



Regional: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development

Project Name	Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development																												
Project Number	48345-001																												
Country	Regional																												
Project Status	Active																												
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance																												
Source of Funding / Amount	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 800,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development (Supplementary)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 600,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development (2nd Supplementary)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government of Australia</td> <td>US\$ 90,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government of Australia</td> <td>US\$ 40,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development (2nd Supplementary)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 225,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technical Assistance Special Fund</td> <td>US\$ 500,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government of Australia</td> <td>US\$ 60,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Global Partnership for Education Fund</td> <td>US\$ 200,000.00</td> </tr> </table>	TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 800,000.00	TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development (Supplementary)		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 600,000.00	TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development (2nd Supplementary)		Government of Australia	US\$ 90,000.00	TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development		Government of Australia	US\$ 40,000.00	TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development (2nd Supplementary)		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 225,000.00	TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development		Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 500,000.00	Government of Australia	US\$ 60,000.00	Global Partnership for Education Fund	US\$ 200,000.00
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Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration																												
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships Private sector development																												
Sector / Subsector	Education - Education sector development Energy - Energy sector development and institutional reform Information and communication technology - ICT strategy and policy, and capacity development Public sector management - Economic affairs management Transport - Transport policies and institutional development Water and other urban infrastructure and services - Urban policy, institutional and capacity development																												
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	No gender elements																												
Description	The TA project will support the efforts of the governments of 12 of the 14 Pacific DMCs to improve policy formulation and decision making through rigorous sector and thematic analyses. Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste are not included because they can get country level assistance.																												

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

The Pacific Approach, 2010_2014 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), identifies the need to promote more effective development processes in its 14 Pacific developing member countries (DMCs) and to foster connectivity, consensus, and a greater sense of Pacific community. The Pacific Approach sets out an agenda to help achieve this through ADB support for (i) inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth, (ii) good governance, and (iii) regional cooperation and integration.

ADB's Pacific Approach recognizes that most Pacific DMCs exhibit conditions of fragility. This fragility contributes to their complex development environments and, among other things, is characterized by weak state performance in the core functions of policy formulation and resource accumulation and low public sector management capacity. The Pacific Approach established that making policies without adequate analysis of sector or thematic issues was a common governance shortcoming in these DMCs, and that this often led to poor decisions that were not in the public interest and undermined achievement of national development goals.

Pacific DMC governments are requesting that ADB provide technical assistance (TA) for sector and thematic analysis to inform and strengthen their decision making and improve their policies. During 2009_2012, for example, ADB approved TA projects that provided analytical support to improve policy formulation in the Pacific DMCs in such diverse areas as the environment, water issues, transport, health, national planning, and state-owned enterprise reform. The TA for Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development will help Pacific DMCs make better policies, improve policy dialogue with development partners, and enhance aid effectiveness by providing dedicated analysis of development issues important to individual countries and to other DMCs across the region. It will also build capacity in the development and use of this analysis. This approach is consistent with the findings of ADB's 2014 Midterm Review of Strategy 2020 and the review's emphasis on promoting South_South knowledge sharing. Lessons from previous assistance, as well as discussions with the governments of the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Tonga, has resulted in an understanding regarding the impact, outcome, and outputs of the TA, as well as its costs, implementation arrangements, and the terms of reference for consulting services.

Deciding on policies without undertaking the proper sector or thematic analysis has significant opportunity costs. This cost is particularly high in the Pacific DMCs because their organizational and technical capacity and financial resources are limited. These DMCs, their universities, and the regional technical organizations lack the ability to produce the necessary analysis and fill the region's significant knowledge gaps. The problem is made more acute by the lack of appropriate government staff needed to meet the broad range of policy challenges the DMCs face. Pacific DMCs recognize that thorough, bottom-up analysis of their sector challenges and cross-cutting development themes is vital and will (i) help them identify and define their strategic priorities more clearly, (ii) help them design better policy, (iii) improve coordination and mobilization of development assistance, and (iv) allow effective prioritization and sequencing in policy implementation.

Development partner efforts to develop national and regional capacity in analysis and policy development in the Pacific DMCs have often been ad hoc, fragmented, and unsustainable. Productivity gains in recent years have been driven by the need for rigorous sector and thematic analyses to underpin substantial policy-based operations and coordinated capacity development TA to support implementation of economic management reforms. During 2009_2013, ADB approved 14 projects totaling about \$107 million to support policy reforms in the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu. This amounted to 9.0% of ADB's total assistance in the Pacific. Other development partners provided about \$150 million in similar support over the same period. In 2014 and 2015, the ADB Board is scheduled to consider a further six policy-based programs amounting to \$23 million.

Although demand for sector and thematic analysis has increased, and the Pacific countries and their development partners have more incentive to collaborate and coordinate to address knowledge gaps, DMCs need to take ownership of the analysis that results from ADB assistance and actually apply it in their policy formulation for the process to succeed. It is therefore important that ADB remains open and responsive to the expressed country needs, within the boundaries of its own strategy on engagement in each DMC. This will ensure that ADB's TA resources will be used in areas where ADB can bring a comparative advantage to analyses whose findings governments will remain committed to and follow up on in a sustainable way. In addition, when meeting sector and thematic analytical needs, ADB will give priority to work that cannot be supported through existing country or regional TA, such as its Private Sector Development Initiative and Pacific economic management TA projects (footnote 3). This will help to avoid duplication and ensure that ADB and other development partners are extending limited TA resources across country and knowledge needs.

