

Annex H

Annual performance of selected Pacific Regional programs at the Country level

Solomon Islands Regional Program - 2013

Pacific Regional Program ODA attributed to bilateral program

	2013/14 (Actual)	2014/15 (Plan)
Solomon Islands	A\$9,924,752	A\$8,649,062

This Annex outlines the country-level results of selected investments of the Pacific Regional Aid Program for Solomon Islands. All information included in this annex is drawn from internal and external reporting produced by DFAT and our implementing partners on investments managed by the Pacific Regional aid program. This information should not be treated as comprehensive.

Contributions to Solomon Islands Country Program Objectives

Objective 1 – Improved Service Delivery – Health

Examples of contributions to this objective from the DFAT Pacific Regional Program include:

- › The UNICEF Multi-country Program supported the Solomon Islands to strengthen the immunisation system cold chain, vaccine management, and procurement; strengthened national and provincial capacity to plan, monitor and deliver quality immunisation services and other high impact intervention for community levels; increased community participation and civil society organisation in child survival activities; and improved management of childhood illnesses such as prevention and treatment of diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- › The Strengthening Specialised Clinical Services in Pacific Project (SSCSiP) supported 9 clinical visits that provided non-surgical services to 412 Solomon Islander patients and surgery for 204 patients; conducted 7 training activities for 12 Solomon Islanders and provided opportunities for 7 Solomon Islander clinicians to participate in three surgical visit attachments.
- › The Pacific Regional Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Capacity Building Facility, co-financed with New Zealand, supported the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Federation to renovate and extend the current clinics; purchase a mobile clinic vehicle and equipment; and purchase other clinical equipment.

Objective 2 – Improved Service Delivery – Education

Examples of contributions to this objective from the DFAT Pacific Regional Program include:

- › The Secretariat of the Pacific Board of Educational Assessment (SPBEA) has supported cross-country benchmarking analysis of the literacy and numeracy situation in the Solomon Islands, based on which the Ministry of Education has developed its National Literacy Policy.
- › SPBEA also provides valuable support in shortlisting Australia Awards candidates in Solomon Islands.
- › Pacific Regional core funding to the Australia Pacific Technical College (APTC) in 2013 supported 179 enrolments (28 per cent women) and 163 graduates (25 per cent women) from the Solomon Islands.

- › Pacific Regional core funding to the University of the South Pacific (USP) in 2013 supported 2,415 students, and 214 graduates from the Solomon Islands at USP.

Objective 2 – Broad-based Growth - Livelihoods

Examples of contributions to this objective from the DFAT Pacific Regional Program include:

- › The Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Program (PHAMA) worked with private sector and government partners in the Solomon Islands to enable Australian authorities to: reaccredit three large copra mills in Honiara for the 24 month period to October 2015; and train Solomon Island quarantine authorities to conduct internal systems and export pathway audits to help maintain accreditation levels.
- › PHAMA also supported establishment of cocoa, coconut, fish and forestry industry working groups (IWG) for the Solomon Islands. Each IWG provides advice to the Market Access Working Group on the export-related development needs of each industry. These needs constitute a large component of activities in the Solomon Islands 2013–14 Annual Strategic Plan.
- › Between 2007 and 2013, the Solomon Islands received \$3.3 million in Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative (PSDI) assistance. The focus of PSDI work in the Solomon Islands is access to finance including activities such as secured transactions reform and a review of the regulatory framework for microfinance and mobile banking. In addition, PSDI supported business law reform, principally on company law and customs law reform; state-owned enterprise reform, including design and implementation of the community service obligation framework. As a result of reforms supported by PSDI, the average time taken to form a company in the Solomon Islands has now been reduced from up to 3 months to less than 36 hours. There is now an average of 271 new companies incorporating each year, more than double the pre-reform registration rate.
- › In 2013, PSDI completed its first study of the constraints to women's economic empowerment in the Solomon Islands. A number of projects were identified and feasibility assessments undertaken, with four pilots designed.

