



Report No: PIDIAF0233

Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 22-Oct-2025



BASIC DATA

A. Product Information

Main: Pacific Healthy Islands Transformation Project (P508550)

Operation ID	Product/Financing Instrument
P508550	Investment Project Financing (IPF)
Beneficiary Country/Countries	Geographical Identifier
Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu	Pacific 1
Practice Area (Lead)	
Health, Nutrition & Population	
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency
Tuvalu, Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Fiji, Pacific Community	Fiji Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development, and Statistics, Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Pacific Community, Tuvalu Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tonga Ministry of Health

Additional Financing Request 1

Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
15-Oct-2025	18-Nov-2025

Development Objective

Original Development Objective (Approved as part of Approval package on 09-Sep-2025)

To increase access to quality health services within participating Pacific Island Countries, with a focus on NCD management

Components

Component 1: Strengthen regional systems to improve access to quality care and essential inputs

Component 2: Modernize Fiji's health system with emphasis on establishing Networks of Care

Component 3: Strengthen stewardship, evidence-based decision making and regional learning

COSTS & FINANCING (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY



	Last Approved	Proposed	
		Addition	Total
Total Operation Cost	231.54	8.00	239.54
Total Financing	151.54	38.00	189.54
Of which IBRD/IDA	143.10	8.00	151.10

FINANCING DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing	Last Approved	Additional Financing	Total
International Development Association (IDA)	143.10	8.00	151.10
IDA Grant	13.65	0.00	13.65
IDA Grant	16.35	0.00	16.35
IDA Credit	93.50	0.00	93.50
IDA Grant	19.60	0.00	19.60
IDA Grant	0.00	8.00	8.00
Non-World Bank Group Financing			
Trust Funds	8.44	0.00	8.44
The Pandemic Fund	8.44	0.00	8.44
Cofinancing – Other Sources (IFIs, Bilaterals, Foundations)	0.00	30.00	30.00
OPEC FUND ^{NEW}	0.00	30.00	30.00

IDA Resources

Country/Region Window	Regional Institution	Credit	Grant	SML	Guarantee	Total
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC		0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
Global and Regional Opportunities Window (GROW)	Pacific Community	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	8.00



Fiji		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Global and Regional Opportunities Window (GROW)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kiribati		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Global and Regional Opportunities Window (GROW)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tonga		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Global and Regional Opportunities Window (GROW)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuvalu		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Global and Regional Opportunities Window (GROW)		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		0.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	8.00

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. The Pacific Island Countries (PICs), dispersed across 30 million square kilometers of ocean, face unique development challenges due to their geographic isolation, small and scattered populations, and limited economies of scale. These constraints make it difficult to finance and deliver a comprehensive package of essential services. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, a key framework for the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), lays out the PIC's shared commitment to regional cooperation and sustainable development, with health and wellbeing as key priorities. The region's shared objectives include prioritizing the health and wellbeing of the Pacific Islands populations, as articulated in the 'Healthy Islands Declaration' adopted at the Pacific Ministers of Health Conference on Yanuca Island, Fiji in 1995. Regional entities with an important mandate in health include the Pacific Community (SPC), the principal scientific and technical regional organization in the Pacific region, owned and governed by 27 countries and territory members.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

2. PICs face a significant health burden, with life expectancy in countries like Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Kiribati falling well below economic peers. This is largely due to the region's high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which are further exacerbated by climate change, geographic isolation, limited health system capacity and fragmented financing, which has resulted in three decades of stagnation in health sector outcomes. A regional approach is essential to address these shared challenges effectively.

3. NCDs are the leading cause of premature death and disability in the Pacific, particularly among working-age populations with women disproportionately affected due to higher rates related to risk factors, including obesity. Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancers dominate the disease burden, with preventable cancers such as cervical cancer on the rise. Weak prevention, screening, and early detection systems contribute to late diagnoses and poor outcomes.

4. Health systems across PICs struggle with under-resourced primary care, limited specialist services, and outdated infrastructure. Overseas Medical Referral schemes, while essential, are costly and inefficient. Workforce shortages,



especially in specialized fields, and fragmented digital health systems further hinder service delivery. Regional collaboration offers a path forward, leveraging shared training institutions, telehealth, and digital innovations to build a more resilient, integrated, and equitable health system.

5. The Public Health Division (PHD) of SPC plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting health in the region. However, while regional cooperation frameworks on health are in place, implementation has been uneven and often inadequately resourced. Promoting standardized care for NCDs and capacity building of human resources accreditation will ensure better harmonization of care and knowledge exchange across the PICs.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original Development Objective

To increase access to quality health services within participating Pacific Island Countries, with a focus on NCD management

Current Development Objective

To increase access to quality health services within participating Pacific Island Countries, with a focus on NCD management

Proposed New Development Objective

To increase access to quality health services within participating Pacific Island Countries, with a focus on NCD management

D. Project Description

6. The Pacific Healthy Islands Project was recently approved by the World Bank Board of Executive Directors on September 9, 2025. The project includes the following three components:

- (a) **Component 1: Strengthen regional systems to improve access to quality care and essential inputs for greater resilience of participating PICs health systems.** This component invests in regional solutions to address shared challenges across PICs, particularly those related to limited specialized human resources, economies of scale for advanced medical services, and the need for standardized quality of care. By promoting regional approaches, PHIT seeks to optimize resource utilization, enhance efficiency, and build collective resilience against shared threats.
- (b) **Component 2: Modernize Fiji's health System, with emphasis on establishing Networks of Care (NOC) for health promotion, early detection and management of disease.** This component focuses on strengthening Fiji's health system, by reorienting services towards a person-centered approach and establishing integrated Networks of Care. The emphasis is on promoting wellness, early detection, and effective management of diseases, especially NCDs, closer to communities, while enhancing resilience to health emergencies.



