

 Early Warning System

WB-P511162

Pacific Island Countries Teacher Upgrading and Resourcing for the Early
Years



Quick Facts

Countries	Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2026-12-01
Borrower	Governments of Tonga, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu - Pacific Community
Sectors	Education and Health, Law and Government
Investment Type(s)	Grant, Loan
Loan Amount (USD)	\$ 32.50 million
Grant Amount (USD)	\$ 77.50 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 110.00 million



Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the objective of this project is to improve school readiness of children entering the primary school, improve the reading skills of students in primary school, and strengthen regional capacity for evidence-based policymaking in education.

Pacific countries face high learning poverty (40-75 percent) and low early childhood education (ECE) enrollment (just over 50 percent), limiting children's readiness for a future of greater mobility and connectivity. PICTURE will help selected Pacific Island countries strengthen early years services by building a skilled, regionally mobile workforce; expanding access to learning resources; and enhancing regional capacity for assessment and evidence-based policy.

The project will scale up regionally recognized professional development for ECE and primary teachers and school leaders through the University of the South Pacific (USP) and national training institutions, leading to portable qualifications and micro credentials. Training will include ongoing coaching and peer communities of practice and integrate climate awareness, Pacific languages and cultures, and inclusive approaches for girls and boys and children with disabilities. Selected schools will be upgraded as island-based training hubs with reliable connectivity to access regional training offerings and climate resilient, accessible learning spaces. To improve learning conditions, the project will expand regional resource libraries and provide digital and print materials in Pacific languages, play-based materials for ECE, and assistive technologies with associated screening and training. Regional partners will support country-tailored programs to engage parents and communities in early childhood development. In selected countries, the project will support integrated Cash Plus social protection programs to support and incentivize household investments in early child development. Working with the Pacific Community's Educational Quality and Assessment Program (SPC EQAP), the project will institutionalize regional teacher observation and child outcome assessments and establish a regional learning network on education public financial management and data use.



Early Warning System Project Analysis

The project's environmental risks are expected to be **moderate** and site-specific, primarily associated with minor refurbishment/upgrade works at existing education facilities and the procurement and distribution of learning materials and ICT equipment (including management of construction waste, packaging waste, and potential e-waste; and attention to resource efficiency in small-scale upgrades). Social risks are also expected to be **moderate** and manageable, and relate mainly to inclusive access and potential exclusion of disadvantaged or remote communities (including persons with disabilities), the adequacy of stakeholder engagement across multiple countries, labor and occupational health and safety for project workers involved in small works and service delivery, community health and safety risks in/around schools (including child safeguarding), and assessment of risks associated with Cash Plus/cash transfer interventions where applicable.



Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US\$ 110.00 million

IDA Credit: US\$ 32.50 million

IDA Grant: US\$ 77.50 million



Contact Information

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Bank Documents

- [Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - Pacific Island Countries Teacher Upgrading](#)
- [Concept Project Information Document \(PID\)](#)
- [Official Documents- Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for Grant E551-TV.pdf](#)
- [Official Documents- Letter Agreement for Grant E551-TV.pdf](#)