomon Islands Election Commission to conduct a by-election and provincial election, and support to the High Court facilitated hearings for 28 election petitions from the 2019 election, within the statutory deadline.



PROGRESS AGAINST 2019-20 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TITLE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVE	BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST OBJECTIVE/TARGET
Supporting Stability — Solomon Islanders increasingly recognise and participate in a legitimate state, free from conflict and economically stable	1.1 Police and other law and justice officials trained – Target 900	A total of 124 (50 female and 74 men) law and justice officials were trained.
	1.2 Courts and justice agencies are better able to deliver their core functions – Target 1,000	1100 cases were heard and disposed of in Magistrates Court, which is an increase of 87 from 2018 – 19.
	1.3 Women survivors of violence receive case management through the SAFENET referral system – Target year on year increase	1342 women using emergency shelter, health, sexual abuse or referral services, which is an increase from 919 in 2018 – 19.
Enabling economic growth - Solomon Islands economic operating environment is more attractive to business & men and women are able to earn a cash income	2.1 Women able to gain business or income-generating skills – Target 1,000	1874 women gained access to finance or increased their income in 2019 (<i>Strongim Bisnis-220 & Rural Development Program- 1654</i>).
	2.2 Improved transport infrastructure to support increased economic activity – Target 800km (revised to 700km for 2019)	Total kilometres of roads maintained or improved is 760kms. 142 kilometres of roads maintained or improved are attributed to Australia’s financial contribution.
	2.3 Improved environment for private sector investment, economic growth and trade – Target 100 per cent of Consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG) actions achieved	The CEWG did not agree any actions to progress during the reporting period. As such, Australia was unable to achieve this target.
Enhancing human development Improved Human Development – more men, women, girls and boys benefit from quality health and basic and vocational education	3.1 Improved functioning of health system – Target 94 per cent	Availability of critical and essential medicines at provincial medical stores was 84%. While the target for 2019 was not met, it shows a significant improvement from 2018 (55%), when a national drug shortage occurred. 2019 performance demonstrates a rapid recovery to average provincial stock levels in prior years.
	3.2 Number of family planning/contraceptive contacts at all health facilities per year (per 1,000 of population) – Target 447	Data is no longer being collected for this indicator. It has been replaced by 3.3 below.
	3.3 Number of new users of modern contraceptives	A total of 13,994 new users of modern contraceptives were reported, a 17% increase on 2018 – 19.
	3.4 Percentage of national budget directed to Health – Target 12.5 per cent	13.22% of the national budget was directed to health.
	3.5 Primary literacy and numeracy rates increase – Target Progress towards 80 per cent.	The 2019 Solomon Islands Standardised Test of Achievement was held in late 2019, however due to COVID-19 the report has not yet been finalised.



	3.5 Percentage of teachers trained increases – Target Progress towards 85 per cent in 2020	81.2 per cent of primary teachers were certified in 2019, up from 74.2 per cent in 2018, 72.2 per cent in 2017 and 65.6 per cent in 2016.
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ANNEX A: PROGRAM QUALITY

Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality
Rural Development Program	\$32,157,341 2007-2021	2020 AQC	4	4	4
		2019 AQC	4	4	4
Addressing Gender Equality In Solomon Islands	\$31,898,278 2012-2022	2020 AQC	4	3	5
		2019 AQC	4	4	5
Managing Urbanisation	\$3,807,895 2013-2019	2020 AQC	n/a	n/a	n/a
		2019 AQC	5	5	2
Health Sector Support Program - Phase 3	\$72,967,752 2016-2020	2020 AQC	4	4	4
		2019 AQC	4	4	4
SI Resource Facility & Program Enabling	\$40,595,108 2015-2020	2020 AQC	4	5	4
		2019 AQC	4	4	5
SI Transport Sector Based Approach Phase 2	\$49,435,503 2016-2021	2020 AQC	3	3	2
		2019 AQC	4	3	4
SI Growth program	\$58,164,077 2016-2020	2020 QC	5	4	4
		2019 AQC	4	4	4
SI Governance Program 2017-2021	\$30,986,379 2017-2021	2020 AQC	5	4	3
		2019 AQC	5	4	4
SI Justice program 2017-2021	\$31,035,530 2017-2021	2020 AQC	4	3	4
		2019 AQC	5	4	4
SI Democratic Governance Phase 2	\$8,295,871 2017-2019	2020 AQC	5	4	3
		2019 AQC	3	4	4

Final Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality	Risk	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability
Education Sector Program 2	\$62,229,334 2015-2020	4	5	4	5	4	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.