ADB must also ensure that analyses and knowledge (i) suit the preferences of specific audiences, and (ii) reinforce consistent messaging to facilitate follow-through and ongoing implementation. This TA will help governments prepare policy briefs, technical notes, brochures, and good practice studies on cross-cutting sector and thematic issues. It will also share the findings through seminars, workshops, and the media. Many small Pacific DMCs face similar development challenges, and so cross-learning and multicountry assessments are an effective way to develop solutions that are appropriate across the region and deepen the understanding of development constraints and the effective policy responses.

Impact	More effective policy development
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Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Improved sector and thematic analyses
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Progress Toward Outcome	None.
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Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvement in sector and thematic assessments 2. Promotion of South_South knowledge cooperation
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved TA 8819-REG: Sector and Thematic Analyses in Policy Development on 16 December 2014 for \$800,000 from the Technical Assistance Special Funds (TASF) resources. Subsequently, \$600,000 in additional financing was approved on 11 August 2015. Additional financing of \$600,000 was provided through ADB's TASF-V resources at the Government of Vanuatu's request to fund capacity building in its Public Works Department. On 26 October 2016, an increase in the TA amount by \$225,000 from TASF-V, bringing the revised total TA amount from \$1,530,000 to \$1,755,000 was approved due to the significant increase in demand for TA support. 2. The Government of Australia provided cofinancing for \$90,000 and \$40,000 which was approved on 2 December 2015 and 7 September 2016, respectively. The Government of Australia provided cofinancing of \$90,000 channeled through ADB, for the recruitment of the international policy advisor at the Government of Fiji's request to improve development partner coordination in support of the preparation of the National Development Plan (NDP). The international policy advisor position was advertised through the Consultant Management System and competitively selected. The international policy advisor was initially recruited for 45 working days from 24 December 2015 to 18 February 2016 on intermittent basis, and subsequently his contract was extended for a total of 76 working days until 30 August 2016. On 12 August 2016, the Government of Australia provided a needed and coordinated additional financing of \$40,000 to finalize the Fijian NDP, and extended the contract of the international policy advisor for an additional 25 working day inputs to 30 September 2016. On 22 February 2017, the assignment period of the international policy advisor has been extended to 30 June 2017. 3. As of 27 March 2017, the TA has supported other activities which cover a wide range of countries, sectors and themes and that have a strong operational focus including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) updating the infrastructure roadmap for Pohnpei Port Authority in the Federated States of Micronesia, (ii) fostering and facilitating cooperation and collaboration among Pacific DMC water utilities through the Pacific Water and Waste Association, (iii) capacity building in the Vanuatu Public Works Department, (iv) a higher education project for the Solomon Islands that supports the implementation of the education sector plan, (v) post-disaster rehabilitation support for Fiji that established a framework for the disaster response and improved the quality of damage assessments in affected sectors, (vi) support for national development planning and building implementation and monitoring capacity in Nauru, (vii) supporting the Palau Public Utilities Corporation; (viii) supporting the midterm review of the Rural Primary Health Services Delivery Project, to assess the progress of each output, identify issues and constraints in implementation and determine necessary; (ix) funding the participation of Aholotu Palu Aholotu Palu, Government of Tonga in the ADF 12 Replenishment Meeting on 24-27 February 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal; (x) support for national development planning in Nauru; (xi) supporting the Pacific Update Conference held in Fiji on 18-19 July 2016 in Suva, Fiji; (xii) corporate planning and budget support for the Tonga Ministry of Finance; (xiii) onsite accounting and auditing expertise support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of Finance; (xiv) support for public sector reform in Tonga; and (xv) support for the Tonga renewable energy project in conducting technical due diligence and/or feasibility assessment, environmental and social safeguards due diligence of the potential proposals.
Geographical Location	

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

Involuntary Resettlement

Indigenous Peoples

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design ADB and other development partners have received numerous ad hoc requests from Pacific DMC governments for strategic and analytical support via preparation of policy briefs, technical papers, and assessments to improve the quality of national development plans. Some of these requests can be met through changes in scope to existing country and regional TAs; however, this is not always possible. The proposed TA, therefore, will allow ADB the flexibility to rapidly and effectively respond to these requests. No objection letters will be obtained from any Pacific DMC governments prior to commencement of proposed TA activities involving their country. In addition, ADB will solicit country requests for support through country team leaders twice a year.

During Project Implementation

Expressions of interest were invited from PARD Country Team Leaders and Country Economists following project approval. As of 24 September 2015, 4 EOIs submitted have been approved following evaluation against the eligibility criteria ie whether (i) the issue aligns with current priority areas for ADB assistance in the country or identified future priority assistance areas; (ii) a lead agency in-country is identified to follow through on promoting the policy issue and implementation; (iii) the issue has broad relevance to other Pacific countries; (iv) no other ADB TA could meet the need for assistance; and (v) no other development partner is able to undertake the requested assistance.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services	The TA will finance an estimated 18 person-months of international and 7 person-months of national consulting services. Depending on what is appropriate to each task, the consultants will be engaged through a firm or individually. This will be done in accordance with ADB's Guidelines on the Use of Consultants (2013, as amended from time to time). The outline terms of reference for the consulting positions are in Appendix 3 of the TA Report. The proceeds of the TA will be disbursed in accordance with ADB's Technical Assistance Disbursement Handbook (2010, as amended from time to time).
Procurement	None

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Tora, Laisiasa Natakubu
Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	Urban, Social Development & Public Management Division, PARD
Executing Agencies	<i>Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	17 Nov 2014
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	16 Dec 2014
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	30 Mar 2017

TA 8819-REG

Milestones					
Approval	Signing Date	Effectivity Date	Closing		
			Original	Revised	Actual
16 Dec 2014	-	16 Dec 2014	16 Dec 2018	-	-

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
2,165,000.00	350,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,515,000.00	16 Dec 2014	1,266,603.02

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/48345-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=48345-001
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