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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Regional Micronesia, Federated States of Marshall Islands</td>
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<td>Project Type / Modality of Assistance</td>
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| Source of Funding / Amount | Grant 0535-REG: Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund US$ 6.50 million  
Grant 0536-REG: Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund US$ 6.50 million  
Grant 0537-REG: Improving the Quality of Basic Education in the North Pacific 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)

1. Teachers in primary education are better prepared. Quality Pedagogy Framework is finalized and being implemented in RMI fully and starting in FSM.  
2. Capacity to use student assessment to improve learning strengthened. Technical consultants being recruited which will initiate this work soon.  
3. Access to and usage of TLRM for literacy and numeracy expanded. Technical consultants being recruited which will initiate this work soon.  
4. Education leadership and management of schools, including parent and community engagement strengthened. Education leadership trainings being finalized. Multistakeholder engagement workshop was implemented in each country.

### Geographical Location

Marshall Islands - Nation-wide; Micronesia, Federated States of - Nation-wide

## Safeguard Categories

### Environment

C

### Involuntary Resettlement

C
Indigenous Peoples

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.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services
Refer to the project administration manual (PAM) for the project's consulting services requirement.

Procurement
Refer to the project administration manual (PAM) for details of the project's procurement plan.

Responsible ADB Officer
Chimi Thonden

Responsible ADB Department
Pacific Department

Responsible ADB Division
PASP

Executing Agencies
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PS2, Palihiir
Pohnpei State
Federated States of Micronesia
Ministry of Finance
P.O. Box D, Majuro
MH 96960
Republic of the Marshall Islands

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 28 Sep 2018

Grant 0535-REG

Milestones
Approval 03 Jul 2017
Signing Date 07 Jul 2017
Effectivity Date 05 Oct 2017
Closing 31 Jan 2024

Financing Plan

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Grant 0536-REG

Milestones
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Signing Date 07 Jul 2017
Effectivity Date 10 Jul 2017
Closing 31 Jan 2024

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Grant 0537-REG

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