

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION

A. Major Development Partners: Strategic Foci and Key Activities

1. Samoa's key bilateral partners are Australia, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and New Zealand. Australia is represented by its Department of Foreign Affairs, China through its foreign affairs ministry and the Export-Import Bank of China (EXIM Bank), Japan through its international cooperation agency, and New Zealand by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Multilateral agencies that provide grants and loans include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, various agencies of the United Nations, and the World Bank.

2. Samoa's development partners have played an important role in promoting the use of information and communication technology (ICT) and in shaping the sector. Development of the telecommunications infrastructure has progressed at a rapid pace since the mid-2000s, with World Bank-supported sector reform playing a significant part. International Finance Corporation provided a loan to Digicel to deploy its mobile network (the first in the Pacific).

3. ADB supported the SchoolNet project with the aim of incorporating e-learning in secondary schools.¹ The project started as a pilot in 2005, and today all 39 secondary schools are connected using a mix of asymmetric digital subscriber line and wireless solutions. SchoolNet incorporates digital resources for teaching math, science, and English using content from Learnetic. Although schools have internet access, the use of local servers ensures centralized control over all equipment, remotely monitored over a wide-area intranet. In an effort to boost internet penetration in rural areas, the government started a telecenter project in 2006 with the support of ITU, the United Nations' specialist agency for ICT. About 10 telecenters ("Fesootai centres") were set up in rural parts of Upolu and Savai'i and are operated by women.

4. The Samoan National Broadband Highway (SNBH) is the government network linking government offices throughout Apia as well as other locations. Launched in June 2014, the network was financed through a \$20 million loan from EXIM Bank. SNBH uses fiber-optic cable and microwave for backhaul and fiber, Wi-Fi, and the country's first implementation of 4G LTE for local access. It has the potential to assist information flows between government offices and could enable such activities as mapping the outbreak of diseases and health epidemics.

Major Development Partners

| Development Partner | Project Name | Duration | Amount (million) |
|---|---|-----------|---------------------|
| Information and Communication Technology | | | |
| ADB | Samoa SchoolNet and Community Access Project | 2003–2007 | \$0.655 |
| ADB, Australia, and NZ | SchoolNet and Community Access Project | 2007–2015 | \$5.900 |
| China | Samoa National Broadband Highway (SNBH) | 2011–2014 | \$20.000 |
| IFC | Digicel Samoa | 2007 | \$8.200 |
| IFC | Digicel Samoa 2 | 2009 | \$10.500 |
| UNDP, ITU, UNESCO | ICT for Development | 2006 | \$0.200 |
| World Bank | Telecommunications and Postal Sector Reform Project | 2002–2011 | \$4.500 |

¹ ADB. 2007. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Asian Development Fund Grant to Samoa for the SchoolNet and Community Access Project*. Manila.

| Development Partner | Project Name | Duration | Amount (million) |
|---------------------|--|-----------|------------------|
| Health | | | |
| Australia | Samoa Health Program | 2013–2018 | A\$9.200 |
| Australia | Samoa Health Sector Initiative | 2007–2017 | A\$18.900 |
| New Zealand | Sector Support | 2008–2015 | \$8.854 |
| WHO | Sector Support | 2014–2016 | \$2.000 |
| World Bank | Samoa Health Sector Management Program Support Project | 2008–2015 | \$11.400 |

ADB = Asian Development Bank, ICT = information and communication technology, IFC = International Finance Corporation, ITU = known by its abbreviation, it is the specialist ICT agency of the United Nations, NZ = New Zealand, UNDP = United National Development Programme, UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, WHO = World Health Organization.

Source: Asian Development Bank.

B. Institutional Arrangements and Processes for Development Coordination

5. The Ministry of Finance, through its Aid Coordination and Debt Management Division, manages the flow of external financing, and coordinates and harmonizes donor processes and systems to ensure integrated assistance in meeting Samoa's national development objectives.

6. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is responsible for ICT policy, while the Office of the Regulator, established in 2006, is responsible for the regulatory oversight of the ICT sector. The Telecommunications Act of 2005 is the key legislation.

7. The Ministry of Health is responsible for health policy, while National Health Services operates the hospitals, health centers, and clinics around the country. An e-Health Project Working Committee was established to coordinate development partners' role in implementing the Samoa Health Sector Strategy Plan for the Development of Health Information 2015–2020, supported by technical assistance from the World Health Organization.

8. ADB and the World Bank have shared a liaison office in the Ministry of Finance in Samoa. This has enabled greater coordination between the government and the two development partners, and with other development partners, and allows for more regular representation of ADB and the World Bank in local sector-based meetings.

C. Achievements and Issues

9. ADB has promoted several harmonization and coordination efforts, including through exchange of information with development partners and periodic meetings with diplomatic and donor representatives. ADB continues to explore greater harmonization opportunities through joint economic sector work to maximize collective use of diagnostic analysis. For its programs and projects, ADB has established cofinancing partnerships with other development partners in several key sectors: energy (Australia and Japan), education (Australia and New Zealand), and private sector development (Australia).

10. Samoa is advanced in the application of a program-based approach to development coordination. The government takes strong leadership in planning and allocating resources through a formal process for development coordination and harmonization of development partner procedures. The government has designated development partners to deliver their support to specific sectors. The government has achieved an acceptable level of development partner coordination in energy, health, and education. In public financial management, the

government, with relevant development partners, developed a joint policy action matrix to guide the provision of budget support based on the achievement of an agreed program of reforms.

D. Summary and Recommendations

11. The ICT cable project is unlikely to overlap activities of other development partners, but ongoing consultation will be important to identify areas of future cooperation, including training and capacity building. Existing coordination mechanisms, such as the e-Health Project Working Committee, will be used for project components as appropriate.