



Regional: Preparing Pacific Education Sector Projects

Project Name	Preparing Pacific Education Sector Projects	
Project Number	55050-001	
Country	Regional Solomon Islands Vanuatu	
Project Status	Active	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Technical Assistance	
Source of Funding / Amount	TA 6805-REG: Preparing Pacific Education Sector Projects	
	Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 1.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions	
Sector / Subsector	Education - Education sector development - Secondary - Technical and vocational education and training	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	<p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting increased higher education opportunities in Solomon Islands via expansion of the University of the South Pacific's local campus (Multitranche Financing Facility Tranche 2 of \$17 million). Both countries also receive assistance via the regional technical assistance (TA) Strengthening Education in the Pacific Region (total TA amount of \$19.5 million). Previous education interventions in the countries are the reconstruction of schools after Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu and support for the use of ICT for better education services in Solomon Islands. Both governments have requested ADB support for future education sector projects, and preliminary intervention areas have been identified: (i) strengthened education management capacity and tools for improved gender-responsive forecasting, planning, management, and monitoring of the education sector; (ii) expansion and quality improvements of educational infrastructure with a special focus on gender equity, social inclusion, and digital solutions for teaching and learning in secondary schools; and (iii) pedagogical approaches for strengthening work-related, entrepreneurial, digital, and soft skills in secondary education and teachers' development. The proposed projects are estimated at \$10 million for Solomon Islands with expected approval in 2022 and \$8 million for Vanuatu with expected approval in 2023.</p>	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>1. Context. Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are among the poorest in the Pacific with young and fast-growing populations. The population of Solomon Islands has tripled since independence in 1978, reaching 721,455 people in 2019, with more than 50% at school age. The country has a gross domestic product per capita of \$2,021, and the share of the population living in extreme poverty (below \$1.90 per day) is 24.3%. The United Nations Human Development Index, which summarizes average national achievement across health, education, and standards of living, ranks Solomon Islands at 151 (out of 189 economies) in 2020. Vanuatu's population reached 301,695 in 2020, with a gross domestic product per capita of \$3,008; 14.4% live in extreme poverty; and the country is ranked 140 in the Human Development Index in 2020 (footnotes 1-4). Common development constraints include remoteness, vulnerability to shocks, high costs of service delivery, and weak public sector capacity.</p> <p>2. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has affected both economies adversely, and although they have managed to keep the number of cases at low levels due to timely border closures, the socioeconomic costs are high. Both countries saw significant economic contractions by 4.5% for Solomon Islands and 8.5% for Vanuatu in 2020 compared to average growth of 4.1% and 2.8%, respectively in 2010-2019 (footnote 2). The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic may push an additional 4%-5% of the population into extreme poverty. Economic recovery is expected to commence in 2021 for Solomon Islands and in 2022 for Vanuatu, as travel and trade restrictions are lifted, but the outlook is subject to several downside risks.</p>	
Impact		
Project Outcome		
Description of Outcome		
Progress Toward Outcome		
Implementation Progress		
Description of Project Outputs		
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)		
Geographical Location	Solomon Islands - Nation-wide; Vanuatu - Nation-wide	
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects		
Environmental Aspects		
Involuntary Resettlement		
Indigenous Peoples		
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation		
During Project Design		
During Project Implementation		
Responsible ADB Officer	Borjegren, Per A.S.	

Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	PASP
Executing Agencies	Asian Development Bank 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 1550, Philippines Ministry of Education and Training Private Mail Bag 028 Port Vila, Vanuatu Ministry of Finance & Economic Management P.M.B. 058 Port Vila Vanuatu Ministry of Finance and Treasury P.O. Box 26 Honiara, Solomon Islands

Timetable	
Concept Clearance	-
Fact Finding	-
MRM	-
Approval	13 Oct 2021
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	13 Oct 2021

TA 6805-REG

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						Cumulative Disbursements		
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total	Date	Amount
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others			
1,000,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,050,000.00	-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/55050-001/main
Request for Information	http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=55050-001
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