

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Economies grow faster with women's full participation. Currently, Pacific women do not engage in business activities to the same extent as men. PSDI is designing women-friendly laws and implementing pilot projects to allow women to realize their full potential.

LIMITS TO PACIFIC WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR INCLUDE:



Overcoming these challenges will enable women to contribute to the private sector, community welfare, and their country's economic progress.

PSDI'S SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF PACIFIC WOMEN

BUSINESS LAW REFORM PROBLEM



Discriminatory provisions and complex processes discourage women from starting businesses.



SOLUTION



Remove discriminatory legal provisions and increase awareness of pathways to economic activity.

ACCESS TO FINANCE PROBLEM



As women's rights to land are limited, they are unable to provide the collateral required for loans.



SOLUTION



Introduce secured transactions reforms, which allow women to use movable assets such as equipment, crops, and accounts receivable as collateral.

Include women in pilot projects that demonstrate how to make use of secured transactions frameworks.



STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISE REFORM PROBLEM



Disproportionately few women on boards



SOLUTION



Increase women's awareness of governance practices through training and materials.

Increase women's confidence through leadership programs.

COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PROBLEM



Competition policy may not take account of women's preferred business organizations, such as cooperatives and associations.

Women do not complain about faulty goods and poor services.



SOLUTION



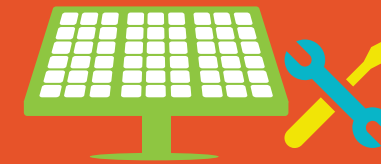
Inform competition policy reviews by assessing women's experiences and devising inclusive institutional policies and practices.



Support women's businesses to successfully bid for procurement contracts.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN PILOT PROJECTS

PSDI pilot projects, which are designed to be replicated, demonstrate how women can overcome challenges.



BOOSTING WOMEN'S TECHNICAL SKILLS

Rural women in Solomon Islands were taught how to repair and maintain home solar power systems, the benefits of which included learning new skills and gaining confidence, increased individual and household income, and improved community living conditions.



BUILDING VIABLE BUSINESSES

Women working informally in Papua New Guinea's fishing sector were provided with business development loans and training in product innovation and business management to help them establish sustainable formal businesses.



IMPROVING INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Training was provided to professional women in Solomon Islands to create "promotion-ready" employees equipped with skills for senior management positions and roles on state-owned enterprise boards.



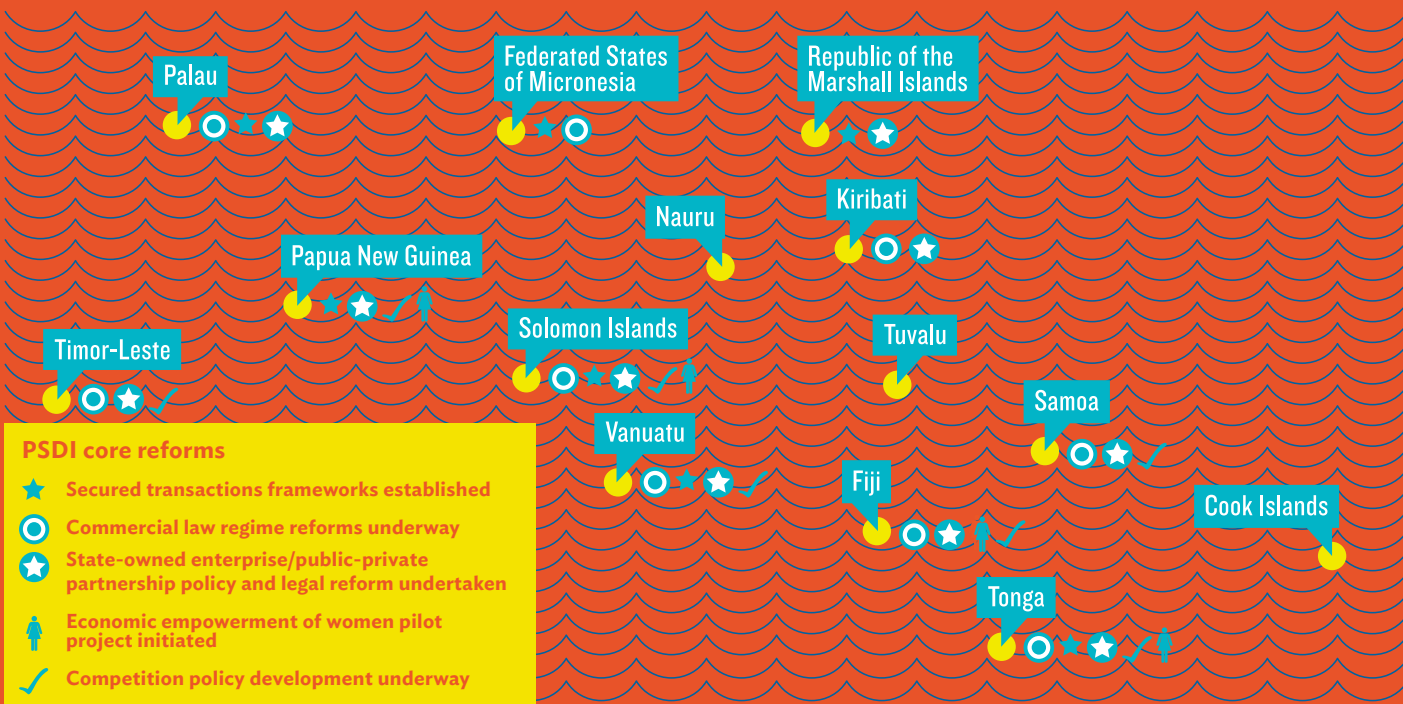
BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Businesswomen in Tonga were supported to realize their leadership potential through skills training and the facilitation of networking and mentoring with Australian and New Zealand business women.

The Pacific Private Sector Development Initiative helps 14 Pacific developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank achieve sustainable economic growth through business environment reform.

Since 2007, PSDI has worked to alleviate poverty and promote growth in the Pacific region through reforms that encourage private sector investment and entrepreneurship.

PSDI assists governments and private sector actors to improve the business environment in the Pacific. Underpinned by a rigorous diagnostic approach that includes regular private sector assessments of the business environments in Pacific island countries, and the landmark *Finding Balance* benchmarking studies, PSDI's team of experts provides a range of technical assistance that promotes private sector development in the region. This includes specialized support in the areas of business law reform, access to finance, reforming state-owned enterprises, establishing public-private partnerships, the economic empowerment of women, and promoting competition. PSDI currently focuses on promoting a better business environment through technical expertise that includes assistance with policy, legislative reforms, advocacy, full implementation support for reforms, and technology-based solutions.



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

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PSN. [ARM168458-2]

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PSDI is cofinanced by ADB, the Government of Australia, and the Government of New Zealand.
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