- (c) **Component 3: Strengthen stewardship, evidence-based decision making and regional learning for quality health systems in PICs.** This component leverages the strengths of each participating country to accelerate critical health systems shifts that are essential to foster digitally enabled, resilient, people-centered and regionally connected networks of care in the Pacific. The project finances evidence-based policy formulation, effective project implementation, and regional knowledge exchange aimed at enhancing regional capacity for health systems governance, oversight, by integrating learning mechanisms necessary for sustainable health system reform and evaluations into implementation activities. This component will expand Pacific-specific data and evidence on what works.

7. A proposed Additional Financing comprised of a grant to SPC in the amount of US\$8.0 million equivalent from the IDA Global and Regional Opportunities Window (GROW) will broaden the geographic and collaborative scope of the parent project, beyond Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, and Tuvalu. Leveraging its existing role as a regional convener, SPC will expand the reach of PHIT's regional interventions to other Pacific member countries and territories. The proposed AF also formalizes SPC's role as the Secretariat to the Project Steering Committee, ensuring coordinated governance and regional ownership.

8. SPC will coordinate with participating countries to enhance workforce capacity, quality and alignment to their workforce plans in discipline specific areas. Building on existing capacity towards supporting health worker education, SPC will be responsible for coordinating education support for the four initial PHIT countries, while expanding to additional PICs matching demand with supply from relevant training institutes.

Legal Operational Policies

Policies	Triggered?
	Current
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The proposed Project is poised to bring transformative health benefits to populations across Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, and other South Pacific Island nations. By strengthening health systems in these countries, the initiative seeks to improve access to quality care and enhance public health outcomes. To achieve these goals, the Project will invest in a range of activities. Infrastructure development will include the construction of new hospitals and tertiary healthcare facilities, the renovation and refurbishment of existing ones, and the upgrading of local primary healthcare centers and nursing schools. In parallel, digital infrastructure will be enhanced to improve ICT connectivity across public health authorities and facilities, enabling more efficient service delivery and data management. The Project will also provide technical assistance through capacity-building programs for healthcare professionals, wellness initiatives tailored to Pacific Island communities, the design of healthcare service packages, development of digital platforms and culturally appropriate content, policy and regulatory reforms, and support for program implementation and health



outreach efforts. While the Project promises significant benefits, it also presents a range of environmental and social risks and impacts. These include construction-related hazards such as dust, noise, vibration, erosion, increased traffic, and the generation of waste—including hazardous materials like asbestos, medical waste, and electronic waste. Land use changes may result in the involuntary displacement of non-title holders, while labor-related risks encompass occupational health and safety concerns, potential labor influx, and associated social challenges. Community health and safety could be affected during construction, and there may be temporary disruptions to healthcare services. Additionally, the presence of construction workers raises concerns about gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, while the rollout of digital content carries risks of cultural insensitivity or bias. To mitigate these risks, the Project will adhere to a comprehensive set of Environmental and Social (ES) instruments. These include the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), which outlines the key measures and actions required to meet the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) standards. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will guide the implementation of environmental and social safeguards, while the Labor Management Framework (LMF) will ensure worker safety, fair employment practices, and accessible grievance mechanisms. The Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) will facilitate ongoing consultation with affected communities, including Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups. Implementation will be overseen by Project Management Units (PMUs) established in each participating country, with the Pacific Community coordinating regional activities and ensuring compliance with environmental and social standards. Local contractors will be required to follow the management measures outlined in the ESMF and related instruments, and training will be provided at both national and local levels to support effective implementation.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

9. **Implementing agency and institutional arrangements.** SPC will be included as an implementing agency and contribute to the extension and sustainability of activities under PHIT as well as capacity building efforts to support and extend health sector transformation across its member states.
- (a) **Regional Steering Committee (RSC):** SPC will serve as a Secretariat to the RSC and organize annual meetings and provide logistical and technical support. This aligns with the role SPC already plays in the convening of regional meetings. The RSC will meet annually on the sidelines of existing meetings, such as the Pacific Heads of Health or Pacific Minister of Health meeting, to maximize regional spillovers and share results beyond participating countries.
 - (b) **Project Management:** SPC will recruit or appoint a dedicated Project Coordinator, no later than three months from AF effectiveness. SPC will ensure that the Project Coordinator will be maintained throughout the lifetime of PHIT. SPC will also ensure compliance with financial management, procurement procedures, and environmental and social standards and progress monitoring by appointing or recruiting additional staff as needed.



CONTACT POINT

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Implementing Agencies

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Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services
Pacific Community
Tuvalu Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Tonga Ministry of Health

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APPROVAL

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Approved By

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Country Director:	Stephen N. Ndegwa	22-Oct-2025
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