Objective 2 – Broad-based Growth - Infrastructure

Examples of contributions to this objective from the DFAT Pacific Regional Program include:

- › International Finance Corporation (IFC) advisory services support the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) to prepare and implement the tender process to select a private developer for the Solomon Islands Tina River Hydropower project. As part of its transaction advisory services IFC assists SIG to: select an optimal structure for the transaction that meets SIG policy objectives and is bankable; market the transaction among qualified and experienced developers; design and implement a competitive and transparent tender for the selection of the private developer; and bring the transaction to a financial close.

Objective 3 – Improved Governance

Examples of contributions to this objective from the DFAT Pacific Regional Program include:

- › The Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) contributed to macroeconomic development and economic governance in the Solomon Islands. In 2013 the Solomon Islands received 6 per cent of PFTAC technical assistance, which was used to: support a self-assessment effort and participation in the Oversight Team for the Solomon Islands Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessment; support implementation of a new Financial Sector Information System at the Central Bank of Solomon Islands (CBSI); support the conduct of on-site supervision regimes which resulted in CBSI further improving their ability to critically assess the quality of commercial bank operations in the country; and develop together with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and CBSI a financial programming framework for the Solomon Islands that draws

on the MoF fiscal-macroeconomic framework, a PFTAC empirical inflation model, trading-partner prices and inflation. In order to provide practical training in the use of the framework, the likely macroeconomic impact of scaled-up mining revenues following the start-up of a large new gold mine was explored.

The Pacific Regional Audit Initiative (PRAI) supported the Office of the Auditor General in the Solomon Islands to incorporate – through surveys, training courses and instructional manuals – contemporary international standards of auditing, which cover the technical, operational and strategic aspects of management necessary for conducting effective audits.

Regional Services that complement the Solomon Islands Bilateral Program

Examples of contributions to the Solomon Islands Bilateral Program from Regional Institutions and Regional Services supported by the DFAT Pacific Regional Program include:

- › The Pacific Leadership Program (PLP) supported existing community leaders to bridge the gap between communities and national and provincial leaders. PLP's support to the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) focussed on strengthening internal management structures, and building capacity for monitoring and evaluation. This enabled SIDT to establish community-based advocacy groups, and broker linkages between communities and governments.
- › The UNICEF Multi-country Program supported the Solomon Islands to improve child protection by strengthening the legal and regulatory system; developing capacity of government and civil society actors in child and family welfare; and implementation of the Child Protection Community Facilitation Package.
- › With support from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), which receives core funding through the Pacific Regional Program, the Solomon Islands ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). PIFS also supported the Solomon Islands to develop a National Disability Policy.
- › The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) supports the Solomon Islands to manage its turtle population, for example by delivering training in the Turtle Research and Monitoring Database System and distributing 500 turtle tags and three tag applicators.
- › The Pacific Islands Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS) delivered 14 national and regional workshops for media strengthening through vocational training of Pacific communication broadcast technicians. Participants in PACMAS training are selected through competitive expressions of interest. In the 6 months to June 2014, 184 participants from 12 Pacific Island countries, including the Solomon Islands, received training. For example, in the Solomon Islands, PACMAS conducted trained Media Association executives to improve their understanding of roles and responsibilities of Directors; and strengthen their capacity to effectively manage the performance of the organisation and its finances.

Case study: Access to finance for the poor and unbanked

The DFAT Pacific Regional Program finances the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group to provide financial advisory services in the Pacific. IFC advisory services are supporting the Bank of the South Pacific (BSP) to expand its rural mobile banking platform, successfully proven in PNG, to the Solomon Islands so that poor and unbanked populations have increased access to basic financial services. The IFC-BSP team prepared a three year business and implementation plan, now approved by BSP. Implementation and legal agreements are now finalised, and implementation is commencing, with a focus on expanding the coverage of payment systems and formal savings mechanisms, as well as reducing the risk and costs associated with cash-based financial

transactions. With IFC assistance, BSP intends to offer remittances, payments, salary transfers and other mobile transactions through a branchless banking ecosystem from 2015.
