



Regional: Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific

Project Name	Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific	
Project Number	49456-002	
Country	Regional	
Project Status	Approved	
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant	
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant: Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific	
	concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund	US\$ 6.50 million
	Government of Australia	US\$ 1.80 million
Strategic Agendas	Inclusive economic growth Regional integration	
Drivers of Change	Governance and capacity development Knowledge solutions Partnerships	
Sector / Subsector	Education - Pre-primary and primary	
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming	
Description	The proposed Improving Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific Project will improve quality of basic education in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands. The project will improve student learning outcomes through a set of comprehensive and sustained initiatives over 6 years. The project will focus on developing the following output areas: (i) Better prepared teachers in primary education; (ii) Strengthened capacity to use assessment to improve learning (iii) Expanded access and usage of bilingual teaching and learning resources and materials (TLRM) for literacy and numeracy; and (iv) Strengthened governance and management of schools, including parent/community engagement.	
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	Basic education outcomes are weak in the Pacific. Primary students are averaging only 30% of the benchmark in reading, and 48% in mathematics, as measured by a 2012 regional literacy and numeracy assessment. Results are particularly poor in the North Pacific Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Palau and directly linked to low teacher quality. In FSM and RMI, 17.5% and 38% of teachers, respectively, are underqualified or without the minimally required 2-year associate degree. The two-year JFPR-funded TA 8066-REG: Quality Primary Education in the North Pacific yielded very encouraging and positive results through an alternative bilingual student assessment tool the EGLA in order to consolidate gains and institutionalize and expand reforms further.	
Impact	Quality of basic education improved in the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.	

Project Outcome

Description of Outcome	Primary education learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy improved
Progress Toward Outcome	

Implementation Progress

Description of Project Outputs	Teachers in primary education are better prepared Capacity to use student assessment to improve learning strengthened Access to and usage of teaching and learning resources and materials for literacy and numeracy expanded Educational leadership and management of schools, including parent and community engagement strengthened
Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues)	
Geographical Location	

Safeguard Categories

Environment	C
Involuntary Resettlement	C
Indigenous Peoples	C

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects	The project is mainly a capacity development project and features no infrastructure components. Therefore, there will be no environmental impacts.
Involuntary Resettlement	The project is mainly a capacity development project and features no infrastructure components. Therefore, there will be no involuntary resettlement impacts.
Indigenous Peoples	The project is mainly a capacity development project and features no infrastructure components. Therefore, there will be minimal impacts on indigenous peoples. The project promotes vernacular language which positively impacts beneficiaries and learning outcomes.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design	Wide stakeholder communication, participation and consultation is taking place amongst government, universities, parents, community, and civil society in planning and preparing the project.
During Project Implementation	Wide stakeholder communication, participation and consultation will continue to take place amongst government, universities, parents, community, and civil society in planning and preparing the project. Full achievement of the objectives and output of the project necessitate close collaboration with all stakeholders.

Responsible Staff

Responsible ADB Officer	Thonden, Chimi
Responsible ADB Department	Pacific Department
Responsible ADB Division	Urban, Social Development & Public Management Division, PARD
Executing Agencies	<i>Department of Finance and Administration PS2, Palikhir Pohnpei State Federated States of Micronesia Ministry of Finance P.O. Box D, Majuro MH 96960 Republic of the Marshall Islands</i>

Timetable

Concept Clearance	18 Apr 2016
Fact Finding	31 Jan 2017 to 09 Feb 2017
MRM	24 Mar 2017
Approval	03 Jul 2017
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	29 Sep 2016

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/49456-002/main
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