



# Regional: COVID-19 Response for Affected Poor and Vulnerable Groups in the Pacific

Project Name	COVID-19 Response for Affected Poor and Vulnerable Groups in the Pacific	
Project Number	54196-001	
Country	RegionalPalauVanuatu	
Project Status	Proposed	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant	
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant: COVID-19 Response Project for Affected Vulnerable Groups in the Pacific	
	concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund	US\$ 1.37 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth	
Drivers of Change	Knowledge solutions Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Public sector management - Social protection initiatives	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The project is designed to prevent the poor and vulnerable groups from experiencing further marginalization and falling further into poverty including other affected households at risk of becoming poor with prolonged impacts of COVID-19. This project will complement and add value to other ADB assistance and COVID-19 humanitarian responses by focusing on the most vulnerable in addressing the short-term and medium-term impacts of the pandemic. The project has taken an innovative approach to bundle different types of interventions to more comprehensively respond to the needs of affected groups. Further, it will build the capacity of the existing social protection systems by exploring linkages with existing social protection programs. The project will focus on Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu. These are countries affected by COVID-19 largely from income and employment effects and consequent social impacts. The proposed outputs are elaborated below and will apply to participating countries based on their existing needs.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>There are 18 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) confirmed cases and no reported deaths from Pacific developing member countries (DMCs). This refers to 16 cases in Fiji and 2 in Papua New Guinea (as of 12 April 2020). The Pacific DMCs were quick to impose precautionary measures and avail of immediate support from international organizations to prevent the spread of the virus given the region's high risk and vulnerability from disease outbreaks. The health system in the region is weak mostly affected by limited access to quality health services, lack of health facilities and inadequate trained workforce. Lack of adequate infection control in hospitals would risk the spread of infections to other patients. There is also a high risk of the virus spreading quickly due to the communal living situations and extended family arrangements in the society. Unfortunately, most Pacific countries do not have the needed laboratory equipment to analyze the tests on site further posing difficulties to identify cases. Hence, unprecedented increase in COVID-19 cases in the Pacific will potentially result to health system's collapse. The current impacts of COVID-19 in the region are largely from economic disruption. However, potential reduction in public health and essential health care services with the rise of COVID-19 cases could result to severe illnesses including indirect deaths that will deepen impacts on poverty.</p>	
Impact	Adverse social and economic impacts of COVID-19 to poor and vulnerable groups are mitigated.	
Outcome	Capabilities of poor and vulnerable households in Palau and Vanuatu to withstand further impacts of COVID-19 improved.	
Outputs	Welfare support to highly at-risk vulnerable groups implemented	
Geographical Location	Palau - Nation-wide; Vanuatu - Nation-wide	
<b>Safeguard Categories</b>		
Environment		C
Involuntary Resettlement		C
Indigenous Peoples		C
<b>Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects</b>		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		
<b>Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation</b>		
During Project Design		
During Project Implementation		
Responsible ADB Officer	Carandang, Ninebeth S.	
Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department	
Responsible ADB Division	PASP	

Executing Agencies

Department of Finance and Treasury (formerly Department of Finance)  
Private Mail Bag 9031  
Port Vila, Shefa Province  
Republic of Vanuatu  
Ministry of Economy  
Level 5x Ro Lalabalavu House  
370 Victoria Parade  
Suva, Fiji  
Ministry of Finance  
3rd Floor, Executive Bldg, ROP Capitol  
Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, P.O. Box 6011  
Koror, PW 96940, Republic of Palau

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	24 Sep 2020
Fact Finding	14 Sep 2020 to 18 Sep 2020
MRM	19 Oct 2020
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	30 Sep 2020

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/54196-001/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/54196-001/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54196-001">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=54196-001</a>
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