



Regional: Building Livable Urban Environments in the Pacific (Pac-BLUE)

Project Name
Building Livable Urban Environments in the Pacific (Pac-BLUE)
Project Number
59047-001
Country / Economy

- Regional
- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Micronesia, Federated States of
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Palau
- Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Project Status
Active
Project Type / Modality of Assistance

- Technical Assistance
- Source of Funding / Amount

TA 0081-REG: Supporting Project Implementation and Capacity Building in Water and Urban Development in the Pacific	
Source	Amount
Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 5.00 million

Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG 6.1
 - SDG 6.2
 - SDG 11.6
 - SDG 11.7
- Sector / Subsector
- Water and other urban infrastructure and services /

Gender
Effective gender mainstreaming
Description

This regional cluster technical assistance (TA), Building Livable Urban Environments in the Pacific (Pac BLUE), will support selected Pacific developing member countries (DMCs), including the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and Tuvalu. The TA will deliver a consolidated program of project preparation, implementation support, knowledge generation, and capacity development to address priority urban development and water security challenges across the region. Major activities include upstream diagnostics and feasibility studies for climate resilient water and urban investments; on-demand implementation support to strengthen procurement, contract management, financial management and safeguards performance of ongoing ADB financed projects; and the development and dissemination of regional knowledge products and services, training including peer learning platforms, to support resilient, inclusive, and water secure urban development in Pacific DMCs.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy

Urbanization in the Pacific. Urban populations in Pacific DMCs are projected to double between 2010 and 2050, reaching 1.6 million people meaning that by 2050 nearly one in two Pacific Islanders will live in urban areas. This growth is driven largely by migration from rural areas and outer islands to primary urban centers, as people seek better jobs, services, health, and education.

Urban areas are major contributors to economic growth, but potential is not being fully realized. Urban centers already contribute 50-70% of national income in many Pacific DMCs, yet have not fully realized the economic transformation typically associated with urbanization, such as productivity gains and expanded job creation, as seen in other regions.

Rapid urban expansion has outpaced planning, leading to: (i) unregulated settlements, particularly in at-risk areas, caused by inadequate land use planning and management, (ii) inadequate basic services due to the shortfall in urban housing and infrastructure investments.

Climate change poses an increasing threat to urban areas. Pacific cities face intensifying climate hazards, water scarcity, and infrastructure strain, making strengthened urban resilience and water security essential to safeguard communities and maintain reliable services. Climate-driven threats such as tropical cyclones, droughts, flooding, sea level rise, and saline intrusion are already disrupting water systems, underscoring the need for resilient, diversified, and well-managed urban water supply solutions across the region.

In the future, particularly on small, low-lying atolls, prioritizing the consolidation of populations and essential services within well-protected urban centers, focusing future investments on these hubs to maintain long-term resilience and economic opportunity, supported by coordinated investment planning between different government agencies. However, investments are needed to ensure long term resilience, economic opportunity, and sustainability of atoll communities as populations consolidate.

Urban areas will require significant investment to cope with migration and climate risks. Despite need for significant urban infrastructure investments, planning and implementation capacity is weak. Pacific DMCs face persistent capacity constraints in implementing investment projects.

Knowledge needs and regional approaches to training. Insufficient evidence-based design and shared learning platforms to guide investments in rapidly growing, climate-exposed cities. Current policy and planning frameworks often lack the integrated, multi-disciplinary knowledge required for resilient urban development. Similarly, western urban planning approaches are often inconsistent with traditional approaches to land management in the Pacific, and customary land ownership, requiring better understanding to design workable approaches to more efficient and effective land management in the region.

Strategic alignment. The TA is aligned with Strategy 2030 and its Midterm review, particularly on the Climate Change Action Strategic Focus Area. The TA Cluster aligns with the Pacific Approach 2021-2025, which prioritizes preparing for and responding to shocks, delivering sustainable services, and supporting inclusive growth. Core needs for Pacific DMCs facing accelerating urbanization and climate vulnerability. It also reflects the FCAS/SIDS differentiated approach, which calls for tailored processes, enhanced hands-on capacity support, and deeper contextual analytics to operate effectively in small, fragile, and capacity-constrained environments.

Impact

More livable, water-secure, and climate-resilient urban centers in the Pacific region (Strategy 2030 Midterm Review; and Strategy 2030 Water Sector Directional Guide)

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome

Improved quality, delivery, and sustainability of investments for resilient, water-secure, and inclusive urban development in the Pacific

Progress Toward Outcome

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs

WUD investments assessed, planned, and structured for financing

Project implementation support delivered

Knowledge solutions for sustainable and resilient urban development and water security strengthened

Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)

Geographical Location

Cook Islands - Nation-wide; Fiji - Nation-wide; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Micronesia, Federated States of - Nation-wide; Nauru - Nation-wide; Niue - Nation-wide; Palau - Nation-wide; Samoa - Nation-wide; Solomon Islands - Nation-wide; Tuvalu - Nation-wide; Vanuatu - Nation-wide

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion Classification
Summary Poverty and Social Analysis
Poverty and social analysis will be carried out for each ensuing project under the Cluster TA

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples

Project Participation and Engagement

During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Contact

Responsible ADB Officer
Woodruff, Allison
Responsible ADB Department
Sectors Department 2
Responsible ADB Division
Water and Urban Development Sector Office (SD2-WUD)
Executing Agencies
Asian Development Bank

Timetable

Concept Clearance
26 May 2026
Fact Finding
29 Jan 2025 to 29 Jan 2025
MRM
-
Approval
20 Jul 2026
Last Review Mission
-
Last PDS Update
20 Jul 2026

Funding

TA 0081-REG

Financing Plan/TA Utilization						
ADB	Cofinancing	Counterpart				Total
		Gov	Beneficiaries	Project Sponsor	Others	
5,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000,000.00

Cumulative Disbursements

Date	Amount
-	0.00

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/59047-001/main
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